

THE VOICE NEWSLETTER

Volume 29, Number 2

www.cgbc.org

November 2021

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – PASTOR GORDY HARMON

“HOW COULD IT HAPPEN?”

1 “O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? 2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? 4 Have you suffered so many things in vain — if indeed it was in vain? 5 Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?” (Galatians 3:1-5)

The Apostle Paul was in disbelief when he learned of the changes going in Galatia. How could it happen that the church that had gladly received the only true gospel opened their heart to “different gospel”? In fact, Paul says in Galatians 1:6, “I marvel...” I am astonished!! This word is used in Acts 7:31 where we are reminded that Moses marveled at the impossibility of a bush burning and not be consumed!! That got Moses’ attention!! But it happened. The Galatians had quickly and readily and voluntarily been duped. They foolishly opened their hearts to the deceivers and the creepers went rushing in!! That’s what happened then and it is still happening today. The creepers are always looking for opportunities to beguile unstable souls. Is it a big deal for a little deception to be mixed with the truth?? I hope you are thinking “YES!!!” Galatians 1:7 says that the true gospel had now been perverted or changed. To what degree?? This newly changed gospel had NO POWER to save!! Their new version of the gospel possessed elements of truth, but it had been contaminated with a lie. They could share this new man-made gospel 2.0 and people could say “yes”, but it could not bring salvation. What a tragedy!! Oh beloved, that is what the prince of the power of the air desires, to render every promise of God powerless! To render every believer and every church powerless!! Remember, it was in the Garden of Eden where the serpent mingled a few little lies with the truth, and it was enough to deceive Eve and then move Adam to sin voluntarily against God. We must realize the constant threat and pressure to cave and compromise on the Truth once delivered are real. We must be on guard every minute of every day! Remember to, “Be sober!! Be vigilant!! Because YOUR adversary, the devil, like a roaring lion walks about, SEEKING WHOM HE MAY DEVOUR”!! He is looking for your area of weakness. What are we to do? Earnestly – Contend for the faith, once for all delivered to the saints!! God has entrusted His Word to His Bride, the church, in order that she might have victory and overcome!! The Word of God exhorts us to be “Strong in the Lord and Power of His might!”

Please take some time and read Ephesians 6:10-20 and be reminded of the warfare. Seek the Lord and ask if there are areas of blindness or weakness. May He grant you His strength and wisdom, and may you have confidence in knowing that you have done all to stand! Mercy unto you, and peace, and love be multiplied.

The Executive Panel has an announcement: We have prayerfully and diligently investigated over 30 locations and leads. Beloved, it has been quite a journey! Having sought the Lord in the matters of a proper location, dates to gather, and parameters set by conference, we have set our sights on the Marriott in beautiful Dublin, Ohio. The hotel is our size! We will occupy many of the rooms and all of their meeting rooms. The hotel is lovely, newly renovated, and prepared for an event such as ours. We have found the staff to be hospitable, and willing to work with us in many ways. The Executive Panel met with the hotel on November 1st & 2nd to formally meet the staff and work through the details of National Conference. There will be more to share. Be on the lookout for further updates! Thank you for your patience. Thank you for your continued prayers!

Make plans to join us for:

“EARNESTLY CONTEND”

(Jude 3-4)

Conference 2022 at The Marriott N.W.

5605 Blazer Parkway

Dublin, OH 43017

Nightly rate - \$119 + tax

June 17 – 21, 2022

888-801-7133

NEW TROY GBC – PASTOR ROBERT MENSINGER

God is continuing to bless here at New Troy, despite the challenges of health issues with some of our members. Brother Jon White just had surgery on his lung to remove blood clots and has been put on a medicine for clots in his legs. Please keep him, and his wife Mitzy who is our church pianist, in your prayers. Also, Sister Joyce Smith has been to the doctor and put on meds for trembling in her right hand.

We just had a series of meetings with Pastor Jonathan Edwards and his family and were greatly blessed by the messages and the music they shared with us. We also had a great time with my brother Eddie and his wife Linda celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary the end of August. His brother Wayne and his wife Abby also celebrated their 20th anniversary the same day.

