



**COVENANT
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God's continued blessings for CBC in the last year

As we look back over the months since our 2024 Annual Meeting and Worship Conference in Pennsylvania, we clearly see God's hand at work in the Covenant Brethren Church (CBC). His Spirit continues to lead and direct our denomination in powerful ways, and it is fitting to pause and give thanks for His blessings while also looking forward with anticipation to what He has in store.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

GROWTH ACROSS THE GLOBE

God has blessed CBC with significant growth this past year now totaling 211 congregations across the world and 218 ministers in the US alone. While our churches in the United States continue to stand strong and faithful, much of our expansion has come from abroad. We have added churches in Africa, Venezuela, Spain, Panama and Guatemala, just to mention some. Today, CBC congregations are active in twelve countries spread across four continents. This global

presence reminds us that the mission of Jesus Christ extends beyond borders, and that the Kingdom of God is growing among many nations.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19)

"SISTER TO SISTER" CHURCH CONNECTION

With this increase in international congregations, the CBC National Executive Board has prayerfully developed a new initiative called the "Sister to Sister" Church Connection. This program invites our stateside congregations to join hands with an overseas church, supporting one another in prayer, encouragement, and other forms of partnership. Forty-six overseas congregations have been adopted.

Following our last CBC Executive Board meeting, we now have 66 yet to be included. The goal is not only to strengthen the body of Christ globally, but also to remind us that we are one family in Jesus,

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CBC Spreads the Gospel in Spain



Pastor Sieder Marcano, from Venezuela, had moved to Spain in response to a call from God to pastor a Church in Madrid. Upon discovering the new Covenant Brethren Churches in Venezuela, he contacted Pastor Scott Kinnick, recognizing the need to connect his church with a denomination. This past

February, Pastor Marcano and Pastor Scott began to have numerous conversations about the Church, Theology, and the beliefs of the Covenant Brethren Church.

Pastor Scott preached Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and then was asked to preach at another church on Sunday Morning as Grover had been asked to do the Sunday service for Pastor Marcano's church. All services were guided by the Holy Spirit. Every service saw the church full, and both churches full on Sunday morning. At Pastor Marcano's Church, Hebrews 12:14, after Brother Grover preached, almost every person came to the altar to pray.

The Deacons and many of the congregation asked to be anointed for healing, both physically and spiritually, and for greater service to the King. At the church where Pastor Scott preached on Sunday, the Deacons were prayed for and anointed. Every person was given a blade of wheat as a reminder to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible. Sunday morning at pastor Marcano's church, Grover and Scott were greatly impressed and blessed with the faith and dedication that they experienced in Madrid.



We learned much from the churches in Spain. Most of the Christians working there for the gospel are from Latin America. Many people from Spain do not know Jesus. The lack of Christian churches and knowledge of God is astounding. We were told that when the Christians here tell the people that God loves them, the response is often, "Who is that? Who is God?" Please remember to pray for that nation.

Pastor Marcano's church, Hebrews 12:14, and Pastor Angel's church, Centro Cristiano Juan 14:6, are now Covenant Brethren churches, and others are asking us to come to their churches to speak with their congregations as well. We thank God for all of them. We believe that with our organizational model and the passion that the Christians now working there have, with God's help, we can evangelize many in that nation. If God will allow, Grover and Scott will travel again to Spain.

*By Scott Kinnick and Grover Duling
CBC Executive Board Members*

... CBC in the last year

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united by His Spirit and His mission. If your church has not become part of this initiative, please contact our national office for the details.

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:4-6)

EXPANDING MISSIONS, DISASTER SUPPORT, AND CHURCH PLANTING

Over the past year, God has also enlarged our work in missions, disaster support, and church planting. These areas have become cornerstones of our denominational calling. From responding to urgent needs in times of crisis, including, but not limited to, North Carolina and Texas, to establishing new congregations where the gospel can be proclaimed, CBC is striving to live out the Great Commission both locally and globally.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)

A SPIRIT-FILLED ANNUAL MEETING

The Greensboro Annual Meeting and Worship Conference, held July 17-19, 2025 with 316 registered attendees has been heralded by many as our best yet. The fellowship was rich, the worship was uplifting, and the Spirit of God was powerfully present. We were especially blessed by keynote addresses from Will Graham and Craig Alan Myers, whose messages stirred hearts and strengthened our commitment to Christ's mission. With these great speakers, our evening worship was blessed with additional attendance above those registered for the AMWC. The "One Family" choral group led us in worship that brought a beautiful unity to the gathering, reminding us again of the family bond we share in Christ.

