

C.P.A. Beacon

Issue 46

Church Planters to America

Spring 2021

The Need for Church Planting in America

Church Planters to America was established in 1996 when a group of believers wanted to carry on the burden of reaching America with the Gospel and strengthening the local church to carry out this mission. Many, when they think of missions, gravitate to the thought that missions need to be on foreign soil. This is far from the truth. In Acts 1:8 the Bible says, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Missions begins at home.

In America, statistics 30 years ago projected that there were over 70,000 closed churches in the U.S. If you were to visit one church per day it would take you 192 years to visit all those churches. Rural church ministries are facing many difficulties due to the American culture. Fewer people are attending church now a days. Youth are going to college and not returning to their church heritage that was instilled in them. Our nation is in crisis due to godlessness and a forsaking of Christian values.

America needs the Gospel. America needs revival. This will come through the local church. That's why Church Planters to America exists. With the struggles of the rural community church, we want to assist as many as we can to remain open and viable in this generation. Church Planters to America is committed to opening closed churches, strengthening the struggling church, and beginning new churches in communities that need the influence of a Bible believing church. Church planting is by no means easy work. We are constantly looking for men and their families to come and join us in this great task. Our goal is to bring a church to a community that is totally self-supporting. This means the church is able to supply and support a pastor, leadership is established, the ministry is strengthened and the number of members and attendees are adequate to sustain the needs of the church. Also, a vision has been instilled to share the gospel with the community at large and the world.

If you or someone you know, of like precious faith, is interested in this type of work please contact us and we will see if there is a good fit. It takes the first step to begin any journey. If you have been moved to action please contact Rob Andreas on his cell at (315)868-1294 and leave a message.



And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 16:18

FROM THE DIRECTOR



**ROB
ANDREAS**

As we pause and think about our lives, we should be able to say without reservation, the Lord has done great things for us. We must make ourselves available for God to use us in His service. At Church Planters to America it is our earnest desire to please and glorify God. We must let the world know the great things He has done. Psalm 126:3 says, "The LORD hath done great things for us; *whereof* we are glad." If our lives are fully devoted and faithful to the Lord, we will be filled with His gladness all the days of our lives.

We long for the Lord to do great and mighty things in our midst. There is a way we all can be involved with God's awesome plan. The Bible says in Jeremiah 33:3, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." It is our privilege to call unto Him and then He in turn answers us and shows us great and mighty things. Prayer is an essential aspect of every child of God.

We at C.P.A. know the necessity of having people pray for the work that we do. Church planting is not an easy task. It takes commitment, hard work and faithfulness to see a church grow and become self-supporting. Your prayer is the key. Thank you!

Portageville Community Baptist Church Plans for the Near Future

Article by Rev. Rob Andreas, Director

We are thrilled with anticipation for new renovations coming this summer and fall. We have been working to make the outside of our church building beautiful for our community and we will do some inside repairs and improvements as well. This fall we are planning to have Grace Mission to The World send a team to help us finish the outside renovations which have been ongoing for a little while. Because of the COVID 19 virus, they had to postpone their mission trip to help us. But as our nation opens up more and more it looks good for September for this work to be done.



**Grace Mission to the World
Exploratory Team**

A couple of months ago, one of our deacons suggested we replace the old, beat up, cracked pews with pew chairs. After several discussions we decided to renovate the main sanctuary. A couple, who wanted to remain anonymous, said they would give \$5,000 if the church could match that amount. The money started flowing in and within no time we had the matching funds. More has come in above and beyond this \$5,000. We will complete the foyer, lay new carpet, paint the walls and remove the old pews and replace with pew chairs which have since been ordered.



Old, Cracked Pews

We praise the Lord for the way he is working in our midst. He is an awesome God and provides for His glorious work.

Winnie Chapman: Home with the Lord

In January of 2020, Bill Chapman passed into eternity after many physical ailments. He was in the hospital when he went home to be with the Lord. Not quite a year had passed and his beautiful wife, Winnie, also entered into glory. She got up in the morning and collapsed onto the floor. This was a shock as she seemed strong and in good health at the time.



