

THE VOICE NEWSLETTER

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JANUARY 2020

PRESIDENT'S CORNER with PASTOR JONATHAN EDWARDS



Greetings, brothers and sisters!

It's January and it's that time of year - the time to make a resolution about something that you want to change about yourself or your situation, in order to better yourself and make yourself feel good ... but let's be honest: most of our actions will likely fall short of the high expectations.

Because of that, I'm NOT going to challenge you to make a resolution.

Instead, I want us to share a testimony with one another of what we DID do in 2019. Were you able to lead someone to Christ? Did you begin a teaching ministry that you never thought you could do? Have you begun the process of making a disciple? Most importantly: How did God receive the glory through your faithful service to Him? Send me your story at jsedwards07@gmail.com and, if you give me permission, I'll find an opportunity to share it with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Instead of making new resolutions, let's commit to keep the ones we already know. Which ones are those? Not about losing weight or running a marathon - no, the spiritual resolutions found in the Word of God. "Walk in a manner worthy of your calling..." Ephesians 4:1ff. "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind..." Romans 12:2ff. "Be holy, for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:16. My dear friends, we know these things: let's commit to doing them! Furthermore, may we have a renewed trust and faith in our Creator God, demonstrated through submission to His sovereign control and authority over our lives, so that whatever comes about in 2020 we can say: May Jesus Christ be praised!

CONFERENCE 2020

June 26 - July 1, 2020

THE CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL

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Grand Rapids MI 49546

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NEWS FROM FELLOWSHIP CHURCHES AND OTHER MINISTRIES

NILES GBC with PASTOR RON WELSH

As of November 1, 2019, our church has sold our property in Bertrand, MI. We are now meeting in an Activity Center connected with a local trailer park. The address is: 1950 S. 13th St. Niles, MI 49120. We look to the Lord for the restart of our church and God's blessing for a bright future till He comes. Thank you for your prayers! Pastor Ron Welsh, Niles GBC

ORVILLE GBC – PASTOR JOSH STEINER

Live-Stream Class on Salvation and the Christian Life (3 credit hours)

The class will be held Saturday mornings from 8:30 -10:30am (EST) from February 22, 2020 to May 16, 2020 at the Orrville Grace Brethren Church building, and can be watched live over the internet. This course will be taught by Pastor Ike. This is the fourth of 6 theology courses covering the major theological topics of the Bible in a systematic fashion. This course focuses on the biblical spectrum of terminology related to salvation such as election, predestination, calling, belief, faith, repentance, justification, sanctification, and how all these fit together in the plan of God for our spiritual growth and service to the Lord. A student is not required to have had Hebrew or Greek for this course, so it is available to anyone who would like to participate; either for credit or audit (\$50 to audit; \$150 to take for credit). Those taking it for credit will have collateral reading assigned and also will take a mid-term and final exam for the course grade. If you are interested in taking this course, please register with Pastor Joshua Steiner by February 10, 2020, in order to obtain the required course materials on time for the first class. Contact Pastor Josh Steiner at: strivingforphilippians314@gmail.com or by calling (330) 683-3526.

LISTIE GBC – PASTOR CHRISTOPHER KNIGHT

Listie GBC helped to host the First Community Light-Up Night in our town. There were an estimated 300 people there for the lighting of a 20 foot Christmas tree next to the church parking lot. Free food, games, prizes, a coloring contest, gingerbread decorating, and caroling were all part of the fun night. The Lord provided many opportunities to connect with folks from the community. We pray that the Lord's work here in Listie, PA will continue to grow and shine for His glory!

NATIONAL EVANGELISTIC TEAM - NET '20 NEWS

It seems as though we just wrapped up NET '19 a short time ago, and now it is time to start talking about NET '20. The dates for NET '20 are July 4-19, 2020 and will include training at the Peru GBC and outreach at the Solid Rock GBC in South Whitley, Indiana. Eleven years ago we were at South Whitley for the outreach focus when Pastor Marvin Meeker was leading the group. Of course the enthusiastic Brother Meeker is with the Lord now. We are glad to see that the ministry he helped to start continues on for the glory of God.

You may find it odd that we are starting on the 4th of July. Much thought and prayer went into this, as it is a joint effort of NET, Peru GBC, and Solid Rock GBC. Everyone's schedule needed to be coordinated for the effort. After looking at all the possible options, it was agreed that this was the best set of dates that could be chosen when all the factors were considered. Please begin praying now for NET '20 as we begin looking over the applications, preparing program and training material, and looking at various forms of outreach opportunities. We have already received several applications. I expect that by the time this reaches your hands more will have come in to us. Because of the significant amount of time that goes into the planning of this event, we need the applications by Feb. 1st. That will be here quickly.

If you have questions about the ministry of NET, please contact Pastor Del and Grace Miller at: at Orrville Grace Brethren Church, 2200 Paradise Rd. Orrville, OH 44667, Phone: (330) 683-3526 or: pastordelmiller@gmail.com

GBC ALBANY OREGON with DELANE MILLER

We are seeing response to our ministry to the local nursing home. Visitors to our church have come through it. Our Sunday evening service is well attended. Good news! Daniel Miller is marrying Harmony Arp on January 11, 2020, in Gibsonburg, OH.

