

THE VOICE NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER with PASTOR JONATHAN EDWARDS



What prevents you from making disciples?

If I were able to take a survey, I would imagine that two of the key issues that prevent people from being disciple makers are: 1) Time and 2) Money. If it is these that are preventing you from fully obeying the command of Jesus, or if you're in a rut about making disciples, please consider this challenge.

We all know that "time" and "money" are two things we want more of, and that when we spend them, we can't get them back. We also know that we can't take time or money with us when we die – both are a unique function of the temporal age that we live in. When the cost to disciple another person impacts both of these areas our natural reaction is to withdraw, and seek to protect our own assets. We know that such action won't produce disciples. Since we're serving God in other areas, we justify our actions by thinking, "It should all balance out, right?" The correct answer is that it doesn't balance out – without the raising up of disciples, the church will end up like the nation of Israel, of whom it was recorded: "...there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel." (Judges 2:10) We have the truth and cling to it, but are we perpetuating it in the lives of others?

The question which will reveal our hearts and attitudes toward disciple-making is this: What am I willing to invest to obey the command of Jesus?

CONFERENCE 2020

June 26 - July 1, 2020
 THE CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL
 5700 28th St., SE
 Grand Rapids MI 49546
 1-877-270-1393
 616-957-1770

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NEWS FROM FELLOWSHIP CHURCHES and OTHER MINISTRIES

CALVARY GRACE BRETHERN with Pastor Russ Simpson

NATIONAL PRACTORIUM GRADUATION will be featured, Saturday, June 27, 2020 at 7:00 pm followed by a reception, cake, and a time of fellowship at National Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Graduates must submit a transcript of their courses to Dr. Russ Simpson by January 15, 2020, in order to check for compliance to proctorium degree standards. In some cases a course may have been overlooked and it may be required to finish. Graduation gowns, diplomas, tassels, and hoods need to be ordered. If 2020 is not suitable for a graduate, the next graduation will be held in 2022, Lord willing. For more information please contact Dr. Simpson at: (574)742-1406 or by email at: simpsonruss9@gmail.com.

NEW TROY GRACE BRETHREN CHURCH with PASTOR BOB MENSINGER

God is continuing to bless here at New Troy. This was a very busy month, we continue to minister to our elderly in assisted living and those confined at home for health issues.

Pastor Bob and Lila went to Hastings GBC on September 28 for the ordination service for Pastor Kevin Yoder. It was so encouraging to see this dear brother ordained in the ministry of the CGBCI. Also, we were able to see many dear friends in the fellowship that we had not seen in a while.

Our meetings with Pastor Dave Blevins went very well. He spoke on the theme of "Being Transformed" on Saturday evening and three times on Sunday. We had a carry-in dinner and early p.m. service on Sunday and both were well attended.

Our annual "Tract and Candy Pass-Out" was held October 26th. We have handed out tracts and candy to over 200 children each year for the past three years. Praise the Lord!

FROM THE HOME MISSIONS PANEL



UPDATE: REVITALIZE VERMONT - IRASBURG GBC AND LAMOILLE VALLEY GBC

with PASTOR BRYAN MALEY

"Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily."
Colossians 1:28-29

Pastor Bryan and the Maley family are laboring, serving, and working to make up ground, having been away from the churches in Irasburg and Lamoille Valley as well as house and home for forty-two days. This took a six-week bite out of the heart of summer. During that time they met us at conference in Grand Rapids giving first-hand updates on the things going on in Vermont. Pastor Bryan took full advantage of being "back home" which is only fifteen minutes from Alto at Calvary GBC. During conference week he was hard to find as he was busy visiting churches in the immediate area, encouraging the brethren, bringing news, and giving updates on the work in Vermont. When conference ended, The Maleys visited numerous churches throughout Michigan, Indiana, and the Ohio area; keeping a very brisk pace. Pastor Maley finished up by serving at Camp Christigan July 28th through August 3rd, and stopped on his way through Mount Vernon, OH, to greet the brethren at Berean Faith Fellowship before heading for home on August 4th.

Once at home he took a few days to rest, evaluate, and contemplate the course ahead. Pastor Scott Libby, Pastor Ethan Kallberg, and Pastor Bryan Maley all remain fixed on Colossians 1:28-29 striving to Make Jesus Famous which is their overriding theme. The churches continue to report success not in just numbers but in spiritual growth as they strive to "CONNECT — GROW — SERVE" as their model. As a matter of fact Bryan shared that as he was travelling between the churches he saw several signs and bulletin boards with "CONNECT — GROW — SERVE" being implemented. It was a great blessing to him.

With the leaves changing color Vermont is beautiful and there are "Peepers" or tourists everywhere! Recently, there were fifteen cars lined up in Pastor Bryan's driveway taking pictures. This also being the season for giving away candy, the Irasburg Church held a Candy Carnival on October 25th; complete with a bouncy house, hot dogs, and an opportunity to share the gospel. Lamoille Valley's outreach is planned for October 31st, their big

draw will be an indoor Box Maze, passing out tracts, invitations, and candy. Last year LVGBC passed out 800 bags of candy and are preparing for another large turnout. Please pray that the Lord blesses these opportunities with eternal fruit!

