

THE VOICE NEWSLETTER

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April 2023

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – PASTOR DAVE BLEVINS

In the opening two verses of 1 Corinthians 15 we read, “Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you unless you believed in vain.” What does Paul mean when he says, “unless you believed in vain”? He answers that question in 1 Corinthians 15:10 when he says, “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”

In my article last month we looked at Paul’s testimony of his conversion. Paul wanted to make sure that his salvation wasn’t in “vain” which literally means “empty.” When people looked at his life he wanted them to see a change! As Grace Brethren, we often say that we are a “Bible believing church” which is true, but the real question is: Do you believe it enough to put what we believe into practice? We must make sure that we are “doers of the word” rather than just “hearers.” James 1:22 makes clear those who do so are “self deceived.” We want our lives to reflect Christ, so that others will desire to come to know Him as their Savior as well. Years ago, before I was a Pastor, I was on my lunch break at work one day when we were extremely busy trying to meet a deadline, and I had forgotten to pray for my lunch. My usual routine was to just close my eyes and silently thank the Lord for my food. This only involved a few seconds, and without saying anything all of my coworkers knew what I was doing. No big deal, right? On that particular day when my routine was “altered” due to the time constraint, several people in the break room quickly said, “Aren’t you going to pray for your food?” Something so simple and yet people noticed. A good reminder that people do indeed watch us to see if our actions match our words.

Our 2023 Conference theme is “Transformed!” We live in a world that is rapidly changing and it is more important than ever for us as Christians to live out our faith. I believe the theme that the Lord laid on my heart this year couldn’t come at a better time, and I am excited to see what the Lord has in store for us.

If you haven’t already done so, I want to encourage you to make your reservation to join us June 30th-July 5th in Dublin, Ohio at the Columbus Marriott NW, by calling 1-888-801-7133. Be sure to tell the operator that you are with the CGBCI. The reservation deadline is June 7th, and you will not get the rate after that date. Also please go to our Fellowship website: cgbc.org and register for the special events.

CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE - FISHERMAN HUCKLEBERRY FINN (PASTOR LARRY WILLIAMS)

Here are some of our plans: Bible lessons on Jesus' disciple Peter, arts and crafts, music, recreation and snacks. I'm still hoping to arrange a time to take them to a nearby lake for a picnic lunch and some actual fishing. *Please fill out the registration form on our CGBCI website.*

YOUTH CONFERENCE – PASTORS KEVIN YODER & ROB COVER

YCON is quickly approaching! PLEASE HAVE YOUR YCON APPLICATIONS IN THE MAIL BY MAY 15th! We are looking forward to a great time of Bible study and time spent making deep friendships. Thinking back to last year, I was reminded how quickly we bonded together and had so much fun. We plan to go to the Columbus Clippers game. Be praying for a year of great spiritual growth for us all. Any questions, please email me at, yoderk1974@gmail.com.

NEW TROY GBC – PASTOR ROBERT MENSINGER

God is continuing to bless here at New Troy. We had four visitors last month, but they have not returned, even though they promised they would. Our attendances and offerings have been holding up well despite our small numbers

We have several members who are struggling with physical ailments. Mindy Burns is taking infusions for a knee, infection. John White is under hospice care but is holding his own. Caroll Stuckey is off the oxygen and is doing much better. Joyce Smith has uncontrollable shaking in her right hand. America Schmaltz is still in the rehab center in South Haven but is continuing to improve from a Stroke. Florence Casto is undergoing radiation and chemo for bladder cancer.

Our fund to re-roof the church is now at \$20,369. The check from the Fellowship Council for \$12,000 came in along with a generous check for \$2,700 from a former member. We are over two thirds to our goal of \$30,000 but could still use some help if anyone is able to do that.

Pastor Bob Mensinger survived a near death experience trying to repair a water pipe leak by his barn. He dug a hole and exposed the leak but trying to repair it he slid into the hole head first and could not get out. Fortunately, his wife and daughter found him and called an ambulance that got there just in the nick of time. He is still sore and recovering from the accident but there were no permanent injuries incurred! Praise God for His faithfulness !

