

THE VOICE NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER with PASTOR JONATHAN EDWARDS

When you hear, "Make Disciples," what do you think?

For some, they may apply that command primarily to sharing the Gospel of Jesus with those who have never heard before. Others may look to the end of Matthew 28:19 and say, "Well, we need to teach these converts all that Jesus commanded." Guess what? Both groups are right! Making disciples is a process that involves both outward movement (from within the body of Christ to the unbelieving community) and internal growth, as believers challenge one another to become

more like Christ. Thankfully, God didn't leave us wondering what to do – there are numerous examples in the NT of how to make disciples outside of the church and also within the local assembly.



Here is a good sample of ideas, as explained by John Piper in a recent blog post:

"As far as training Christians how to think and feel and act as a Christian — that is, discipling in the sense of growing them into more and more maturity — that happens in so many ways in the New Testament. Here is just a grocery list of possibilities:

- Titus 2:4 — Older women are to train younger women.
- 2 Timothy 2:2 — Paul trained Timothy to train others to train others.
- Ephesians 6:4 — Fathers are to train their children.
- Matthew 28:20 — Missionaries are to teach the nations everything Jesus commanded.
- Hebrews 3:13 — All Christians are to exhort each other every day to avoid sin and to stir each other up to love and good works (see also Hebrews 10:24–25).
- 1 Peter 4:10 — All Christians are to use their gifts to serve others.
- Acts 18:24–26 — Priscilla and Aquila, on the spur of the moment it seems, explained the way of God more accurately to Apollos.

And we could go on and on ..."

To read the entire post, go here: <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-is-discipleship-and-how-is-it-done>. One challenge I leave you with for this month is: What do you think about "Making Disciples," is it consistent with all the New Testament says about this important work?

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NEWS FROM FELLOWSHIP CHURCHES and OTHER MINISTRIES

NEW TROY GRACE BRETHREN CHURCH with PASTOR BOB MENSINGER

God is continuing to bless us here at New Troy. SEPTEMBER was a very busy month as we continue to minister to folks in assisted living centers and to those who are confined at home due to health issues. Two of our people passed some big milestones this month. Brother Harold Mensinger (cousin of Pastor Bob) turned 96, on the 4th; Harold is in an assisted living facility. Marjorie Gahrts turned 98 on the 13th; Marjorie lives at home with her daughter and son-in-law.

We had our Wednesday night prayer service on the 4th at Russell and Kay Panico's campsite located in Warren Dunes State Park. Our former pastor Red Williams and his wife Pat attended as they were camping right across from the Panico's. The weather was perfect and the atmosphere was wonderful! We will do it again on October 2nd.

We are looking forward to having special meetings with Pastor Dave Blevins October 12th & 13th. He is a favorite speaker for our congregation.

September 28 was the Ordination service at the Hastings GBC of my fellow pastor Kevin Yoder.

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL EVANGELISM TEAM (NET)

We were glad for the team members' desire to do their best and work together for the outreach effort. This month you can read comments from four of them as they reflect on our time together and what was especially significant in their lives. **-PASTOR DEL MILLER**

"Something I found meaningful on NET was the opportunity to practice sharing my faith with others. From talking to fans at a baseball game to visiting different neighborhoods passing out flyers, NET helped me get more comfortable talking to people about the Gospel. It wasn't always easy; some people were very disinterested or suspected us of having ulterior motives. I remember witnessing a young man having a conversation with Pastor Philip and trying to convince us that the Bible was just 'a tool to be used however the user sees fit.' It was an intense conversation that ended with the man walking away unconvinced. Pastor Philip did his best to encourage him to read the book of John.

That being said, there were many people that seemed receptive. One young man gave his life to Christ. It was exciting to put interested individuals in contact with the local church, talking with them about God, and answering their questions. God was certainly at work! I remember being surprised to meet a man in a neighborhood whom I'd spoken to at a baseball game several days before. I was astounded by the "coincidence." Things like this made sharing my faith a truly memorable experience." **-NICHOLAS KELLEY**

"My highlight of the trip was the fellowship around the tables as we ate. I got to know so many people and heard how they accepted Christ. Their stories about what God did and is still doing in their lives were a blessing and encouragement to me as we talked back and forth. This was especially true of the people I got to know on the team and with the people that we met in Pennsylvania and Tennessee." **-HANNAH HODGDON**

