

# THE VOICE NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 27 NUMBER 5

WWW.CGBCI.ORG

DECEMBER 2019

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER with PASTOR JONATHAN EDWARDS



Greetings, brothers and sisters!

I would like to challenge us to pray together for the month of December regarding some important issues facing our fellowship and in preparation for the 2020 Conference in Grand Rapids, MI.

**Would you commit to pray specifically for one topic per week, for each week of December?**

I believe if we join in prayer this way it will encourage our hearts and unify us as well as move the heart of God to accomplish His will.

### PRAYER TOPICS:

#### December 1 - 7:

Pray for a sold-out concert at the Ward Church in Detroit MI. Keith and Kristyn Getty will be performing a Christmas concert and all the proceeds will go towards building Josh and Autumn Miller's house. There is a potential to raise over \$20,000 if this concert sells out. Pray also that the New Fields church planting effort will receive new supporters as news of this work reaches believers from other churches.

#### December 8 - 14:

Pray that during a season where the world focuses on self, we would focus on serving others and putting their interests ahead of our own. Pray that we will be humble in mind to consider our children, our spouse, and our church family ahead of our own interests. Philippians 2:1-4 ought to guide our thinking.

#### December 15 - 21:

Pray for those practicing and planning Christmas programs, that they might have a godly heart attitude, that they would give glory to the Savior and not to themselves, and that those who attend the services would be challenged to either 1) trust in the Savior or 2) be more obedient to their Savior. John 3:30

#### December 22 - 31:

**Bonus: TEN DAYS FOR THIS ONE!** Pray that the Lord God would raise up workers to go out into the harvest, for "the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." Matthew 9:35-38

May God bless you as you seek to serve Him!

### CONFERENCE 2020

June 26 - July 1, 2020

THE CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL

5700 28<sup>th</sup> St., SE

Grand Rapids MI 49546

1-877-270-1393

616-957-1770

**Mention Conservative Grace Brethren Churches, International or CGBCI for the group discount!**

## NEWS FROM FELLOWSHIP CHURCHES AND OTHER MINISTRIES

### PERU GRACE BRETHREN CHURCH with PASTOR DAVID JODRY

October 27, 2019, the Peru Grace Brethren Church celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! We were thrilled to have nearly 200 people in attendance, which included several of our previous pastors, missionaries, and others who returned "home" for this special day. Our theme was "To God Be the Glory!" During the Sunday school hour Deacon Danny Webb narrated an historic pictorial retrospective of the church with numerous folks sharing their memories of days gone by. During the worship hour George Johnson, retired missionary to Brazil and previous pastor at PGBC (1957-1960), brought a message on "The Great Grace of God." The worship service was followed by a delicious carry-in luncheon with 150 folks staying to fellowship together. We praise and thank God for sustaining and using our church through the years and trust Him to do so into the future!

### NATIONAL EVANGELISTIC TEAM - NET 19 HIGHLIGHTS

**PASTOR PHILIP MOELLER-** NET 2019 provided several good opportunities to share the Gospel with those who need to hear. Two particular opportunities stand out in my mind. The first was at a minor league ballgame. After we sang the National Anthem for the start of the game, we distributed flyers around the entire ballpark. Those who had come were expecting to watch a game, but also ended up being invited to the Limestone TN church.

The second event happened while we were doing door-to-door work. At the very last house my wife and I went to, a young man named Austin answered the door. As we talked about eternity, he admitted that he knew he was a sinner. Even at a young age he had already experimented with various ways of trying to bring meaning to his life, and was left just as empty as before. When I shared with him the consequences for his sins, he admitted that he deserved God's punishment. Because he really seemed to understand sin, I shared the Gospel with him. Very rarely have I ever met someone going door-to-door who was so ready to receive Christ as his Savior. Just to make sure Austin understood the Gospel, I went back over it a second time. When I got through, Austin said that he didn't want to wait around; he wanted to receive Christ as his Savior! And so we prayed together.

After praying I began getting some contact information for him. His parents had recently gotten new phones and since he didn't know their numbers he went inside to see if he could find them. No sooner had he come outside and said he couldn't find them, his parents pulled up the driveway. So, not only was I able to get some contact information, I was also able to have a good spiritual conversation with his dad, Clayton. Please pray that the Limestone church will be able to have further contact with this family.

**ELIZABETH MOELLER-** Training at Camp Albryoca was a new experience for everyone. I have been a counselor before at Camp Christigan but I knew this camp would be a little different. It was fun getting to talk with the campers at store times and meal times, and to join in on activities and games. Since we were training that week on how to share the Gospel, we also got to "practice" with the campers and find out where they were spiritually. In one sense it was practicing, but in other ways some of them needed to hear the Gospel so it could sink in for them personally. They got to hear the truth throughout the week in various ways.

