

THE VOICE NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 27 NUMBER 10

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MAY 2020

PRESIDENT'S CORNER - PASTOR JONATHAN EDWARDS

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is with great sadness that I must inform you that the **EXECUTIVE PANEL OF THE CGBCI HAS DECIDED TO SUSPEND OUR NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN 2020**. After considering several options, suspending the Conference was by far the best choice and presented the fewest logistical challenges. We were able to work with our hotel, Crowne Plaza of Grand Rapids, MI, to secure dates for 2021, and we were able to maintain all the other details of our contract. The specific dates for our 2021 National Conference will be June 23 – 30.

Even though we're not going to meet for the Conference, there are a few matters of business to address.

1. The Executive Panel strongly urges each member church to pay their dues for the 2020 year. Dues are based upon church membership (not Conference delegates). The monies used from the collection of dues fund a variety of expenses that the CGBCI incurs throughout the year. If your church has fallen upon financial hardship and needs some relief, please contact Davy Troxel of the Mishawaka GBC at (574) 256-0225. **Dues are due by June 1, 2020**. Please send them to ORRVILLE GRACE BROTHERS CHURCH, ATTN: PASTOR GRAHAM, 2200 PARADISE RD., ORRVILLE, OHIO 44667.
2. Each of the officers elected to serve in the 2020 year has agreed to extend his service by one year. They will maintain their current positions for the remainder of 2020 and through the 2021 Conference.
3. Graduation will also be rescheduled for 2021. All who were planning to graduate in 2020 should plan to walk in 2021.

Though these are trying times for all of us, suffering has the unique ability to purify us, sanctify us, and aid us in our conformity to Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 8:28-29). May we not grumble or complain about these matters (as Israel was prone to do) but instead, let us rejoice that God has brought this upon us for our growth and His glory. Psalm 46:1-3

In Christ's Service and on behalf of the Executive panel,

Jonathan Edwards	2020 Conference President
Gordy Harmon	2020 Conference Vice President
Chris Knight	2020 Conference Coordinator
Russ Simpson	2020 College of Pastors President
Tom Johnson	2020 College of Pastors Vice President
Davy Troxel	2020 College of Pastors Past President

Save the Date:
CONFERENCE 2021
June 23 - 30, 2021
THE CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL
5700 28th St., SE
Grand Rapids MI 49546

LISTIE GRACE BRETHREN CHURCH – LISTIE, PENNSYLVANIA

Rebecca Ann Jarvis, age 72, of Bellefontaine, OH was promoted to glory April 5, 2020 – Palm Sunday. Becky was born in Parkersburg, WV, September 21, 1947, to Della (Kidder) and the late Joseph Moellendick. On June 28, 1968, she was married to Ronzil L. Jarvis, and they shared fifty-one years of marriage together. She received an associate degree from Moody Bible College in Chicago, IL. Becky was a "Pastor's Wife" for over 46 years and took great pleasure in working with women and children in Christian education. She is also survived by her mother, Della Moellendick of Parkersburg, WV, two sons, Philip (Susan) Jarvis, Bellefontaine, OH and Jonathan (Kristen) Jarvis, Hudsonville, MI; three grandchildren, Kaitlyn, Lucy, and Oliver, two brothers, Timothy (Susan) Moellendick, and William (Jane) Moellendick.

Becky's complete obituary can be seen at <https://www.edsfh.com/obituary/Rebecca-Jarvis>

NILES GRACE BRETHREN CHURCH – NILES, MICHIGAN

As of March 29, 2020, the Niles Grace Brethren reluctantly voted in a special congregational business meeting to close the church, and dissolve the corporation. We are in the process of disposing of the remainder of the physical church property that is housed in a local storage unit. We hope this will have been completed no later than April 30. Please pray that our attendees will find another church family. Also, please pray for Pastor Ron & Donna Welsh as to their future ministry. At this time, they are looking to the Lord for His direction concerning a ministry that may be promising. If you have any questions please feel free to call Pastor Ron Welsh - phone (269) 262-4055

GRACE BRETHREN CHURCH – ALBANY, OREGON

In a recent business meeting, we agreed to solicit workers from our fellowship for ministry this summer (as the COVID-19 Virus subsides). Our 1948 building is in need of repairs, from major things such as a new roof, to lesser tasks of painting, electrical repairs, and flooring, etc. There is also an opportunity for outreach into our community of 55,000 to spread the gospel. Thank you for your attention to these matters in prayer and potential personal involvement.

NATIONAL EVANGELISTIC TEAM – NET '20 NEWS

This article needs to begin with the words of James 4:15 "... If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that." We can make all kinds of plans, but ultimately it is God who decides if we will "do this or that!" In light of the status of our nation currently as it battles the Coronavirus, we think it will be necessary to take a close look at the feasibility of the NET '20 outreach. I have had conversations about this matter with Pastor Jonathan Edwards, the Conference president, as well as Pastor Dave Jodry, and Pastor Dave Swenson. We are now looking at very early June (possibly June 1) as the time to prayerfully make the decision as to whether we are able to press on with NET '20 or not. President Edwards and the executive panel have already decided that it is wise to cancel the 2020 Conference meeting. However, he agrees that it is good for the NET 20 planners to wait until June to make a decision about the NET ministry.

If by June 1, Governor Holcomb of Indiana has relaxed the restrictions on how many people can meet together, that will be a significant help in making the decision to press on with NET '20. We will be praying that the number of people allowed to meet together will be changed to a significantly higher number than is currently being allowed.

By faith, we have scheduled a pre-NET practice at the Galion Grace Brethren Church, Galion, Ohio, Saturday, May 30 from 10 AM - 4 PM. Please join us in praying that we will be able to do more than just meet on that day!

