

THE VOICE NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER – PASTOR DAVE BLEVINS

By the time most of you read this you will be preparing for your Thanksgiving celebrations. As we think of the many things that we have to be thankful for, as Christians, our salvation should be at the top of our list. We see the lost every day. We live next to them, work with them, attend school with them, and are even related to them. We see the need, but what are we really doing as individuals to win the lost for Christ. There is no question that we fall way short of doing what needs to be done considering the hour in which we live. I'm reminded often of our Lord's words in Luke 18:8, "...Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?". Those words along with the "lukewarm" condition of the church described by our Lord in Revelation 3:16, should help stir us to action.

As I said in my article in the last Newsletter, "one of the best witnessing tools that we have is living out our faith in such a way that the world will see the change that Christ has made in us.". Our theme for the 2023 Conference is: Transformed! Based on Romans 12:2. In that verse Paul instructs us to be "transformed" and not to be "conformed to this world". Therein lies the problem for many Christians today, they ARE conforming to the world. 1 John 2:15-17 reminds us, "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."

As we look ahead to assembling together June 30th - July 5th, 2023 (should the Lord tarry) at the Marriott North West in Dublin, Ohio, let's be actively sharing our faith and living out faith. The Executive Panel met in Dublin October 10 and 11 to plan next Summer's Conference and are excited to see what the Lord has in store for our Fellowship in July 2023. We have most of the details worked out and will be sending out the first of a number of promotional materials at the beginning of the new year. Two of the details that you can jot down on your calendar are the dates and location.

LADIES MINISTRIES – MRS CATHY JOHNSON, TREASURER

Thank you to all ladies who participated in the sunshine baskets for Sara Noyes and Autumn Miller. We had a wonderful response. I know it was a blessing to these ladies. Thank you.



CORNERSTONE GBC – PASTORS LES VNASDALE & PHILIP MOELLER

Congratulations to the CGBCI quizzers on memorizing from Psalms 1, 2, 8, 19, 23, and 24! In our three rounds of quizzing, Obie Geiser quizzed out 3 times, Nathaniel Studer quizzed out 2 times, and Danny Smail quizzed out once. Obie Geiser also won the quiz down.

If you are still interested in getting involved in future quiz matches, you are not too late. The next quiz rally is not until January 21. For more information contact Pastor Philip Moeller at 419-747-5012 (church phone) or 419-631-9720 (cell phone).

LISTIE GBC – PASTOR CHRIS KNIGHT

We are rejoicing after a week of refreshing meetings with my brother-in-law, Pastor Nathan Bramlet! He preached through the book of Ruth every night for the week of October 9th. We are grateful for a good attendance and a sweet spirit for the meetings. There was wonderful fellowship as we remembered and reflected on over 130 years of ministry. The following Sunday, three were baptized and five joined the church. The Lord also blessed with three salvations in the month of October. We can say with the Psalmist, “my cup runneth over” (Psalm 23:5b). We do ask for prayers as we continue to grow together in Christ Jesus. So often when the Lord is at work, so is the wicked one. We are so thankful for the victory we have in Jesus Christ!

NEW TROY GBC – PASTOR BOB MENSINGER

God continues to bless at New Troy. We have had several visitors over the past few months. We welcomed them and encouraged them to come back and see us again.

We had a great time with my brother Eddie and his wife Linda back in July. He spoke in the Sunday School hour and the morning service. We had a carry-in dinner following and had a wonderful time of fellowship with them.

We had a former interim pastor, Dick Harstine and his wife Lucene here on October 2, for special meetings. Pastor Dick spoke in the Sunday School hour and morning service and we had a carry-in dinner following. Again, it was a great time of reunion and remembrance with them both.

Prayer requests:

- America Schmaltz is now in a rehab facility in South Haven. She had a stroke and is recovering slowly.
- Jon White is home under hospice care and is in good spirits but is bedridden and cannot attend any of our services. His wife Mitzy also needs our prayers as this is a burden on her as she is working full-time.
- Caroll Stuckey is now on oxygen because of breathing problems and is starting to go downhill. Pray that God would restore her.

Praises:

- Pastor Bob is preaching through 1 John and has had good feedback on the messages which are very timely for the days in which we are living.
- Pastor Ron Welch is now teaching the adult Sunday school class and has been very encouraging to all of us.
- Praise God our attendances and offerings continue to stay consistent.

