

C.P.A. Beacon

Issue 38

Church Planters to America

Spring 2017

2017 C.P.A. Missionary Pastor's Retreat

The snow is gone and the grass is turning green. Our focus, here at mission headquarters, is now turned toward our Annual Mission Retreat. The mission families, including our Board of Directors, will be spending five days focused on the ministry of church planting. Friendships are renewed, encouragement given, and many practical things are taught and learned. The food is always great.

Throughout the week testimonies, good Bible preaching by our missionary pastors, special music and a variety of activities will be enjoyed by all. It is always a blessing to share ministry and family experiences. Church Planters to America is a family of people who have been called to help revitalize churches that are going through difficult times.



C.P.A. Mission Family

The Retreat is made possible by the many people and churches who send a special gift to provide for all the expenses, including gas for travel.

This year's retreat begins the 21st year of ministry for C.P.A., to God be the glory. None of this would have taken place without the prayers and support of churches and our many friends.

We have enclosed our "bright pink" letter asking for your help. Your gifts for this special event are an investment in each missionary family and the total ministry of C.P.A. Thank you for your help.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



**TOM
BUCKLEY**

Spring has finally arrived and it has brought with it an optimism for a great and fruitful summer. I thank the Lord for our missionary families and their faithfulness to the Lord and the ministry that God has entrusted to them.

The main goal of every C.P.A. missionary and mission church is to lead people to a saving faith in Jesus Christ. We need people who will pray for C.P.A. missionaries every day. Opportunities to share the gospel come about in different ways.

In January, I was preaching in a church south of where we live. I invited people to speak to me at the close of the service if God had spoken to them and desired to receive Christ and/or wanted more information.

God blessed as a 20 year old young lady, with a sweet spirit, asked if we could talk as she did not understand everything I said. This was her first time in church. After answering her questions, she understood her need for Christ and accepted Him as her Savior. The church had Bibles to give away for occasions like this and the ladies befriended her that very day. I understand that she has been faithfully attending all services since and has been doing Bible studies.

Friends, God needs us to be available so that He can use us to share the gospel and lead people to Christ. Thank you for praying for C.P.A.



MISSION FAMILY NEWS

Every season of the year is always a busy time. Snowy weather gives us added opportunity to assist our neighbors and to leave with them a positive impression. Please pray for our missionaries as you read about them below. . . **TOM & CAROL BUCKLEY**, mission director, Almond, NY, spent about six weeks in January and February traveling through Georgia and Florida. They had many opportunities to speak in churches and talk to many people about C.P.A. They participated in three missionary conferences. Tom spoke one Sunday morning with a translator at a bilingual service. He was introduced at several other churches. A number of people attending these churches said they had never heard of the this type of ministry. Pray that God will use us to lead people to Christ and challenge others to become church planting missionaries with C.P.A. . . **ROB & SUE ANDREAS**, missionary pastor, Portageville, NY, worked hard to get their people to see the need for a church steeple (see page 3). It all came together when the steeple was installed April 8th. The church hired a crane with a couple of workers and a man in the church and his crew, who has an excavating company. A few other men from the church were also there to lend a hand when needed. By noon the steeple was secured in place. Due to the church's location, the steeple will be a great asset to people looking for the church or just passing through town. The church is already planning the next project; to put vinyl siding on the church and the youth building. Pray for the funds to do these jobs. Recently, the Andreas welcomed a new neighbor to Portageville and to the church. In the course of the discussion, in the back yard, the lady accepted Christ and attended the church the following Sunday with one of her children. Pray that this is the beginning of great things for her family. Pray for this year's V.B.S., July 10-14th and for many children to come and be saved. . . **BILL & WINIFRED CHAPMAN**, interim pastor, Olcott, NY, have had an eventful year as they have been serving as the interim pastor of the Olcott Bible Church in Olcott, NY. They have had the joy of a couple following the Lord in Believers Baptism and another couple join the church. Bill's main thrust, apart from preaching God's word, has been to help and encourage the church to find a new pastor. Pray for God to supply this need soon . . . **MARK & SUE RUGGERIO**, missionary pastor, Belfast, ME, have been in Belfast for just about a year. Along with pastoring the church, they continued to complete the project of refurbishing the parsonage. They have been living in the parsonage during this time. Thankfully, the project is just about finished. Early in the spring they began a Good News Club in conjunction with C.E.F. The Ruggiero girls, Bethany and Moriah, are a great help to their parents as they assist with the Bible club. This summer, Pastor Joe McNally and his people from the Faith Bible Church in Winsted, CT, will help the church with their V.B.S. Pray for many to come and accept Jesus Christ as Savior.