Listed below are the NET 20 team members. Please be praying for the team as they begin to prepare for their possible time of ministry July 4 -19, 2020 in Indiana. We are in times of great uncertainty right now.

Reuben Auten - Galion, Ohio
 Clay Hannah - Denver, Indiana*
 Jacob Hochstetler - Orrville, Ohio
 Jeremiah Hodgdon - Orrville, Ohio*
 Joel Kuhns - Orrville, Ohio
 Benjamin Miller - Tualatin, Oregon*
 Gabriel Miller - Albany, Oregon*
 Johnathan Steiner - Orrville, Ohio

Grace Bolling - Fremont, Ohio*
 Amy Vanderpool - Winona Lake, Indiana*
 Hannah Hodgdon - Orrville, Ohio
 Tia Kelley - Butler, Ohio
 Ella Pearson - Denver, Indiana*
 Shannon Steiner - Orrville, Ohio*

*** Indicates team members already "adopted"**

Pastor Del and Grace Miller - Leaders

pastordelmiller@gmail.com or Phone (330) 234-1602

HOME MISSIONS UPDATE – APRIL 2020 – GORDY HARMON

REVITALIZE VERMONT - PASTOR BRYAN MALEY

IRASBURG and LAMOILLE VALLEY GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES

"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him." James 1:2-5

Our world, our country, our churches and our homes are in the midst of a season of unusual testing. God promises the church, His Bride, His Body that such times offer the opportunity to grow!!! We can experience joy knowing that our God is working a work ... always!!! He is accomplishing His good and perfect will, even in the midst of all the chaos of Covid-19. The Church has the advantage and privilege of constant access to the God of all wisdom, Who promises to provide marvelously for those who have the heart to walk by faith!!!

Our churches have been pressed into action to reach out to the sheep of His pasture in ways not thought of before. The Revitalize Vermont work is no exception. Pastors' Libby, Kallberg, and Maley, began having joint church services (combining Irasburg and Lamoille Valley) by way of ZOOM. This is an internet tool that provides a way for those in their congregations who have the internet to hear and see their pastor. Each pastor took his turn in preaching to the saints. They reported a high percentage of participation.

This sparked the idea of having a ZOOM-style Youth Group session that could include teens and young people beyond Vermont. The test and trial of COVID-19 moved Pastor Bryan to conduct a Friday Night Meeting that would include Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. This included forty-six teens and young people from six states, and a number of churches coming together to encourage one another around the Word of God! This is a result of seeking God for wisdom in the time of testing.

For both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday the Irasburg Church got hold of an FM Transmitter and they held drive-up church services. Pastor Bryan Maley preached on Palm Sunday and Pastor Scott Libby preached on Easter Sunday. The Vermont churches are using Facebook Live to reach their churches and will likely continue this service even when the COVID-19 trial has passed. It has been reported that Pastor Ethan Kallberg has taught the Word of God on Facebook with his Bible in one hand, and his new baby, Wesley, held tight in the other. Pastor Bryan says, "That little Wesley is so cute!!!"

Pastor Bryan has reported that there have been some dire and desperate situations that have arisen among the people in his area. God even is working a work to have him in the right place at the right time to bring calm and comfort that was needed by someone in despair!

The Home Missions Panel reports that the Revitalize Vermont Work has seen little change in Bryan's support level. The Maleys have seen God's provision marvelously in keeping the fridge and pantry stocked. A sincere thank you goes out to all those who have committed to pray for the work going on there. Please prayerfully consider being a financial investor in this work and ministry. The ministry support level is at 65%, falling short by approximately \$1,000 per month ... please pray!

During the month of May, the Maleys are planning a trip to Michigan for a special event. Pastor Bryan is officiating the wedding ceremony of their son, Braidon, and his bride Ella, on May 23rd. Also, they will rejoice and celebrate Alex's 7th birthday on May 3rd!

Pray that things will open-up freely in Vermont, they are planning a BAPTISM SUNDAY in June. There have been a number of professions of faith as a result of discipleship. They are hoping to see at least five or six souls baptized ... praise the Lord!!!

Pray for the Maleys: Roxy, Alex, Aubrey, Camden, Braidon, Torri, and Pastor Bryan!

Pray for the new Bible Study to begin soon in Lamoille Valley on Thursdays.

Pray for newly saved Jordon—for her continued growth and discipleship.

Pray for Pastor Bryan, his strength, and wisdom to accomplish the work before him.

Pray for the disciples, their growth, and boldness to GO make more disciples.

Pray for Pastor Scott Libby, Pastor Ethan, and our churches.

Pray for the financial support of Revitalize Vermont!

**** Please send GIFTS and SUPPORT to Grace Brethren Church – Revitalize Vermont, P O Box 217, Grimes IA 50111 ****

FOREIGN MISSIONS

P. N. G. TEAM #1 - CRAIG AND SARA NOYES

“...even to the remotest parts of the earth.”

Visit the Newfields blog for updates <https://newfields.wordpress.com/> Email craigmnoyes@gmail.com

P.N.G. TEAM #2 - JOSH AND AUTUMN MILLER

For updates visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MillersinPNG/>

We'd love to hear from you! Send us an email: JoshAndAutumnMiller@gmail.com and let us know what you're curious about or if you have a question (or two) that we could answer in a future blog post or email.

**“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 all info to Pam O’Kinsky at okinskys@comcast.net Snail mail to 135 Wildcat Road, Friedens PA 15541

**** Articles need to be received by May 20, 2020, to be included in the June issue of the Voice Newsletter ****