The Journey

The Brownsville Church of God Quarterly Newsletter January - March 2023

A Message from the Pastor

Pastor Victor Johnson

LET US SEE… WHAT JESUS SEES

During the past year, God has been at work in our midst. Brownsville Church of God has truly been blessed. We have witnessed souls coming to Christ, water baptisms, growth in Christian maturity and powerful witness and connections to our communities. Throughout the year we continued the journey of building a healthy multiethnic church.

The question and challenge before us today is where do we go from here in 2023? Let us prayerfully remain true to our purpose:

Worshipping God, Loving all people and making disciples for Jesus Christ.

John 4:35 (KJV), *Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.*

Luke 10:2 (NKJV), *And he said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."*

First, we must believe that "The harvest is plentiful." Remember that (33%) of people in America are unchurched. This represents over a 125 million people. We have an opportunity; we have an audience. Each of us must be prayerful for the lost and hurting, willing to sacrifice time to witness Christ to them and disciple them.

Second, we must believe that the "Laborers Are Few" for the harvest. Having said that, we must be willing to sacrifice ourselves to be used of God within our calling, spiritual gifting and talents to reach people for Christ. If we move forward in the work that God has given us, God will bless the work of our hands.

Please continue to be prayerful. Prayer is the power that moves the hand of God to send laborers into the harvest. Jesus says, "Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." Human Strength can't get the job done; Human Wisdom, alone can't get the job done; Human selection without guidance of the Holy Spirit cannot get the job done. We must be God reliant, Christ centered, and God will send the laborers and His work will be done.

Lastingly, join me in the fulfillment of our Church slogan for 2023, **Surrendering all to Jesus in 2023**. I am fully confident that if we all depend on God, the power of the Holy Spirit and continuously surrender ourselves to the Lordship of Jesus, glorifying God, we will see the awesome power of God continue to change lives in His Church.

Ephesians 3:20 (NLT), *20 Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.*

God is able to do more than we can ask or think.

Let us continue the journey of building a "Healthy Multi-ethnic Church: One where people of diverse ethnicities and backgrounds are welcomed, coming together, walking together, working together, loving each other, and serving God together.

In Christ,
Pastor Vic

Brownsville Church of God
6390 Lincoln Way East
Fayetteville, PA 17222
717-352-9535
www.brownsvillecog.com
Churches of God General Conference

SUNDAY
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.
Nursery provided for all the above.

Worship Service - Online
6:00 p.m. (Facebook)

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study - Online (Facebook)7:00 PM

THURSDAY
Bible Study - On-site
7:00 PM

Inside Out: Brownsville Church of God Continues to Grow A Thriving Service Ministry

Bro. Bob Hewitt

Brownsville Church of God (BCOG) seeks to grow and develop as a healthy Christian multiethnic church. As we do this, we dare not forget that it all begins with the development of a healthy Christian Church, one that is corner stoned by the demonstration of Christ's love. As we (a local church) answer God's call to serve one another in love, the acts of service may vary but the overarching principle remains true. John 13:35 states *"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (NIV).* In order for the mission of BCOG to bear fruit, develop and flourish, we must first be able to love our congregational brothers and sisters. We must do this before we can make claims to love those outside of our congregation, or to even love God.

Two Examples of BCOG Seeking to Live Out John 13:35

First and foremost, the persons in the following examples experienced meaning and purpose as they were given the opportunity to share their gifts. All who participated experienced God's deep generosity and grace and were glad to give of themselves and their physical and personal resources (i.e., strength, time and vehicles).

In early November 2022, BCOG's ministry of loving service and obedience, was demonstrated as members and friends of BCOG joined together with three students from Shippensburg University to offer their assistance to Sister Kelly Peyton and Family as they made an emergency relocation from Waynesboro, PA to Shippensburg, PA.

On December 31, 2022, another group of BCOG's "service warriors", shared their gifts of physical labor and generous offerings of personal time and transportation resources. This crew was led by Head Deacon Brian McNew and the Deacons of the church in helping Lisa Johnson to relocate to her new home in Chambersburg, PA.

From Left to Right: Jaimen Bryant, Ryan Gaither, Zac Davis, DeChanune Jackson, Bob Hewitt, Keith Hutton, Robert Lee, Chris Fyock, (Not Shown: Nicole Hewitt)

From Left to Right: Chad Sites, Charles Henderson, Ryan Gaither, CJ Henderson, Brian McNew, Gerald Tasker, Bob Hewitt, James Boyd, Kevin Thomas, Lisa Johnson, (not shown: Audrey Sites)

Dedication

Dedicated on November 20, 2022 were Eleanor Rose (February 5, 2019) and Kaitlyn Marie (June 6, 2022). Pictured with their parents, Earl and Kristen Hockenberry.

