



**COVENANT  
BRETHREN  
CHURCH**

# Covenant Journal

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## A New Region - To God Be The Glory

We give thanks and praise as the Lord continues to bless CBC with growth! When there are enough congregations in a geographical area we develop a new region to foster support, friendship, encouragement and mission in that area.

Recently a group of congregations in central Pennsylvania have begun the process of establishing CBC's newest region, the Susquehanna Region, the fifth region in the continental U.S.

Representatives from these churches met March 11 to formally begin the process. Brother Roger Myers of the Brandts congregation was called to serve as chairman of a steering committee to begin putting things in place for the official launch of the new region.

Other representatives serving on the steering committee are Bro. Earl Stovall (Ridge), Bro. Wayne Hall (Shippensburg), Bro. Leon Davis (Ridge), Bro. John Kipp (Three Springs), Bro. Mark Lipsitz (Bermudian), Bro. Larry Dentler (Bermudian & CBC Executive

Board), Sis. Cheryl Gehr (Brandts) and Bro. Tim Kent (Welsh Run).

The approximate geographic boundaries of the new region are from about Route 522 in central Pennsylvania and east, then south to the top of Maryland. The plan is for the new region to be officially launched by vote at the Region Three Annual Meeting and Worship Conference on October 5 at Bermudian Church in East Berlin, Pa.

At that meeting, the constitution and by-laws will be approved and a regional executive board and regional ministry teams elected by the meeting.

*Contributed by  
Brother Larry M. Dentler*



## Anger and Harsh Words

I sat fuming: The words of someone I loved dearly had hurt to the core and broken my heart. Doing the same thing to them, I lashed back with those same hurtful words. I was angry and upset, and yes, bad thoughts were running rampant through my head.

Sometimes, we get angry and upset but it doesn't always mean it is right. I had been wrong to return fire in a volley of harsh words, causing strife on both sides. I knew I had to turn to God's Word – words I had read so many times, like this instance, did not heed the advice. The Holy Spirit led me to these verses:

Ephesians 4: 26-32 tells us:



26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

27 Neither give place to the devil.

28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing, which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

30 And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God,

whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice.

32 And yea be kind to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

What did I learn?

First, I should have God's love in my heart always. Something not of God should not be coming out of my mouth or in my mind (harsh words and bad thoughts- because God knows all about them- (Prov. 15:3)

Second, I should not let the devil manipulate me, because in doing so, I grieved the Holy Spirit.

Third, I need to be careful about my witness. Others are always watching and listening. This includes God! What kind of witness am I being when I lose my temper and act in ways displeasing to God?

Fourth, make things right. Swallow sinful pride and apologize- before the day ends. Ask God to give guidance on how to do this, so there is no more strife.

James 3:17-18 tells us:

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.”

18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

*John Swonger, Executive Board Member*

## Our Ministry Training Program

One of the first tasks the Covenant Brethren Church sought to develop was a Ministerial Training Program to prepare individuals for ordination. A Ministerial Training Committee was appointed by the Executive Board to develop, maintain, and promote such a program. Roger Myers, Musa Mambula, Mark Jones, and Craig Alan Myers were appointed to the Committee. Later, Scott Kinnick was added to bring the perspective of a Regional Elder.

The program is for those with no prior biblical/theological/mission training from an accredited college or ministerial training program; those with some biblical/theological/mission training; and those with a traditional M.Div., Th.M., or D. Min. degree from an accredited seminary or Bible college. Each student's particular program is be tailored by the Ministerial Training Committee to fit their individual need.

The entire course is broken down into eighteen full or half study modules to be completed in about three years. Each study module consists of eight video lectures (30-45 minutes each), and may include a combination of quizzes, reading assignments, and research writing assignments.

The course is designed to be completed in three years. Circumstances may require some students to stretch the schedule out over a longer time. Our goal is to be both flexible and rigorous. The cost is reasonable: a one-time, nonrefundable fee of \$100.00 due at application; and \$75.00 per module. Students are responsible for the cost of all books and resources required for each class. For a complete prospectus of the program, please contact Bro. Roger Myers at rogermyers@pa.net.

