

# THE VOICE NEWSLETTER

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[www.cgbci.org](http://www.cgbci.org)

March 2021

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER – Pastor Jonathan Edwards**

Greetings dear friends!

Since we're having National Conference at a local church this year, sign up will look a little different. If you plan to attend Conference, please register using the online service Eventbrite (**preferred**) or the paper registration form by June 1. Please fill out a registration for each attendee – including children. It is free to register and there is no ticket cost to attend Conference.

Eventbrite registration link (copy and paste into your web browser):

[https://cgbci\\_2021\\_national\\_conference.eventbrite.com](https://cgbci_2021_national_conference.eventbrite.com)

Or print out the attached form and mail to this address:

Grace Brethren Chapel  
Attn: Jonathan Edwards  
1820 N SR 590  
Gibsonburg, OH 43431

**\*\*NOTE\*\*** Hotel reservation information is pending. We are currently working with several hotels in the Fremont area and hope to have information about room reservations by April. If you have any questions, please contact Jonathan Edwards at [jsedwards07@gmail.com](mailto:jsedwards07@gmail.com) or (419) 603-0680. Thank you!

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

THE CONSTRUCTION ZONE - Are you planning to come to conference this year? Do you have infants that might need watching? We have a nursery available. Do you have children age five thru grade fifth? Then Children's Conference is an option for you. Help us prepare for you and your family by promptly pre-registering. Pastor Jonathan has detailed instructions on how to do this in his front page article of this issue of THE VOICE. When you pre-register we will send you a music cd that has many of the songs we will be singing with the children. But beware, they are catchy with wonderful truths mixed in. We know from experience that moms and dads will be singing them too! Might you be interested in working and serving in THE CONSTRUCTION ZONE! It is not necessary for you to commit to every hour or every day. Just let us know you're interested and we will figure out together what days and what hours work for you. There is hourly compensation for Children's Conference workers...call, text or email. We hope to hear from you soon.

Pastor Gordy Harmon (text or call) 740-504-7932 or email "[bffpastorg@gmail.com](mailto:bffpastorg@gmail.com)"

Jessie Harmon (text or call) 740-504-2248 or email "[jharmon18203@icloud.com](mailto:jharmon18203@icloud.com)"

## **2021 WOMEN'S LUNCHEON – MEREDITH EDWARDS & JOANNE SIMPSON**

We look forward to carrying out our luncheon plans from last year into this year! The 2021 Women's Luncheon is **Monday, July 5 from 12:00pm – 2:00pm** at Ole Zim's Wagon Shed (1375 OH-590, Gibsonburg) just down the road from the church! As before, the luncheon is open to all Post-high Women of the Fellowship. An announcement flyer will be emailed to all CGBCI churches during the month of April. This announcement can be printed as a bulletin insert or posted in your church to spread the word. You do not have to be a pastor's wife, missionary wife, or a widowed pastor's wife to attend the luncheon. The 2021 theme is *"Women to Women Discipleship: The Benefits and Barriers."* The cost for the luncheon is \$16 and it will include a grilled or fried chicken dinner with several sides and a dessert. Please indicate that you would like to attend on your Eventbrite or paper registration. Payment will be collected at Conference Check-In on Friday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **ORRVILLE GRACE BRETHERN CHURCH – PASTOR IKE GRAHAM**

This as shared by Pastor Ike Graham with the GBC in Orrville on Feb. 28th:

You have been hearing about some of the hardships our Brethren in India and Myanmar are facing. Maybe your response was "I'll pray for them and I'm glad that is not happening here." Well, it's coming closer. Pastor James Coates of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada was arrested on Feb. 16th for gathering with the church and preaching in violation of the head of the Health Dept.'s order to not assemble beyond 15% of the building's capacity. He told the Magistrate that he cannot in good conscience obey the Bible's directives to pastor if he does not meet with God's people. The authorities have told him that they will release him if he agrees to their terms. He is 41, and married with three children. This has been, of course, stressful on his family.