Vacation Bible School 2023

July 24-28th

BCOG Youth News

Prioritizing Young People & Families at BCOG: LOOK AT THE WAYS!

Sis. Nicole Hewitt

YEM MISSION: Through discipleship, worship, service, outreach, evangelism and relationship building, this ministry exists to engage kids and families of all ethnicities and economic backgrounds in the BCOG mission. You might wonder what's being done to make that mission real, relevant and active…here's a little bit of that story from this past fall (in short)!

Worship: Building a worship experience in which youth are equipped and released to use their gifts and talents to minister, including music, skits, plays, dance, spoken word and more!

In December, kids of all ages participated in ministering the message of Christmas through the play "A Different Kind of King". The BCOG Praise and Worship Team partnered with us.

Service: The goal is to provide kids and families strategic opportunities to live out Jesus' call to serve within and beyond the walls of BCOG.

In November, kids and families partnered with the Deacon team (and a whole host of adult volunteers!) to carry out the "Helping Hands Fall Service Project" to assist church members with fall yard work.

Outreach and Evangelism: Reaching outside the walls of BCOG with kids and families to minister the love of Jesus and fulfill the Gospel commission in surrounding neighborhoods and communities.

In December kids and families, along with the BCOG Praise & Worship team, went Christmas caroling in a neighborhood close to BCOG. Kids and adults worked together to tell the Gospel message of Christmas!

Continued on next page...

BCOG Youth News

...Continued..Prioritizing Young People

Discipleship: Our heart is for kids (and parents) to come into a relationship with Christ and grow to know the Word of God as living and true and build their lives upon it.

In December our entire YEM team participated in a 3-hour equipping session to prepare for the transition into teaching the New Testament in 2023.

Relationship-building: Kids & families building deep-level relationships with those like them and those who are DIFFERENT than them: to magnify the glory, power and ways of Christ to the world!

In November, Harvest Fest provided families & kids the chance to play games, eat together and *connect in fun ways!*

Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF)

From Dan Russell, Director, Franklin/Fulton Counties

Building with Snowflakes

A snowflake is so tiny that it is hard to imagine that you could build anything from one. Kids, though, know that if you roll them into a ball and stack them up, they can make a life-size snowman. The secret is putting a lot together.

The work of CEF is the same. Children and clubs may seem small; but roll them together and it can change eternity. As you can see in the pictures, God is changing the hearts of boys and girls in our county with the Gospel.

Thank you for your part. Your prayers, gifts, time, and support may feel like just one little flake. However, in the hands of God, they stack up. Currently, every school has a Good News Club that meets weekly in a local church.

God bless in the New Year,
Dr Dan

Please note: Registration forms for Good News Club for kindergarten through second grade are available on the table in the lobby. Parents, please see Sister Katherine for more information or one of the other volunteers: Brother James Boyd, Sisters Judy Camel, Pam Carey, Dee Jenkins, Cindy Lopez or Donna Rae Washington.

There are also sheets for daily prayer for CEF and the Good News Clubs on the table with the Prayer Bowl.

Faith & Popcorn

January 8th
4 PM

February 12th
4 PM

March 12th
4 PM

All Tickets are $7.00
Tickets include Admission and Popcorn!

***Movies are subject to change

Waynesboro Theatre | 75 W. Main St. Waynesboro, PA 17268 | Phone: 717-387-5335 | Email: waynesborotheatreonmain@gmail.com

Series sponsored by The Connection!

The Connection is a community-based ministry designed to connect women with each other and God. We offer the opportunity to make new friends, deepen relationships and encourage one another as we walk with the Lord together – without being divided by the walls of our separate churches. There are women in our community that so desperately need support from and fellowship with other women. We offer fun social activities, Bible studies, small groups, and mentoring program. We have many opportunities to invite other women who may not yet have a relationship with the Lord. We are excited for the opportunity to partner with women from various churches in the area to build a stronger sisterhood for the cause of Christ!

Our Faith and Popcorn Series host movies every month, on the second Sunday @ 4pm.

14 Candy Heart Love Notes to You from God

(Source: Anne Peterson, Crosswalk.com Contributing Writer)

Over the years, candy conversation hearts remain a favorite to give and receive. So, what if you imagined God's words to you on them? I'm sure they would be Valentines you would hold onto forever. Sweet to your very soul.

