

THE VOICE NEWSLETTER

President's Corner

By Stephen Burns

The God Whom You Serve

In just a few days we will be gathering at the Laurelville Church Center in Mt. Pleasant, PA for our 24th annual CGBCI Conference. The five days look to be a great time of Bible teaching, Missions updates, Men and Women meetings, fellowship with believers from other churches and an opportunity to enjoy God's creation. You won't want to miss this week of Biblical teaching and spiritual encouragement. As we closed last year's conference we were challenged to make a daily choice to serve our Lord. How well did you do? Did you choose daily to serve your Lord or did you choose to serve self or the world? Our morning Bible Hours will focus on knowing that our Lord is Holy, Loving, will Return and will Judge, how will that impact how we live in this world. Several fun activities are planned throughout the week. Saturday afternoon Tourney Time will take place with opportunities to participate in 3 on 3 basketball, the bean bag toss, miniature golf or 9 holes of regular golf (if we can find a course). Sunday afternoon will be free time with several options: Go on a bike ride with Youth Conference (You must reserve your bike with Pastor Chris Knight before Conference). Enjoy the hiking trails, swimming pool or wagon ride at the Church Center. Take the opportunity to visit sightseeing areas close to the Center. Sunday evening we will end the day with an ice cream social. On Friday and Monday nights we will end the day with an old time Camp Fire filled with singing and testimonies.

The planning is complete. The only thing missing for a great conference is you. I look forward to greeting you on Friday, June 30.

Things to pray for:

- For the Lord's blessing and that the Spirit will move in our hearts
- Safety in traveling to and from Conference
- For the speakers as they present God's Word
- For Youth, Children's and Young Adult Conference

ATTENTION! CONFERENCE RESERVATIONS INFORMATION:



Even though the state of PA raised their lodging tax, our prices for the 2017 Conference are all inclusive as follows: Guesthouse and Solarhouse (hotel rooms) are \$83.00 per night. The Motel rooms (only 9 of them) are \$65 per night and are only available beginning Friday, June 30, 2017. The cottages sleep up to 16 and have kitchen facilities. They are \$250 per night. You can also camp. Water and electric sites are \$24 per night and full hook up for RVs are \$30 per night. All lodging is on a first call reservation basis. You can see room pictures and grounds pictures at <http://www.laurelville.org/>

MEAL INFORMATION:

The meal package is \$28.00 per person per day if you take all 3 meals. Individual meals are breakfast-\$7.75; lunch-\$9.50; and supper-\$11.00.

Children's meals (Ages 3-11) are breakfast-\$3.88; lunch-\$4.75; and supper-\$5.50. The package is \$14.00 per day if you take all 3 meals.

You can make your reservations through the Orrville, Ohio Grace Brethren Church by sending an email (orrvillegrace@gmail.com) or by calling 330-683-3526. **The reservation deadline is June 15, 2017. After that date, lodging and meals are 10% more if available.**

2017 CONFERENCE INFORMATION
“The God Whom You Serve”
JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2017

Ladies Ministries: Hello, all of you beautiful ladies!!! Conference is just a few short weeks away and I'm so excited to see you all! Our ladies' meetings at conference this year will be a bit different. We will have time together but it won't be our typical program line up. It will be more of a testimony and sharing time together. Please pray that through this we will all be encouraged to share and get to know one another better than we already do. On Saturday our time will be short so we won't have a business meeting that day. I encourage all of you to come. Please come even if you don't have a ladies group at your church. ****The National Prayer Chairman position is up for re-election this year. It's not a hard position to have. Please pray about filling this position. You won't regret it and it will be a blessing to you. If you are interested, or have questions, please contact Pat Williams, as she is our outgoing Prayer Chairman.

“Survivor: Facing Life with God's Word”: We are getting the last details set before YCON '17. If you plan to join us for YCON and have not submitted your registration, please contact Pastor Chris Knight today!!

