



COVENANT
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LOOK BACK GET READY ... GO!

As we approach the end of this year, we often reflect on thoughts and actions that will help us improve in the coming year.

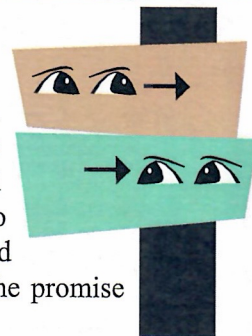
On my dad's side of the family, there was a tradition where many families gathered during the last weeks of the year to celebrate Christmas and prepare to welcome the new year. As far as I can remember, many of their conversations centered on New Year's resolutions, such as setting personal goals, making lifestyle changes, budgeting, remodeling their homes, traveling to new places, adopting low-calorie diets, and many other topics. None of those resolutions addresses actions or goals that would deal with their spiritual lives, as most of their priorities were driven by the wrong motives.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we also strive to improve as we move forward in fulfilling God's purpose in our lives. We

need to place and align our priorities in the right place as we look forward to the new year. Jesus reminds us in the Gospel of Matthew that as followers of Christ, to prioritize by seeking God's kingdom and His righteousness above all else, with the promise that all necessary needs will be provided.

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” Matthew 6:33 (NIV).

There is no doubt that this verse embodies the essence of our Christian faith and serves as the driving force to focus on spiritual matters rather than concentrate on material things, as we strive to model our Savior, Jesus Christ, in the years ahead.



Continued on back

CBC in Spain Update



Some on the congregation in Spain

This past Fall, Pastor Scott Kinnick and Brother Grover Duling visited our new congregations in Madrid, Spain. It had been nearly six months since we brought the two congregations into our denomination, so we wanted to follow up with their progress and offer our encouragement. They were happy to meet with Pastor Sieder Marcano and Pastor Angel Beltre. Pastor Marcano is our CBC Regional Elder in Spain and is handling this responsibility very well.

Pastor Scott preached at one service and Brother Grover at another. Both really felt at home with the people and were blessed to be there again. They helped with organization and made plans to evangelize and plant churches.



As in the past, church members showered them with excellent hospitality. With God's help we hope to see growth in the Covenant Brethren Church in Spain. They met a pastor from

Barcelona who is requesting Covenant Brethren membership and hopefully that will happen soon.

While they were in Spain, they were invited to a church in Barcelona that was celebrating its fifth anniversary. Pastor Scott was asked to preach at that celebration. The next day, they had Pastor Appreciation Day and they asked Brother Grover to preach. Both days were blessings to them, and the church leaders in Barcelona also treated them extremely well, blessing them with great hospitality.

The state of Christianity in Europe is much different than in the United States. There is a great need for the gospel of Christ there. We are thankful to God for calling us to work for His Kingdom in Spain and hopefully in more nations throughout Europe. God Bless Spain and hopefully more nations in Europe.

God Bless,

*Written by Scott Kinnick and Grover Duling
CBC Executive Board Members*

Serving at OCC packing centers



Some of the 80 volunteers who went to OCC processing centers.



For the third year in a row, volunteers made up of youth and adults, traveled to several locations to serve in the Operation Christmas Child processing centers. Around 80

CBC workers made the trip to serve and saw tens of thousands of Christmas shoe boxes processed. These volunteers came from four different regions: Southern Region, Blue Ridge Region, Region Three and Central Allegheny, with many traveling for hours to get there and staying overnight to work two shifts.

For the workers it was a labor of love. One youth said that he wished he could have stayed all week. Another said, "you have a real feeling that you are doing something that matters." Regularly, the work was stopped and updates were given on where the boxes that were being processed right then would go to. Officials from Samaritan's Purse continually thanked the workers and related to them how their efforts would change lives, that they were serving as the hands of Jesus and when the shoe boxes were given out the children would be told that they came from Jesus' love. Then, while work was paused, all workers would be instructed to lay hands on a box and they would pray over them asking God to use them to bring boys and girls to the saving knowledge of Christ.

Many who went expressed the blessing they received to be part of such an enormous ministry. They played their small, but necessary part, of processing the mountain of shoe boxes that come through the Operation Christmas Child centers, thereby moving them onto distribution sites around the world. Every one of the 11.9 million shoe boxes that OCC collects each year has to be opened and inspected for inappropriate or dangerous materials. Then they make sure that the box is full by filling them out of the baskets of filler that are at each station. No box goes into a child's hands until a volunteer inspector makes sure it is safe, appropriate and full.

The Covenant Brethren Church is proud to be a part of such an amazing ministry. Perhaps next time around you will want to go along. You will be blessed if you do.

Craig Howard – Youth Chair, Publications Committee

Covenant Brethren Church 2025 Year in Review By Grover Duling, Executive Board Chair



Meeting with Venezuelan pastors.

As we begin a new year with CBC, it seems fitting to pause and reflect on the great things that God led us through in 2025. WOW, what a banner year for our young denomination! This past year we celebrated our fifth anniversary and many of our CBC congregations had special activities to commemorate this milestone.

With God's help and direction, CBC ended 2025 with 218 congregations in 14 countries on 4 continents. Five of these countries were added in the past year including Panama, Venezuela, Columbia, Spain and Ecuador. God is really growing us and several of these are new church plants.



