



North Missionary Churches Seek To Expand

Three northern Missionary churches met in a combined service last month at Bliss to begin preliminary planning for expansion. Meeting were people of the Bliss Missionary Church, Lighthouse Missionary Church of East Jordan, and Lake Life Church of Alanson, along with Michigan Regional Director Jim Keller.

Rev. Keller gave an overview of church planting, saying that the Missionary Church has planted more churches than it has closed.

He noted that churches must have an "outreach vision" of making disciples, or the church will gradually decrease in size.

Rev. Jim Jordan, pastor at Lighthouse Missionary Church, and head of the North Network of Missionary churches, spoke about the vision of the north churches to help each other reach others.

Rev. Daniel Vandock, Pastor at Lake Life Church, explained how the church started a little more than a year ago, and continues to meet at the Alanson school. Lake Life began with 4-5 families interested in knowing Jesus better and grew when they shared that news with their friends.

Rev. Vandock emphasized that the prime objective of his ministry and that of Lake Life Church is to introduce people to Jesus. Having them join the church is secondary to helping them with their spiritual lives.

Because the people of Lake Life Church want to reach out to others, they plan to see if there are people in the Pellston area who have an interest in learning about Jesus.

Rev. Keller closed the service by summarizing how the Bliss people, or anyone, can be involved in making disciples.

He encouraged people to make friends, create relationships, and have spiritual conversations. He said to pray specifically for five people, keep in contact with them, and have spiritual conversations as God allows.

Finally, Rev. Keller noted that discipleship principles promote growth for any church.

Pasty Supper Coming

The WMMC Pasty Supper is planned for Saturday, October 6 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. On the menu are pasties, cole slaw, dessert and beverage. Suggested donations for fresh or frozen pasties is \$5.00 or \$8.00 per meal.

All proceeds will go towards the WMMC mission projects, including local projects and support for overseas missionaries.

The group will be making pasties the week prior to the supper. Call to order fresh or frozen pasties to go, at 231-537-4683 or 231-537-4986.

Be sure to sign up for the door prize.

From Pastor Rob

If We Build It

“Build it and they will come!” some say this is a quote from the Movie “Field of Dreams” and there are some that say it is an interpretation of God telling Noah to build the ark and when the time is right the animals will come to you. (See Genesis 6:20). Whether it was from the Bible or not the idea has been around for years that if we build something attractive, something interesting people will flock to it and want to be part of it.

This philosophy has been used by the church with the intent of growing the kingdom of God. Yet if we are honest this idea seems to have lost its power. Yes, years ago when a church was built people would come from miles around to attend, to be part of it, but something happened over the years.

Businesses have used this philosophy for years to promote what they are selling. As a matter of fact in the business world the build it mentality has grown to the point that stores are constantly building and rebuilding their stores to keep people coming through the doors. The build it and they will come mentality has one major downfall. If you don't keep rebuilding newer and exciting facilities stores end up dying out. A face lift here and new displays there, a new brand promoted keeps businesses in the front line of exciting and new. But if they don't stay ahead of the curve they will be the next K-Mart chain, closing their doors and never reopening again.

Now back to the church. Jesus assured us that the church will NEVER go away. Yet we know that many churches close their doors each year. The trend and statistics tell us that between 6,000 and 10,000 churches will close their doors in one year! That is a staggering number. So

we can see that the idea of build it and they will come is only a temporary reality. Yes people do attend places when it is new, when it is fresh and exciting. Yet these things fade over time and it will be exhausting to keep trying to make it new and exciting over and over again and expect it not to burn us out. So what do we do?

We need to think of the idea of build it and they will come from a different angle. What if, what if we were to look at building the church from an ancient concept, a concept that is gaining a growing following again today and it truly makes sense! In Matthew 28 we know that Jesus instructed His followers to “Go and make disciples of all nations” notice it doesn't say to go and build churches in all nations.

So here is a truth from scripture that we need to get back to, building disciples! If we build disciples the church will happen. You see building disciples is much different than building churches. If you build a disciple a church naturally forms, yet if you build a church disciples do not naturally come to be.

This is what we see in scripture and it makes logical sense. Make disciples and the church will grow in size and strength, make a church and you make church goers but not necessarily disciples. The goal that we need to think about is to learn how to make disciples. Disciples are people who live in the image of Christ and teach others how to live as Christ did as well as teach what Jesus did for each of us on the cross. In the next few months we will be looking at ways to make disciples, how to live it, be an example as well as transfer that to others. For now keep praying for God to reveal to you who he desires you to disciple. It is not an option to make disciples, it is a command from Christ and when we Build Disciples, Jesus will build the Church!