Shuttle Service: For the elderly and those not able to maneuver the sloping areas, there will be a shuttle service available. Nancy and Nathan Graham will be our chauffeurs for those needing assistance.

Sightseeing Opportunities: This year at Conference we have blocked Sunday afternoon free from meetings so that you can enjoy the Conference grounds and the surrounding community. Here are some options to consider:

1. Enjoy hiking the eight miles of trails at Laurelville. Or relax and fellowship around the pool area or gazebo. Enjoy a game of mini-golf or shuffle board.
2. Visit the “Flight 93 National Memorial” in Stoystown, PA. The memorial is an easy drive from the conference grounds (40 miles).
3. Join the Youth Conference as they go on a Bike Hike along the Great Allegheny Passage. To participate in this option you must contact Pastor Chris Knight (814.279.0067) prior to Conference to reserve your bike.
4. Enjoy area local and state parks.
 - a. Mammoth Park (6 miles)-Scenic overlook, WWII Veterans Memorial, giant slide and play area
 - b. Kooser State Park (16 miles)-Two hiking trails, one 1 mile, one .5 miles
5. Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater house (21 miles)-If you enjoy modern architecture, this would be the trip for you. A house built on a waterfall.
6. Laurel Caverns Park (38 miles)-Enjoy the underground world by a guided tour.

Conference Delegate Packets: The delegate packet for conference will be available at conference time as usual. In addition to this, in order for delegates (and others who cannot go to conference but want the info) to be able to read the reports in the packet ahead of time, I will post the reports on our website, as they come in to me. -DeLane Miller, Conference Coordinator

SPRING HOLY LAND TOUR
WITH MIKE WINGFIELD

Make plans now to join Mike for his March 5-13, 2018 tour to the Holy Land. The price for this 9-day tour, from JFK New York, is \$3,799 per person. Walk in the footsteps of Jesus and witness Biblical prophecy unfolding in Israel today. If you are interested, and would like to receive a tour brochure, please call Mike at 1.540.798.5110.

CGBCI WEBSITE HAS BEEN REDESIGNED

Please check out the new look at www.cgbc.org. Some parts are still under construction and we hope to add some new features soon. If you have any additions, or corrections, please email our new webmaster, Ariel Kran, at arielk@mytechpatrol.com.

NEWS FROM FELLOWSHIP CHURCHES

A Day In The Life Of Pastor Simpson (5/9/17)

It was the last hour of the day, and since the teacher I subbed for had an open period, I was free to check my text messages. I saw I had two. Immediately, my mind turned to Glenn Byers. He was in the hospital, perhaps this text was an important update concerning him. But before I could check, my phone powered down. I went to the media center to look for a compatible power cord. Two girls at a computer called to me. "Pastor Simpson, could you help us?" Although this was a public school, these girls knew I was a pastor and for what I stood. As I approached, I could see "Jesus Christ" at the top of her computer screen. I have a report due on famous historic people, and my person is Jesus Christ. Can you tell me about Him?" God set up yet another witnessing opportunity! With joy I replied, "I most certainly can, and just remember you asked me to tell you." What a pleasure to tell of the Savior. The girls were noticeably pleased to hear the gospel and heartily thanked me. I knew these girls would give an oral report to this class, so the witness would be multiplied. As I got home, my wife Joanne and I got into the car to go to Ft. Wayne Lutheran Hospital to visit Glenn Byers. Before I could tell her of my witnessing opportunity, she began to tell me of the wonderful opportunity she had to tell the gospel to three little boys in her reading group. The group had an international flavor with one boy from India and another from Mexico. They were reading a story called "Horrible Harry and the Green Slime." One of the vocabulary words was "halo" like on an angel. Then the boys began peppering Joanne with questions about heaven and Jesus Christ. As Joanne shared the answers they drew out the gospel. It was glorious. We were rejoicing in the car and I knew that God had set this up for a reason. Brother Glenn was feeling better, I read Scripture and prayed, then our stories began to spill out to Glenn and Dolores and their son Craig. They rejoiced with us then I reminded Glenn that had he not gone into the hospital I would not have gone to the media center and witnessed to the girls. I wondered before him how often what appears to be an unfortunate event is orchestrated by God into a witnessing opportunity. Glenn and Dolores smiled, "Did you see the young lady that was just in here?" Glenn has been witnessing to her every time she comes in to take his blood pressure." Then Glenn adds, "The doctor thought I might not live through the night; that my heart might stop. I told him not to start me up if that happens, I'm ready to be with the Lord. I trust Jesus Christ as my Savior." So Glenn and Dolores see their opportunities through Glenn's sickness. It isn't usually this apparent. Sometimes we are unaware of how God is using us. Then Craig could no longer contain himself. "I picked up a hitchhiker in Arizona. He rode with me a good ways. We even ate a meal together. He wouldn't tell me his name. He saw my Bible in the car, and we began to talk. I witnessed to him. Sometime later I saw him on TV in a prison suit and handcuffs. I called to my wife and said, "That's the hitchhiker I witnessed to. His name is Ted Kaczynski. He is the unabomber!" Craig added, "It has been 28 years and I hear he is a changed man." "...but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, and always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you..." 1 Peter 3:15 You never know when your opportunities come up. Be ready.

