

# THE VOICE NEWSLETTER

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May 2021

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER – PASTOR JONATHAN EDWARDS**

### **“Is Disciple-Making Discouraging?”**

If you've tried to follow Christ's command to make disciples, I'm sure that you have run into discouragement. If you haven't, I can assure you that you will! As we continue to prepare our minds for this year's Conference theme of “Make Disciples”, I want to challenge you to perseverance as you pursue this great and lofty calling.

Let us begin by considering some of the causes for discouragement. One cause of discouragement comes when we preach the Gospel to the lost. When unbelievers reject the message of the Cross, or worse, mock, ridicule, or persecute us, we can feel like giving up and not evangelizing. Another could be that we don't see growth in the person or persons we're investing into with our time and energy. A third could be that a person we disciple starts out well, but then burns us in some way, perhaps by betraying confidentiality or later turning against us in some way. In addition to these, there could be other ways that we become discouraged as we pursue making disciples. When we face such discouragements, what keeps us going? First, I would call your attention to the fact of the command in the Great Commission: it is to “Make Disciples”. Commands carry a weight and authority which require you to act in obedience regardless of your feelings. Therefore, we can't let the feeling of discouragement overwhelm the fact of the command; we must press on and act in obedience to Christ. Second, I would challenge you to consider the long-term nature of disciple-making. In a society that continually asks, “What have you done for me lately?”, cultivating the patience and endurance required to produce mature disciples is very important. If we are willing to take a long-term view towards producing faithful followers of Jesus, we will be able to better weather the highs and lows of disciple-making.

My dear friends, I hope that you will see the positive, enduring effect of obedience to Christ: fellow mature saints to serve alongside of you (Col. 1:28) and a commendation from our Lord when we stand before Him on judgment day!

Please register for National Conference using the Eventbrite link below. Either click on the link, or copy and paste into your browser window.

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

### **REGISTRATION DEADLINE—JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>**

We are planning and preparing the CONSTRUCTION ZONE! There will be singing, games, crafts, snacks, fun and memories, but the focus will be teaching our little ones to WORK to be like Jesus! Please take a moment and register your family for conference. It would be most helpful to us and beneficial for you to register so we can be sure to have all the supplies we need. WE NEED HELPERS! 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 (a little or a lot). You will be compensated at least \$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. We are looking forward to being a blessing to the children and families at conference. Please be praying for us!

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

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

Register today—it's FREE— at Eventbrite ([https://cgbc\\_i\\_2021\\_national\\_conference.eventbrite.com](https://cgbc_i_2021_national_conference.eventbrite.com))

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

On April 17th, a special flyer containing Women's Luncheon information was emailed to all pastors' wives listed in the Fellowship Directory. If you did not receive this email and would like one sent, please contact me directly at (419) 606-5537. These flyers can be printed and cut for bulletin insert or display. Since all post high women of the Fellowship are invited to attend, we need help getting the word out. Sign-up for the luncheon is selected within the regular conference registration. Cost is \$16/person, and money will be collected on July 2<sup>nd</sup> in Gibsonburg.

## **BASINGER CHRISTIAN BRETHERN CHURCH, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA – PASTOR MONROE ARNOLD**

We rejoice to announce that Jeanne Stromberg was baptized and welcomed into the membership of the church. We want to welcome her into the family.

## **BEREAN FAITH FELLOWSHIP, MT. VERNON, OHIO – PASTOR GORDY HARMON**

We hope you are planning to join us Sunday, May 16th, at 6:00 p.m. for a most enjoyable and praise-filled night. Smiles will abound and hearts will be full as we remember and sing about "The Life of Christ"! Please fulfill our joy and make your way to 103 Madison Street, Mount Vernon, OH 43050. 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](tel:740-390-1402); [bryant05@icloud.com](mailto:bryant05@icloud.com)) for more information.

## HOME MISSIONS

### NATIONAL EVANGELISM TEAM – PASTOR DEL MILLER

**(June 12-27, 2021)**

Below are listed the NET 21 team members. On April 17<sup>th</sup>, fourteen of the team were able to meet at the Galion GBC for almost 6 hours of music rehearsal, team building and devotions. They also enjoyed lunch together. We are looking forward to another similar opportunity on May 15<sup>th</sup> when it looks like almost the entire team will be able to gather at Galion again. Even Benjamin Miller (his name keeps showing up in these articles!) will be with us that day. He is on a very major trip though many of the states and he is planning his route so that he will be in Ohio around that time. Please be praying for his travel safety as well as the entire team.

