



Regenal takes over Ohio!

Kidron Mennonite Church hosts the first ever Evana Regenal Conference.

It happened organically out of conversations between Evana pastors at the Ohio huddle. The first desire was to meet for worship and fellowship during the “off-year” when ReGen (our main bi-annual conference) was not being held. Secondly, the pastors were already experiencing the blessing of encouragement and mutual support that come from being united in a larger fellowship, and they hoped members of their congregations could also experience the same sense of belonging within a wider church body. Executive Director Matt Hamsher shared Saturday morning at the event how these Ohio Pastors found the community among them to be so life-giving they no longer wanted to keep the blessing to themselves. They wanted their churches to experience it as well.

So after much planning by a smaller committee made up of individuals from several different churches, Regenal was born. It was the first regional conference for Evana, dubbed appropriately “Regen-AL” as a spin off of the main conference, Regen. The theme was simply connection, connecting with God and others. Pastors Gil and Marketo Michel from South Bend, IN were keynote speakers.

About 200 people met on Saturday with over 500 Sunday morning. Some came from just around the corner, and others like Pastor Carl Horner from Shore Mennonite Church drove miles to make it to the conference. He and his wife made the 240-mile trip just for Saturday because he needed to be back to speak Sunday at his own church. But for them not attending was out of the question. “Being with other pastors, knowing that the worship was going to be good and that Gil and Marketo were going to be speaking, it was well worth the time.” And the conference didn’t disappoint. “Worship was extraordinary,” he said. “The message was fantastic. Seeing friends we made in the last few years, for us, it was inspiring.”



Gil and Marketo Michel speaking during a main session.

Horner shared about one of Gil’s messages that particularly impacted him. “The message was about family and church people. How we get so used to the people we are around. Do we ever stop to go deeper with them and ask them about their relationship with Jesus?” Horner went on to say, “For me, if we are talking about trying to bring people to Christ then, and if we can’t even have those kinds of conversations with family and those we’ve known for years, how can we talk to others?” For Horner the whole event left him feeling inspired and energized.

Other attendees had a shorter distance to travel but were just as touched by their time at Regenal. Todd Martin, a pastor from Smithville Mennonite said, “It was wonderful,” he went on to say, “I found it to be so refreshing for my congregation to be able to connect with other churches in the Evana network. We have felt like it was something that was missing [in the past].” For Martin the time to be able to worship with no responsibilities was a huge plus. “I was blessed to be able to show up with nothing to do. It allowed pastors to do nothing but worship with their congregation.” He also spoke of Josh Buck’s enlightening breakout session entitled, “Next Generation Anabaptism.”

It wasn't only pastors that were impacted by the event. One of the members from Martin's church had a transformative experience during the Sunday morning worship time. He had been struggling with a particular area of oppression in his life. But God worked in his heart during the service and he walked away with a new commitment to walking in freedom. He told Martin that his time there was truly "life-changing."



Kent Miller was on the planning committee for the event and spoke of how pleased he was with the turnout. The theme was connection, connecting deeper with others and with God. Miller expressed how they had seen this objective play out in so many different ways throughout the conference, like the three-hour long service and ministry time on Saturday night, and the rousing spirit-filled rendition of 606 sung at the very end of the conference, or the breakout sessions on human trafficking, leaving people with new ideas of how to engage.

Miller also spoke of one instance outside of the service times, an encounter between two men who set down to a meal together only to talk and realize one of the men was a surgeon who had previously performed surgery on the other man's wife. The man was able to thank the surgeon for what a blessing he had been to his wife when he had prayed with her before the surgery to ease her anxiety.

Each of these pastors spoke of how good it was to connect with the new friends they had made only since the start of Evana a few years ago. This blessing of community was something the Ohio group deeply desired to share among their churches. Regional conferences like this are the vehicles for

this kind of cross-community connection and we hope to see many more like it in the future! ~



Dayspring Christian Fellowship is hosting **ignite**, a women's conference **September 20-22** featuring our very own board director Larissa Moore-Willard and board member Virginia Leichty as well as Pam Bartholomew.

All Evana women are welcome to attend this two-day conference in Massillon, Ohio. For more information visit www.dayspringcf.us/ignite.

rightnow MEDIA

Coming soon to a church near you! We have a massive, \$5 Million Dollar, gift for you! Evana has partnered with RightNow Media!

RightNow Media is like the Netflix of Bible Studies. It has over 400 Christian publishers and tens of thousands of Bible studies, conferences, training sessions, kid's cartoons, and much more! There is also a RightNow Media App that will provide you access to this biblical video content anywhere, anytime for you and your family! There are over 20,000 churches who partner with RightNow Media currently.

Keep your eyes out in the near future for this tool to be made available to you and your family through your church. Your pastor or leader will be setting up RightNow media for your church and giving you access to it. We hope and pray this is a blessing to you and your families!