



**COVENANT
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Healthy Organizations Grow and CBC Shows Health

For many of you reading this article you may be saying that another church added to the denomination is something we have heard. We expect it, it isn't news. But think about what the continual adding of churches to the Covenant family says about our denomination.

We are four years old. You would think that by now, the churches that were going to make this move had made it, but that is not the case. We continue to get calls from churches, both nationally and internationally, for information on CBC and what it stands for.

To that end, Grover Duling and Larry Dentler traveled to Martinsburg, Pa., to meet with the folks at the Curryville Church to present them with their Covenant Agreement. Larry shared a message with the congregation on "A Time for Love" taken from John 15:1-17. The message was moving and well received by the church family as they prepared for this new step in the life of their church.

Grover shared with the church about what a blessing it was to welcome them into the CBC family and how we looked forward to seeing what God was bringing to CBC through them. He spoke of

the commitment of a growing number of churches that want to stand firm on God's word as our authority, and to be held accountable to that position.

As board chair, Denny Brumbaugh and former board chair David Odroneic came forward and signed the Covenant Agreement for their church became a new part of Region Three. Deacon Tammy Hinish, worked hard to see this achieved.

A pastor from a nearby church joined the service to receive his credentials of ordination. Ernest Dell serves as the Curryville Church as moderator, but came to become an ordained pastor in CBC. Our count is now 205 credentialed ministers and 182 congregations.

The leaders of the church were then called to come forward and prayer was offered over them seeking God's wisdom and blessing as this church moves forward in its ministry in the Martinsburg area.

God continues to bless the Covenant Brethren Church. The scope of what He is doing in such a short time is hard to fathom. Please don't fail to see the excitement this represents and the hand of God at work in our denomination.

Craig Howard – Publications Committee



Developing Effective Deacons



Recently, a workshop was held at the Oakdale Covenant Brethren Church in the Central Allegheny Region for representatives from three different regions. The focus of the workshop was to help deacons, pastors, and other church leaders expand their understanding of the office and work of deacons.

It was led by Jim Nolt, a member of the National Executive Board and a long-time Deacon at his church. His church, Chiques, hosted our last Annual Meeting and Worship Conference. It is a large church that relies heavily on its deacons to lead and do ministry within the congregation. Jim brought a wealth of effective experience and knowledge on the subject. He shared with the group that it is unwise to think that a paid pastor can do all ministry and be all things to all people within a congregation. He based that understanding on the passage from Acts 6:1-7 that taught how the early Apostles needed help meeting the needs of the early church, so they were able to stay focused on the primary mission of sharing the gospel and making disciples.

Jim reviewed the biblical qualifications for deacons as stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1. He then looked at how deacons were called and what might be considered when looking at the term that a deacon would serve.

When considering the ministry of the deacons, he talked about how the deacons in his church help with the annual visits to the congregation. He admitted that this may be the hardest job that the deacons do, but a very important job, nonetheless. In that visit, they ask three important questions: 1) Are you still in the faith of the Gospel as you declared at your baptism? 2) Are you at peace with those within your church? 3) Are you still willing to work to become more Christ-like through personal devotions, prayer, encouragement of others, and acts of service?

Jim also underscored how important it was for the deacons to get to know the people within the congregation, providing a connection point to leadership, giving them someone to talk to about personal or church concerns. Of course, they are to assist in getting things ready for Love Feast and Communion and may often assist with baptisms.

He shared that one of the responsibilities the deacons had at his church was overseeing a Benevolence Fund. This is a fund established to help people with things like hospital stays and other special financial needs. Along with that, the deacons are called upon to help with hospital visitation, offering a short visit and prayer to let them know the church cares for them and is prayerfully supporting them.

Another powerful area that the deacons at Chiques are called upon to help is in dealing with people facing terminal illness and death. They work to make sure these people do not feel forgotten with

Continued inside

Ewing Church ministries (These may work for your congregation!)

God is so richly blessing our congregation and to Him we give all the Glory, Honor and Praise.

Our Ladies Group is very much involved in community outreach. Our group meets once a month and has a community project for each month. Our Mission Statement for our Ladies Group is - "Honor God, Support Each Other and Serve Our Community".

Here are some of the projects we have undertaken:

Prison Ministries - we collect and assemble "personal care bag" items consisting of personal hygiene items to take to Stand in the Gap ministry to be given to each inmate who is being released from jail. We also participate in a "cookie ministry" of providing dozens of cookies for Bro. Norman Clark's "Building the Church within the Walls" regional prison ministry.

We collect and assemble "Comfort Bags" which are then taken to the local Cancer Center and Hospice Care Center to be given to patients. Items in these are small throw blankets, lotions, gripper socks, Chapstick, activity books, etc.



