



The Day of All Days

If anyone wishes to destroy Christianity as a whole, they only need to destroy the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is on the lynch pin of the resurrection of Jesus that our faith and entire belief structure is able to stand.

As we approach this time of Easter, the attacks against the resurrection have not slacked in almost two thousand years. Instead, the same, worn out, tired arguments are still put forth as “scholarship”. We will not expand on them but will just name them. They are as follows: 1) The Swoon Theory. 2) The Hallucination Theory. 3) The Impersonation Theory. 4) The Spiritual Resurrection Theory. 5) The Theft Theory. 6) Unknown Tomb Theory.

These theories have all been refuted from the Bible, but sadly, many will reject because they do not want to believe. The real question for us as Christians is “what does this mean for us?” O, beloved, understand the resurrection is to the Christian is the day of all days for the Christian! To understand the magnitude of this statement, we must understand what comes to Christians through the resurrection.

First, the Scriptures are fulfilled, giving us absolute confidence in its preservation and inspiration – Luke 24:45-46. Second, we have forgiveness of sins – 1 Corinthians 15:17. Third, the sinner is justified – Romans 4:25; 8:34. Fourth, there is hope for an eternal life – 1 Corinthians 15:12-22. Fifth, our faith is made real – Colossians 2:11-13. Sixth, it proves Jesus was more than just a man. He was God! - Psalm 2:7; Romans 1:4. Seventh, it allows Jesus to sit on the throne of David – Acts 2:30-32. Eighth, Jesus is exalted through His resurrection – Acts 4:10-11;

Philippians 2:9-10.

Ninth, the believer’s resurrection after death is sealed –

Acts 26:23; 1 Corinthians 15:20, 23.

**The Day
continued inside**



A Relationship with Stones

I once heard of a farmer who purchased a farm after sunset. He told his wife that the pastures were full of sheep. Later he visited the farm in daylight and discovered to his horror that they weren't sheep after all but large protruding rocks! Most farmers find rocks a liability and a nuisance. Building contractors will increase their bid to build a house if they suspect there are rocks under the sub soil which will need to be removed.

So, why did God create rocks? He told ancient Job to be in "league with the stones of the field" (Job 5:23). To be in league with would suggest developing a relationship with stones. This might mean spending time with, be in agreement with, listen to, look at, learn from, etc. So, what can we learn from stones?

Stones teach us to remember. Stones have an enduring quality. If you want information to endure, put it in stone. It may not last on paper or books and certainly not in an email. One wrong click and it is gone! God put the Ten Commandments on stone, twice. Visit Mt. Rushmore and you'll find the faces of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Teddy Roosevelt, and Abe Lincoln chiseled in stone, five stories high, and not to be forgotten. We put stone markers on gravesites to help us remember the important details of relatives and friends who have died.

Stones teach us about permanence and steadfastness. Joshua, chapter four has more references to stones than any other chapter in the Bible. And verse 7 concludes by saying, "these stones shall be a memorial forever." Passing over Jordan was to be a lasting memorial of how God was leading His people.

When Jesus predicted the destruction of Jerusalem he said, "there shall not be left one stone upon another." This was so unusual because stones put into a wall stay put. Christians are to remain steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. Isaiah said, "I set my face like a flint" when he was describing the firmness of purpose which the Messiah would have.

Stones teach us to be quiet, to meditate and to think. We hear the Psalmist say, "Be still and know that I am God." Paul told the Philippians to "think on these things." Stones never say anything. They don't seem to do anything. But they are always there. Stones teach us the importance of "presence." Have you ever been to a funeral wake and not known quite what to say? Your presence can speak volumes!

Stones can teach us about the foundations of our faith. "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and pilgrims, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone (Eph. 2:19-20 NKJB). This is the most important stone around which we can build a strong relationship.

Jim Myer, CBC Board Member

THE DAY continued from front

Tenth, He is able to serve as our High Priest – Hebrews 8:1-5. Eleventh, He is the Mediator of the better covenant – Hebrews 8:6. Twelve, we have victory over sin – 1 Corinthians 15:54-55,57. Finally, thirteenth, the resurrection of Jesus is the basis of our very faith – 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.

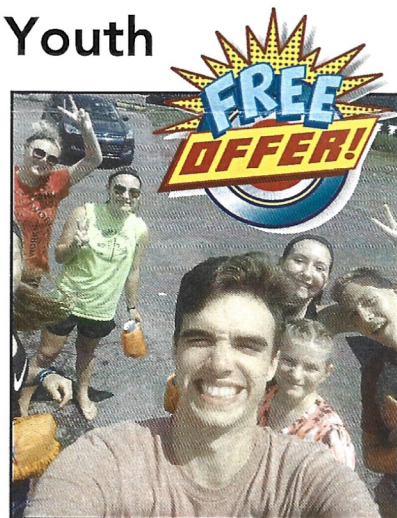
Indeed, we, not just as Brethren, but as Christians, Christ followers, should rejoice! God has given us so much in the resurrection of His Son on this day of victory!

