

THE VOICE NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 2

WWW.CGBCI.ORG

SEPTEMBER 2017

PRESIDENT'S CORNER- PASTOR DAVE BLEVINS

In recent years there has been a great deal of interest in super heroes. It seems that Hollywood is releasing a new installment on a monthly basis. From Iron Man, Batman, Spiderman, Captain America and many others, there is no shortage of heroes to go around. They have even released several movies

featuring multi-heroes, like the Avengers. I must admit, I have enjoyed a few of these

movies with my family. However all of the "heroes" mentioned above have one thing in common: they are not real. I guess I should have issued a spoiler alert before that earth shattering reveal. In any event, as we look towards Conference 2018 in Erlanger, KY, June 29th-July 4th, our theme will be "Heroes of the Faith". We are planning to be challenged during our Bible Hours with messages from Hebrews Chapter 11. There will also be plenty of free time to explore all there is to see and do in Northern Kentucky and greater Cincinnati area, and once again, we are planning to visit

2018 CGBCI CONFERENCE
JUNE 29TH-JULY 4TH
ERLANGER, KY
"HEROES OF THE FAITH"

the Ark Encounter. One of my goals as president this year is to keep Conference 2018 in front of you on a monthly basis. In addition to the Voice, one of the ways we are accomplishing this is with monthly promotional videos on the CGBCI Youtube page. We have already posted several, including the "Heroes of

the Faith" puppet videos that we used with the Children's Conference this year at Laurelville. These videos are designed to be either played during your service for those that have the ability to do so, or encourage your people to view them on their own by putting an announcement in your bulletin. All you have to do is go to YouTube and type "CGBCI" in the search bar. The Fellowship's Page should be the first option that you see (Just look for the Logo). I trust that you will make plans now to join us for Conference 2018. Also, this will be our 25th annual conference, so we are trusting the Lord for a wonderful time of fellowship, fun, and focus on strengthening our faith!

2018 CGBCI CONFERENCE LOCATION

Northern Kentucky
Holiday Inn-
Cincinnati Airport
Erlanger, KY

June 29th-July 4th,
2018

Call the Holiday Inn
to reserve your
room (Mention that
you are with the
CGBCI
Conference)
1-859-746-5608

Room Rate: \$89 +
tax per night

The Ark Encounter
and Creation
Museum are close
to the Hotel.

NEWS FROM FELLOWSHIP CHURCHES

Listie GBC, PA-Pastor Chris Knight

Listie GBC will be celebrating their 125th Anniversary. All are invited to attend the celebration at the church on October 21-22, 2017. There will be an open house on

Saturday with many historical displays and pictures followed by an old-fashioned hymn-sing and refreshments at 6 PM. There will be a guest speaker on Sunday, a

meal, and a special dedication service at 2 PM. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Chris Knight at 814.279.0067 or email at chrisk4christ@gmail.com.

Albany GBC, OR-Pastor DeLane Miller

Azariah and Kaitly Miller were married on August 19th in California. We praise the Lord for the Steiners flying out for the wedding and helping with serving. Margaret Mason and Wilma Bailey (sister to Sharon)

attended. A reception was held in Albany on September 3rd. We have had some good attendance in our Sunday Evening Services and at Communion.

Also, Pastor DeLane will be offering tutorial work in Hebrew and Greek. Credit may be earned for these in the Schools of Theology. Contact Pastor DeLane at 541.967.9357 or at millerdelane02@gmail.com.

Still Waters Fellowship, Morrice, MI-Pastor Peter Stergios

Brethren, I want to give you all an update on the current state of the ministry in Morrice, MI. I am very excited about what the Lord has been doing, and what He will do in the future!

One of the changes in our ministry has been the transfer of our sending and endorsing church to the Grace Brethren Bible Church in Hastings, MI, where I have been brought on as church planting pastor, and placed on the board of overseers in order to gain new experience in the everyday administration of church business. Also, we have had volunteers in the

work of sharing the gospel and helping build the church in Morrice. In our most recent outreach, we rented a booth at the Shiawassee County Fair where we met dozens of contacts, passed out gospel tracts and literature about the church. I was able to witness to a couple of teenage boys! Be praying for Devin and Elbert. They understood all that I shared, and were very interested, but were not ready to make any decisions at the time. We also met a young lady whose family (from a nearby town of Perry) has been actively searching for a

church to attend. We are planning several outreach events in the fall. We greatly desire your continued prayer concerning our work. We desire them even more now, because we recently discovered that we are pregnant, and will be expecting a new little one in the spring! What a tremendous blessing this news has been to us! So please continue with your prayers on our behalf as we faithfully and steadfastly continue our mission to plan this church and serve our Great God and King.

New Troy GBC, MI-Pastor Bob Mensinger

New Troy GBC has unanimously called Bob Mensinger to be the full-time pastor for the NTGBC at their semi-annual meeting in July 2017. He has been filling in as interim pastor since December of last year. Also they are praising the Lord for their VBS this summer where they have made positive contact with two children as very good prospects for their Sunday school.

