

C.P.A. Beacon

Issue 45

Church Planters to America

Fall 2020

2020 An Unforgettable Year



Emmanuel Baptist Church

This year has been so different than any other year we may have been a part of. Most of our lives were disrupted by the Corona Virus and now we live in a very unique, peculiar time. Many businesses and churches needed to shut down but I am glad to say that you cannot shut the church down. Many churches have learned ways to reach out with different mediums in ways they never thought they would. You see, church is vital and essential to the wellbeing of any community and culture. We often need to adapt to various circumstances in order to be

effective in ministering the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "... Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18b. The Rock is a Person and a statement made about this Person, Jesus Christ. This is the Rock, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." The church will always remain a force to be reckoned with until Jesus returns for us.



Portageville Community Baptist

These events in our culture and in the world should be drawing us nearer to the Lord and opening our minds to the reality that Jesus Christ is coming again and will take His bride, the Church to be with Him forever. As believers this is our hope. You see, men cannot close the church and destroy her. The people are the church. Every believer is a member of the universal church and Christ is the Head of the body. We need to look to Him in these troublesome days and trust Him with all our hearts.

Our country is in turmoil and the only solution to solve the various issues is with God. We need to cry out to Him and plead for the United States of America. Our country was founded upon the Rock of Jesus Christ with our Judeo-Christian beginnings. Believers need to pray earnestly and fervently for God to heal our land. We need to stand up for truth and firmly declare that we want to get back to our roots as a nation. We are facing attacks on every side. The church and family are the target of much of the chaos and the enemy is working overtime to try to destroy what we hold sacred and necessary for our culture and world.

We were unable due to restrictions to have our summer Missionary Pastors' Retreat. Several were unable to come and with strict quarantines in effect, due to the virus, we made the decision to wait until next summer to meet again. This was a very hard decision but was necessary.

We appreciate your prayers for Church Planters to America. Our churches went online via social media and did not miss the opportunity to proclaim the Word of God. Our churches are moving forward for God do great and mighty things in the future.



FROM THE DIRECTOR



**ROB
ANDREAS**

In these days we need to know how to approach the many fears that are crippling many in the world. Fear in its basic sense is necessary to one's survival. No one should pick a fight with a grizzly bear without some sense of fear. This type of fear is built into our being, placed there by God.

As believers we cannot let fear cripple us. There is a Biblical remedy for fear that many do not take advantage of and use on a regular basis. Here's what the Bible says: Isaiah 12:2, "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and *my* song; he also is become my salvation." Also in Psalm 56:3, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee." The key is to trust in God! No matter what the circumstances we must find our place of trusting in God.

The current climate in our culture and nation is causing great distress on many. The Corona Virus with the civil unrest and hostility brewing is wearing on many Americans, Christians included. We as the light of the world and the salt of the earth need to stand out as people who believe that God is in control and that He can be completely trusted all the time.

Our nation needs prayer and more prayer coupled with a true faith in our awesome God!

Portageville Community Baptist Church Waiting on God Is Often Not Easy Article by Rev. Rob Andreas, Director

In our last edition of the BEACON in the spring we were anticipating a group from Grace Mission to The World coming to help us finish our building project. However, with the Corona Virus striking our nation this was postponed until this fall but the virus is still a concern and with New York State having many restrictions and several states mandated to quarantine for two weeks made it impossible for the team to come from multiple states. So, we must wait. Many times in the Bible God tells us we must wait. We sometimes are impatient and we get frustrated but God knows best. Psalms 40:31 says, "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint." This is a necessity for every believer. So we will wait and we are hoping that the team can come in the Spring 2021.

In the meantime we have some things that need to be fulfilled by code before our certificate runs out. We were able to build a handicap ramp and fix the door sill. We are thankful for the men that have an association with the church, who worked diligently on the ramp. Grace Mission to The World were willing to help us with expenses for this endeavor. We are so thankful for how God provides. Below are pictures of this work.



