

C.P.A. Beacon

Issue 52

Church Planters to America

Spring 2024



**Emmanuel Baptist Church
Belfast, Maine**

Need Met By God and His People in Belfast

God Moving in the Hearts of His People

By Mark Ruggerio

Imagine if you will, it is the start of winter here in Maine. You go into your basement for something and find water on the floor. Looking more closely, it is evident that the water is leaking out of the boiler. Our heating repairman informs us that there is a crack in the cast iron. After trying some stopgap measures, it becomes obvious that this over forty-year-old system needed to be replaced. The cost of the system was beyond what the church had, and we knew there was already a broken underground water line on the property that needed to be replaced/fixed when the ground thawed.

As a congregation we brought this to the Lord. We had checked into a loan from the bank, but with our congregation size and some recent requirements on loans, a loan was not a good option. So the people voted to replace the system and were going to trust the Lord to provide. Along with this, the congregation was blessed by the fact that Church Planters to America had chosen to assist in this endeavor by putting out an appeal for the needed funds.

Very quickly the Lord burdened many people's hearts to respond to this need. Between people in the congregation and those who learned of the appeal, the cost of the heating system (minus a chimney lining that will be done in the spring) was raised before the work was even completed here at the house.

I know I should not be amazed, our God can do anything, but I am. I am truly humbled by what transpired. We have scriptures like Philippians 4:19 "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." So why am I amazed when the Lord does exactly what He says He will do? I am right there with the apostles when they say to Jesus in Luke 17:5 "Lord, Increase our faith."

Jesus goes on immediately in that passage to talk about the faith of the mustard seed. Imagine what would happen in our world and for the Kingdom if we had the faith of a mustard seed!

On behalf of everyone at Emmanuel, I am so thankful for everyone who prayed for and or donated to this need. We are also grateful to both our installer and his supplier who were more than gracious in their pricing. We serve a great God and Father!

See Photos on Page 2

From the Director



**Rob
Andreas**

TIME. It's something we all have and we all spend everyday. Sometimes we have enough time to do the things we need to do and other times we never seem to have enough of it. The truth of the matter is, we all have 24 hours in a day. We all have 168 hours in a week. Life demands that we invest much of our time in work to make means to live day by day. We need time to sleep and rest. We plan and often it doesn't go as we wish.

The Bible says we need to redeem the time. Two verses contain this phrase. Ephesians 5:16, *Redeeming the time, because the days are evil* and Colossians 4:5, *Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.* This means we need to buy up the time, make it useful and use our time wisely. How many hours do you invest into your relationship with the Lord? How much time do we spend in prayer? In church? In the study of God's Word? How many of your 168 hours in a week do you offer to God?

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

Romans 13:11

Good to Be Warm!

Thanks to all who prayed and helped with our need for a furnace. Here are some pictures of the work that was done. (See article on the front page)



Front of the Furnace



Hot Water Tank



Zone Valves



Full Set Up

Pastor Ruggerio worked with the installation to help save some costs. The folks are thankful for the deal they received and the expert work that was done.

You Can Help!

Every summer we have our Annual Missionary Pastors' Retreat. This year it is June 17-21. Many of you take the form found in this BEACON and send in a love gift to cover the expenses of our retreat. This is our only monetary plea for the year. All our board members and missionaries gather at mission headquarters and have five days of rest, relaxation, fellowship, good food and the Word of God. There is much expense that goes with this week. We pay the travel expenses, any lodging needed and food. This is where your help is appreciated. Your generosity has shown every year that the mission has existed. Thank you for sharing with us.



Keeping the Church Alive

By Rob Andreas

When I wrote this title my first thought was, this is not our job! Jesus will build His church, the Bible says, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. The powers of hell are surely at work trying to destroy the church and her message of hope. The devil schemes to distract Christians from becoming the vital church God needs in this world. We are the church of the living God. It is not buildings, it is God building up people to live in this sinful world.