Listie GBC, PA-Pastor Chris Knight- The first week of June has been eventful at Listie GBC with Graduation Sunday and Awana Awards Night. Two young men from among the Listie GBC congregation were honored on Graduation Sunday. McKinley Lensbouer and Caleb Humbert were given Bibles from the church and were the "guests of honor" for the meal following the morning service. The two young men plan to work locally and continue to serve in the local church. The Awana Awards Night was another time to praise the Lord for His work in the young people at Listie GBC. Many awards were given out for Scripture memorization, attendance, and for other specific acts of Christian service done in the last year. The Lord has been blessing at Listie GBC and we are thankful.

FOREIGN MISSIONS UPDATE

India Ministry Trip Update-

Personal Testimony from Abby Pearson-

One of the biggest blessings from my time in India was getting to see the joy the church had. When we were at conference for the Odisha believers, I noticed that they worshiped and sang like they truly meant it. I remember sitting there thinking about how they are actually persecuted and they still are joyful and that really challenged me to think about how often I choose joy. I don't have it nearly as bad as the people there have and yet, even with all my material possessions, I still will feel discontent. This is one of the many ways the trip had impacted my life.

If you would like to receive the monthly India Ministry update, please send your email address to pastorikegraham@gmail.com. If you are interested in the 15 page report on the May 2017 trip prepared by Pastor Ike, please let him know.

From the Noyes- Hello Saints

While we won't be at conference we've put together an exciting video that should give you a taste of what we've been doing! The video camera attached to a helicopter as it flies through an unreached people group's land is pretty amazing! In fact when you receive this Voice edition we will be just a day or two away from climbing in that same helicopter and flying over that same people group on our way to Mibu. (Sound familiar to the Hastings GBC Church?) We leave on June 13th for bush orientation. This will be a 6 week block of time where we visit and live with a veteran missionary and a maturing tribal church. We are going to be in Mibu in the Finisterre mountains. This mountain range had what was likely the most prominent unsummitted mountain in the world until 2014 when someone climbed it, just to give you an idea of how big and rugged these mountains are. Here is a link to more info about the area, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finisterre_Range. During this time we will be really buckling down and trying to finish our Tok Pisin studies. After we finish this 6 week exposure we'll have a test in our language skills and if we test out we'll be able to get ready for the next step: choosing a tribe to work in! It's pretty exciting. The last couple weeks have been hard on our family, lots of transitions and some difficult things that have come up unexpectedly. Please pray for us that we would thrive during our bush orientation, that we would all be healthy and that we would grow in our ability to handle stress. We love and miss you, God bless

Craig & Sara, Ashea, Solomon and Piper.