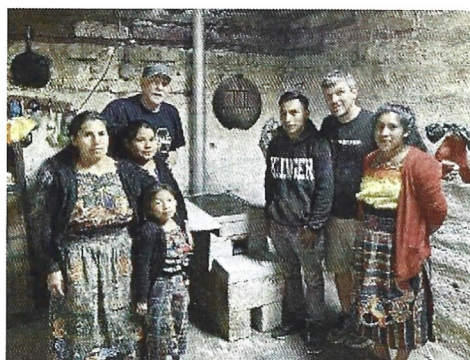
*Craig Alan Myers*

## Guatemala

*Continued from inside*

God allowed the group to install 25 wood burning cook stoves. This will alleviate one of the biggest health hazards among the poor of Guatemala. Most cook over open fires that are unvented in their homes. They breathe the smoke that damages their lungs, liver and kidneys. The stoves that the group installed in Jesus name, vent the smoke to the outside. When the family tries to thank the team for this wonderful blessing they make it clear that this is from Jesus.

The team returned in awe of all God had done in the short 10

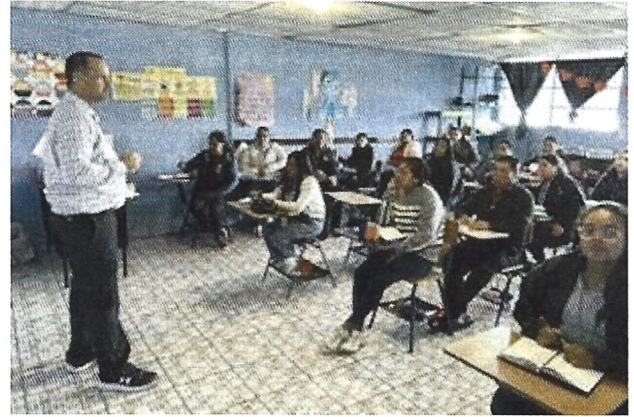


days they were there, but came home giving glory to God. They are grateful they were able to be his missionaries for the duration of the trip and look forward to the next opportunity that He gives them.



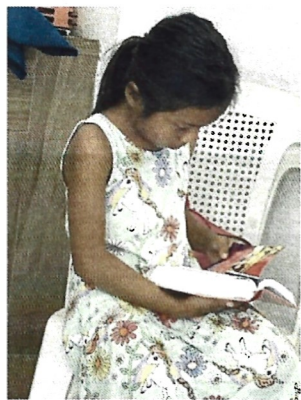
## The Lord Provides and is Present - Guatemala

A team of 17 people, 6 of which are Regional or National leaders in the CBC, recently returned from a short-term mission trip to Guatemala where they saw God do some amazing things, leaving them able to do little except say "Praise the Lord!" Before the trip ever started, God flexed His muscles of provision by providing funds for the trip that far exceeded the normal amount they had planned for. On a usual trip, the group spends around \$17,000 on materials and supplies for the projects they do. That includes buying stoves, food, Bibles, and financial aid to various ministries they work with. This year, before they left, God provided over \$32,000 for these needs. That meant they were able to do much more than they had done in the past.



There is a ministry run by Hillmar, a man that had a vision to help the children of his community. He built a ministry that provides academic, vocational training and a feeding program to children. They were able to increase the support this year to this ministry from \$1,000 to \$3,000. God had a plan.

The team was also able to increase support from \$1,000 to \$3,000 to an orphanage for children with difficulties where many of the children are severely handicapped and in need of special care. At a children's home named CASA, they were able to offer a teacher training seminar to the teachers at the home who, for the most part, have only the Guatemalan apprenticeship training and not scholastic training. This was done by Wade Armentrout and Grover Duling, both long time educators with experience and training in education. The children loved the attention the group gave them and the teachers greatly appreciated the training the group provided.

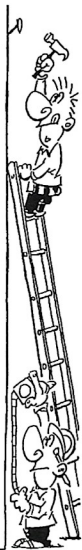


The group also was able to purchase \$2500 worth of children's Bibles in Spanish. They were given to children who came to the dental clinic for the most part, but each Bible given came with Grover securing a promise from the child that they would read it every day.