Building the Ramp



Setting the Railing



Pouring Cement



**The Church Building Five Years
Ago When We Arrived**



Our Building Today

Some Great Changes at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Belfast Maine

Article by Rev. Mark Ruggerio, Associate Director

Everyone will admit that 2020 has been a year like no other. One thing that comes to mind when I think of 2020 is that of change. We have all experienced so many changes in our lives and communities that I do not need to mention them here. But what I do want to mention is the very positive changes that we have seen in the life of Emmanuel Baptist Church.



House Looks Great

ways! Interestingly enough, our Sunday Evening Fellowship and Midweek Services have seen the greatest increases. Having new people has also brought a greater financial stability to the church. We still have a long way to go, but it is so good seeing things beginning to move forward.

One final word I would like to make is concerning changes that you cannot see right off hand. We have made some physical repairs in the last few months to the church you would not notice right away (due to water damage and rot). But these are nothing to spiritual changes that are beginning to happen in people's lives. Everyone that has come has needed some form of healing, and this makes perfect sense for Jesus said in Mark 2:17 "When Jesus heard *it*, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick." But additionally, this side of heaven, we all are in need of healing, be it for salvation

when we become part of God's family or to daily confess our sins to Him, which is why Jesus went on to say in the second part of that verse "I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

I am so grateful to be part of the work here at Emmanuel and ultimately Church Planters to America so that we can be involved in each other's spiritual journey. Supporting and edifying one another as the Body of Christ until we meet our Lord and Savior in Glory. Thank you for your part in this journey as well!



Mark Painting



Bethany on the Roof



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A Word From A Board Member



Bruce and Pat Bassett

Bruce has been a board member with Church Planters to America since it was founded in 1996. He and his wife Pat are faithful supporters of the work of C.P.A. These are their words:

As we pen this message, fall has arrived in Maine and the change of color is breathtaking. The beauty of God's creation and the majesty of His handiwork is a testament to His faithfulness even as we continue to be challenged by the unprecedented events of 2020.

After retiring (Pat is semi-retired as she still teaches online) in 2018, we have become full-time RVers living at River Ranch RV Resort, River Ranch, FL during the winter and traveling extensively May - October. We have downsized from a three bedroom/two bath/two-car garage to a 40 ft. Redwood fifth wheel. Our winter headquarters, the Ranch, is located 25 miles from the nearest grocery store and 5 miles off the highway. There is only one way in and one way out. It's our version of "living off the grid". And yet, we have a chapel on property, a pastor who faithfully preaches the word, fellow believers from all over the country who gather together for worship each week, and ample opportunity for ministry. Souls are being saved; lives are being changed. We serve an awesome God!

Though we have experienced some restrictions in travel this year, we have managed to see a bit more of our beautiful country and have had an opportunity to attend churches in different communities. Covid-19 has definitely disrupted the status quo, but God is still at work. A common bond of faith, an urgency to see the Gospel preached, and a united prayer for revival in our land was evident in every congregation we visited. We experienced a variety of worship formats, but the message remained the same: though we may not know what the future holds, we know who holds the future. Press on!

We arrived in New England mid-August. We have two children and six grandchildren who call Massachusetts and Maine their home, so escaping the Florida heat in the summer and visiting up north is always on the agenda. It is here that we were first introduced to the work of church planting in rural America. That was forty years ago and yet it seems like only yesterday. The ministry of Church Planters to America continues to be a vital outreach needed in our culture today. Opening a closed church or helping a struggling church is a means of reaching a community that, but for God's intervention, would remain in darkness. Serving on the board and supporting its work over the years has been both humbling and an honor. More missionary families are needed to carry on the work. Continue to pray with us that others will recognize the need and join the effort. The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers *are* few; (Matthew 9:37)

Though the seasons
change, we are
thankful that



"Jesus Christ the
same yesterday,
and to day, and for
ever!"

Hebrews 13:8



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