

THE VOICE NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER- PASTOR CHRIS KNIGHT

In Nehemiah chapter two, Nehemiah is permitted to go to Jerusalem to view the ruined walls. God had placed a burden on Nehemiah's heart to see the walls rebuilt and worship restored. Once in Jerusalem, Nehemiah sees everything "broken down" and "consumed with fire" (Neh. 2:13). What a sad scene! However, Nehemiah did not give up and head back. He did not shout out in anger or throw his hands in the air and give up. Instead, he encouraged the men with him to "build up the wall." This project would not be blueprinted or directed by Nehemiah. God would give the blueprint. God would give the strength and safety needed for the work. God would complete the work in His time and for His glory. Verse eighteen says, "...So they strengthened their hands for this good work." The CGBCI fellowship has seen many blessings and many obstacles. Like Nehemiah, we often view "ruins" like declining church attendance, pastor-less churches, church closures, etc. We weep at the "ruins." We must pray for the Hand of God to direct our steps. We can be strengthened for "this good work" if we will look to the Lord! Will you commit to praying daily for our Pastors, Missionaries, Pastor-less churches, Practoriums, Men, Ladies, Youth, and Children's Ministries and the 2019 Conference? We may lose strength, feel defeated, or be ready to give up, but let me tell you what the Hand of our God can do!



Conference 2019 will be June
28-July 3, 2019.

Be sure to check out next
month's Voice for more details!

SPECIAL NOTE FROM THE HEART OF DR. JOHN WHITCOMB

Dear family and Christian friends:

The unrest of our current political culture reminds us of the fact that God's Kingdom is coming soon!

In his last letter, the Apostle Paul warned Timothy that "in the last days perilous times shall come. For men will be lovers of their own selves...ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Timothy 3:7). Our Lord Jesus Christ told His people, Israel, that He had come into the world "in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive" (John 5:43). This will be the Antichrist, who, with Satan's help, in the last half of the Tribulation period, will kill millions of people who refuse to worship him (cf. Revelation 13). However, the Antichrist and his followers will be destroyed by our Lord Jesus Christ at His glorious Second Coming (cf. Revelation 19:11-21).

At last, a perfect government, for the whole world, for a thousand years – the Millennium! And, glorious beyond description is the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, Jesus the Christ. In Him, will reside all three branches of government – the Supreme Court, the Congress, and the Executive Branch – "For the LORD is our Judge, the LORD is our Lawgiver, the LORD is our King. He will save us" (Isaiah 33:22). He cannot contradict Himself!

What a marvelous world that will be – (1) a perfect religion centered in the Temple in the Holy Land; (2) a perfect education system; (3) perfect health; (4) perfect protection from harmful creatures; and (5) total protection from Satan and demons!

But, all will not be well! How tragic! Multiple millions of people born during the Millennium will pay "lip service" to the King, but will reject Him in their hearts. It has always been true that "the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart" (Jeremiah 17:9-10). And our LORD warned us: "narrow is the gate, and hard is the way which leads unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13).

Graciously and repeatedly our Savior will say to unbelievers in the Kingdom: "Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth" (Psalm 46:10). But, note this carefully: "Though the wicked [the unbeliever] is shown favor, he does not learn righteousness. He deals unjustly in the land of uprightness, and does not perceive the majesty of the LORD" (Isaiah 26:10).

As the 1,000 years of a perfect government draw to a close, we can almost hear these people cry out to Satan: "Thy Kingdom come!" Amazing! "Satan will be released from his prison, and will come out to deceive the nations...to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. And they will surround the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire will come down from heaven and devour them" (Revelation 20:7-9).

What, then, are true Christians to do today as citizens of a great (but imperfect) government? Our LORD said, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to GOD the things that are GOD's" (Matthew 22:21). May we honor our government and pray for our political leaders today (cf. Romans 13:1-7); and pray for the coming of that glorious day, when the King of Kings will establish His Kingdom! God's Son gave us the model for effective prayer: "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:9-10). As believers, we are called to evangelize (Matthew 28:19). Therefore, let us be at work to influence those around us with the gospel – to help them become part of the Eternal Kingdom!