A Never Ending Job in Olcott

It was in late 2008 that the Olcott Bible Church installed an outside furnace to heat the 16,000 sq. ft. building. The men of the church are always looking for downed trees or trees that have to be cut down and removed. Usually the wood shed is full of wood before the start of winter.

It is estimated that the church saves about \$10,000 per year in fuel costs. This money can now be used for ministry and missions. "Great job men!"



**Olcott Men Cutting
Fire Wood**

New Steeple in Portageville, NY

Years ago the old steeple was taken off the Community Baptist Church in Portageville, NY because of structural problems. Rob and Sue Andreas are the C.P. A. missionaries serving in Portageville.

In early 2016, the decision was made by the congregation to purchase a new fiberglass steeple to replace the original one. The fiberglass steeple only weighs around 400 lbs. In the process and through special gifts, it was decided to erect the steeple in memory of James Comfort, who served several years as a parks police officer in Letchworth State Park which is located just across the river from the church. After he retired, Jim, his wife Michele, and their family moved to Wilson, NY and started attending the Olcott Bible Church, which was pastored by Rob Andreas. Jim was fond of his years at Letchworth State Park. Jim developed cancer and ascended into heaven on April 12, 2016. So in memory of Jim Comfort, the steeple on the Community Baptist Church in Portageville, NY, points towards heaven.



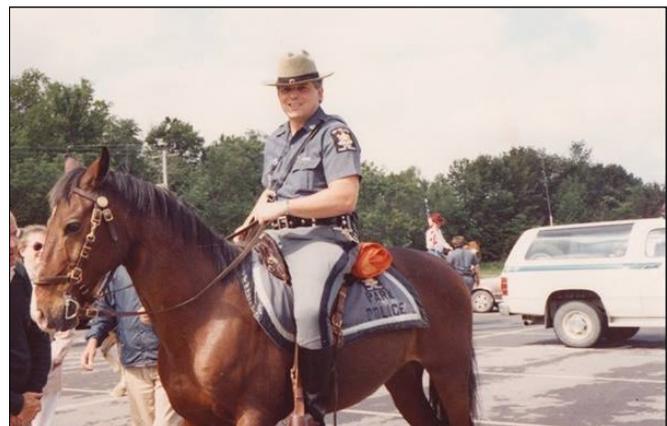
Steeple Being Installed



Steeple In Place



Jim & Michele Comfort



**James Comfort, Park Police
Letchworth State Park**



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Emmanuel Baptist Moves Forward

It has been a long year since the Ruggerio family moved from St. John, ME, in northern Maine, to Belfast which is along the coast. Along with being the pastor and developing a full church program, Mark, Sue and their two children have worked hard to complete the work on the parsonage.

Keep the Ruggerio family in prayer as the ministry of re-establishing a church is difficult and never ending. People want to know what happened years ago when the church was thriving and had a growing Christian school. These people are reminded that the past is history and the future is before us with great anticipation for God to do great things.

Pray for V.B.S., July 9-13, for new families to be reached and for souls to be saved. That's what it's all about. Seeing lives transformed and growing in the local body of Christ.



Church Family-
Easter Sunday



Easter Breakfast

*Old things
are passed away;
behold, all things
are become new.*



"For we are labourers together with God:"
1 Cor. 3:9

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REMINDER

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