

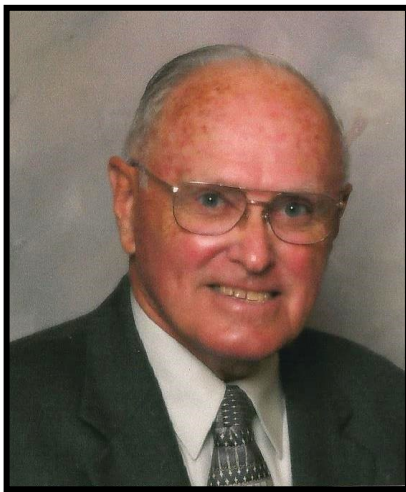
# C.P.A. Beacon

Issue 43

**Church Planters to America**

Fall 2019

## **Tom Buckley: A Man with a Heart for America**



**Rev. Thomas J. Buckley**  
**Feb. 6, 1937-June 14, 2019**

On June 14th, Tom Buckley, founder and president of Church Planters to America, went home to be with the Lord. Tom was called to church planting while studying in Bible College. In 1959, Tom married his college sweetheart, Carol, and they set out on a journey that would lead to 60 years of dedicated and devoted marriage and ministry.

Tom had a passion for the local church and began his ministry with the American Mission for Opening Churches. He was burdened to help communities where the church in town was closed. He and his wife Carol set off for their first church plant in central New York. They arrived at Dennison Corners and began to renovate the community church. Many were saved and the church became self-supporting. From there they moved to the state of Maine where they were instrumental in opening three more closed churches in Spruce Head, Hope, and Dyer Brook. Northern and Mid-Coast Maine now reaps the blessings of these two faithful servants.

Tom was then called to direct the American Mission for Opening Churches. While there the ministry grew and many opportunities opened. At one time over 40 church planting families ministered in local churches in America. As Tom looked at the local community he became burdened for Olcott where the mission headquarters was established. There was no Bible preaching church in town so in 1988 the Olcott Bible Church was established. That church remains in Olcott today as a testimony of Jesus Christ.

In 1998 there was a necessity to change ministries but the burden for church planting and America would be carried on. Church Planters to America was birthed and for over 20 years Tom and Carol would lead this mission into the 21st century. Strong leadership with great vision was the making for a solid mission. That vision continues today for the reaching of lost souls and building up of the local church.

Often you would hear Tom say we need more men to be church planters. This need is very much the same today. Church Planters to America will continue to help the local church to be a strong witness in the rural communities of America. Tom will be greatly missed but would want us to continue. Please continue to pray for Church Planters to America.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR



**ROB ANDREAS**

As the first BEACON after the passing of Tom Buckley, into the glorious presence of Jesus our Saviour, I am realizing the tremendous responsibility to lead an organization for God's kingdom. Please pray for me as I direct the mission and continue to pastor the Portageville Community Baptist Church.

Life is so short even if you live to be 100 years old. We must stay focused on what God has called us to do. My wife, Sue and I, first met Tom and Carol Buckley while in our second year of Bible College. After hearing of the needs in America we decided that God was calling us to be church planters. We started our ministry in 1987 and have pursued our calling from that day forward. We are presently serving in our 4th church and are now almost four years into this church plant. We live by faith and are supported by churches and individuals that see the burden we have and want to be a part of God's work.

How about you? Are you true to God's calling in your life? Are you sharing your faith and showing the world that Jesus is your Lord and Saviour? We only have one life to live and only this moment to make a difference in the lives of those around us. Many people are lost and dying in their sins and it has always been my desire to share the Good News, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He died and rose again so that He could save the world from sin and destruction. How about you my friend, are you sure you are saved and on your way to Heaven? This is an eternal choice we all will decide!

## MISSION FAMILY NEWS

To serve the Lord is a great privilege for every believer. Church planting is not an easy task but the rewards and blessings are tremendous. Perhaps you or someone you know believe God has called them to help the local church as a church planter. We need men and their families that have this calling, to contact Church Planters to America and see if they are a fit for this ministry. . . **CAROL BUCKLEY**, Mission Office Manager, Almond, NY, has had a very trying year. With the passing of her husband, Tom, she is busy getting much in order and continues to do her normal office duties. She is doing very well handling the day to day activities and requests your prayers as she continues to serve the Lord with Church Planters to America. Carol is a blessing to the mission and we appreciate all she does on a daily basis. . . **ROB & SUE ANDREAS**, Director/Missionary Pastor, Portageville, NY, often with life comes more and more responsibilities which God uses to build His kingdom. Rob and Sue have dedicated their lives to God's service and are honored to serve as church planters for over 30 years. They are seeing tremendous things here in Portageville. The buildings have needed a face lift for many years and the community is seeing this begin to happen. Their hope is that the community will see what is going on and curiosity will draw them to seek the answer which will lead to people getting saved. This should be our motive in everything we do. We love God and we love people enough to share the Gospel so they can be saved. . . **BILL & WINIFRED CHAPMAN**, Missionary at Large, Norfolk, VA, Bill needs much prayer as he struggles with medical issues and is currently in the VA hospital. Bill and Winnie are dear saints who have committed their lives to serve our Savior Jesus Christ. They have the special gift to help the struggling church and are a great support and encouragement to all of us here at Church Planters to America. Pray for Bill and Winnie as they continue to serve the Lord. . . **MARK & SUE RUGGERIO**, Missionary Pastor, Belfast, ME, are thrilled to have new families coming to church and they are grateful for many that helped with various projects around the church complex. They also have opened a clothing ministry to reach the community with the Gospel. Pray that doors of opportunity will open to share the good news. Emmanuel Baptist Church is also involved in a nursing home ministry. Pray that they will be an encouragement to all they minister to and that there will be much fruit from this outreach.