NEWS FROM FELLOWSHIP CHURCHES

GBC of Irasburg, Coventry, VT-Pastor Scott Libby

We're Back! - On Friday Oct. 5th, our plane touched down in the good ol' USA! In a span of 12 days, we had set foot in 5 different countries. We first left PNG and went to Indonesia for a week of vacation with friends of ours who work there as closed country missionaries. It was refreshing for both of our families. While there, a huge earthquake and tsunami hit Indonesia killing thousands of people. Thankfully, it was not where we were. During that same time, PNG's airline had one of their international planes crash-land into the ocean. It goes without saying; we weren't on that flight, but we could have been! They only have about 21 planes (make that 20 now.) From Indonesia, our route took us through Hong Kong. Rather than going from one flight to the next with little kids, we spent a couple of nights outside of Hong Kong in a sleepy Chinese town. It was fun to go into the big city of Hong Kong and see the sights. One night there was a group of about 7 feral cows just about blocking the way back to our house! Thankfully they made room for us to get by. Oh, and did I mention that 2 weeks before we went to Hong Kong, they were hit with the largest hurricane to ever make landfall there? The damage was extensive as we drove around the city! From China, we flew to Arizona for some meetings, but had a 16-hour layover in Vancouver, Canada. So, we got a hotel in the city for that night. The next day, Oct 5th, we landed in Arizona. What a trip! God kept us safe through many potential dangers and we had a great time with the kids seeing friends and some of the world.



We are back in the states to accomplish several things. First, we need to get new visas and work permits to continue working in PNG. These must be applied for from outside of the country and it takes a couple of months if things go well. Secondly, we need to raise about \$1,200 a month more in regular support and about \$30,000 in cash to be fully funded. The cash will go towards paperwork, surveying tribes, and building a house in the bush. Just today a Christian businessman in Arizona heard our story and donated \$1,000 on the spot! Praise the Lord! Thirdly, we will be waiting to go back to PNG until Josh and Autumn Miller have all

their support raised. From a human perspective, this is the biggest piece that needs to be in place for us to go back. Finally, once we go back to PNG we plan to be there for 3-5 years before returning, so we want to use this time in the states to reconnect with churches and supporters of our ministry.

We plan to be in VT from mid-November until March, and then to be in Ohio throughout the spring and summer. If you know you'd like to get together with us, or have us come speak at your church, please let me know ASAP. I'll be working on planning much of this in the next couple of months. Thanks for all that you have done for us. With 2 years under our belt, we feel a lot more comfortable and ready to return to PNG and plant churches among the unreached. Looking forward to seeing all of you! **Love, Craig, Sara, Ashea, Solo & Piper.**

Limestone GBC, TN -Pastor Dave Blevins

We are praising the Lord for a wonderful service on Sunday, September 30th, where we had 9 baptisms! September was a busy month overall. Our AWANA ministry is now in full swing for the new school year, and on Sunday, September 9th, we began a combined adult and youth Sunday School class on our Statement of Faith. On a personal front, our son, Zach, was married on Saturday, August 4th, and we are praising the Lord for our new daughter-in-law, Toni. I also wanted to take the opportunity to thank everyone who helped make this summer's conference in Kentucky such a huge success, including Pastor Tim Cover who led our Youth Conference. Please be in prayer for the Executive Panel who met in Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 15 - 18 planning for Conference 2019.

Orrville GBC, OH -Pastor Del Miller

On October the 7th at 6:00 PM, we were blessed to have Kyle and Laura Laramore with us at the Orrville Grace Brethren Church for a 90 minute concert. We were guided on a musical experience from Genesis to Revelation with lots of outstanding vocal and instrumental work as the Laramores shared their gifts with us. Biblical narrations and power point slides and videos tied everything together. Familiar hymns like "Great is Thy Faithfulness," "Power in the Blood," and "How Firm a Foundation," were interspersed with new songs written just for this endeavor in addition to well-known contemporary tunes such as "10,000 Reasons" and "In Christ Alone." The evening came to a close with everyone on their feet singing and clapping along for "I'll Fly Away."

It was a blessing to see the strong delegation of believers from the Laramore's home church, the Grace Brethren Church in Galion, OH in attendance. Pastor Jeff Pennington and Pastor Brian Auten were among them. It was an evening of significant encouragement. There were approximately 8-10 churches represented in the audience.

Peru GBC, IN-Pastor Dave Jodry

During the month of October, Peru GBC will be hosting two exciting conferences. We are inviting any of the fellowship that would like to join us. Please contact our church office at 765.473.3881 or by email at pgbc@comcast.net for more details about times, etc.

On October 21-23, we will have our Prophecy Conference with Pastor Mike Wingfield. His messages demonstrate how current events are setting the stage for final events of the end-times. His focus will be on "The Birth Pangs of the Second Coming."

On October 28th, Dr. Donald B. DeYoung, formerly the Chair of the Science and Mathematics Departments at Grace College, will share messages focused on his scientific belief in creation. He will address how the details in nature definitely point to the Creator and His love for mankind.