Another part of the ministry was the dental team. The team saw over 400 patients while there, many of them children. One of the ways they helped comfort the children was to provide them with a stuffed animal they could hold during the procedure and then take home for continued comfort. The team also met with two large youth groups. They fed them double quarter pounders, played games and then shared the gospel with them.

A huge part of the group's mission is to establish contacts with the people of the community for the local churches. One of the ways this is accomplished is for the pastor of the church to invite people of the community to come in for food and Bible distribution. Our contact in Guatemala, Adam Clemmons, set up the program with pastors in small towns and villages, then the pastor invited people of his community to come. Our team purchased the food and Bibles for the distributions then bagged up food in about 20-pound bags and transported it to the church for distribution. The group offered a gospel presentation, and in several settings, offered special prayer for those wanting it. Many responded. Then the food was given out and the pastor was able to follow up with those who were in attendance. It is a great way for the local church to be seen as caring for their community and for the mission team to support local pastors. — **Continued on previous page**

## Let's Build A Church!



One of our newest CBC churches needs our help. The Miracle Fishing Church in Guatemala has a problem: they are out of room. People are left standing around the walls, with no room for Sunday school and Bible study classes. No room for training classes even though we are looking to this church to be our training hub in Guatemala. No room for a special children's program, or any other type of growth. In short, no room.

This is a wonderful church that joined the Covenant Brethren Church almost a year ago. They have been leading the charge to connect other churches to CBC in Guatemala; churches that are looking for a group to connect to that will stand firm on God's word and provide Christ-centered, Bible-focused training for pastors. They had been approached by other groups over the

years who wanted them to join them but it never felt right. When they met with leadership from CBC they said they had found a home of like-minded, Bible-believing Christians, and within a couple of months, they had applied for membership. When some of the leadership were there in February of 2023, Pastor Walter showed them land that the church had purchased, looking toward the future. Covenant leaders, along with the pastor and Adam Clemmons, a missionary there, laid hands on the land asking God to use this place to honor His work there, and to be a launching pad for the Covenant Brethren Church in Guatemala.

Now the church is ready to build on that land but the funds have to be raised. It is the custom in Guatemala to build as you have the money rather than going into debt. The church is doing all it can to set money back to start this project but, perhaps you can help. In the United States, it would cost \$150 or more per square foot to build a church. Because of the type of construction -



## Serving on Manam Island, Papua New Guinea

To my brothers and sisters of the CBC,

My wife and I are going to be visiting Ryan and Shelby Webb, serving for 11 years, to date, on Manam Island. Here are some ministry highlights from 2024:

1. At the beginning, there were five foreign missionaries. However, those missionaries exited the work before even learning the language or clearly delivering the gospel message.
2. Eleven years ago, most spoke Manam Pile. Now, the village speaks Manam Pile AND Tok Pisin (the national trade language). There is a Manam Pile Bible translation, but it is a struggling translation for several reasons. Because of this shift, they can use the Tok Pisin Bibles from Papua New Guinea Bible Society which is a very good translation!
3. They are doing Foundational (chronological) Bible teaching and translation into Manam. In the last five months, they have had their first couple dozen or so converts to Christianity! For the first time in recorded history, there is now a Manam church!

How do the Webbs plan to engage? Just four of six:

1. Evangelism
2. Foundational Bible Teaching
3. Discipleship
4. Equipping the Local Church

Here are the Webbs' present prayer requests:

1. Ongoing translation of the foundational Bible teaching (Lessons 1-4 with over 500 lessons).
2. Evangelical outreaches to the other local villages.
3. For those who have accepted Jesus that they continue to grow.
4. The continuous, Biblically grounded establishment of a local body of believers on Manam.

Therefore, this is such an amazing church plant that is just getting started. My wife and I are excited (and a little anxious) for this trip. We have several goals for our trip:

1. Support the Webbs with prayer, physical and emotional help
2. See and document this ministry to help bring awareness and

support.

3. Aid them in Bible purchase, transportation and distribution (We will be personally helping in distributing 400 Bibles – 200 physical; 200 audio).