Easter is not just a Sunday. It is not about eggs, bunnies, candies. It is all about Jesus Christ, His glory and majesty, and His amazing gift He has given to us through His resurrection! Therefore, Brethren, let us follow the Psalmist example in Psalm 9:2, "I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High!" (NKJV, 1982).

*In Christ and His Service — Jonathan Martino, Pastor
Calvary Covenant Brethren Church*

2nd Annual Youth Meeting

The second ever, Covenant Brethren Church Annual Youth Meeting needs you! July 21st and 22nd we are seeking youth from across the denomination to engage in building our national youth program. Friday we will come together for worship, fun and planning. Saturday we will meet for our own devotional time then a possible service project. The Fairmont State University has also agreed to open the pool to us after lunch on Friday, so bring your suit if you want to swim.



You may think it is not important if you are there or not. Not true! Each person brings a special perspective and energy that no one can match. So we need each and every one of you. There is no limit per church. All you need to do is go online to <http://covenantbrethren.org> and register. There is no charge! So ... if you are in the 7th through 12th grades we want to see you there.



DON'T FORGET THE NATIONAL YOUTH ONLINE BIBLE STUDY beginning April 15 on Saturday mornings at 9:30 a.m. USA Eastern Standard Time. Go to the youth page on the Covenant Brethren Church web site and register to be a part of the Bible study.



Mission team (front) Sandy Thorne, Matt Bernard, Tonya Hines, Randy Shoemaker, Judy Iser, Randy Cosner, Craig Howard and (back) Dr. Tim Thorne, Josh Thorne, Grover Duling, Dr. Scott Roberts, Cameron Kauffman, Keaton Beachy and Wade Armentrout.

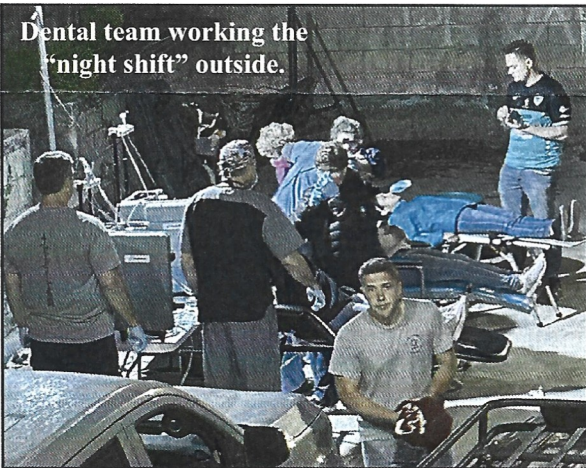
A Blessed Mission Trip

I hardly know where to start to tell you of the blessing the team that just returned from Guatemala experienced during our short term mission trip there. The team included 6 leaders from the Covenant Brethren Church. During the trip we made contact with a church that wants to apply for membership within CBC. Of course this will be a process and nothing is sure until the application is reviewed by the Ministry Committee and the Executive Board, but the very fact that they are asking is exciting and points to the possibility of CBC expanding into Central America.

While there, the team had many ministries. We hosted two game nights with about 130 youth in total, playing games,



grilling double quarter pounders and sharing in a time of worship and devotions led by Randy Shoemaker. Five youth expressed a desire to come to Christ and at least one girl came to be prayed for after struggling with suicidal thoughts. She left that night praising God and in the arms of her youth leaders who promised to continue to offer her support.



Dental team working the "night shift" outside.

During the day our dental team saw a total of about 500 people, doing fillings, extractions, and cleanings. Their equipment had to be hauled in the back of a pickup or on top of an SUV to some of the most remote mountain villages we have ever been to. At the same time the rest of the team passed out 500, 15-pound bags of food and as many Bibles to groups of people, organized by local pastors, to receive them at different locations. One location was extremely remote and required crossing four creeks and a river while traveling down roads that were not much better than creek beds, for almost 5 hours. During each of these stops we installed wood burning cook stoves, 24 in all, that were vented with a flue pipe. That is very important because when people don't have anything



New plancha cookstove and old open fire cooking used every day.

like this they cook in a smoky room over an open fire, breathing in the smoke. Over time the smoke wrecks their kidneys, lungs and livers causing sickness and death even for the children.



Praying over future site of church

At each site the Gospel was shared by different of our CBC preachers through an interpreter. People with health issues were prayed for and God was glorified. On Sunday morning Scott Kinnick and Grover Duling preached at the request of a church, to share what CBC is all about. This came about because the local missionary, Adam Clemons, informed this church, who are looking for a group to connect to, what CBC stood for and arranged a meeting. After the worship service, they were asked to pray for a young woman who is currently pregnant but had lost a previous child. We prayed for pastors, teenagers, church

leaders in a time of amazing prayer, Grover felt led to call for prayer in a special way. We knelt and prayed over and laid hands on the ground that is to be the future site of the church seeking CBC membership. It was a very moving moment for all the CBC leaders present.