**Bill & Winnie Chapman
Two Committed Servants**

Winnie was a wonderful, cheerful soul. She showed kindness to everyone. Winnie was a true encourager with a smile that would brighten everyone's life. She also was a woman of prayer. She believed God answers when His people call. She was a real prayer warrior.

Bill and Winnie are deeply missed by their family and friends. They are missed for their wisdom they exuded as they shared the faith. Heaven is blessed to have these two saints.

God is All About Relationships

Article By Rev. Mark Ruggerio, Associate Director

The Lord has lain upon my heart this past year the need for connections. With the shut downs due to Covid-19, we know that people became more isolated and the need for human interaction came to the forefront of society. Human connections, relationships have always been important to the Church and to our God. We know that Adam and Eve walked with God in the cool of the day in the Garden. People have said for years, and I believe Rev. Buckley was one of them, that “We are in the people business.” The Church can have all the technology and programs it wants, but in the end, it comes down to the people, to connections, to relationships.



**Christmas Caroling
Outside Nursing Home**

allowed for sharing the love of Christ as well as keeping some contacts with people who have so few. In the same light, many of our church members are involved in a pen pal ministry with the residents of a nursing facility in the Bangor area. The letters and cards mean so much to both the residents and individuals of our congregation. Relationships, it is about relationships.

It also struck me that except for a very few individuals, most of the people currently coming to Emmanuel, started attending because of a relationship with someone else. It is that personal contact; it is that investment in the lives of others that makes all the difference. It makes so much sense. The most importance relationship in our lives is with our Savior and we share His love with others through relationships as well.

When thinking about recent ministry happenings at Emmanuel Baptist Church, we have been focused on building or establishing relationships with some individuals who certainly have limited possibilities for interactions with the current state of things. Take for example, back in December, we as a congregation went Christmas Caroling outside Tall Pines Nursing Home (where we used to come and hold services periodically). The Caroling al-



Fellowship after Caroling

Carol Buckley-C.P.A. Office Manager

We certainly are thankful to have Carol Buckley doing the things that need to be done at headquarters. Tom and Carol carried the vision for Church Planters to America 25 years ago. Carol has continued after Tom's death to serve the Lord as she did with Tom. Carol answers the phone, goes to the post office to collect the mail and then processes the receipts. She is diligent in getting the receipts out immediately. She does the banking and ledger for missionary support. She is very efficient. She also does work around the grounds and makes sure things are running well at the headquarter building. She is also a big help in getting the needed supplies for our annual retreat. She helps the ladies in the kitchen and does what needs to be done.

Carol also spends time with some widows and ministers to them on a regular basis. We are so blessed to have her on site to do all the tasks that need to be done. Carol keeps herself very busy.



**Carol Buckley at Her
Desk**



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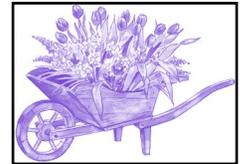
2021 Missionary Pastors' Retreat

We are excited to have our 2021 Missionary Pastors' Retreat this July. Last year, due to the virus pandemic, we were unable to meet for this annual event. The pandemic disrupted many events and postponement or cancellation was the only option. Every American had to put something on hold. The most difficult was not being able to meet for church each Sunday for a few months. This certainly makes us thankful for our freedoms and the ability now to get together.

Each member of C.P.A. is planning to come to headquarters the week of July 19-23 for a time of rest and relaxation. The fellowship we experience that week and the good Bible teaching and preaching benefits each and encourages to keep on keeping on.



Church Planters to America
Headquarters



“The fact is, as believers, it is not about my happiness, my joy, my wellbeing. It is about the glory of God and the kingdom of Christ. The only means of real joy and contentment is to make His glory the supreme objective in my life.”

Elizabeth Elliott



C.P.A. Mission Family

You may have a part in helping the retreat be a blessing to everyone involved. Your gift pays for fuel to travel to the retreat, food that will be enjoyed and housing for all. It has been such a blessing over the years. We have a pink response sheet enclosed in this issue of the BEACON. You can use the response sheet to send your tax deductible gift for this wonderful week. Thank you for your love and support.



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REMINDER

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