## FOREIGN MISSIONS

### P. N. G. TEAM #1 UPDATE with CRAIG AND SARA NOYES



*"Have you ever stopped to ponder how much a toilet weighs?"*

I certainly hadn't until I needed to know. Recently, I had the job of preparing loads of house building materials for a helicopter flight into the bush. When you are going to build a house in a remote jungle village that is accessible by "helicopter only" (no airstrip, road, or river nearby). You have a lot of logistical restraints. To name a few: the helicopter can only hold about 1,000 pounds of cargo, that same cargo has to be able to fit in the chopper, (which isn't that big) and keep in mind you're paying between \$800 - \$1,100 an hour for that chopper (and that they are only charging the missionary for the operating costs). You certainly don't want to make more flights than you absolutely need. That's why we're doing weird things like talking about how much a toilet weighs. (Oh, by the way, the answer is 31 pounds for the one I sent in).

Once everything is weighed and piled up according to loads; we wait patiently for the chopper to come. Then we work quickly to fill it up while at the same time remembering to "stay away from the spinning-machetes-of-death" (as the missionary described the tail rotor when warning the tribesman). Thankfully the last few shuttles I've done have been close to home and not up the road at "The Most Miserable Place in PNG" that I addressed in a previous article. In fact, it looks like my shuttling days are done for a while. I climbed into that helicopter November 11<sup>th</sup> for a planned two-week trip to work on the missionaries' houses and possibly with milling.

*In between shuttles, I've been buying house building supplies for the Kovol team, wow, saying it that way makes it seem so simple! Buying housing supplies is truly an art here! Varnishing plywood flooring for the bush house, helping with maintenance on the base, planning our own bush house that we hope to construct next summer, as well as getting the purchase list together for all the solar electric stuff we need for it.*



We've also been enjoying this season of life where things aren't too fast-paced. Solomon just turned five. Sara and I did a painting date. We're enjoying being outside during the late afternoon when it's nice. The kids are getting into a homeschool routine. We're starting to collect things, and thoughts, for our own move into the bush next year. Soon the pace will pick up, but praise the Lord for the slow times!



Please pray:

- For safety for me while on bush trips. It's a long way from everywhere if I get hurt.
- For Sara and the kids while I'm gone.
- For patience and faith to trust the Lord to open doors with the ministry instead of us (me) forcing things.

## P. N. G. TEAM #2 UPDATE with JOSH AND AUTUMN MILLER

### Music and Missions:

We're just two months away from leaving for PNG, and we so appreciate everyone who is praying and giving as we continue to prepare to leave! We are excited to share with you an up-coming event that has the potential to be a huge blessing to us as we prepare to leave for Papua New Guinea!

One of our supporters has arranged for Christian song-writers and singers KEITH AND KRISTYN GETTY to perform a concert in **DETROIT, MICHIGAN ON DECEMBER 7**, and the proceeds from that concert will go to us to help cover our one-time expenses of moving to PNG and building our house in the tribe.



### HERE ARE FOUR WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:

1. Attend the Concert! We would love to have you join us at the concert on DECEMBER 7 at 7:30 pm. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sing-an-irish-christmas-detroit-mi-tickets-70506030435> to purchase tickets.
2. Purchase tickets for someone who loves great, worshipful Christian music. This would be a wonderful Christmas gift, and would allow you to gift a music and worship-filled evening to someone, and also support missions at the same time!
3. Let others know about the concert. If you know an individual or church in the Northern Ohio or Southern Michigan area, would you be willing to take five minutes to send an email, Facebook message, or call them and let them know about the concert and that it will be benefiting missions? If you'd be willing to help us spread the word, we'd be so grateful! You can always direct them to the event page above to get more information, or to the Facebook event page at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2344415695829496/>
4. Pray with us for the concert. Right now, we still need to raise about \$20,000 to cover our one-time expenses of moving to PNG and building our house in the tribe. If this concert were to sell out, it would almost completely cover the remaining one-time funds that we need to head to PNG. It would be a huge blessing if God chose to use this concert to provide that support! Thank you for praying with us about it.

As always, thank you so much to all of you who pray for us and support us faithfully! None of this could happen without God working through you! Also, we love to hear from you guys. Send us an email: [JoshAndAutumnMiller@gmail.com](mailto:JoshAndAutumnMiller@gmail.com) and let us know what you're curious about or if you have a question (or two) that we could answer in a future blog post or email before we leave.



Jesus is the Reason for the Season!

The "Voice Newsletter" is the communication tool of the Conservative Grace Brethren Churches International; and edited by: Pastors Ike Graham, Les Vnasdale, and Christopher Knight.

**REGARDING NEWS ARTICLES AND/OR MAILING UPDATES**

PLEASE FORWARD INFO TO: PAM O'KINSKY AT [OKINSKYS@COMCAST.NET](mailto:OKINSKYS@COMCAST.NET)

SNAIL MAIL TO: 135 WILDCAT ROAD, FRIEDENS PA 15541

***\*\*\* I am adding a SPECIAL REQUEST that all NEWS ARTICLES for the January issue of the Voice be received no later than: DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> to allow for processing. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated! ~ Pam***