

THE VOICE NEWSLETTER

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June 2021

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – PASTOR JONATHAN EDWARDS

One of the objections that is sometimes raised against the concept of “discipling” or “discipleship” is that the word “disciple” doesn’t appear in the NT after the book of Acts. The objection asserts (usually) this: why would we practice something that is not named in the Epistles? And should we even call it “discipling” or “discipleship”?

The first rebuttal I would offer to this objection is this: the final command Christ left to His disciples was, “Make disciples.” To practice the command, His followers would have to do three things: go to all the ethnic groups; baptize those who believed in Him, and then teach them to observe all that Jesus’ commanded. Whether you use the term “discipling” or “discipleship” or not, if you are going to be faithful to Jesus’ command, you will go, baptize, and teach those who profess faith in Christ. At the most basic level, that is “discipling” you are helping someone to learn more about someone or something else (as in the case of a trade/skill).

A second rebuttal centers on the specificity of language. The Greek word “disciple” was used in both secular and religious culture to denote a pupil, one who learned from another with the goal of becoming like the teacher. Since the word was used broadly in the culture, the word lacked specificity as to who the learner was supposed to imitate. Therefore, when one called a group of believers “disciples” – it wasn’t immediately obvious who they were learning from and trying to imitate. For this reason, a more specific name was adopted by the early church. Acts 11:26 records, “...and in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.” The name “Christian” replaced “disciple” to describe those who were followers of Christ. Why? It was a far more specific of a term and it communicated a great truth: those who bore the name “Christian” were to be “little Christs,” whose doctrinal beliefs came from the One True God and whose lives imitated the character and godliness of their Savior.

A final rebuttal is this: though the word “disciple” is not used in the Epistles, the concept of discipling others or practicing discipleship is present. In Colossians 1:28, Paul describes his mission to the church: “We proclaim Him [Jesus], admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.” The goal of Paul’s life was to help others grow to become more like Christ. He did this through teaching, exhortation, but also through personal example and direct involvement in the lives of people.

My friends, there is more we could say, but this is enough for now! Let us be about the business of making disciples, for that is the only commission that has been left to the Church by her Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you have not done so, **please register for National Conference** using the Eventbrite link below. Either click on the link, or copy and paste into your browser window.

<https://cgbc2021nationalconference.eventbrite.com>

If you don't have access to the internet, a paper registration form has been included in this newsletter and you can mail it to:

Grace Brethren Chapel
ATTN: Jonathan Edwards
1820 SR 590
Gibsonburg, OH 43442

CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE 2021 UPDATE – VICE PRESIDENT, PASTOR GORDY HARMON

We are looking at our blueprint, breaking ground, ordering supplies and making ready for The Construction Zone. We are getting close to Conference, and we really need your help. Please take a moment and register your family for children's conference. At this stage of planning and preparation, this will help us tremendously. If you are interested in serving and helping with Children's Conference please call, text or email us. We will get back to you and work out the details of how involved you want to be. You will be compensated \$8/Hr. We would like to send you a music cd (both workers and families registering for Children's Conference) to familiarize you with the songs. They are great songs!! We are looking forward to being a blessing to the children and families at conference. Please be praying for us!! Please Register ASAP!

Pastor Gordy Harmon (call or text) 740-504-7932 email bffpastorg@gmail.com

Jessie Harmon (call or text) 740-504-2248 email jharmon18203@icloud.com

Register today at Eventbrite: <https://cgbc2021nationalconference.eventbrite.com>

2021 WOMEN'S LUNCHEON – MEREDITH EDWARDS & JOANNE SIMPSON

Last call to register for the 2021 Women's Luncheon (July 5th from noon – 2pm) through your Eventbrite or paper registration! We look forward to a time of lively discussion on women to women discipleship while we enjoy delicious food! The luncheon is a one-minute drive from the church parking lot (take a right and go up the hill), so feel free to carpool. As a reminder, the cost is \$16/person, but no payment is needed until Conference Registration on July 2nd. There will be a table marked "Women's Luncheon."

MUSIC MINISTRY – PASTOR PHILIP MOELLER

To all who have musical ability, please consider ministering this year at Conference. There are several opportunities available including supplying some special music. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Philip Moeller by email philipmoeller@juno.com or by phone at church (419) 747-5012.

HOME MISSIONS

NATIONAL EVANGELISM TEAM – PASTOR DEL MILLER

Below are listed the official NET 21 presentation dates. Of course, the ministry of the team includes much more than the formal programs. This simply gives you the option of connecting with us if we are in your part of the country.

Sunday June 13, 9:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 6:00 PM - Solid Rock GBC 4975 W 1000 S South Whitley, IN 46787

Mon.-Thursday, June 14-17 6:00-8:30 PM - Peru GBC 430 S. Broadway Peru, IN 46970

Sunday June 20, 9:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 6:00 PM - Telford GBC 3337 Highway 11-E Limestone, TN 37681

Mon.-Wednesday, June 21-23 9:00-11:30 AM - Telford GBC VBS

Wednesday, June 21, 7:00 PM - Telford GBC (address above)

Friday, June 25, 7:00 PM - Berean Faith Fellowship 103 Madison St. Mt. Vernon, OH 43050

Sunday, June 27, 9:30 AM - Berean Faith Fellowship (address above)

Sunday, June 27, 6:00 PM - North Liberty Community Ch. 20961 N. Liberty Rd. Butler, OH 44822

We have been greatly encouraged by your interest in this ministry. We would be glad to see you at any of our presentations. We should point out, that our level of involvement at the Peru VBS will be limited. Our main focus that week will be preparing for the following week. That reminds us of a prayer request. Our first full length presentations (3 at South Whitley) will come before we have had a great deal of practice time. Please pray that we will be able to work together well and that we will have good interaction with those that we meet there. Pray also for open doors to share the gospel with individuals throughout the trip. Also pray for the safety of the team both physically and spiritually. The enemy does not like it when there are efforts made to free his captives!

Pastor Del & Grace Miller 330-683-3526 or 330-234-1602
Orrville Grace Brethren Church 2200 Paradise Rd. Orrville, OH 44667
pastordelmiller@gmail.com

SOMERSET GBC – PASTOR TOM JOHNSON

We are currently running a program we are calling "Briarwood Blitz". Our new church building is located in a subdivision of Somerset called Briarwood. We have been given materials including "Life of Jesus" DVDs, gospel tracts, and door hanger bags for free by an organization known as Saturate USA. We have been given 7,500 of them for the entire 15501 zip code area! We have added a flyer

inviting folks to our church. We planned, originally, to cover only the Briarwood area which is about about 300. We have already delivered over 450. We are now expanding to other areas of Somerset. As a result, last Sunday we had 1 visitor, and one letter by someone who thought they should share there JW materials with us. Pray with us that people will be saved through the clear Gospel message on the DVD and the tract, and that they would come to our church. Also, your church can do this by going to the Saturate USA WEB site and finding the host church for your zip code.

TABLES AT CONFERENCE

If you would like a display table for conference, please email Pastor Jonathan Edwards (jedwards07@gmail.com) or Pastor Chris Knight (chrisk4christ@gmail.com) asap. Thank you!

"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 cgbcvoicenews@gmail.com Snail mail to: PO BOX 58, Listie, PA 15549