Delivering OCC shoe boxes in the Dominican Republic

It seems, at the present time, that God is opening many doors for us to grow CBC in other countries. With His leading, Bro. Scott Kinnick, our recent board-appointed CBC Director of International Ministries, and I traveled to South America to work with 12 pastors from Venezuela and Cucuta,

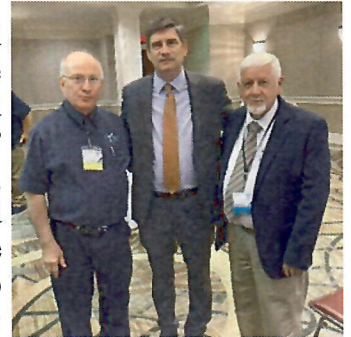
Columbia. Many of their churches have joined CBC. We also traveled to Spain to visit two CBC churches in Madrid and work with another church in Barcelona. We have been invited back to Spain to talk with additional churches near Madrid. Bro. Scott made some trips to Panama and with the churches that have become CBC there, God is working to open doors for more congregations to join the CBC family. Pastor Humberto, our CBC Regional Elder for South America, has



Rebuilt CBC church building in Africa after it was destroyed

worked this past year with churches in Cucuta, Columbia and Ecuador. Both of these are now CBC churches and God continues to grow us!

Our 2025 Annual Meeting and Worship Conference was a huge success. With the theme centered around "Bearing Fruit for Jesus" and many excellent speakers, including Bros. Will Graham and Craig Alan Myers for keynote addresses at evening worship services, most everyone agreed it was the best conference yet! Your Executive Board set aside special time to meet with Bro.



Will Graham with Craig Alan Myers and Leon Alt

Graham. During this time of sharing, it became even more evident that our partnership with Samaritan's Purse is most beneficial for CBC and SP as we work together to build the Kingdom and provide for the needs of God's people.



Youth packing shoe boxes at Annual Youth Conference

Part of conference work is to elect Executive Board members to replace those who have completed their terms. The delegate body elected Bros. Jon Prater and Jose' Acevedo as new Board members to replace Bros Stafford Frederick and Craig Alan Myers. Bros. Stafford and Craig Alan

have been excellent Board members and we sincerely appreciate all the hard work they have contributed during these formative years of CBC.



Dedicating the construction site of a new CBC church building in Guatemala

Year in Review continued

Some Board actions from this past year include but are not limited to the following:

A. Approval of a “Pastor’s Ethics Paper” that will be sent to all pastors to be added to their Minister’s Manuals.

B. Approval of renewal of credentials for pastors. This was accomplished working in conjunction with the Ministerial Leadership Committee and the Regional Ministerial Leadership Teams.

C. As in the past, at each monthly meeting, your Board considered new churches and/or ministers for approval to become part of the CBC family.

D. Because new members are being added, your Executive Board has instituted a Board retreat prior to each fall face-to-face Board meeting. This will be used to educate new members on Board processes and to review the CBC Statement of Faith and Bylaws with all Board members.

There is so much more that I could write regarding the great things God has led us to accomplish in 2025. For more information on the “happenings of CBC” be sure to sign up on the website, if you haven’t already, for the emails we send out and check out the “events and news” section either on our website (covenantbrethren.org) or on our Facebook page.



One of the many services where churches were given their new Covenant Agreement to join CBC

Looking forward to 2026, please pray for your CBC leaders and for the CBC churches around the world as several are trying to survive in war-torn countries. Pray also for our churches and their pastors in this country, for our nation itself, and for God to lead us to seek His mind and will in all that we do.

Youth mission trip to Puerto Rico



Our 2026 Annual Meeting and Worship Conference is just around the corner. It will be held at the Pasquerilla Conference Center July 16-18 in Johnstown, Pa. This year’s theme will be, “Go ... Make ... Baptize” and the agenda will hopefully include Pastor Lewis Ponga Umbe from Africa as one of our keynote speakers! More information will be coming soon.

May the God of all creation grant each of you prosperity, peace, and rich spiritual blessings in the year ahead.

Grover Duling, Executive Board Chair

Matthew 28:18-20 “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” KJV

Membership Study Program Available

There are materials available that have been developed to help your people understand the Covenant Brethren Church and what it stands for.

It is a membership study program that includes both an instructor’s manual and a student manual.

This program can be used as a curriculum for Sunday School, Bible study, or new member classes. If this is something your church would be interested in, contact Sister

Christy Cosner at the national office by calling 304-534-8010 or by email at contactcbc@covenantbrethren.org to find out how to receive this important study.

Your people should know what their church stands for and this is a great way to give them that information.



Two more mission trips are becoming available to both youth and adults of CBC. There will be a group going back to Puerto Rico in 2026. There is also a group working with Samaritan's Purse on a home mission, disaster response trip. You must be at least 14 to attend this trip and there are only 8 slots available. If you are interested in either of these trips you can contact our national office or email craig.howard@covenantbrethren.org and you will be routed to the proper leadership. More details will be sent out as they become available.



Look back continued from front

As we begin setting our resolutions for the next year, “Look back, which really means that we should reflect on what we have experienced, let us ponder on these teaching moments. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the areas where we need to grow, which will help us draw closer to God. The book of the apostle James, chapter 4, verse 8, calls us to draw near, to move closer to Him, creating a reaction from God as he moves closer to us. “Come near to God, and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded” James 4:8 (NIV).

Brothers, sisters, and friends, as we welcome the new year 2026, let’s consider it a race built on prayer by intentionally

forming habits of diving into God’s Scripture, which is His infallible Word. Precisely, the apostle Paul teaches us to focus on the finish line, where the heavenly prize awaits us, when he says in Philippians, “I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us” Phil. 3:14 (NIV).

“GO,” as we race, do not be afraid, keep racing no matter the challenges that we may encounter, do not let anything or anyone distract your sight from the ultimate goal, which is the supreme heavenly prize, “La Corona de la vida” [The Crown of Life]

José J. Acevedo - CBC Executive Board