### A Change of Leadership

With the sudden passing of Tom Buckley, there was the necessity for a change of leadership. For several years, Rob Andreas has served as Associate Director and worked very closely with Tom in the matters of the mission. It was a hope that there would be a smooth transition if something happened to Tom. Rob was voted in as the Director of Church Planters to America. We then had to consider who would become Associate Director and it was unanimously decided that Mark Ruggiero would be considered for this position. Mark has served with C.P.A. for 18 years and has a wonderful servants heart. Mark is a man of great conviction and love for the Lord. His wife Sue with their two daughters, Bethany and Moriah, are serving in their second work in Belfast, Maine. Mark and his family are a great asset to the mission and we are thankful for his willingness to serve as Associate Director. Congratulation Mark!

## Slowly But Surely the Project Continues in Portageville

The summer has been extremely busy with work continuing on the church building. Although there are few workers, we are pleased with the project thus far. The front of the church has been completely sided and the entrance and platform, which includes roof, are finished. New doors have been installed and lights have been hooked up. In the front we still need to build a handicap ramp and then prepare the other three sides for siding. Another part of the project that we would like to see done this year before the weather turns is to pave the parking area in front of the house and church. We have asked for an estimate and are presently waiting for this. This is time sensitive but we were told it can be done up until November. Also this summer, we had a tree fall upon our fellowship hall causing \$15,000 worth of damage. In



**New Lighting and Doors**

order to be pro-active, we also removed a very large tree from behind the parsonage before any damage could be done. Lastly, Vacation Bible School was a great success. There was excitement and enthusiasm as we ministered to the children God gave us. We appreciate all your prayers for the church and all that is going on at this time.



**Finishing the Siding on Front**

## Emmanuel Baptist Church Share at Local Nursing Home By Mark Ruggerio

In our fast paced world it is easy for people to feel isolated and forgotten. This is especially true for older individuals, who for one reason or another need to be in a nursing home. Matthew 25:40 states "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." It is with the sentiment of this verse on people's hearts and minds that the people of Emmanuel Baptist Church minister at Tall Pines Nursing Home.

It is our hope and desire to share Christ's love with each person we interact with every time we visit and have a church service at Tall Pines. Whether it's visiting residents before or after the service, singing Hymns and other songs of worship, or God's Word being read with a short Gospel message, the goal is the same...serving Our Lord as we serve the people.

One of the many blessings is the time spent conversing with the residents. They so appreciate and many have expressed how they do not have visitors and look forward to us coming. In turn we are blessed as we hear about these dear souls' lives, their families, and their hearts.

Be in prayer for us as we visit, we never know until that day who all will be there from our congregation. We have had anywhere from four to twelve people go to the nursing home. The same is also true for residents...sometimes a handful while others fifteen to twenty. What is important is that each time is a Divine appointment by and with our Savior.... "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."



**Mark Ruggerio Sharing the Word of God**



**Music is Always a Blessing!**



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## Summer Retreat: A Time of Celebration

As a mission family we wanted to honor the life of our founder and director, Tom Buckley. We were anticipating a celebration but not like the one we had. Tom and Carol Buckley would be celebrating 60 years of marriage and 60 years of ministry. Their anniversary was July 25th right in the midst of our retreat. But on June 14th Tom went home to be with the Lord.



### Memorial Service for Tom Buckley

So we decided that on the opening afternoon of our retreat we would hold a memorial service in honor of Tom. This was very well attended and we were blessed by the great turn out.



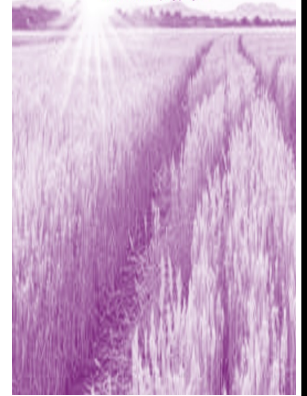
**C.P.A. Mission Family**  
 (Missing from photo-Bill & Winifred Chapman)

Thanks to many of you, we had a wonderful week at our annual retreat. Great food, fun and fellowship were abundant and a true sense of unity and purpose prevailed all week long. Pray for Church Planters to America as we continue to carry the burden and vision to reach rural America with the wonderful good news of Jesus Christ.

As a mission, we consider each member as family, and are looking for others to join our mission family to serve as church planters.

If you feel the Lord is calling you to serve, please reach out to the mission by calling the Director on his call cell at (315) 868-1294 or emailing cpamission12@gmail.com.

Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.  
 Matthew 9:37-38



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