We collect and assemble goodies for "Snack Baskets" for the elderly shut-ins in our community and "Welcome Baskets" for those who have recently moved into our community.

We host a Community Thanksgiving Meal for our church and community. Those who are not able to attend the meal are delivered a "carryout" lunch.

We are adding another project this year to include the Recovery In Christ Ministry which serves men suffering from addictions. Many of these men come to the center with nothing but the clothes on their backs. The items we donate to this will be the same personal hygiene items we put in the jail release bags. We are trying to get information from the Veterans Center as to how we might serve the veterans who are living in the Veterans Home.

Our church as a whole also is very supportive of the "Trunk or Treat" program and the Christmas "Fantasy of Trees" at Wilderness Road State Park.

These are just a few of the ways our church is trying to reach our community. Also, there have been three persons who have received Christ as their Lord and Savior; two of these were baptized and joined the church. Four persons have joined the church through prior statements of faith and baptism.

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Ewing Covenant Brethren Church
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Excitement Abroad!

VENEZUELA



Grover Duling (national executive board chair), Scott Kinnick (vice chair), and José Calleja (regional elder in Puerto Rico) traveled to Colombia, South America, to the town of Cucuta, to meet with the leaders of 16 churches from Venezuela.

They are independent Churches led by Pastor Humberto Velasco. Pastor Velasco is familiar with the Brethren teachings, so he sought out Pastor Calleja to see if the Covenant Brethren Church may be a Denomination for which his churches could belong. What attracted them to the Brethren, is how everyone is equal in the church and a high importance placed on the Word of God, the Bible.



Scott, Humberto and Grover

They met for pastoral training provided by Pastor Calleja. They stated that this was something they very much appreciated and would benefit from more training. They also met to see if the Covenant Brethren Church was something they wanted to be a part of. Our leaders shared with them what CBC was founded on, our statement of faith, and for what we stood. Brother Grover led a session explaining the statement of faith and what they may expect if they choose to seek membership.

They realized they were meeting with brothers in Christ who shared with humility and listened to their struggles. The reason they had to meet across the border in Colombia was that it was not safe for our people to go to Venezuela. Although there were 16 pastors there, representing their 16 churches, these pastors said they knew of many others near them that were waiting for word of how this meeting would go. They too are wanting to know about the Covenant Brethren Church.

These churches are not asking for financial help. They seek training, structure, and a body that will pray with them in their ministry and challenges. Everyone present shared what a beautiful time of worship this was together and Grover, Scott, and José left with a feeling of excitement and blessing over the possibility of welcoming these fellow Brethren into the denomination.

PANAMA



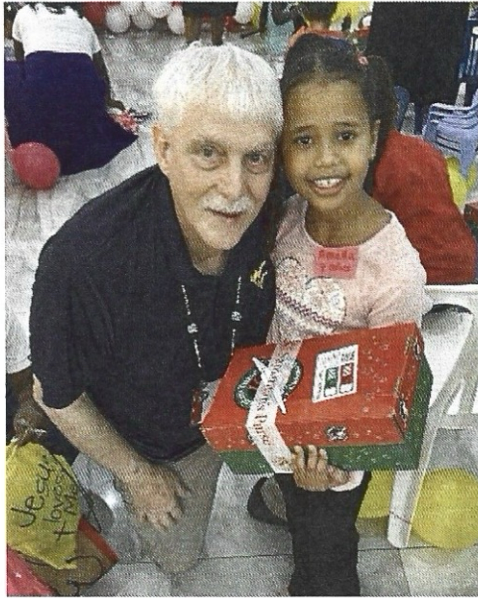
Another area that God is moving through CBC is in Panama. Through the efforts of Libia Gutierrez, a CBC pastor in the Southern region, and Scott Kinnick, a door that was opened by Libia has turned into a very promising future for our denomination to do work in this new region. Libia had been asked to come there to speak at a women's conference in Panama. While there, she told them about Covenant Brethren Church and what God is doing in this new denomination and what it stands for.

They were interested and she went back to report to her Regional Elder, Scott, about what she had learned. A return trip was planned, and this time Scott was able to go with Libia and a translator. They met with Pastors Jorge and Norma Cieto, of the Evangelical Church of a New Beginning. The people there were given more details on what CBC is doing and they got to look at what was already happening in the ministry there. They took a close look at our statement of faith and Brethren doctrine and thought it was good.

An evening worship service was planned with Scott preaching. There were eight churches represented, all with an interest in a future with CBC. The churches there intended this to be an all-night vigil but at some point, they let our team leave as they had made plans to visit another church in Panama City the next day.

Of the churches present, they expressed that they had been praying for the opportunity to join a group that could give them more guidance and training, they believed this was an answer to prayer. One church has already sent in an application to join CBC and there is a lot of interest with tremendous opportunities for ministry in this country. Many of the outlying areas have few church options if any. Many of the areas of the cities are difficult to minister in but provided a ripe field for harvest. God seems to be opening the door for CBC to fill that need to His Glory.

