

THE VOICE NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER – Pastor Jonathan Edwards

A Call to Prayer for Our Nation

Though we are citizens of heaven and our King is eternal, we find examples in the Old Testament and commands in the New Testament to pray for the governing authorities God has given us.

Paul writes in 1 Tim 2:1-2 that “...entreaties and prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority...” Paul’s words are not a suggestion, yet many Christians regularly neglect to pray for those in authority. We are quick to criticize, to condemn, to judge, but slow to pray for those who are ruling over us. The Holy Spirit knows that our natural inclination is to grumble and complain and He used Paul to admonish us to offer prayers (including thanksgivings!) for those in authority. As our country readies itself for another major election, we must take Paul’s admonition seriously and pray.

Why does Paul command us to pray an intercessory prayer with this content? He answers in verse 2: “...so that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all godliness and dignity.” If our rulers and those with authority come to Christ, they will rule with a recognition that Jesus is the true King and the laws and statutes that they enact will reflect Christ’s character. However, even if our rulers aren’t believers, we know that God can direct their hearts like channels of water (Prov. 21:1) and God could decide to direct the king’s heart towards making God-honoring decisions. Peace and tranquility in the country can allow for Gospel work to be freely done in that nation, for commerce to enrich the nation, and opportunities to use the riches of the nation to bring the Gospel to far away nations.

In addition to the *command* to prayer, I want to direct your attention to some *content* that you should pray. One of the most well-known prayers of intercession in the Old Testament is found in Daniel 9. Though America and the church are separate from Israel and not direct recipients of the covenant curses and blessings, the principles that Daniel prayed are applicable for any people at any time. Here are three truths that can help inform the content of your prayers this month:

1. Daniel recognized the unique circumstances of his people and he made a special time to pray.

Daniel 9:3-4

- a. He saw that his people had turned away from God and His truth.
- b. He adopted a heart of humility and true brokenness as a result of his examination of Israel’s sinful actions.

2. Daniel looked to God’s power and God’s holiness to see the true extent of his sin, as well as the sin of the nation. **Daniel 9:4-6**

- a. We need to be humble and broken as well, recognizing that we are much closer to the wicked in our society than to our Holy God. (We are saved by God's grace, or it could be us who act wickedly...)
3. Daniel acknowledged that the power to judge or to forgive was God's alone. **Daniel 9:9-10, 19**
 - a. Daniel knew God would be just in whatever decision He made regarding Israel.
 - b. We must accept whatever God decides for our nation: whether to give us another period of repentance, revival, and awakening, or to bring judgment upon us.
 - c. Our God is to be praised, for He will do as He wills on the earth to bring about His glory.

Brethren, let us commit to serious intercessory prayer this month on behalf of our nation!

SOMERSET GRACE BRETHREN CHURCH - PASTOR TOM JOHNSON

As many of you are aware, running short on funds, we sold our property and purchased a smaller, nicer property at the beginning of this year. Both deals were land contracts. Then, our buyers backed out of the deal thinking they would get their deposit back. But, the attorney messed it all up by not escrowing their deposit for the "10 day inspection period." Instead he sent the funds on to be used as our deposit. So, they want their money back, but we don't have it, and we have a monthly payment we can't afford. Our new competent attorney has told them that because of the way it was transacted they have lost most and perhaps all of their deposit funds. Now rather than lose their funds, they have come back to the negotiation table as of September. We also just got another offer, though a small one. We are currently negotiating with both offers. Pray that the Lord brings one of them to a completed transition quickly.

NEW TROY GRACE BRETHREN CHURCH – PASTOR ROBERT MENSINGER

God is continuing to bless here at New Troy. This was a very busy month. We had our Annual All-church Picnic on August 30 at Lake Township Park. We had a great turnout with 18 and great food and fellowship. I was able to call on Dennis Casto and Pastor Russell Panico and observe Covid 19 restrictions. They are doing ok and continue to hang in there.

We will be having special meetings with Dr. Russell Simpson, October 10 & 11. We are looking forward to having him here again. He last had meetings here in August of 2009. I am teaching through 1 Peter for our Sunday morning services. I am currently in Chapter 2. I did a series on Eschatology for six weeks at the request of one of the congregation. The series was well received. We are going through 1 Kings on Sunday evenings and are now in chapter 18 dealing with Elijah and the priests of Baal on Mt. Carmel. We have had two visitors in the past month or so but no repeats. We will continue our online ministry and trust the Lord for the results. We had a day of prayer open to the public on Sept. 24 at 10:00 a.m. at the request of the Michigan Speaker of the House, Lee Chatfield. So far we have not had any health issues since resuming live services and praise the Lord for his protection in that matter.