Here are two ways to keep up with our trip and to learn more about the Webbs:

1. Our trip is documented on WhatsApp. We will update as much as we can: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/I8UycCrjgBy7YrORe75m1c>
2. Webbs' YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeZkNcOCOVihGayfOED2zIQ>

We are asking for prayer for our safety on the flights down and back, and on the field. This is the first time I, Jonathan, have been out of the country and we

are going to a pretty wild location so we do have some jitters. Please pray for our children that they trust in Jesus, and have peace while we're gone. Please pray for us to be reunited with our personal and church families. Please pray for an open door to the Gospel and that God's Word will go forth in power and truth. Lastly, pray for the continuing advancement of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ among the Manam people. Lord willing, when we return we will have greater presentation.



To God be the Glory!  
*In Christ and His service,  
Jonathan and Ami Martino  
Calvary Covenant Brethren Church*

concrete block - the lower cost of labor, and the fact that they don't need to worry about heat or snow load, the cost of building in Guatemala is around \$65 per square foot.

That means you can support the building of one square foot of this church for only \$65. You can help establish the center of our Guatemala mission center for just \$65. You can help this church have room to seat all of their people during the service for just \$65. You can provide rooms on the second and third floors for the training of children and even future pastors for just \$65. You can pay for one of the 14,000 square feet that this church will contain and you may even be able to walk into this church someday on a short-term mission trip and say, "See this square foot of the church, I paid for that."

The people at the Miracle Fishing Church are good, Jesus-honoring, Godly people who are trying to do ministry as the first Covenant Brethren Church in Guatemala. Will you help support them? If so,

you can make your check out to Covenant Brethren Church and send it c/o Fred Shank, 4955 Thomas Spring Rd., Bridgewater VA 22812 and put "Miracle Fishing Church Building Fund" in the memo.

It is our prayer that one day there will be Covenant Brethren Churches all over Guatemala with this as our center for organization and training. You can help make that a reality. Perhaps your men's or women's group could do a square foot or more. Perhaps your youth group could do a fundraiser to see how many square feet they could pay for. Perhaps your church could add this to a mission's budget or take a special offering, or just make a donation to the effort. When was the last time someone said, you can bless a whole church for \$65? Why not ask God what he would have you do? Why not be blessed by taking the blessing God has given you, and passing it on for His glory?

*Craig Howard, Publications Committee*



# Annual Meeting & Worship Conference

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Covenant Brethren Church,

We are thrilled to announce that registration for our upcoming CBC Annual Meeting and Worship Conference, scheduled for July 18 - 24, at Chiques Church (4045 Sunnyside Road, Manheim, PA 17545), is open! We want to extend a warm invitation to everyone to attend. This conference serves as a gateway for all, offering an invaluable opportunity to witness the progress and future plans of our denomination. It also provides a flexible option for those who can only join us for part of the time.

To accommodate more participants and provide greater flexibility, we have introduced an option for online registration that allows you to select a single day at a reduced rate. This new option ensures that even if you cannot attend the entire conference, you can still participate on the day or days most convenient for you.

**Early registration is encouraged**, along with securing nearby accommodations. This will help ensure that you have a comfortable and stress-free experience. The registration fee for adults is \$75, while youth aged 18 and under attend free of charge. You'll find the registration form and hotel information on our website, <https://covenantbrethren.org/amwc/>

As we gather for worship and fellowship, we kindly invite attendees to bring something soft to sit on, as the church pews at Chiques Church are not padded.

Check out the four online pre-conference insight sessions to be offered on Thursday, July 18, beginning at 2 p.m. Check the CBC website for information. CEUs are offered to ministers for attending.

Prepare to be inspired by powerful speakers delving into Philippians 3:13-14, guiding us to press forward towards the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Beyond personal and church growth, this conference is an opportunity to ensure your voice is heard in the Covenant Brethren Church.

Key discussions will include the 2025 budget, the election of National Executive Board members, and insights into our new regions in development in Puerto Rico and Pennsylvania.

Let's come together to celebrate, learn, and strengthen our bonds as a community committed to God's work. Blessings and looking forward to seeing you soon!

*Annual Meeting Program Planning and Arrangements Committee*