Trip of a Lifetime ... Operation Christmas Child



The Chairman of our National Executive Board, Grover Duling, had the honor and privilege of being invited by Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child, to participate in a shoe box distribution for 200 children in the Dominican Republic. He stated in no uncertain terms that it was one of the highlights of his life. Our partnership with Samaritan's Purse has continued to deepen with groups responding to disaster relief, large groups traveling to multiple locations to pack shoe boxes, and the continuation of financial support to needs around the world. All of these things and more prompted this coveted invitation.

What stood out to Grover was the emphasis on Jesus' message. Before they received the gifts, the children were told all of these gifts were from Jesus. That people back in the United States had packed them, but they were from Jesus. He was on one of four teams. Each team went to four locations. One location his team went to was a training center where children who had already received gifts two weeks earlier were now going through the Greatest Journey discipleship program. He was impressed at how well organized it all was.



Before any gifts were given out, the message of Jesus and salvation was shared with the children.

When it was time to give out the gifts, the children were asked to sit with their heads bowed and eyes closed and put their arms out on their laps. A team member would then come around and lay a package in their arms. They were not allowed to open them until all the children had received a package.



After the gifts were given out, it was a celebration of Jesus' love and goodness to them. The children laughed and played and thanked Jesus for his blessing. They sang, they played, and they praised God for His Love. Could there be a better day in the life of a believer and a servant of God?

They then traveled to where 30 other children were being disciplined in the Greatest Journey program. During this 12-week program, the children play games, sing, and learn what it means to receive Christ as savior. Who He is, what He did, and why He did it. Teachers receive special training to take students through this program, and it has such an impact on their lives that often entire families end up becoming Christians as a result of them taking what they learn home to their families. Even children who don't make it into the program curiously listened through the window to hear about this amazing story.

It is exciting for CBC to be a part of such an amazing ministry, one that is changing the lives of so many people across the world. Maybe you and your church have been a part of this ministry. Grover can testify that you are making an eternal difference in the lives around the world. Glory to God!

Craig Howard – Publications Committee

Deacon's Workshop Continued from back

short visits that offer opportunities for anointing and phone calls. He cautioned that this can be a time where you may encounter a wide range of emotions from the individual who is ill and that person's family. It is a time they need to be pointed back to the promises and the hope that we have in Christ.

Jim reminded everyone there that it is a privilege to serve in this capacity, but that it is not a position for a new believer. He underscored the importance of not inserting yourself as a deacon in a person's life where you are not wanted. He also stressed the importance of being a person who never betrays a person's

confidence, and when addressing a situation, that you should always speak the truth in love.

All in all, it was a very informative and encouraging workshop for all those present. CBC has developed a deacon's manual that can be helpful to any church as they seek to find ways that the deacons in their church can be used to their greatest effect. We are all called to serve Christ in one way or another. We need to equip ourselves with the tools to be the most effective servants we can be to affect the outcome of building disciples and bringing Glory to God.

Craig Howard – Publications Committee

Annual Meeting & Worship Conference

We're excited to welcome individuals and congregations to the **2025 Covenant Brethren Church Annual Meeting & Worship Conference** at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, NC from July 17th to July 19th, 2025!

This event is an opportunity to grow in faith and fellowship and to experience spiritual renewal through Spirit-led worship, engaging sessions, and meaningful connections. At the same time, we will be hosting a **CBC Youth Conference**, offering young people a space for worship, fellowship, and spiritual engagement.

We're planning a fun and exciting event this year in Greensboro, NC!



**Youth
Registration is
FREE!**

Our kids are the life and future of our churches ... bring them!

This year's conference theme is **"Bearing Fruit for Jesus,"** based on John 15:1-17. Our theme verse reminds us of Christ's call to fruitful living: **"This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples."** — John 15:8.

On Thursday evening, July 17th, we are honored to welcome **Bro Will Graham**, Executive Vice President and Evangelist for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Bro Will has shared the Gospel with over one million people across six continents and will inspire us with his powerful message of faith and evangelism.

On Friday evening, July 18th, join us for a time of worship with **Bro Craig Alan Myers**, an ordained minister and pastor at Blue River Covenant Brethren Church, as well as a member of the CBC Executive Board. Bro Craig brings to us decades of ministry experience and a passion for worship and spiritual growth.

Pre-Conference Sessions will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 17th, and are open to all attendees. These sessions provide a valuable opportunity to participate in discussions and prepare for the full conference experience.

**Note: All delegates are required to register online for the conference.*

For more event information, registration, reservations, etc. go to covenantbrethren.org