PASTORAL CARE PANEL

One of the COP widows would like to attend conference this year and needs help to make that happen. If you or someone you know has a room or suite she could share, please let Pastor Joshua Steiner know (330-683-3526 or orrvillegrace@gmail.com). In addition we would like to raise funds to provide for her transportation and meals. If you would be interested in helping with this need, please send a check to the Lakeland Conservative GBC, and write "COP Widow" in the memo line. Checks can be sent to Lakeland Conservative GBC, 2538 S. County Farm Rd., Warsaw, IN 46580.

PASTORLESS CHURCHES/AVAILABLE MEN – PASTOR PHILIP MOELLER

The Coolville Grace Brethren Church (Ohio) is looking for a pastor following the retirement of Pastor George Horner. If interested, please contact either Dana Aldridge (740) 667-6697 or Pastor Philip Moeller (419) 631-9720.

HOME MISSIONS

NATIONAL EVANGELISM TEAM – PASTOR DEL MILLER

Thanks for continuing to pray for NET 23. This year's dates are June 10-25. Our training week is at Grace Brethren Chapel in Gibsonburg, OH (June 10-17). The outreach week is at Listie Grace Brethren in Listie, PA (June 17-24). Sunday, June 25 remains open at this time for a presentation in PA or OH. If you are interested in having the team come to your church on that date, please let us know. This paragraph is very similar to the one in last month's article. There are reasons for that! We truly desire your prayers leading up to and during that time. We also still need a place to share a presentation on June 25. Part of the team will be sharing at National Conference on Sunday, July 2 at 11:00 AM. We are looking forward to seeing many of you there. We have a pre-NET practice coming up on May 11 at Gibsonburg. It is looking as though about 70% of the team will be able to come for that. Several of them are from a significant distance away, so we are glad it is working out.

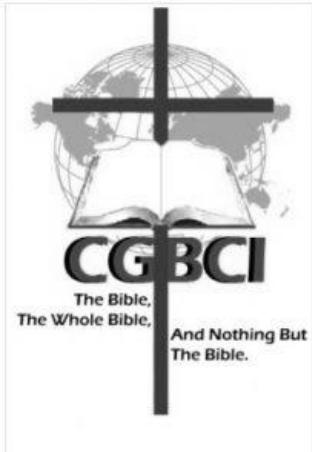
Below are the names of the team members as well as information about who adopted each one. We greatly appreciate the help and encouragement!

Pastor Del and Grace Miller	New Troy GBC
Daniel Comito	Orrville GBC
Jethro Geiser	Listie GBC
Clay Hannah	GBC of Grimes
Luke Hostetler	An Ohio Family
Charis Kallberg	GBC of Irasburg
Benjamin Miller	Reading GBC
RuthAnna Miller	A Pennsylvania Family
Hannah Rudolph	Lamoille Valley GBC
Amy Vanderpool	Lakeland GBC

Looking ahead to NET 24 it is very likely that we will be going to Vermont. We should have those dates for you by the next issue of the Voice. If not, we will have them at Conference. Thanks again for your interest and your prayers!

Pastor Del and Grace Miller pastordelmiller@gmail.com

Ph. 330-234-1602 Orrville Grace Brethren Church, 2200 Paradise Rd., Orrville, OH 44667



CGBCI CONFERENCE 2023

JUNE 30 TH – JULY 5 TH

“TRANSFORMED”



**AT THE COLUMBUS MARRIOTT
IN DUBLIN, OHIO**

RESERVATION NUMBER 1-888-801-7133

\$129 +TAX (includes complimentary breakfast buffet)

RESERVATION DEADLINE – JUNE 7 TH

2023 CONFERENCE PRESIDENT – PASTOR DAVE BLEVINS

“YES” - THERE WILL BE YCON LED BY PASTOR KEVIN YODER AND PASTOR ROB COVER

“YES” - THERE WILL BE CHILDREN’S CONFERENCE LED BY PASTOR LARRY WILLIAMS

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON REGARDING:

THE LADIES LUNCHEON

THE COLUMBUS CLIPPERS GAME ON SUNDAY, JULY 2

ICE CREAM AT SCIOTO PARK ON MONDAY, JULY 3

CALL AND MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY 1-888-801-7133

TELL THE OPERATOR YOU’RE WITH THE CGBCI

“The Voice Newsletter” is the communication tool of the Conservative Grace Brethren Churches International; and edited by Pastor Les Vnasdale.

News Articles and/or Mailing Updates:

Please forward all info to Pastor Chris Knight at cgbcivoicenews@gmail.com

Snail mail to: PO BOX 58, Listie, PA 15549