Personally, I agree with James Coates and John MacArthur and other pastors who are meeting in-person with the church. I would add to Pastor Coates reasons, Hebrews 10:24-25. I would also argue from the data of the CDC and USAfacts.org that we are not in a pandemic. The preliminary data from USAfacts.org shows that COVID was the 3rd leading cause of death in 2020; not even close to #1 - heart attacks. Cancer was #2. For me, personally, as a Christian, I cannot love the Head of the church without loving the church. Can you imagine your finger being separated from your body for months? What would happen to it? In Psalm 122:1, King David said, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" Are you like David; glad when you meet with God and His people?

This kind of government intrusion into the things of God is not new. You probably know, whether you have read Pilgrim's Progress or not, that John Bunyan is its author. John Bunyan was jailed for twelve years because he refused to obey the new administration which came to the throne in 1660 in England and told him that he could no longer preach. He was married with four small children and his oldest, Mary, was blind. She was without her dad for twelve years. This is what Bunyan said when he was questioned about this: "O I saw in this condition I was a man who was pulling down his house upon the head of his Wife and Children; yet thought I, I must do it, I must do it".

Now, you might be thinking, "Well, we're still safe here in America." Think again. Lydia Booth is a 3rd grader in Jackson, MS. The mask that she wore to school read: "Jesus Loves Me." School officials have banned her from wearing that mask...because it is religious. Let's pray for the Coates and the Booths.

### **LISTIE GRACE BRETHREN – PASTOR CHRIS KNIGHT**

We praise the Lord for the opportunity to host "Winter Bible School" the first week in February. We had a blast with the theme: "Snow Kingdom: Learning to Live like a Child of the King". We averaged 30 each night. We had crafts and games and special snacks. The week was truly a blessing.

We also praise the Lord for many new faces at church for each of the services. In spite of Covid, attendance in each service has seen an increase! We are thankful! Please pray as we plan for a Community Easter Egg Hunt and Spring Revival services. We hope to reach out to the community for these events.

### **BEREAN FAITH FELLOWSHIP – PASTOR GORDY HARMON**

Choir Festival at Berean Faith Fellowship—Save the Date! Please make plans to join us on Sunday, May 16th, at 6:00 p.m. Meet with us in beautiful Mount Vernon for a wonderful evening of singing, praise, worship, and of course, sweet fellowship. We are located at 103 Madison Street, Mount Vernon, OH, and we would fully enjoy your presence. Contact either Pastor Gordy Harmon ([740-504-7932](tel:740-504-7932), [bffpastorg@gmail.com](mailto:bffpastorg@gmail.com)); or Jesse Bryant (740-390-1402, [bryant05@icloud.com](mailto:bryant05@icloud.com)) for questions/directions, etc. Look for more information to be coming in next month's Voice Newsletter!

### **CAMP ALBRYOCA – PASTOR CHRIS KNIGHT**

We are making preparations for the church camp season. We are hosting three weeks of camp:

Junior High (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades\*\*) – June 21<sup>st</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>

Senior High (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) – June 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>

Junior (4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades) – July 12-17<sup>th</sup>

If you would like a registration form or more information, please contact me at:

814-444-6709 or [chrisk4christ@gmail.com](mailto:chrisk4christ@gmail.com) We are also looking for counselors and junior counselors (11<sup>th</sup> grade and up) for Junior High week. Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering.

\*\*I am business manager for all three weeks as well as director for Junior High week. We permit Senior High students to join Junior High week to meet their schedule needs or, if they simply want to attend a full week.

## **HOME MISSIONS**

### **NATIONAL EVANGELISM TEAM – PASTOR DEL MILLER**

Well, it worked! Last month I told you that there was a chance that Benjamin Miller's application might actually be early since I didn't tell him that we moved the deadline. It worked just right as his application arrived a little before midnight on Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> two weeks before this year's deadline. We have

had some laughs about that but it is an indication of the times we are in. We felt it necessary to move the deadline because of the many uncertainties that continue to swirl around. In spite of the many uncertainties, I am happy to tell you that it is certain that quite a few young people are interested in the ministry of NET. We have a nice number of applications in hand and will be making it our goal to have the list of the team members in the April Voice.

