

C.P.A. Beacon

Issue 44

Church Planters to America

Spring 2020

Bill Chapman: A True Servant of the Lord



The Early Days

On Friday afternoon, January 24th, Bill Chapman went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This was a man that loved the Lord and was a servant willing to go where God wanted him to be. In 1952, Bill went to Gordon College in Massachusetts to visit a friend and decided that he needed to study there too. In the Spring of 1953, Bill and Winifred started dating and on July 31, 1954 they were married. Following his second year of college, Bill was offered a good job and felt he should not go back to college. Winnie remembers, “We were attending and helping out in our church, but not long thereafter, Bill was drafted into the United States Army. Bill completed his duty and did not reenlist. One Sunday, in January, we had a guest preacher and at the close of the service I looked at Bill and there were tears in his eyes. I asked him what was the matter, and he quietly told me God was calling him to full-time service. He didn't tell anyone else as he wanted to make sure it was not just an emotional experience. We went home and after praying about it individually and together, we were certain that God was calling him to full-time service. We both went back to Gordon College until Bill graduated.”

After finishing his studies at Gordon, Bill felt he needed more education so in the late 60's, they moved to Dallas. In those four years, Bill continued to help local churches, even helping to pastor a small one, graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary, and their two sons Nathan and Jesse were born in 1970 and 1971 respectively.

The next step was certainly a big one. Bill accepted his first position as full-time pastor at Milford Center Baptist Church in Milford Center, New York just outside of Oneonta. Bill served in several other churches as their pastor. He found he loved to help the struggling church get on their feet and then would go on to help them find a pastor of their own. In the early 2000's, although Bill would never “retire” (he always said the Bible never says anything about preachers retiring), the boys had moved out and we were able to start collecting our Social Security. This permitted us to be able to help smaller churches that were unable to afford a regular salaried pastor. In 2009 the Chapmans joined Church Planters to America and went full time with us helping churches get on their feet so that they could afford their own pastor. Once they were self supporting, Bill would help them locate a good pastor to continue their ministry.

Through Church Planters to America, and with the support of those who took them on as



Bill Doing What He Loved—Preaching

their “missionaries”, they were able to help churches in Peekskill, Norwich, Killawog and Olcott in the state of NY. During the in-between times they helped Central Baptist Church with their senior ministry, and then later joined Little Creek Baptist Church where Pastor Wade Smith allowed Bill to assist him as he was able. God was very good and he was able to do all of this until after he turned 85 years of age! What a servant! We need more men like Bill Chapman who consistently served the Lord throughout his entire Christian life.

Please pray for Winifred as she continues to serve the Lord in whatever He brings her way. She is presently living near her family in Norfolk, VA.



Bill and Winnie

FROM THE DIRECTOR



**ROB
ANDREAS**

Our world is different as a result of the Corona Virus pandemic. It truly shows us the frailty of life and quickness that life can end. Because of this we need to tell as many as we can about the Gospel. Sin is the ultimate pandemic affecting every human being on this earth. There is a clear and everlasting cure for this "sin" pandemic. The cure is Jesus Christ. The world celebrates different seasons recognizing the unique person that Jesus is. Christmas and Easter are two events where celebrations of the birth and the resurrection of Christ are commemorated worldwide. Jesus is the only cure for the sin we all suffer with.

This is why we need the local church and the presenting of the message of the Bible. The Word of God is crucial in ministering the cure for sin. You see, the Bible is about Jesus and without Him there is no hope and no cure for sin. As the Savior of the world He does not want anyone to die in their sins and be separated from Him for all eternity. We are all filled with sadness by the COVID-19 virus and as it's causing many people to die. It is so necessary for us to proclaim the Good News about Jesus and give people the opportunity to receive the gift of eternal life.

Church Planters to America is committed to this great commission given to every born again believer. Let's all do our part. May God bless you and the church in this call to get the message of hope out into the world. Thank you for supporting and praying for Church Planters to America. We need committed men to come and join us in this task.

Portageville Community Baptist Church Still Under Construction

Article by Rev. Rob Andreas, Director

Winter has come to an end and as spring emerges we are excited to see work continuing on our buildings. Work was suspended because of health issues and the need for our project manager, Keith, to have shoulder surgery. We are hoping that in mid May a group from Grace Mission to The World under the leadership of George Callister will be coming with a team of perhaps 20 men to help us finish the church building in a weeks time. This will be a true blessing for the church. We have three sides that need to be prepped and vinyl sided. A handicap ramp will be installed. At the end of January, a four man exploratory team came from Georgia and Maryland to access the needs.

