

THE VOICE NEWSLETTER

Volume 30, Number 6

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March 2023

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – PASTOR DAVE BLEVINS

The Apostle Paul, whose conversion in Acts Chapter 9 will be the subject of our Bible Hour Saturday morning on July 1st, with a message from Pastor Ethan Kallberg, was a life that was undeniably transformed. Three times in Scripture, Paul encouraged believers to follow his example. In 1 Corinthians 4:16, Paul wrote, "Therefore I urge you, imitate me." Also in 1 Corinthians 11:1, he said, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." To the church in Philippi he wrote in Philippians 3:17, "Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern." Paul understood that when you take a stand for Christ, people will be watching your life. He was able to encourage others to follow his example, because he closely followed Jesus. Whether we like it or not, people are watching! The question each of us needs to ask is, "What do they see?" I remember years ago having a conversation with someone at church (before I was a pastor) and a certain man's name came up in the conversation. The man's name was unusual enough that it was doubtful there was more than one person with that name in that area. When I mentioned the man's name in the conversation (we were talking sports) the guy I was talking to said, "That's the name of my boss at work." As we continued the conversation my friend said, "There is no way it was the same guy, because his boss had a pretty foul mouth and was mean and hateful towards his employees." The guy that I knew was a deacon at the church I grew up in. I'm sure you guessed, it turned out to be the same guy. His life at work did not match his life at church. Over the years as a pastor, I've had occasions where someone will ask, "Does so and so go to your church?" and when I answer, "Yes, he does" the response is, "He doesn't have a very good testimony," or "He isn't who you think he is!" Every time this happens, I always ask myself, "Am I being a good testimony?" As believers, we are all sinners saved by grace, but need to be constantly aware of this one simple fact: "We are the only Jesus some people will ever see."

Our 2023 Conference theme is "Transformed!" I am looking forward to our Bible Hours. We will be looking at the lives of people who were truly transformed. By looking at the lives of others, like Paul, we can examine our own lives and be challenged and encouraged to do better for the Lord.

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)

Spring has sprung, and it's time to think about getting out on the lake for some serious fishing. And it's time for me and my team to get serious about our preps for Children's Conference. Jesus set the pattern when he said, "Let the little children come to me, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." We count it a great privilege to have your little ones for a while.

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

We are excited to be able to get back together, meet new friends and see others since it has been a while. Three 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.

CORNERSTONE GBC – PASTORS LES VNASDALE & PHILIP MOELLER

On March 11, we held a Bible quiz rally covering Psalms 103, 121, 127, and 139. Congratulations to Obie Geiser (3 times), Danny Smail, Dylan Smail, and Nathaniel Studer on quizzing out. During the quiz down, Obie Geiser won first place and Nathaniel Studer finished in second place. Our final quiz rally is planned for May 20th. If you would like any information about Bible quizzing, contact Pastor Philip Moeller (419) 631-9720.

NEW TROY GBC – PASTOR ROBERT MENSINGER

God is continuing to bless here at New Troy. We had two visitors last month, but they have not returned, even though they promised they would and were interested in a Bible study. Our attendances and offerings have been holding up well despite the cold weather. Praise God!

We have several members who are struggling with physical ailments. Mindy Burns is undergoing chemo, John White is under hospice care but is holding his own, Caroll Stuckey is on oxygen and pretty much homebound at this time. Joyce Smith has uncontrollable shaking in her right hand, and America Schmaltz is still in the rehab center in South Haven but is continuing to improve from a stroke.

Our fund to re-roof the church is now at \$4,204. The Fellowship Council voted to send us \$12,000 to assist in our roof fund which will be a great help. Any help from our churches would be greatly appreciated. We will be a little over half way to our goal of \$30,000 as soon as the check for \$12,000 comes in.

Pastor Ron Welsh and Donna have been a big help in our ministry here at New Troy. Pastor Ron shared from the pulpit and the adult S. S Class about God's Plan for the World in the nation of Israel last Sunday. Donna has been helping in our special music and is much appreciated.

We want to say a big "thank you" to Pastors Les Vnasdale, and Phillip Moeller and the Cornerstone GBC for hosting the Mid-Year Meeting for the COP. I was blessed in all the meetings and the mid-week prayer service at the church.

REFUGE CHURCH, SOUTH WHITLEY, INDIANA – PASTOR BRYAN MALEY

On March 19, 2023, The Refuge Church met for the first time for Sunday Morning worship. It was a great time of fellowship and worship for us all. We had 31 in attendance, many of them being new to the group. The response and excitement was overwhelming to everyone involved. It has been exciting to see how God has been working here in South Whitley. Please continue to pray as we seek the Lord’s guidance. You can also pray for us as we write a new plan in order to have another ordained man come on board to help with teaching and training. It is our goal as well to join the CCBCi conference this summer.

We appreciate your continued prayer and financial support. This has been exciting to watch God work. If you would like to get more frequent updates and follow along with us in this journey, look us up on Facebook, The Refuge Church South Whitley.

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 uplifting NET 23 in your prayers. We are glad we can share the list of the names of the team members. 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 25th 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.

Part of the team will be sharing at National Conference on Sunday, July 2, 2023 at 11:00 AM. We are looking forward to seeing many of you there.

Below are the names of the team members listed with their home state:

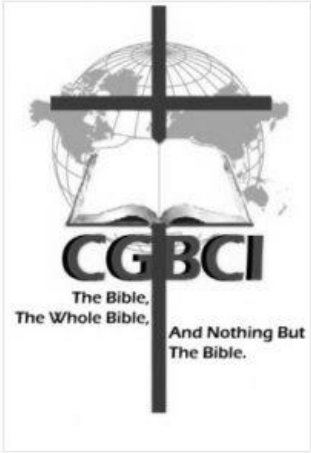
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|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Pastor Del and Grace Miller Ohio | Charis Kallberg Vermont |
| Daniel Comito Ohio | RuthAnna Miller Oregon |
| Jethro Geiser Ohio | Hannah Rudolph Oregon |
| Clay Hannah Indiana | Amy Vanderpool Indiana |
| Luke Hostetler Ohio | |
| Benjamin Miller Vermont | |

As in previous years we are appealing to our fellowship to join with us in moving God’s people to experience missions and to aid churches in our Fellowship with outreach. The adoption amount per team member is \$300 each. The Home Mission Panel is asking our churches to consider adopting a team member. We have already had at least 4 inquiries about adopting a team member. We greatly appreciate the interest! In next month’s Voice article, we will share how the team is matched up with the adopting churches. If you would like to be involved in this way, please contact us.

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 cgbivoicenews@gmail.com

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