Please pray that we are able to gather all the materials and details in good time for this year's ministry. There are many things to sort out and that work has already begun.

One of the aspects of this year's trip will be a somewhat new experience. We will help the Peru church with their VBS program while we are there for training. We have had training week many times and we have done some VBS work, but this will be the first time we have both going on in the same week. It should work fine. Nobody will get bored!

I am reminded of the first time we went to Peru. It was in 2011 and we had packed the schedule full. We had two Sunday morning presentations in Michigan and then drove in the afternoon to Peru. We were a bit rushed and our set-up time had some challenges. Something broke and not everyone was sure of their role in the service. We had a few hiccups in the program, but the people were gracious and encouraging. Afterward I spoke with a man in the aisle in front of the puppet stage. As I explained to him that we could have used a little more practice time, he scratched his jaw and said, "I like it when it's a little raw!" That is an indication of the kind reception we have had at Peru every time we have been there. This will be our third time to be there for training. We greatly appreciate the generosity of the Peru GBC!

We also look forward to going back to South Whitley for outreach. We were last there in 2009. That was before the Lord blessed them with a church building. You may agree with us that twelve years is not as long as it used to be! Wow, time flies!

Please pray for NET 21 as we begin working on the organization of this year's trip. We need your prayers!

Pastor Del and Grace Miller [pastordelmiller@gmail.com](mailto:pastordelmiller@gmail.com)  
Ph. 330-234-1602

### **REVITALIZE VERMONT – UPDATE BY PASTOR GORDY HARMON**

"But when Jesus saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest' (Matthew 9:36-38). These verses are resonating in the heart and mind of Pastor Maley. The need is so great and the workers are so few. The Bible tells us we are living in the last days and must exhort the church to make every day count for the Kingdom of God. The church in Irasburg continues to march on making disciples, not just converts. Endeavoring to "teach every man with all wisdom," is a work that is met with much opposition. Pastor Scott Libby continues to lead home Bible study groups. He also has begun meeting with the teens and youth group on Sunday nights looking at the book of Revelation.

The Revitalize Vermont work has proven that it is really impossible for Bryan to be effective in both Irasburg and Lamoille Valley. We are praying that God would raise up another man who could help

Pastor Ethan Kallberg and the church at Morrisville. Covid has brought many challenges, but the perseverance of Pastor Ethan and the prayers of the saints have produced some positive results. Thank you to those who pray and financially support the Maleys and the Revitalize Vermont work!!

In regards to support levels, giving is down and sporadic, but Pastor Bryan testifies that the Lord is providing. ALSO—You could be a HUGE BLESSING to the Maley family. There are two birthdays in March: Camden will turn 19 on March 21st; and Torri has a birthday on March 30th. Send a card, a prayer, a memory, a verse...it means so much!! Send your card to: The Maleys; 1346 VT Route 58 W; Irasburg, VT 05845

Please consider being a financial supporter. Send your support to GRACE BRETHERN CHURCH (REVITALIZE VERMONT): Pastor Tom Johnson, 222 Marker Drive—Somerset, PA 15501

**MISSIONS GIVING - Pastor Tom Johnson Home and Foreign Missions Treasurer**

Thank you for your contributions to Missions. Most of you have been clear about where you would like your support funds to go. I appreciate that. I would suggest and remind you that checks should not be made out to me personally. Please make them out to “Grace Brethren Church” or “CGBCI Missions.” I try to deposit any check you send, and the bank has not rejected any yet, but we don’t want any problems. Also, please remember to send separate checks for Home and Foreign Missions. Putting them on one check really causes bookkeeping problems. They can be sent to me in the same envelope, just separate checks. Thank you.

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*“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 [cgbcivoiceneeds@gmail.com](mailto:cgbcivoiceneeds@gmail.com) Snail mail to: PO BOX 58, Listie, PA 15549