In honor of this year's February 14th, here are 14 candy hearts from God to you, his beloved:

1. **MY LOVE:** God told us in John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this…" And then he mentioned His Son. Truly, the love that God shows you is real. And in John 15:9, Jesus reminds you: *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.*

2. **MY POEM:** In Ephesians 2:10, God calls us His workmanship and in Greek, that word translated means poetry. We are God's poem, and he knows us by heart.

3. **SOUL MATE:** In Matthew 22:37, Jesus tells us to love the Lord God with all our heart, all our soul, and with all our mind. The world tells us our spouses are our soul mates...but God truly is.

4. **LEAN ON:** Bill Withers wrote the song, *Lean on Me*, talking about how we can lean on our brother and he'll give us a hand. The song tells us we all need someone to lean on. But if you're going to lean on anyone with your whole heart, it should be on the Almighty One. The all-powerful, everlasting God. And he's so big, that even when you lean with your whole weight, he doesn't budge.

5. **MY CHILD:** God is your heavenly Father. Not only does he love you with a pure love, but he loves you enough to discipline you as it talks about in Proverbs 3:12 (*because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in*). Those that are loved are disciplined.

6. **MY DELIGHT:** Proverbs 12:22 tells us that God delights in those whose walk is blameless. And your walks are blameless when you trust in the sacrifice Jesus made for you. God finds you delightful.

7. **COME:** God invites you to come to him when you are weak and heavy-laden in Matthew 11:28 (*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest*). And when you come to him...what do you get in return? Rest, pure rest.

8. **FEAR NOT:** Our heavenly Father knows we are sometimes afraid, and yet, he whispers to us that we don't have to fear. It's been said that God mentions fear over 365 times in His Word. Enough times for you to read one verse for each day of the year.

9. **4EVER LOVE:** God tells you in Jeremiah 31:3 that he has loved you with an everlasting love. You are forever loved. It's a love that will never end.

10. **MY LAMB:** God calls his people the sheep of his pasture in Psalm 100:3. You are his little lamb that the Great Shepherd gently leads through valleys and into green pastures, all the way home.

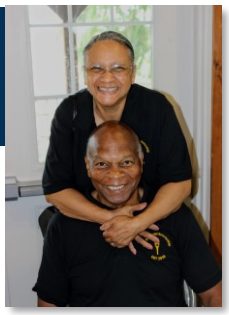
11. **U R MINE:** Isaiah 43:1 tells you that God has summoned you by name, and then he tells you, "You are mine." To reflect on those verses gives me chills. To be summoned by name, by the very one who hung the stars in place. Wow.

12. **NVR 4GOT:** Isaiah 49:5 tells us that a nursing mother may forget her child, but that God will never forget you.

13. **CHOSEN:** 1 Peter 2:9 reminds you that you are special to God: *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.* And every day you can look for God's fingerprints on your life that continually remind you how special you are.

14. **BLESS YOU:** Ephesians 1:3 assures you that you are blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ.

Final thoughts



Pastor Victor & Sis. Katherine Johnson

Our annual Pre-Thanksgiving Concert was held on Saturday, November 19; we thank the Lord for the Worship Team going forward in song.

We were again blessed to hold a Christmas Eve Service this year with a play by the children and youth; songs by the Worship Team and touching videos. The play was also held again at service on Christmas Day.

On Sunday, January 8, Cohorts from the eighth Multiethnic Conversation Class were presented with Certificates of Completion.

Recognition Sunday was held on January 15, 2023; those teams recognized were the Welcoming Team and the Worship Team.

Pastor Vic and the BCOG Worship Team participated in the Martin Luther King Celebration at the Gettysburg College on Monday, January 16, 2023.

BCOG Worship Team

A Gathering Event at Brownsville Church of God will be held on Saturday, February 4th - sign-up sheet in the church lobby.

Article submission deadline for the next issue of *The Journey* is March 22nd. Any articles, questions, etc. may be sent to Priscilla Shirley at priscillashirley@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Men's Breakfast Meeting/ Bible Study
Saturday, February 11 & March 11
Brownsville Church of God
10:00 AM

Gathering Event
Saturday, February 4
Brownsville Church of God

Layout/Design by Priscilla Shirley

Our Vision: We envision a community of faith where: People are coming to Christ, finding love, acceptance, forgiveness, and experiencing Christian growth.

Brownsville Church of God

WE EXIST for the purpose of Worshipping God, Loving all people, making disciples for Christ.