We need people that are committed and full of faith in God. This is what the church is all about. Believing God will have His way and His Word will accomplish that which He pleases. The church then is an entity of the power of God moving upon our society and culture to impact each individual with the authority of God's Holy Word.

Many churches are feeling the effects of a great cultural demise. Statistics and current surveys tell us that fewer and fewer people attend the local church. The need to join and become active in a local church is vital to growth for every Christian and in spreading the hope of the Gospel to a lost and dying world. What we need is for the church love people while not compromising the truth that is clear in the Word of God. We must convince the world by demonstration of the life of Jesus Christ which will transform each member of the church. This will breathe new life into any congregation that holds Jesus Christ as present and the sovereign head of the Body of Christ, the Church.

So what do we do? We need to get back to the simplicity of the Gospel and teach and preach repentance toward God and faith in Jesus our Lord. We must come to church expecting God to do great and mighty things in our hearts. We must see the early believers and their passion to serve and grow in faith and seek their sincere love and hope for the Lord. We must gather together to serve and edify one another in truth. We must get back to the basics we find in Acts 2 where the church gathered to worship, learn, fellowship, pray and serve the Lord with diligence and honesty. This can happen if we ask God to REVIVE US AGAIN!

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

Long Time Friend of Church Planters to America

Behind the scenes we have a man who has helped C.P.A. for many years. Doug Durkee retired from a 40+ year career as a broadcast television engineer. He lives in Greenville, SC with his wife Janis. He currently works part time and enjoys home projects especially yard work. He and Janis have three grown children and love spending time with their four grandchildren.

Tom Buckley opened a church in Hope, Maine and was Doug's pastor during his high school years. He has many fond memories of the Hope church and was instrumental in his spiritual growth during his teen years.

Doug graduated from Bob Jones University with a degree in Broadcast engineering. Doug runs our website keeping it up to date. In today's multi-media world he is an important part of C.P.A. Thank you Doug for all you do for Church Planters to America!





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2024 Missionary Pastors' Retreat June 17-21



C.P.A. Mission Family

Our C.P.A. Missionary Pastors' Retreat will be held in June once again. We all were blessed last year as we gathered together to enjoy five days as a mission family. This is an encouraging time as we fellowship in the Word of God everyday and have time to relax and share the burdens of our hearts with one another. We have great food and many laughs together. It is truly a blessed time! Thank you in advance for all of you who send in to make this possible!

*For, lo, the winter is past,
 the rain is over and gone;
 The flowers appear on the
 earth; the time of the sing-
 ing of birds is come, and
 the voice of the turtle is
 heard in our land;*



Song of Solomon 2:11-12

Blessed to Work with FCFI

For over 27 years, Rob and Sue Andreas have been associated with the Fellowship of Christian Farmers. We first met Bill Brown, Area 8 Coordinator, when we pastored at the Dennison Corners Community Church. There was a farm show across the road from our church and we saw the great work being done to reach souls for Jesus. We ministered at the local fair in Frankfort, NY. When we arrived in Olcott, we shared the love of the ministry with the folks at the Olcott Bible Church where I was the new pastor. The following year we set up at the Niagara County Fair to share the wonderful news of salvation. The church still shares at the fair going on 18 years.



Rob Sharing the Gospel

Rob served on the board for the fellowship for three years. We still serve with Bill and Kathy Brown helping them with their computer needs. We go once a year to Summerville, SC to share at an event called the Flowertown Festival. We get the opportunity to share with hundreds of people over this three day event. It is such a blessing. We also have helped during their Stick Days when they prepare thousands of sticks to be used at many events up and down the eastern seaboard.

If any have met and know Bill and Kathy Brown, they are two wonderful people who have committed their lives to sharing the Gospel message. We truly count it a privilege to be able to serve with them over the many years of ministry. Pray God's blessings over this great work.



Bill & Kathy Brown

NOTE

Our Addresses
 Below



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REMINDER

Please let us know if you have a change of address, it will save us postage. Thank you!