Each night the team met for devotions and to review the day. We laughed and cried and praised the Lord. It is impossible in this brief article to share all that happened in those 10 days, but we saw God move, change lives, expand His work and bring joy where there had been despair. All of these things, and the beautiful views we were privileged to see, reminded us that God is AMAZING, and it was a privilege to be a part of what He wanted to do.

Regional Development

While there have been many exciting things to report in regards to the national Covenant Brethren Church, that is not the only place great things have been happening. Yes, we have had some wonderful mission and disaster trips. Yes, we continue to see new churches added including two in Central America. Yes, our partnership with Samaritan's Purse continues to grow as we work through them to support those devastated by the earthquakes in Turkey, and those recovering from hurricanes in Florida, with the message of the Gospel being kept central at every turn. These things and so many more are cause for excitement, but there are things happening on a more local level that add to that excitement.



New regions are forming and developing and those regions already established are working hard with activities and plans. One such step forward is the newly elected executive committee in the newly formed Central Blue Ridge Region with the new leaders pictured above. These leaders are excited to see their region continue to grow and organized. They will be working on developing their subcommittees and developing their regional conference with many opportunities for their churches to be involved in ministry.

In the Central Allegheny Region, the many ministry teams are being filled with people excited to serve Christ in their region. A strong budget has been formed and passed with the majority of the regional churches already having sent in their support. The Humanitarian Relief Team has already completed some projects and is in the process of evaluating others. Work is being done at camps Galilee and Hope. A pulpit exchange Sunday has been planned with visiting pastors bringing some representatives from their local church along with them to build regional bonds between churches. A "calling the call" program has been developed to work at calling new people into full- and part-time ministry and the prayer team has developed a new Facebook page where people and churches from the region can list their prayer needs with promises by the prayer team to pray for those needs. Regional leaders have traveled to local churches to help figure out issues they face and were warmly received. And a significant number of people from the region have participated in foreign and home missions trips. In all this is a very active region that sees nothing ahead but possibilities.

The Southern region has been heavily involved in both foreign and domestic missions along with their regular yearly ministries. One of

their missions projects involves ministers Pablo Cumplido and Lidia Castaneda who brought the Word of God and needed food to the people of Guatemala on their recent mission trip. Their mission committee has put together and distributed 150 backpack kits for the homeless. This has been a much-needed ministry during this winter with the brutal cold temperatures.



We also received word from the third region in Pennsylvania. This region currently has 11 churches within the region and has one waiting for approval from the executive board. This year they will sponsor their second annual regional meeting on October 7th. They are exploring ways to grow and are developing a regional website that will offer hosting and information to the churches of their region. They have developed 5 regional teams to work on growth and development of the region and to offer continual growth for their pastors. Their goal is to be unified around the Word and the love of Christ.

Finally, our congratulations go out to the Covington Community Church in Covington, Washington. This Easter season they will celebrate 85



years as a congregation and also 70 years in their current building. Though they are far removed from us geographically they are in our thoughts and prayers as they move forward serving Christ. If you would like to send them a card of encouragement, send to Covington Community Church, 17455 SE Wax Rd., Covington, WA 98042

As work continues in all of the regions and as new churches come into the Covenant Brethren Church they all ask that you continue to pray for the leadership that they would be found faithful, passionate and seeking to glorify God in all that they do.

Craig Howard, Publications Chair

Annual Meeting and Worship Conference Registration Open

We are excited to share that you can now register for the 2023 Covenant Brethren Church Annual Meeting and Worship Conference, which will be held once again on the campus of Fairmont State University in Fairmont, West Virginia.

The dates for this year's annual meeting are July 20-22. We have added an additional day to the conference, which gives opportunity for an additional keynote speaker and worship services.

Your \$75 registration fee includes 3 meals at the cafeteria. The conference will begin at 2 p.m. on Thursday with three breakout

sessions which include: "Ethics Training" led by Paul Brubaker, "The Dangers of Wokeness" led by George Bowers and John Swonger, and the third session "Navigating the Transition to CBC" led by Craig Alan Myers and Jim Nolt.

CBC Youth will be having a youth conference on the same dates at the same location. All youth 18 years of age and under will be admitted to the youth conference free of charge.

The conference will conclude on Saturday, July 22, around 2 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact the CBC Office at 304-534-8010. **All registration is online through the CBC website, covenantbrethren.org**



2022 conference at FSU



503 Morgantown Ave., Suite 125
Fairmont, WV 26554