"One of my main highlights was our time with our prayer partners. God really had a hand in putting us together. I also really enjoyed the door to door witnessing. It was something I had not done until coming on the team this year. I was able to tell my dad this as well. We are starting to develop a group of people at our church to do door to door witnessing. Another one of my favorite parts was the team devotions. It really encouraged me to see what stood out to others in the passage, and it lit a fire in me to be more productive in my Bible reading. NET will always have a very special place in my heart." **-PATIENCE BOLLING**

"For me the highlight of the trip was the time of daily devotions. I really liked when we would read entire chapters instead of just a few Bible verses. I enjoyed being around like-minded people and being able to talk about serious subjects with the other team guys. I enjoyed the whole trip very much!" **-CLAY HANNAH**

FOREIGN MISSIONS

AFRICA UPDATE with KEITH MERRIMAN

We have been in the process of drilling a new water well for Pastor Simon Peter Otudo. His old well collapsed last year. We have received gifts to be able to have a new well drilled. The drill head got stuck in the rock a few weeks ago and they have not been able to extract it. They will need to bring in a large crane but it has been raining steadily for over three weeks. Please pray for dry weather so they can bring the crane in to extract the drill head in order to get the well going.

Please continue to pray for Pastor Raymond Olinga in East Cameroon as he trains his men in practorium.

The war in Northwest Cameroon continues. Please beseech the Lord that He will bring peace to that divided country. Thank you to all who continue giving support to aid in the relief for our brothers and sisters in the area.

Thank you for your continuing prayers and gifts.

P.N.G. UPDATE with CRAIG NOYES

We've arrived in PNG and have been enjoying the easiest transition we've experienced to date and that's saying something! Thank you for all your prayers and love. The jet lag, the heat, the culture, everything has been a super smooth transition, and we feel right at home.

While we are waiting and preparing for Josh and Autumn Miller to arrive in January, our main job is serving other missionaries as they work to get the Gospel and God's word to unreached people groups. A couple of days ago I drove a big flatbed truck up one of PNG's few "main" roads, transported everything into an 18' dinghy boat and delivered it to a small volcanic island where the missionary team is working. The children of that tribe knew that visitors were coming that day so they dressed up in bush outfits (face paint and leaf clothing) and waited for us to get near shore and came running out pretending to attack us with play spears and unripe fruit, it was hilarious! Next week I'll be driving up a four-wheel drive road and camping in the bush for four nights while we guard building supplies and shuttle them during the day light hours via helicopter to a brand new work that is being opened. There is no village in that area and it's at sea level so it will be hot, buggy and no water available (we'll bring our own to drink). Please pray for safety, good attitudes and effective work.

Another day recently, my task was to find a dirt track road with GPS coordinates, drive on it into the mountains and meet up with a missionary that had hiked 21 miles the day before to bring him out to town. The night before I was supposed to leave a brutal murder had happened somewhere near to the mountain road I was supposed to find. I brought a PNG guy with me in light of the elevated tensions in that area. While we were driving together I was trying to figure out what this guy believed about the Gospel. During that conversation the Lord brought an illustration to mind; I said "*If you got a large bilum (a traditional string bag) and stood in it, could you ever pick yourself up? What if you were really, really strong and worked really hard?*" He laughed and said, "*No, you could never pick yourself up.*" I said it's just like that with trying to be 'good enough' for God to accept us. No matter how hard you try or how strong you are, it's just not possible to be 'good enough' for God to accept you. God has to do it for you. It's just like it takes someone else to pick you up if you are inside a bag. It was such a joy to be able to return to PNG and know the national language and be able to talk to people!

It's tough to arrive in a remote country and want to be able talk to people but not be able to do so. Please continue to pray for Josh and Autumn when they arrive in January!

Thank you again for everything! I'll be posting pictures and videos soon on Facebook and on our blog of the trips described above and many other things. If you don't receive our email updates and would like to please send me a message at: craigmnoyes@gmail.com to be added to the list.

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.

PLEASE NOTE: Regarding NEWS ARTICLES AND/OR MAILING UPDATES

PLEASE FORWARD INFO TO: PAM O'KINSKY at OKINSKYS@COMCAST.NET

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News and articles must be received BY THE 20TH OF THE MONTH to be included in the next issue of the "Voice Newsletter." Thank you all for your cooperation and participation by submitting articles for the newsletter!