

THE VOICE NEWSLETTER

Volume 32, Number 5

www.cgbci.org

November 2024

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – PASTOR PETER PEER

The apostle Paul speaking of the whole armor of God in Ephesians 6:13-17 finishes with the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit. Then he adds what I think was not just a postscript but a formula for victory in the battle for which the armor of God equips us. "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints" (vs 18). It is significant that this admonition follows immediately after the charge to be equipped with the whole armor of God since prayer is the power to effectively wield the armor of God.

This prayer is to be done in the Spirit for it is the Spirit who "also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered" (Romans 8:26).

Notice further that the admonition does not stop there. He continues, "being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints." Being watchful means, among other things, don't fall asleep when you pray. In our Lord's Olivet discourse as recorded by Mark he said, "Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is" (Mark 13:33). Indeed, we don't know when His return will be, but we believe that it will be soon. We need to be watchful with all prayer.

The French theologian Pasquier Quesnel (1634-1719) said, "Prayer is necessary in order to watch, and watchfulness in order to pray." Fervent earnest prayer will keep us not only focused on our Lord, but the communion with him in prayer will keep us from sin. John Bunyan said, "Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer."

It is imperative to heed the call of 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to "Pray without ceasing." The question that every Christian needs to ask is, "Do I pray without ceasing or have I ceased any meaningful praying?" Prayer takes effort and commitment. Corrie Ten Boom said, "Don't pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it." You might add to that thought the words of E.M. Bounds: "The men who have done the most for God in this world have been early on their knees. He who fritters away the early morning, its opportunity and freshness, in other pursuits than seeking God will make poor headway seeking Him the rest of the day. If God is not first in our thoughts and efforts in the morning, He will be in the last place the remainder of the day."

At our last conference I made the plea that as churches, pastors, and people we should aspire to a higher plane of intense communion with our Lord. I suggested that this should include at least three goals:

1. A dedicated devotional life.
2. A deliberate commitment to God's Word.
3. A dedicated prayer life.

On that last point I want to repeat my plea that in all our churches every believer might:

1. Pray for God to give us 10 new pastors.
2. Pray for the salvation of at least one friend, neighbor, or family member.
3. Pray for the ministry of NET this coming summer that God would raise up 20 young people for this year's NET ministry.

YOUTH CONFERENCE – PASTOR CHRIS KNIGHT & PASTOR JONATHAN EDWARDS

Time is moving fast, and we are making plans for YCON 2025. Our theme will be “VERTICAL FOCUS” from Colossians 3:2, “Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.” YCON is open to all students in grades 6-12. We will be following a “day-program” like last year. Students who attend must secure their own lodging with family, friends, or church chaperones. The cost for YCON is set at \$100 which includes: breakfast, lunch, YCON T-shirt, and all activities. A picnic at Scioto Park on July 4 is being planned, as well as a canoe/kayak trip on the beautiful Scioto River. We are looking forward to a great time of fun, fellowship, worship, and Bible teaching. Make plans to join us Friday, July 4 - Tuesday, July 8, 2025.



If you're interested in helping as a counselor in 2025, please contact Pastor Chris Knight at chrisk4christ@gmail.com as soon as possible. Thank you!

CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE 2025 – PASTOR IKE GRAHAM

Christian Climber will be leading 1st through 5th graders on an adventure to “Climb Up!” There will be nursery for infants (0-2) and a pre-school division. Special appearances each day by the Enchanter will amaze and astound! If you have any questions for Christian Climber, please contact him at ikeg327@gmail.com or call 330-749-0545.

CGBCI SCHOOLS OF THEOLOGY – DR RUSS SIMPSON

National Graduation for Practoriums is scheduled at National Conference the summer of 2025, at Marriott Columbus Northwest. This will be our eighth nationally recognized graduation. Potential graduates must have transcripts submitted to Dr. Simpson by January 30, 2025. This timing is necessary in case a small course must be picked up to qualify, and graduation caps and gowns must be ordered in February. We have a limited supply of loaner gowns on a first serve basis.

NEW TROY GBC – PASTOR ROBERT MENSINGER

God is continuing to bless here at New Troy. Our attendances and offerings have been holding up well despite our small numbers.

We have a couple of urgent prayer requests from our congregation. My wife, Lila is recovering from a slight stroke but now is battling several other issues which have left her weak and groggy. She has hardly no appetite and struggles to do anything. I am pretty much her arms and legs most of the time. Also, one of our faithful attendees, John Clark is in the hospital for congestive heart failure, water on the lung and a blood disorder. Another prayer request is for Carol Stuckey who has not been in

church for a month and is struggling with fluid on her lungs. This is all very taxing on me and the ministry here. I pray God will be merciful and touch and restore these dear saints back to health.

Pastor Ron Welsh is now in a study in 1 Thessalonians for our adult Sunday School class. He and his wife could use your prayers. He is in need of a job, and his wife Donna is struggling with issues with her jaw. I am preaching in chapter 8 of Revelation and the series is going very well.

CGBCI BIBLE QUIZZING – PASTOR PHILIP MOELLER

The first Bible quizzing rally of the 2024-25 school year began on November 9 at Cornerstone GBC. For this quiz rally, the quizzers studied John 10-13. We were very excited to welcome the addition of Trinity GBC (Columbus). Congratulations to the Orrville team for winning all 3 quiz jumping matches. Obie Geiser (Orrville) quizzed out all 3 times; Micah McAllister (Trinity) and Tina Smail (Orrville) quizzed out 2 times; and Nathaniel Studer (Mansfield) quizzed out once. Tina Smail (Orrville) won the quiz down round after correctly answering 33 questions. The next quiz rally will be at Orrville on January 11 and will cover John 14-17.

Introducing

Grace for Living

Daily devotional thoughts to grow
in the Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Dear Brethren,

The College of Pastors of the CGBCI has a desire to see the people of our fellowship grow into maturity in Christ. This new devotional is an avenue to help you do just that. I pray that as you read the scriptures and the thoughts from our own pastors each day, that your heart and mind are drawn into closer communion with our Savior.

In Christ,

Pastor Ethan Kallberg

Contributors: Pastor Robert Kulp, Pastor Isaac Graham, Pastor Joshua Steiner, Pastor Philip Moeller, Pastor Terry Reese, Pastor Matt Foreman, Pastor Davy Troxel, and Pastor DeLane Miller.

The first addition will be ready for the first quarter of 2025. (January * February * March)

To order your copy by December 1, 2024.

Online order link: <https://share.fluro.io/form/6711a1680088900036d4b98d>



Or scan this code:

You can also email Pastor Ethan Kallberg at pastorethan@outlook.com or call 802.888.3339.

“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