#### Men:

Reuben Auten-Galion, Ohio\*  
Clay Hannah-Denver, Indiana\*  
Jacob Hochstetler-Orrville, Ohio  
Jeremiah Hodgdon-Orrville, Ohio\*  
Nicholas Kelley-Butler, Ohio\*  
Benjamin Miller-Tualatin, Oregon\*  
Jethro Geiser-Dalton, Ohio\*  
Pastor Del and Grace Miller,  
Leaders-Wooster, Ohio

#### Ladies:

Grace Bolling-Fremont, Ohio\*  
Angelica Hodgdon-Orrville, Ohio\*  
Hannah Hodgdon-Orrville, Ohio\*  
Tia Kelley-Butler, Ohio  
Sophia Pearson-Denver, Indiana\*  
Daria McAllister-Groveport, Ohio  
Sophia McAllister-Groveport, Ohio  
Carly Miller- Green Springs, Ohio\*  
Amy Vanderpool-Winona Lake, Indiana\*

We have been greatly encouraged by your interest in this ministry in the past. The team members which have already been adopted are indicated above (\*). **About 30% of them still remain to be adopted.** If you have questions, please contact us. In the next issue of the Voice, we will print in detail the times and locations of the NET presentations in June which span from June 12-27, 2021. A quick overview may be beneficial for you. The locations in chronological order are South Whitley, IN; Peru, IN; Limestone, TN; Mt. Vernon, OH and Butler, OH. If you are in one of those areas and would like more details before the next Voice issue, just let us know. Our contact information is below.

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

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

“...The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops. Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.” 2 Timothy 2:6-7

This verse gives a good picture, and an easy one to understand, if you're a farmer or gardener. You plant in faith, weathering the season, waiting for the precious fruit and for the time of harvest. This came to mind when Pastor Bryan shared wonderful news with me on April 7<sup>th</sup>, that their little Alex (age eight), and Roxy (age five), received Jesus as their Savior that blessed day! Bryan told me that they had been trying to use some child story books, but for them it just wasn't working. So they decided to start reading the gospel of John, and things began to happen. By the grace and power of God, there are now two new babes in Christ. What rejoicing in heaven and on earth! It seemed fitting that the Maleys should be first to enjoy the fruits of their labor, as they continue to share the gospel and make disciples.

Things continue to progress in the Irasburg church. As disciples are growing and deepening in their walk with Christ, the door is opening for Pastor Scott Libby to focus and teach on Marriage and The Family. In the meanwhile, Pastor Bryan Maley will pick up some of the small groups. Also, the Lord is leading the church in Irasburg to consider a restart in Sunday School. Here is another fruit and blessing of what God is doing in the Revitalizing Vermont work. Let us continue in our prayers and support of the work in Vermont!

Dear brethren, while the church in Irasburg is enjoying growth, the church in Lamoille Valley is endeavoring to hold fast. Pastor Ethan Kallberg has begun working a full-time job that makes shepherding the church difficult. Please keep them very much in your prayers. And remember, as we give to Revitalize Vermont, gifts over and above the budgeted need for the Maleys are being put into an account for Team 2. This is the next step in the plan to send another man to Morrisville. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

Prayers for Pastor Bryan—the ministry, his family, being a godly leader at home and in the church. He is looking forward to national conference and being with the brethren.

Prayers for Alex and Roxy—their growth as they are disciple. Be a blessing to Alex—he turned eight on May 3rd. He would greatly enjoy even a belated birthday card from you! His address below.

Cards can be sent to: Alex Maley c/o Bryan, 1346 VT Route 58 W, Irasburg, VT 05845

Prayers for the churches at Morrisville and Irasburg.

Prayers for the pastors and their families: Pastor Bryan and Torri Maley; Pastor Ethan and Leah Kallberg; Pastor Scott and Monica Libby.

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

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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 [cgbvoice@comcast.net](mailto:cgbvoice@comcast.net) Snail mail to: PO BOX 58, Listie, PA 15549