We resumed our Sunday School services the first Sunday in September. Attendance has been steady after a year and half break because of Covid. I am going through the book of 2 Peter in the morning services, and Second Kings in the evening services. We continue to put the morning messages on Facebook, You Tube, and on the church website. Praise God our attendances and offerings continue to stay consistent.

LISTIE GBC – PASTOR CHRIS KNIGHT

Thank you to all who prayed, called, and sent cards in the last month. We had a trying month with several sick in the church, including Stephanie and me. Two dear saints from the church went to be with the Lord as well as my grandfather. We praise the Lord for His Sovereignty in all things and for the comfort and peace that He gives.

We also want to praise the Lord for opportunities He has given throughout the summer and into the fall concerning outreach. We were able to host a “Listie Community Day” at the local fireman’s grove. Close to 200 people attended the event where we had a picnic meal, fireman demonstrations, lots of firetrucks, a foam/bubble machine, and even a medical helicopter! It was a joy to see the church people connect with others in the community. We had our morning service outside under the tent and many from the community were in attendance. It was a great day for sure!

HOME MISSIONS

REVITALIZE VERMONT – UPDATE BY PASTOR JONATHAN EDWARDS

“Growing Pains”

Wouldn’t it be great if everything we did in life had a smooth upward trajectory? Our initial reaction might be, “Yes, that’d be great!”, but upon reflection, we would ask ourselves: when did I grow the most as a Christian? When have I learned the most important lessons in life? Usually, the answer to these questions is not when you were on easy street; growth and transformation occurred when you were faced with trials, tribulations, and hardships which required you to look outside of yourself to the Lord Jesus for strength and a focal point. Like our personal sanctification, the process of church revitalization has its ups and downs.

The Irasburg GBC has recently undergone some trials which challenged the church but ultimately were used by our Lord to strengthen and refocus the work. The most serious challenge the church encountered over the last six weeks was that many members of the church, including Pastor Scott Libby, contracted Covid-19. Due to illness and subsequent quarantines, many normal church activities were disrupted. Continue to pray for Pastor Libby’s recovery and for the return to full health for all the attendees who were sick. On the positive, Pastor Bryan Maley wanted to extend thanks and praise to God for several church members who stepped up to run errands for those who were ill and selflessly gave of their time (and money) to help their brethren. In the Lord’s providence, the down time provided an opportunity for the men to re-examine their written plan and realize that a few elements had fallen by the wayside. To help combat drift, the church leadership developed a yearly calendar which would help keep the pastors and the congregation informed of upcoming events and obligations. They also re-directed the focus of their men’s breakfast meeting to emphasize prayer and accountability and fellowship. These men are seeking to be purposeful in their investment into one another’s lives and into the ministries of the local church.

Finally, the church planned their first ever “Church Family Thanksgiving Dinner.” The saints are looking forward to gathering and sharing a meal together, offering thanks to God for both the blessings and trials which have shaped them to be more like Christ.

FOREIGN MISSIONS

CAMEROON, AFRICA – PRAYER AND PRAISE FROM PASTOR SALOMON ZAMBO

The GBC Church in Mfomakap, is facing a lot of persecutions right now. Pray for God's intervention.

On the 6th of November, we have made plans to baptize four people. Praise God! Also, praise God for the planned ordination of Pastor Moïse Essaga on December 12th.

The Grace Mobile Clinic is coming up from the 11th-13th November in Djantom(South Cameroon). This is a ministry that the Lord has laid on the hearts of Dr Sylviane and her husband. We had about 300 attendees for the last clinic at Essaman.

Thank you for your continued prayers for me as I have tested positive to the Covid. Pray that I can recover get back into ministry. Pray for no more infection and the protection of the rest of the family against this terrible virus.

Pray for Raymond's two daughters, Adele and Marie Sylvine who have tested positive for Covid. They are under protocol/quarantine right now. Pray for the rest of our brethren families to be free or exempt from the Covid.

Pray for my daughter Elizabeth as she begins medical studies. She has been admitted to the one of the greatest medical schools in Cameroon, following Peter's steps.

Pray for the School of Evangelism coming up next week at Ngaoundere. Sixteen men and women are going to be trained for the work of Evangelism.

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

News Articles and/or Mailing Updates:

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