HOME MISSIONS

REVITALIZE VERMONT with PASTOR BRYAN MALEY, IRASBURG GBC, and LAMOILLE VALLEY GBC

Luke 1:37 "For with God nothing shall be impossible." Seemingly impossible things are taking place in OUR CGBCI CHURCHES THROUGHOUT THE LAND!! PRAISE THE LORD!! In Vermont we are hearing things like JOY, GROWTH, SERVING, SALVATIONS, and BAPTISMS!!

The Maleys (Pastor Bryan, Tori, Camden, Aubrey, Alex and Roxi) are now at their one year benchmark! They are trusting the Lord of All to lead them, guide them, and use them for His glory and purpose. Pastor Scott Libby expresses that Pastor Bryan is a BIG encouragement to him personally and to the church.

THINGS ARE HAPPENING! Irasburg reported that their CANDY CARNIVAL in October was well attended, seeing about 60 people, some of whom were NEW faces. They passed out treats and tracts and had good interaction; but PRAY—so far no one has attended IGBC as a result. Lamoille Valley GBC PASSED OUT 500 CANDY BAGS with tracts and established several personal contacts. Because Halloween Night there was rainy, cold, miserable, and raw, many people were looking for a place to dry out, and warm up a little. This resulted in them hanging around the church building, going through the cardboard maze, and staying longer than usual. All things work together!

Pastor Scott was teaching through the Book of John in a small group, and the Lord brought a young lady (Anissa) in her 20s who is now a NEW BELIEVER and was BAPTIZED on November 24th! "I will build MY church." Please that she would "grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ."

Our Vermont churches continue to labor biblically in the implementation of Connect—Grow—Serve. As mentioned there are small groups teaching THE WORD, and the opportunities to SERVE are ever in the forefront, even for the YOUTH GROUPS as they discover they have a place and can make a difference!!

In December there were Christmas Caroling and Christmas Eve Services. Pastor Bryan planned a BARN SERVICE complete with a nativity scene, live animals, and the GOSPEL! In January a NEW Young Adults class is set to begin ministering to those who are newly married, new parents, or engaged. It will focus on a biblical view of church membership, marriage, parenting, finances, and more. PRAY for a place for this group to meet!!

THE HOME MISSIONS PANEL UPDATE DECEMBER 17, 2019 with PASTOR PHILIP MOELLER

EMERGENCY NEED: The Irasburg Church and the Lamoille Valley Church are asking for your help!

When the Maleys moved to their farm house in Vermont they sought The Lord for His choice. And while they love their new house it has come with some health threatening issues ... BLACK MOLD. As a matter of fact they discovered mold in the master bedroom immediately upon their arrival last year. Even before the boxes were unpacked they found themselves in the middle of a construction job. Once again a dangerous mold issue has been revealed, this time in the main bathroom. So now they are under construction again. They are working to remedy this situation because it is affecting their health! The first job last year cost the Maleys \$8,000 out of pocket. This bathroom repair will cost about \$15,000 out of pocket.

There is MORE. The Home Missions Panel has learned that Bryan's Home Mission's Budget is not enough. The cost of living in Vermont is approximately \$10,000 more than expected. As a result the written plan is being re-worked by Pastor Bryan, Pastor Scott Libby, Pastor Ethan Kallberg, and the elders and the churches in Vermont to then be approved by the HMP early in the new year.

With the Maleys' support level at 74%, the H. M. P. and our Vermont Churches are asking you to please consider helping with the additional mold expenses of \$23,000. It has drained their savings account and placed their family in a position where he is prayerfully considering taking a second job outside the church. Just a reminder - Prayerfully consider supporting the Revitalize Vermont Work!

You can help by praying!

Pastor Scott asks for prayers:

- 1) For wisdom to better and more efficiently implement "Connect—Grow—Serve" in the church and small groups
- 2) For the Maleys
- 3) For spiritual and numerical growth in the churches

Merry Christmas Beloved Brethren! "So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." Matthew 1:22-23

FOREIGN MISSIONS

P. N. G. TEAM #2 with JOSH AND AUTUMN MILLER

We 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.

Music and Missions Update:

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We wish to give our thanks to all those of our fellowship who came to the Getty concert on December 7, 2019, near Detroit, MI. There were people from CGBCI churches in at least three states who took the time to attend. Pastor Josh and Autumn were introduced, and a video explaining their upcoming ministry in PNG was played for all those in the audience (over 1,200). They received funds as a result of the concert which will be used to help them cover "startup" costs in P.N.G. A huge thank you to all who attended and to all who worked behind the scenes to make it possible! -Pastor Del and Grace Miller



Happy New Year Blessings One and ALL!

The "Voice Newsletter" is the communication tool of the Conservative Grace Brethren Churches International; and edited by: Pastors Ike Graham, Les Vnasdale, and Christopher Knight.

REGARDING NEWS ARTICLES AND/OR MAILING UPDATES

Please forward all info to: Pam O'Kinsky at okinskys@comcast.net

Snail mail to: 135 Wildcat Road, Friedens PA 15541

**** Articles are requested to be received by the 15th of the month **
to be included in the next issue of the Voice Newsletter**

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!