

# THE VOICE NEWSLETTER

Volume 30, Number 5

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February 2023

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER – PASTOR DAVE BLEVINS**

When you think of people from the Bible whose lives were truly transformed, doubtful that Ruth comes to mind for many. The small, four-chapter book that bears her name in the Old Testament is a remarkable story of redemption, love and the transforming power of God. In the opening chapter, after losing her husband and two sons, Naomi makes the decision to return to Bethlehem, because the famine that had led to the family's decision to go to Moab in the first place was now over. It had been a costly ten years. Although both of her Moabite daughters-in-law initially plan to return to Bethlehem with her, Naomi convinces Orpah that she would be better off staying in Moab. Ruth, on the other hand, we are told in verse 14, "clung to her" mother-in-law. Ruth's decision to go with Naomi demonstrates an unusual devotion and commitment. In Chapter 1 verses 16 and 17 we read, "But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me." Not only does Ruth express devotion to Naomi, but more importantly to Naomi's God. She's going to go, live, die and even be buried wherever Naomi is. Just think about it, once Naomi dies you would think Ruth would desire to return to her people, but her commitment is a total transformation. In Ruth chapter 4 we read of God rewarding her faithfulness. Ruth's son, Obed, would become the grandfather of king David. It is also significant that both Boaz and Ruth are mentioned in the Messianic genealogy in Matthew 1:5. It is hard to summarize such a wonderful book in a brief article, but indeed Ruth is a tremendous example of a life that was transformed!

The CGBCI 2023 Conference will be here before you know it. The Conference theme this year is "Transformed!" We are also planning an outing on Sunday, July 2nd to see the Columbus Clippers baseball game against the Toledo Mudhens.

**Be sure 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.**

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

The local weather isn't very conducive to fishing, unless you like to get out on the ice, but I've been thinking about that as we make plans for our Children's Conference. We will have lessons on the life of Simon Peter, a fisherman/apostle, and anticipate great blessings. I still need volunteers to help with child care. Please contact me if you are interested at [red77williams@gmail.com](mailto:red77williams@gmail.com) or 574-338-0340. I will be truly grateful.

### **YOUTH CONFERENCE – PASTORS KEVIN YODER & ROB COVER**

We held a special YCON offering in February to help keep youth conference costs lower. Thank you for investing in our CGBCI future. Please send your funds to brother Ike Graham. Note "YCON" in the memo line.

We are excited to be able to get back together, meet new friends and see others since it has been a while. Four months will go by quickly, and we will be together again. This year's study will be on how God remakes us, to live for Him and bring glory and honor to Him. With the pressures and difficulties facing believers today, it is helpful to be reminded how great is our God Who has put us here in this time, together to accomplish His plan. He gave us everything we need to succeed and flourish! Any questions, please let me know at [yoderk1974@gmail.com](mailto:yoderk1974@gmail.com).

### **COLLEGE OF PASTORS PRESIDENT – PASTOR DELANE MILLER**

CoP Mid-year meetings are March 14-16 at the Cornerstone GBC in Mansfield, Ohio. Panel meetings are Tuesday morning and afternoon. A prayer and praise gathering will be at 7:00 P.M. that day. Pastors' business meeting is Wednesday morning. There will be a thesis presentation that afternoon on, "Passion Week Parallels with Passover and the Great Exodus." Wednesday evening, the CoP and their wives will join the Cornerstone congregation for Bible study and prayer. Thursday morning and early afternoon is Jordan Bradley's ordination exam. Pastors' wives will have their own activities during the two days of meetings. Contact Ruth Vnasdale or Elizabeth Moeller for CoP wives' schedule.

### **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**

Thank you for your prayers for NET 23. This year's dates are June 10-25, 2023, with our training week at The Chapel in Gibsonburg, OH (June 10-17), and the outreach week at Listie Grace Brethren in Listie, PA (June 17-24). Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> is currently open for a presentation in PA or OH. If you have questions about any of the above details, please let us know. Thanks!

As we write this, we are only about 2 days away from a significant NET planning meeting. Please pray that the Lord will give us wisdom and insight as to how we put together the game plan for this year's NET ministry. I was reminded recently of God's oversight of all of our activities and the

connections we have with others. While at a Conference in Indiana, I introduced myself to another attendee who had Ohio on his name tag. It only took about 90 seconds to figure out that we had met forty three years ago at a youth camp where we had both worked. That was fun! We never know when we will connect with someone again as we continue on life's journey.

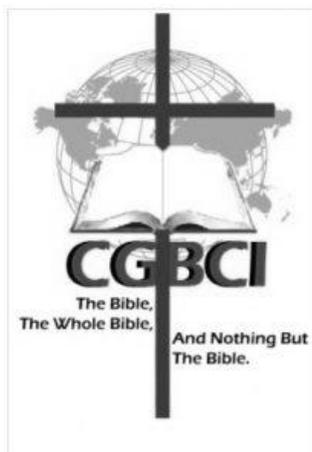
We are sorry that it is not yet possible for us to share with you the complete list of names of the NET 23 members. We can tell you that for the fourteenth year we have an application from Benjamin Miller! He has been a tremendous help over these years!

Pastor Del and Grace Miller [pastordelmiller@gmail.com](mailto:pastordelmiller@gmail.com)

Ph. 330-234-1602

Orrville Grace Brethren Church, 2200 Paradise Rd., Orrville, OH 44667

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## **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**

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*“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](mailto:cgbcivoicenews@gmail.com)

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