MISSIONARY MAIL BAG-UPDATE

Have you wanted to mail a card or letter to the Noyes or Swensons? To get it to them directly, make sure you send it 4-5 weeks early to their attention at the following addresses:

For the Swensons:
C/O New Tribes Missions
Private Mail Bag
Madang, M.P. 511
Papua New Guinea

For the Noyes (NEW ADDRESS):
NTM
Attn: Craig Noyes
P.O. Box 1079
Goroka, EHP 441
Papua New Guinea

To get it there more quickly, you can email them at the following addresses:

Craig Noyes, craig_noyes@ntm.org Paul Swenson, paul_swenson@ntm.org
 Ellen Swenson, ellenpswenson@gmail.com

HOME MISSIONS UPDATE

From the Krans- I trust you, our dear brothers and sisters, are keeping cool, as the temperature in Phoenix is now breaking the 100°F mark on a regular basis. Our Monday study continues with the new couple that we met through our Messiah in the Passover Seder. They have been regular attenders. The Saturday study is curtailed until after conference. As the temperatures heats up in the summer here, outdoor ministry becomes more and more difficult. Much of the summer ministry will be composed of speaking, conference, and a ministry trip to Dearborn Michigan where I will be taking part in Muslim outreach and some teaching on apologetics. At least this is the plan. The opportunity in Dearborn is indeed a wonderful opportunity, but we need the Lord's help to make this unique opportunity work.

One of my other goals is to complete the paperwork necessary to become a nonprofit vendor at the fall outdoor events so that I can do outdoor outreach. Of course, we are excited about having Gavi back from Argentina. She will be returning shortly and will be with us to many of our trips during the summer. Although no details can be given at this specific time, the Lord may be opening a unique door as far as the ministry taking us in a slightly different direction than we ever imagined. Your prayers are needed. This unique opportunity would not only benefit our ministry but could be of tremendous benefit to the Fellowship in general. However, it would mean some major changes for the family. Sound interesting?

Stay tuned for more information and please pray.

NET 17 Progress Report

NET '17 will most likely be underway by the time you read this. The dates are June 10-24, 2017 and will include training at the Orrville GBC and a combination of VBS and outreach at Listie Grace Brethren Church in Listie, PA. Below are listed the team members along with their *adopting* church or individual.

Every team member has assignments for parts in our presentations as well as duties to help day to day team life move along well. I would like to share several of the important elements of team life that impact everyone every day.

Team Devotions will be led this year by Benjamin Miller. Every day the team gathers to compare notes on that day's selected Bible passage. The passages are listed for each day in the team handbook. There is also space to write down key Bible truths. A sharing time is then followed by prayer time when prayer partners get together and spend time taking concerns and requests to the Lord.

Evangelism training will be led by Jordan Bradley. We will be reviewing material from "The Way of the Master." Jordan will be responsible for leading the training sessions and for organizing the outreach slots that we have on the schedule.

Music rehearsal will be led by Pastor Philip Moeller. Throughout the course of the 2 weeks there are many practice times to prepare Bible based music to share in our presentations. Our prayer, of course, is that the music will be an encouragement to all who hear it. Sometimes the practices are challenging but overall the team is encouraged as they work on preparing for formal presentations.

Please be praying for the team and those that they contact in the Listie, PA area with the Gospel.

GUYS:

Pastor Philip Moeller (Cornerstone GBC)
 Jordan Bradley (Flora GBC)
 Benjamin Miller (Individual from Ankenytown GBC)
 Isaac Hodgdon (New Troy GBC)
 Gabriel Miller (Lakeland GBC)
 Johnathan Steiner (Calvary GBC)

GIRLS:

Christan Elliot (Cornerstone GBC)
 Hannah Hodgdon (GBC of Grimes)
 Abby Pearson (North Buffalo GBC)
 Rachel Steiner (Reading GBC)
 Bryanna Stergios (Mishawaka GBC)
 Amy Vanderpool (Lakeland GBC)
 Jessica Zvers (Peru GBC)

Thanks for your prayers and encouragement for this ministry. -Pastor Del and Grace Miller (team leaders).