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1)

MOVING FORWARD IN PRAYER AND UNITY

As we continue to build the Kingdom under the leading of God's Spirit, we ask for your ongoing prayers. Pray for the leadership at every level of CBC—local, regional, national, and international. Pray for our mission work, pastors, and congregations. Pray for wisdom, humility, and courage as we face the challenges of our time with the unshakable hope of Jesus Christ.

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." (James 5:16b)

The Covenant Brethren Church is on the move, not by our own strength, but by the Spirit of God who calls us, equips us, and sends us. To Him be the glory as we walk faithfully in His direction.

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Blessings to all — Grover Duling, CBC Board Chair

God's Blessings in Puerto Rico

From June 9th – 16th, God's hand was at work for 34 people from five states as they traveled to work with two of our CBC churches in Puerto Rico. While there, a great deal of work was accomplished, but the real blessing came not in the work itself, but in the connections that were formed within the Covenant Brethren family.

This trip had a different objective than many other trips have had. While many trips addressed the needs of the poor, this was more about being an encouragement to the Church in Puerto Rico. The group was made up of 20 teens and 14 adults, led by Craig Howard and Vicki Huffman.

Jamie Diaz, the pastor and his church were amazing hosts who were a joy to work and worship with. The team broke into two groups, one group stayed in Castaner while the other group traveled about an hour away



to another CBC church in Del Pacto Montesion. The group that stayed got busy painting and landscaping both at the church and the extra housing buildings that the church owns, as well as some work on a home near the church that needed attention. Most of the paint even made it on the buildings.



The second team traveled to a church that needed work done in the church sanctuary. The front stage needed expanded. The current stage would not hold the church instruments and it was a very high step for the people to go up and down. Our team added a front on the platform 6" high, 94" deep and



went from one side to the other on a curve poured in concrete. This was no small task as all the sand, gravel and concrete had to be wheeled in one wheelbarrow at a time. The concrete was mixed on the ground by hand, loaded in wheelbarrows by shovel and carried in. While part of the team worked on that another part worked on installing two new windows and sealing the roof.



By the end of the week, with the work done, it was time for fellowship. Friday night, a large bonfire was built and we shared time singing, sharing testimonies, and roasting hot dogs and marshmallows. What a blessed time! On Saturday, the team drove back up to the church on the mountain for an evangelical service, which was open to the community. One hundred bags of groceries and 100 Bibles were handed out to community members, purchased by the team and given to the church to share God's love with their community. It was a way to spread the love and ministry of the local church to the community they serve, and it was well received.



Finally, we shared in worship with our host church in Castaner. Our group shared in singing, a testimony, a moving drama to the song, "The Goodness of God" in Spanish, and Pastor Craig preached. It was a powerful service, and Father's Day added an extra element to the blessing. There were too many things to list all of the blessings of this trip.

There were fun times of swimming with even Pastor Craig swinging off the rope swing and dropping into the water. There was some shopping and great food prepared by our hosts. It was a trip none of us will forget and look forward to returning in the future.

But ultimately, we pray that the churches we worked with were encouraged, and that God was glorified. That was our aim. It was the opportunity to be the hands and feet, the voices and faces of Jesus. This was all because of Him. Gloria Dios!!

Craig Howard – Publications Committee

Covenant Brethren Church in Panama



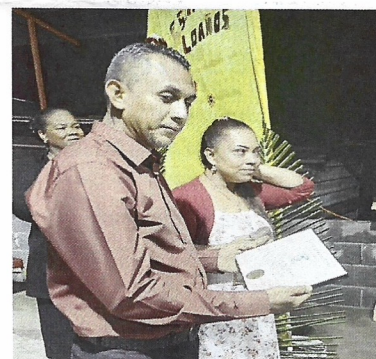
I traveled to Panama last month with three of our Pastors: Libia Gutierrez, Ivis Gutierrez, and Paul Waroe. Pastora Ivis' daughter, Aliana, also came to serve as my translator. We are experiencing a lot of interest in the Covenant Brethren Church in that nation. We are grateful that God is providing a way to minister there.