MISSIONS GIVING – PASTOR STEPHEN BURNS

It has been my privilege to serve as Missions Financial Secretary for the past eight years. In January 2021 Pastor Tom Johnson will be taking over this ministry. But until then continue to send your Foreign and Home Missions offering to the Grace Brethren Church of Grimes. When you send your offerings, please mark how the offering should be divided among the ministries. It would also help if you send a separate check for Foreign and Home ministries as they are two separate accounts. Here is a reminder of what your offerings support.

Foreign Missions:

- Foreign Missions General Fund
- Africa - Africa General Fund supports: Pastor Raymond Olinga, Pastor Solomon Zambo, Pastor Roger Yoda, Pastor Gilbert Amaswache, Pastor Simon Peter Otudo, Trips/Resources, Approved Projects: Bibles, Emergency Relief, Orphans
- India - India General Fund supports: Church Planters, Director of Ministries, Trips/Resources, Approved Projects: Bibles, Bikes, Konnect with Kids/Orphans
- Myanmar - Myanmar General Fund supports: Church Planters, Trips/Resources
- PNG1 - Craig and Sarah Noyes
- PNG2 - Josh and Autumn Miller

Home Missions

- Home Missions General Fund
- Revitalize Vermont - Pastor Bryan Maley

HOME MISSIONS

REVITALIZE VERMONT —Pastor Bryan Maley, Evangelist - Irasburg GBC and Lamoille Valley GBC

Clear back in the summer of 2018, our brethren in Irasburg and Lamoille Valley were inspired to take action. They labored in the Word and prayer, and sought God for answers. The churches were dying. Pastor Scott Libby and Ethan Kallberg proposed to the Home Missions Panel a plan of action built upon these two verses: Matthew 16:18 and Romans 1:16. Here's what they wrote: "We aim to revitalize and rebuild the Grace Brethren Churches of Irasburg and Lamoille Valley in order to have a solid base to help plant other Conservative Grace Brethren Churches in needy New England communities in harmony with the Lord's will ("I will build My church") and through the power of the Gospel ("For I am not ashamed of the gospel...").

Now Pastor Bryan Maley, Tori, Camden, Aubrey, Alex and Roxy have been there almost 2 years. They are accomplishing the work of revitalizing and rebuilding. It was reported that a young man who had left the church in Irasburg a couple years ago came back for an event and was surprised and enthusiastic about the changes and is now coming back. Once again what stands out most from the reports from Pastor Bryan is they are concentrating their efforts on taking the gospel out. "As you GO make disciples!" The fruit they are seeing today is disciples making disciples.

Pray—Pastor Scott continues to lead five small group Bible studies most every week.

Pray—Pastor Bryan is attempting to focus more of his time in Lamoille Valley.

Pray—Youth Groups in both churches would continue to grow and serve.

Pray—Pastor Bryan is beginning a small group Bible study

Pray—Braiden has suffered injuries from an off-road motorcycle accident. He is home with the expectation of a good recovery.

Pray—Pastors Scott, Ethan, Bryan and their families.

Praise—Financial Support for RV is encouraging. Thank you for praying for the Maleys and the work going forth in our Vermont churches. Consider please being a financial supporter: Sending your support to GRACE BRETHREN CHURCH (REVITALIZE VERMONT): PO BOX 217: GRIMES, IA 50111

Report submitted by Pastor Gordy Harmon—Home Missions Panel, CGBCI

FOREIGN MISSIONS UPDATES

MISSIONS UPDATES VIA CGBCI YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Here is the link for the CGBCI Mission Updates: [CGBCI 2020 Mission Updates](#). If you are reading this newsletter in paper form, please visit, www.youtube.com. When the page appears, type “CGBCI” in the search bar at the top. The update videos will appear with other videos from the past.

PNG TEAM #1

Hello from Papua New Guinea! As a team, we’re excited to update you all on the big picture of what’s happening, and how we’re moving forward in ministry here in PNG!

Visit the Newfields blog for updates <https://newfields.wordpress.com/> Email craigmnoves@gmail.com

PNG TEAM #2

For updates on PNG Team #2 – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MillersinPNG/>

We’d love to hear from you! Send us an email: JoshAndAutumnMiller@gmail.com and let us know what you’re curious about or if you have a question (or two) that we could answer in a future blog post or email.

“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:

Please forward all info to Pastor Chris Knight at cgbivoicenews@gmail.com Snail mail to: PO BOX 58, Listie, PA 15549