Praises and Prayer Requests:

- ❖ Thank you for your prayers the Lord is working and there is so much more that could be said.
- ❖ Aubrey turns sixteen on November 4th (if you would like to send a card: 1346 Vt. Rte. 58 W, Irasburg, VT, 05845).
- ❖ Pastor Bryan has knocked on 621 doors and made many, many more contacts.
- ❖ Seth and Corey are two single men growing, excited, and willing to serve Jesus (maybe as a team).
- ❖ Pastor Bryan is thankful for the provision of an old truck with a blade for snow removal as they have seen ice on the pond already.
- ❖ Support level is at 68% and this continues to weigh heavy on Bryan and his family. Would you prayerfully consider being a MAPLE LEAF FINANCIAL SUPPORTER? It would only take forty-five more supporters at \$25 per month and the work could be fully funded. Please send your gifts to: Grace Brethren Church, PO Box 217, Grimes, IA 50111. Please add a note on your check that your gift is for "**REVITALIZE VERMONT**" or "**MAPLE LEAF.**" Thank you.

FOREIGN MISSIONS

AFRICA UPDATE with KEITH MERRIMAN

Greetings in the Lord. Please continue to pray for Pastor Salomon and his ministry here in the United States. He is scheduled to go back to Africa November 18. Pray for God's grace and care for Mary Zambo and the children in Africa. Please also continue to pray for the war in the northwest in Cameroon that there would be peace. Pastor Roger Yoda and Pastor Simon Peter Otudo have a practorium scheduled in November for men from seven countries. Pray for journey mercies, for health and strength, and that the men would be encouraged in the word. Thanks to all who have prayed for Joyce Marvelous, Pastor Raymond Olinga's daughter, she had her appendix removed and is recovering well. Thanks to those who gave gifts to help meet the \$1,000 medical bill. Continue to pray for Simon Peter Otudo Jr., that his broken arm will heal with no complications.

P.N.G. UPDATE with CRAIG NOYES

THE MOST MISERABLE PLACE IN PNG

I'm sure there are objectively more miserable places in Papua New Guinea, but I've never been to one. A missionary team is opening up a new work among the Kovol people in the mountains of Papua New Guinea. They are involved in the long and difficult process of milling lumber, building their houses, and getting materials to the tribe. This is no easy task. A couple of weeks ago one of the missionaries and myself had the job of camping in the back of a truck for three days, to guard and prep over eight tons of materials to be slung under a helicopter in order to be taken to the bush location. After having driven the supplies as far up the logging road as we could go, we got busy unloading cargo onto a giant tarp and wait for the chopper to arrive the next day. Camping on the side of a remote logging road is no straightforward thing. Before we left on the journey we prayed and wondered how the locals would feel about us working there? Would they help us or take advantage of us? Would bandits hear about us and come to rob us in the night? Would there be water to wash in or will we just bath in our own sweat with the heat index well over 100? What if it

would rain, how many days can we risk just sitting out there waiting for clear weather before we load everything back up and drive back? These and many other questions were going through our minds as we bounced along the dirt road for four hours heading further and further into the jungle. As you can see we survived and even finished a day early! The Lord gave us sunny weather and we had no trouble with bandits. The locals were clear that they wanted some payment for doing this work in their tribe, but they also felt a responsibility to look after us since we were outsiders. Several of their young men camped out with us to guard the materials. There was no water to bath in and it was very hot, humid, and dusty. It was pretty gross even by my standards! The truly maddening thing was the sweat bees. Hundreds and hundreds of tiny bees that wanted to drink our sweat and swarmed us all day long. I killed over thirty bees in one shot on my back! Definitely the least pleasant place I've been to in PNG so far. I'm grateful to report that our transition back to PNG has gone better than we hoped! While we miss the people we love, we really feel like we've come back home. Sara is homeschooling the kids and working on improving her Tok Pisin skills. I'm doing logistics and supply planning for church planting teams, like the story above, and many other tasks for a few months until our co-workers arrive in January.

Thank you for your prayers and encouragement. We are excited about the future and content in the place the Lord has us.

Love Craig, Sara, Ashea, Solo & Piper

"...even to the remotest part of the earth." Acts 1:8

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

SNAIL MAIL TO: 135 WILDCAT ROAD, FRIEDENS PA 15541

***** I am adding a SPECIAL REQUEST that ALL NEWS ARTICLES for upcoming issues be received by: NOVEMBER 15 FOR THE DECEMBER ISSUE AND DECEMBER 14TH FOR THE JANUARY ISSUE of the "Voice Newsletter." *****

May each of you have a wonderful season of thanksgiving for the Lord's amazing provision!

Thank you for your cooperation! ~Pam