UPDATE FROM THE KRANS

Our ministry in Dearborn presented an exciting time with doors of opportunity that I did not even imagine when we went out to Michigan. Marlene and Gavi were part of two outreaches to women. At one of these outreaches a Muslim woman processed faith in Jesus Christ. This woman only spoke Arabic and so the process of sharing and leading her to the Lord had to be done through an Arabic speaking interpreter. Both my wife and Gavi were an incredible asset to the ministry in Dearborn. I had the opportunity to share the gospel with the Arab world via satellite

television. I was invited to be a special guest on a show to Muslims which shares the gospel answers to objections to the gospel. Some of the material used on the show I was able to use in conversation with the young Muslim man who was passing out the Koran even as we were passing out gospel literature. He objects to the idea that exalted God could become a man, and I asked him whether it was easier for God to become a burning bush or a man. We continued our conversation around the theophany of the Skekinah of God (that is the

special glorious localized presence of God spoken in the Old Testament.) The links on YouTube for both shows of which I took part are below. I am grateful to the Lord for giving me such wonderful opportunities as an Apologist and Bible Teacher with Muslims during our time in Dearborn.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rd7iiPqtpNk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OM1rtUOARLk>

NEWS FROM FOREIGN MISSIONS

CGBCI Foreign Missions Panel Update

The Foreign Missions Panel met on Tuesday, August 29th. We regretfully received an email from Paul Swenson withdrawing his written plan and endorsement. He no longer desires to be part of the Grace Brethren Team in Papua New Guinea. He plans to remain in PNG with NTM/Ethnos 360. We will no longer be receiving offerings to support

the Swensons. This leaves the Noyes without partners for their team. Pray that the Lord will lead the Noyes, the sending church (Irasburg GBC) and the FMP. There is a strong possibility for new partners for the Noyes. The immediate plans for the Noyes are still to be decided.

Cameroon and Africa Ministry Updates

Pastor Salomon reports that he led his landlord to Christ (Benjamin-who is very ill) recently. Pray for the Lord to restore him to health physically and to grow spiritually. Stephan and his girlfriend Hortense came to know the Lord through Pastor Salomon's ministry as well. Pray for them to understand the Word, for their baptisms, and then to be married.

The Ekounou church (Yaounde) had a wonderful picnic and many attended and committed to renew their service for the Lord. Pastor Ngah preached. Continue to pray for Salomon for strength and wisdom. He thanks everyone for their prayers and financial support. He also requests prayer for his daughter, Elizabeth, who has two

growths on her neck that are swelling up.

Pastor Keith Merriman reports that he was able to share about Africa Missions with Dr. and Mrs. Whitcomb and asks for prayer for strength and grace for them. If any church would like for Pastor Merriman to come and present the Africa Ministry, please let him know.

NEWS FROM FOREIGN MISSIONS, CONTINUED

Myanmar Ministries Update

A written plan for the ministry in Myanmar was submitted to the Foreign Missions Panel prior to their meeting in June. The written plan includes a team of 2 men who have stepped forward in order to go to a place where there are no local churches. The Panel has endorsed the

written plan to partner together with the Southern Chin Brethren Churches to plant churches in Myanmar. As you may remember, this Fellowship of Churches had decided, after a 3 month deliberation, to adopt and practice our Statement of Faith. Twenty-two elders were

then baptized by trine immersion this past January. Two young men who are graduates of Dai Bible College have stepped forward to plant a church. Please pray that the Lord will make clear which village should be chosen of two possible locations identified.

NEWS FROM HOME MISSIONS

National Evangelism Team (NET) updates

This year's NET ministry at Listie, PA and at National Conference left us with numerous positive memories. Here are some blessings from a couple of the team members:

One of my most memorable experiences would have to be the Friday "cookout." Even though it poured rain that night and we weren't able to have the cookout outside, God worked it out and we had a very good turnout that night.

I really enjoyed learning the new songs this year. "It's Only by the Blood" and "Lift up the Suffering Symbol" were especially meaningful. One of my favorite parts of NET is simply singing the songs that we learn. I was also stretched in my musical ability this year as I had to learn three songs I

played on the piano in a short time. I have played the piano for a number of years but I had not played the piano to accompany anyone before. It was a little rough starting out but I could tell it got easier as time went on. I'd also never played the cajon or the tambourine with a group either. The more I played the piano, the cajon, or tambourine with the group singing the more fun it became. -Gabriel Miller

My most memorable experience from NET 17 was when we were doing door-to-door evangelism in a town near Listie. It had been a harder day because most were not interested in our flyers and the few conversations that had been started didn't seem to go

anywhere. As the time was running out, we went up on the porch of a rough looking trailer. The porch itself had broken in half with the center fallen in. When we knocked on the door a young girl (early 20's), Elisa answered. We went through "The Way of the Master" sequence which can fairly quickly establish a person's guilt before God. To our surprise Elisa openly admitted her guilt. We were then able to share the good news of the gospel and God's great grace. There was not a positive decision at that time but the opportunity for planting and watering the seed was very obvious. It was encouraging on that somewhat difficult day to find a receptive heart.-Pastor Philip Moeller

NET 18 will be August 6-21, 2018 and the outreach will be in Vermont. We have not yet determined the location for the training. Watch future Voice Newsletters for updates!

"THE VOICE NEWSLETTER" is the communication tool of the Conservative Grace Brethren Churches International. News or mailing updates should be sent to Tara Bradley at stbradley84@comcast.net, or at 535 S Broadway, Peru, IN, 46970, or by phone at 765.475.3316 by the 20th of the month.