Paul and I visited churches on Thursday, Friday, Monday, and Tuesday. On Saturday and Sunday, we were joined by the others. Aliana is a great help to me as she has a gift for translating. We were very busy, visiting pastors to discuss our denomination. On Saturday, we met with pastors representing eight churches. Some had previously received our Statement of Faith, so I was there to answer any questions that they may have. We were well received, and the pastors will pray with their congregations about a future with Covenant Brethren. We met at a church that was centrally located, but some had traveled more than five hours to get there.

April, we saw that there was no water at the church. At the Southern Regional Conference, in my report to the delegates, I asked for prayer for the church and that God would provide water for them. We received an anonymous gift to be used for a project to provide water. It was a blessing for me to present the needed funds and let them know that it was God who had moved and made this possible. The Congregation is hard at work on this project. Not only were they able to provide water, but there was also given a little more than was needed, so they are building bathrooms as well.

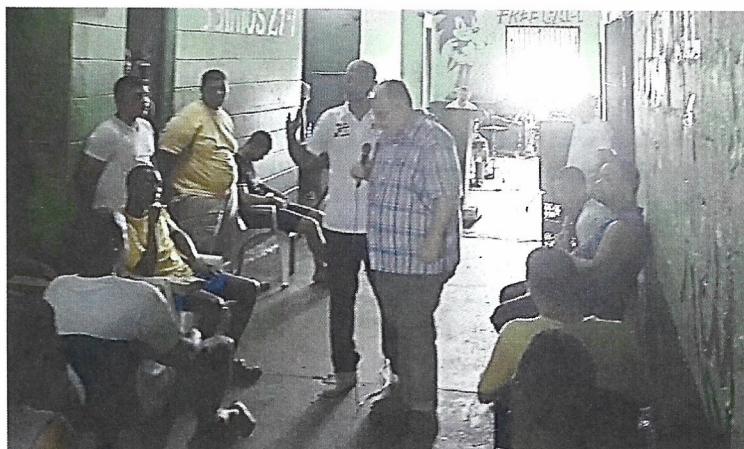


The next day, Sunday, I was to preach at another church that was in another area of Panama, La Chorrera. Some of the pastors that we met on Saturday were there along with others. There is great interest in the Covenant Brethren Church. We had a great time worshiping God and enjoying being together. This church is in a neighborhood and has a powerful ministry to the people in that area.



On Monday, Paul and I traveled to Colon, where we visited a prison. At this point, I did not have a translator, so when I was asked to preach, I asked if anyone there could do this. One of the inmates, Carlos, had lived in North Carolina and had excellent English. So, he interpreted for me as we preached throughout the facility. I was thankful to bring the gospel message to men who have very little hope. The worship and prayer there were powerful. The love of God is tremendous. I thank God for allowing Covenant Brethren Church to be used in His Hands.

Later that evening, we went to our Church in Panama, Iglesia Evangelica Nuevo Comienzo. I was honored to preach and present the congregation with their certificate, officially bringing them into our denomination. This was an evening of celebration and worship. We gave thanks to God for bringing us together and for all that He is doing there. It was nice to see that the congregation had grown, and the church building had been expanded. When we were there last



Another CBC National Youth Conference Filled with Blessings



It grows little by little. This year, 27 youth registered for our National Youth Conference during the Annual Meeting and Worship Conference. It was held in Greensboro, NC,

at the beautiful Koury Convention Center. Our Theme was “Getting to Know God” with video teaching by David Nasser and a challenge from one of the teens present, 16-year-old Sam Cutshall, on the importance of growing in God.

There were wonderful times of worship, some of which we shared with the adult conference. On Thursday night, after a wonderful time of worship music led by One Family, we were challenged by Will Graham, the executive vice president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. He shared a powerful and sometimes comical message, challenging us to continue standing on the Word and being faithful in sharing it in the world. On Friday night, we enjoyed another time of powerful worship and a challenging message by Craig Alan Myers on Bearing Fruit for Jesus.

The group also shared times of dreaming about the future of our

national youth ministries, played games, and presented a drama to the whole conference to the song “The Goodness of God” that had the whole conference on its feet.



The youth then started on their service project that had them packing the vast amount of material brought in by the conference attendees for Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. Over 200 boxes were packed and prepared for shipping.

Thanks to the efforts of Ruth Swonger, Becky Lealand, Leslie Crissman, and Craig Howard, we witnessed a group that laughed, prayed, learned, and served, keeping Christ at the center of it all. We hope to see our numbers double next year, and we already have some great ideas for that meeting. Come and join us!

*Submitted by Craig Howard and
Stafford Fredrick – Publications Committee*