HOME MISSIONS

NATIONAL EVANGELISM TEAM – PASTOR DEL MILLER

NET '22 had numerous unique opportunities in which to reach out. As usual we had a number of firsts on our trip. This was the first year ever to have someone on the team taller than Benjamin Miller! Reuben Geiser had him beat by around 2 inches. It was a tall group in general with only 2 guys a little under 6 feet tall (the other 6 were all 6' or over) and most girls of above average height as well.

Team work was very good, even when there was a task to do that was not super enjoyable. One such case took place the evening we arrived at Cornerstone Grace Brethren Church near Mansfield, OH. We discovered that on a side road which we had traveled there had been some fresh tar on that very warm day (Some of you can see where this is going!). The entire team, and some local family members as well, wiped down the entire van and trailer with rags soaked in WD-40 so we could get all that sticky, black tar off of the white rented van and trailer. This was another first for NET. There must be some illustrative value in this experience about the "sticky blackness" of sin!

During a "living room program" we were singing for 2 widows when we realized that we were being watched by a deer looking in the window of the patio door at the end of the room. It has happened in the past that we were introduced to a dear friend at a program of this type, but it is the first time we met a deer friend at the same occasion.

A member at Orrville Grace Brethren, Karen Geiser, is a florist. She drove close to an hour one way to come over to Mansfield and help us with an outreach effort. She brought flowers and greens to make a number of floral arrangements which the team then took to some nearby homes. The door opening power of a vase of flowers is significant! This was yet another first for NET. Thank you Karen!

Of course, we had numerous opportunities to share the gospel through our programs and also in one-on-one connections at parks, homes and other events. Pastor Philip Moeller did a great job of lining up our agenda while we were there.

It seems like a good time to remind our readers that the deadline for NET 23 applications is Feb. 1st. By the time you are able to read this, there will be fewer than three months left till that date. If you know someone who is thinking about participating in NET 23, please encourage him to send in his application ASAP. If he does not yet have one, we can send a copy either by email or snail mail. We can be contacted using the information below.

We will bring more news from NET 22 next time, Lord willing!

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FOREIGN MISSIONS

UPDATE FROM PASTOR JOSH AND AUTUMN MILLER – PNG

“It's Time to Fly”

By the time you're reading this, we'll have left Ohio and started our trip back to PNG. Here are the things you can pray for with us.

PRAY FOR SAFETY FOR TRAVELS

Once we arrive, we'll be working to line up the boat and skipper who can take us into Pano, and that trip always has some significant risks.

PRAY FOR WISDOM AS WE COMMUNICATE WITH PANO

Our hearts are breaking to think of having to tell them that, at least for now, we're not able to bring them God's Word in their language. We need so much wisdom and guidance from our Heavenly Father to know how best to appropriately let them know about the reasons for these changes. We want to communicate clearly with them and not cause confusion or misunderstandings that could hinder them being open to missionaries (us or others) in the future.

PRAY FOR GUIDANCE AS WE SORT AND LIQUIDATE SUPPLIES IN PNG.

We'll spend a lot of our time in PNG working to sort through all the supplies that we had prepared to build and outfit our jungle house. Some supplies will be sold and passed on to other missionaries, others will be stored long term since we hope to return someday, and some supplies can hopefully be brought back with us to the States. We will need wisdom to make decisions on how to handle all the house building supplies and personal stuff.

PRAY THAT WE CAN “LEAVE WELL” AND PRAY FOR OUR HEARTS AS WE SAY LOTS OF HARD GOODBYES

On one hand, we feel excitement about returning and seeing so many people whom we've grown to care so much about. On the other hand, it is also hard to say goodbye not knowing when we will see them.

PRAY FOR MORE SENDERS AND MORE WORKERS

We can't put into words how much we appreciate all of you who are supporting us faithfully. In many ways, this trip seems like the end of a significant chapter of the story towards reaching the Pano people with the gospel. We know it's not the end of that story though, and God will be faithful to reach them. We want to be part of that work, and we are praying for God to bring new teammates and all of the things necessary for us to return to PNG and bring God's Word to the Pano people.

“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:

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