Last fall, our fellowship hall had a tree fall on the back side causing over \$15,000 worth of damage. We got it covered with a tarp for winter and are planning to repair it this spring. The team coming from Grace Mission to The World will also help with fixing the damage that was done.

Also, in late fall we had our parking area paved. This was a need that had to be done. We had put down stones and it was very difficult to clear the yard of snow and was difficult for some to walk on the stones. We thank the Lord for His provision for this project. We have seen God's people giving consistently to the work of the ministry. Thank you for all who pray for us as we serve the local community.



**Fellowship Hall
Damaged During Wind
Storm**



Before



After



**Exploratory Team
Scott Foos, Jesse Myers, Rev. Butch Lee & Rev. Dewey Fisher**

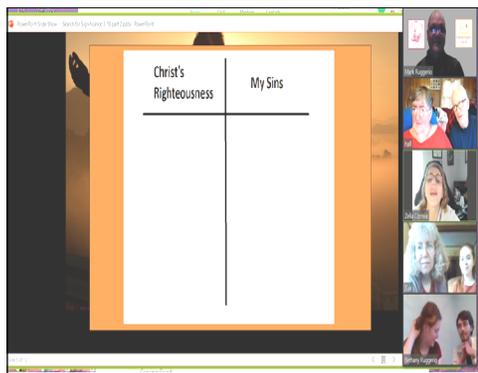
Mark & Sue Ruggerio Continue to Serve In Belfast, Maine

Article by Rev. Mark Ruggerio, Associate Director

Like much of our country at this time, Emmanuel Baptist Church is dealing with the effects of COVID-19 virus. We are doing our very best to be in compliance with the government and best health practices. All of our services at this point are in an online format. My family and one other person from the church have been working diligently and very collaboratively to pull it all together. Since the last edition of the BEACON, Emmanuel Baptist Church has a new website, and since social distancing orders have been put in place, we now have online giving. This has been a great help already.



It is important at times like these for the Church to continue to have Koinonia (fellowship). Periodically, we have a Christian movie night at the parsonage, which people have really enjoyed. Where that is not possible at this point, we chose to have an online game night. Through Zoom, video conferencing, we were able to have a good time playing Bible Jeopardy and Bible Hangman. We hope to do this again soon since many people who did not participate (especially from those in the community) are asking about it. With Easter fast approaching we are continuing to look for creative ways to keep engaged and connected. We know from Scripture that man was not intended to be alone. Our Lord and Savior has created us to be social creatures with our fellow man and with Him. In a time of social distancing, and increased isolation we need, all the more, to be finding ways to interact the best we can and of course not to be neglecting our time with Him. At our midweek services earlier this year we began a



Pastor Mark Ruggerio Doing a Zoom Call with His People!

series called “Search for Significance.”

One way that our church has always had a sense of community is through its dinners. Harvest time in the fall, Thanksgiving and Christmas were no exception. We had such a feast, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. It was especially nice to have had many guests that people had invited to come. Christmas was especially wonderful this year since we had a “Nostalgic Christmas.” It was an occasion of watching a Nativity reenactment, worship by candlelight, singing of carols, and of course stupendous refreshments.

Know that we are lifting you, our supporters and supporting churches, up in prayer and are so very thankful for all your prayers for us.



Celebrating Thanksgiving Together!



Nativity Reenactment



Church Planters to America
 PO Box 165, 5 Buckley Ln.
 Almond, NY 14804

Non-Profit
 Org.
 U.S. Postage
 Paid
 Hornell, NY
 Permit No. 7

Return Service Requested

2020 C.P.A. Missionary Pastor's Retreat July 20-24

As we write this issue of the BEACON, spring is fully upon us and things are starting to change from the cold of winter. With this comes the planning for the 2020 C.P.A. Missionary Pastor's Retreat. We are looking to join together the week of July 20-24. This is always a time filled with many blessings and opportunities to fellowship and be refreshed.



C.P.A. Mission Family

This week is made possible by the many people and churches that send a special gift to provide for all the expenses, including gas for travel. We have enclosed a "bright pink" letter asking for your help. As you give, you are investing in each of our missionary families and the total ministry of Church Planters to America.

Carol Buckley, our office manager, does much of the planning and organizing of the meals for the retreat. We are blessed to have her doing what she does.



The grass
 withereth, the
 flower fadeth:
 but the Word of
 our God shall
 stand for ever.

Isaiah 40:8



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Behind the Scenes

We are thankful for Mary Reisweber, daughter to Rob & Sue Andreas, for her hard work editing several publications put out by the mission. Mary is a graduate of SUNY Cortland and is on staff in the financial aid office working with parents and students. Her husband, Eric is a teacher of Earth Science in Dryden, NY. Thank you Mary!



Mary Reisweber

REMINDER

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