Reading GBC, PA-Pastor Larry Weigle

Once again, the Allegheny District is searching for a new Camp Caretaker. Due to health issues, our present caretaker, Robert Grew, is resigning on October 31, after serving as Camp Caretaker for less than 8 months. He and his wife, Hope, did a great job during that time.

Please pray for this important need. If anyone is interested in this position, please contact Pastor Larry Weigle, Camp Corporation President, as soon as possible.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL EVANGELISM TEAM (NET)

A NET 18 “Highlights from Team Members”

My highlight was the time with my prayer partner. I really enjoyed getting to know my partner on a more personal level, and it gave me a better opportunity to pray for someone in a greater way.

I enjoyed handing out tracts at the county fair. Probably the best conversation there was with a vendor across the road. He was a Marine who was friendly. He accepted some of our tracts and promised to read them.

Being at the host home with four other guys was a big blessing. There were times that we had good group discussions at night, and that was encouraging. But the highlight of them all was probably one evening when I was in my room and another guy came in and had some questions for me. We were able to talk for about 20-25 minutes. Even though I did get to bed a little later than I was planning to that evening, I wouldn't have traded that time for any amount of extra sleep!

I would say the car wash was my favorite thing we did this year! I didn't think it would go very well but it was the best!

There were so many things that were such blessings to me! What hit me the most was the car wash. I went into it with a very negative attitude because, honestly, I didn't think it would attract anyone. I was so surprised when we actually had people stop. I think we probably reached more people that way than what we would have by going door-to-door in that town.

The car wash may have been the big surprise of the trip! The team washed close to 50 vehicles in a little over 3 hours. Every driver got a gospel tract that was written just for the occasion by Pastor Ethan Kallberg. Pastor Philip Moeller was the greeter at the event and he did a great job of welcoming the people as they drove up. He explained the process and how a \$1 car wash is an example of the grace of God. I should explain a bit more about that. When the people pulled into the line for the car wash, they were then told that they would be getting a dollar rather than paying a dollar. They were surprised to say the least. Some said thank you and kept the dollar. Some insisted that Pastor Philip take it back. Others took it to the next level and insisted that he take more money from them!

Next month we will have exact dates and some details about NET 19!

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CGBCI FAMILY

Mike Ostrander-

In cleaning out a friend's attic, we found some boxes of old Brethren Missionary Heralds dating back to 1970 and some in the late 1960's. They are in remarkably good condition for being there 50 years. They are available to anyone interested in them. I do not know if there may be some missing months, but it would be minimal. Contact Mike Ostrander at mikeostrander7@gmail.com or 269-687-8081.

NEWS FROM FOREIGN MISSIONS PANEL

Foreign Missions Giving

This year's monthly Foreign Missions Goal is \$ 27,132.00 which includes:

Africa	\$ 7,971.00
India	\$ 4,920.00
Myanmar	\$ 1,101.00
PNG Team 1 (Noyes)	\$ 7,455.00
PNG Team 2 (Miller)	\$ 5,685.00
Total	\$ 27,132.00

So, what will it take to reach our missions' goal each month? If we had 272 individuals or couples who would commit to giving \$100.00 a month for Foreign Missions, our goal would be met. That is \$3.33 per day or \$23.31 per week. Or if we had 544 individuals or couples who would commit to giving \$50.00 a month we would meet our goal. That is \$1.66 per day or \$11.66 per week. Are you willing to invest \$3.33 per day to see the Lord work in the hearts of men, women and children around the world? If you are a coffee drinker and visit Starbucks, that is less than a Café Mocha. (To be fair, I don't drink coffee.) If you are a regular visitor to McDonalds, that is less than a Quarter Pounder. (I do visit McDonalds.)

For some \$3.33 per day would truly be sacrificial giving. And yet over the years I have known individuals who were willing to sacrifice for the cause of Christ. For many of us, it would be giving a little more out of the surplus which our Lord has blessed us with. The Lord is truly blessing our Foreign Missions Ministries, and as our missions' ministries grow, the need for support will continue to grow. Most of us have not been called to the Foreign Mission field, but are we willing to support those who have gone for us. During the past four months we are over \$15,000.00 short of our missions' goals. This is not a new giving program. We encourage you to give through your local church missions giving. All missions' offerings need to be sent to:

Grace Brethren Church
PO Box 217
Grimes, IA 50111

The "Voice Newsletter" is the communication tool of the Conservative Grace Brethren Churches International; EDITED by Pastors Ike Graham and Les Vnasdale. News or mailing updates should be sent to Tara Bradley at stbradley84@comcast.net, or to 535 S Broadway, Peru, IN, 46970 by the 20th of the month.