



April 11, 2017 Connections Newsletter

Click on the **headlines** below to read any of these stories.

## God's Spirit is Moving Inside Minn. Women's Prison

**"I believe God is creating a revival inside the Shakopee Women's Prison."**

God is moving at the Shakopee Women's Prison in powerful ways. Estimates are that over 350 women have been baptized inside the prison since baptism services started being offered a few years back. But it's not a one-time event. Volunteers from churches and evangelical ministries are a constant presence inside the prison walls, church attendance has sky-rocketed, and the Shakopee Women's Prison is one of the first prisons in the world to allow a weekly Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) class inside for meetings. Evangelical prison ministry groups believe God has big plans for these inmates after they're released.



## Pastor's Column: Message to Hispanic Congregations, "No Need to Panic"

Pastor Moisés Gómez writes about how the Evangelical Hispanic community and Hispanic Churches are feeling and responding during this tumultuous time in our country. He believes Hispanic pastors in Minnesota have been given the task of strengthening each member's Christian roots, reminding them that God is in control of all things. Pastor Moisés Gómez is a journalist from Mexico who currently resides in a suburb of Minneapolis. He is the founder and director of the first Christian magazine in Spanish of the Twin Cities, Revista Sal y Luz.



## Traveling Team Provides Minn. Churches with Ready-Made Vacation Bible School

Summer is quickly approaching. Does your church struggle to plan a week-long kids Vacation Bible School? Is recruiting volunteers a major headache? A traveling VBS is making stops all across the state, helping churches put on a high-energy, Gospel-focused summer day camp. Trout Lake Day Camps are open to all churches and denominations, and they still have some open weeks if your church is in need of a ready-made VBS program.



## Inaugural Rural and Small Town Conference Encourages 300 Midwest Ministry Leaders

A leadership conference for rural and small town churches called Grow! was held at Cornerstone Church in Litchfield, MN this spring. Over 300 pastors and ministry leaders from across the Midwest attended the inaugural conference designed to provide church leaders information on how to minister effectively, encourage them to see their unique role in God's plan, and help them take the steps that can impact their world for all of eternity. Included is a Q&A with some Grow Conference participants engaged in rural ministry in the Midwest.





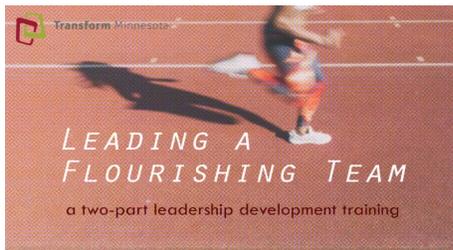
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## **Transform Ideas: The Timeless Call for Racial Harmony** **April 27, 7-9pm at Hope Community Church**

"The Timeless Call for Racial Harmony" will address the history of race and the sin of racism in America, pieces of our present day situation, and a future hope rooted in the Church's call to move forward with reconciliation and unity in the Kingdom of God.



## **Leading a Flourishing Team (2-Part Series)** **May 4 and May 18 at Transform Minnesota, Richfield**

Maximizing your individual strengths and the strengths of your team is crucial for the flourishing of your ministry. Once you better understand yourself and one another, you can capitalize on your strengths and roles for a better quality work environment and more effective outcomes in ministry. Join us for this 2-part interactive leadership development

training.



## **TCAMP: Maximizing Short-term Missions Impact** **May 11 at Evergreen Church, Bloomington**

Are short-term missions worth the effort? In a week-long window, is it possible for a local church to have impact on a community in another nation? Hear how doing short-term missions well requires implementable standards and - while strategy may look different for each church - having realistic expectations of impact and outcome is essential.

### **Upcoming Spring Events in the Evangelical Network:**

- **May 4 UNITE National Day of Prayer**, Outside U.S. Bank Stadium, Minneapolis 7pm
- **May 5-6 Keep Your Love On**, North Heights Lutheran Church, Arden Hills
- **May 6 Justice-Seekers Twin Cities Prayer and Worship Gathering**, Eagan Hills Church, Eagan
- **May 16 Minnesota Prayer Breakfast**, Minneapolis 7-10am
- **June 1 AM 980 The Mission's Pastors Appreciation Lunch**, Edinburgh Golf Course, Brooklyn Park 10am-1pm
- **June 20-24 Sahara Challenge**, Bethel University, St. Paul

### **Who We Are**

Transform Minnesota exists to connect Christian leaders, develop Biblical solutions and equip churches that transform communities.