Pastor Rob

October 2018		<i>Bliss Missionary Church</i>				
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 7:15 - Youth	4	5	6 Pasty Supper 5-8 pm
10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service	8	9	10 7:15 - Youth	11	12	13
14 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service	15	16 WMIMC Business Meeting 10:30	17	18 Melissa Mallory	19 Suanne Shidler	20
21 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service	22 Randall Abney	23 Jill Byard	24 7:15 - Youth	25	26 Kathy Alexander	27
28 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Music Night Curtis/Kathy Alexander	29 Travis Meyer	30	31 7:15 - Youth Halloween			

A New Hope For A ‘Doubting Thomas’

By Jerry Donnelly

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I usually don't like to discuss religion. I have always been a little bit of a "Doubting Thomas." I know I am not alone in this by stating that I was guilted into trying to be a good little boy. Fear of not doing the right thing and not having eternal salvation was a great motivator. It worked. Just ask anyone in my family. They will attest I was a good little boy, but for all the wrong reasons. I often silently questioned that something was just not right with this approach. I never understood the approach to guilt a child into believing the concept of God or Christianity. It isn't that I don't believe in God, because it is impossible to look around at how and who this planet was created without asking yourself "How was everything on earth created?" It boggles the mind. Even Stephen Hawking had his doubts.

I divulge this to my readers, because of a phenomenon I have been witnessing at a church my son and his family attend. It seems that every church is trying to attract new and younger members. It is disheartening to me to hear the tales of woe from churchgoers who question the younger families for not attending church. You see this everywhere in most every church. Where are the young people? Research shows the falling off of membership is happening and they identify five possible reasons. 1) The church is irrelevant; its leaders are hypocritical and the leaders themselves

have experienced too much moral failure. 2) God is missing in the church. 3) Legitimate doubt is prohibited. 4) They are not learning about God. 5) They are not finding community.

When 1,300 young churchgoers, ages 15 to 29, were asked what they want in a church the answer was authenticity and connection. In a word: warmth. The words they used to describe the parishes and churches they chose were welcoming, accepting, belonging, authentic, hospitable, and caring. Ironically, churches in their efforts to attract young people may be

working against the warmth factor by offering a shotgun approach to religious programming. Scatter some programs around and maybe

something will stick. Busyness doesn't equal warmth.

Around 10 years ago, my son and daughter-in-law asked my wife and me to go to church with them. They had been searching for a church. They found it and wanted my wife and me to attend. I was amazed by this service. When I walked in a little late, as usual, for me, a live band was playing Journey's "Can't Stop Believing." I said to myself this is very unusual for a church. Then the minister came out dressed in jeans and a long-sleeved denim shirt not tucked in. He thanked the band and went into his announcements. I looked around and started thinking what is this place? The next thing I noticed and said to myself

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“Boy are there ever a lot of young people in this service”. I am not talking about 20 or so young families. I am talking well over 200 young couples. Their children were already in what we would call Sunday School rooms. They though were graded ages—infants through grade 5. The service continued, and would you believe it - the service was all about believing. They used a combination of skits, bible verses,

songs, video interviews of people on the street being asked questions, and I, the skeptic, was actually jealous. If only, if only. If only I would have had this chance

which my son’s family is experiencing. I am just a first-time observer and I was impressed. The good thing is the many services I have attended since that introductory event have been similar to the first one. I have actually found hope for young people and God. I have also bore witness that God, bible study, family connections, community involvement, interdenominational as well as international projects, and a plethora of local help through community outreach programs are prevalent and evident.

This type of church, unless I am very, very wrong is going to be the new wave for churches. The “dyed in the wool” critics of this type of experience should at least experience it for themselves. You can find these types of churches in your neighborhood. They are near

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where you live. Checkout my young family’s websites (Just google Kaleo Kids). Take it from a person who has, at varying times, been called an agnostic (worse yet an atheist) but is continually on a quest to learn more about religion itself.

What motivated this column was when it was strongly suggested by Grandma to attend my granddaughter’s

participation in a K-5th grade performance. It used to be called K-Rock. Now it is called Kaleo Kids. I am glad I traveled some 300 miles (one way) for this one-hour

performance of approximately 200 Kaleo kids. It gave this observer an enhanced appreciation of what a church and families should be about. The bottom line is they involve kids and families in everything they do. If you want to check them out just Google kensington.org. These kids learn about God and love it. Thank God for that! They have given this “doubting Thomas” hope for the future of this world and for me too. Thank God for that! As usual, this is just one man’s opinion.

Jerry Donnelly is a Petoskey native who was an educator downstate. His column appears monthly. Donnelly can be contacted via email at jerry.wheepapa.donnelly@gmail.com.

Making Pasties For The Pasty Supper



Pauline mixes, weighs out and forms the dough in balls.

Eleanor mixes the vegetables and meat.



Karen measures the filling and puts it on the rolled out dough.

Barbara crimps the pasty edges.



The pasties are out of the oven and on cooling racks.



Pasties Available

These frozen pasties are now available. Call 231-537-4683 or 231-537-4986 to order them.

The group will be making more pasties on Friday, October 5 in preparation for the Pasty Supper on Saturday, October 6.