

The Latest – Locked Down, but not Locked Out:

We are currently meeting via tele-conference with several other congregations being represented on the call. Northeast Philadelphia Church of Christ; 8th and Norris; Lower Bucks; Bridgeton, NJ; Overbrook Park and Media are meeting by phone on Sunday mornings until the re-opening of our buildings for worship. It has been very strange holding services this way, yet all the brethren are contributing and growing closer as sister congregations. At first the singing was challenging and background noise on the line a bit discouraging; but all learned after a few weeks how to handle the conference. We now have an organized clear worship call. One of things I recognized early when the pandemic hit was that older members would not have the tech tools or savvy to do even a live FB service, so we opted to use a conference call service...all can make a phone call. It works and we are together...from a distance, but together in voice. Faithful Christians continue to worship no matter what; you can take the *building away* from the Christian, but you cannot take Christ out of our hearts (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19-20); Amen church!

Making Good Use of Time During the Lockdown:

Media has an interesting building. For those who have seen pics of our auditorium, you will now notice a huge change...NO MORE CURTAINS! An old Women's Club building built in 1927 with a stage for performing is being transformed. I have been remodeling...moving the baptistery from *behind* the curtains to the front of the stage.



When Penn Delco Schools closed in the middle of March I found myself with time I had not had since I started driving school bus again in 2014. This particular project is part of a larger plan to make the building even more usable. The space on the stage has been wasted for many years. With the change we are now able to utilize that space.

My son Jordan and I (moved) the wall (in one piece) forward from behind the curtains to the front. Interesting bit of engineering. After detaching, very carefully we walked it forward, having tilted it backward with legs attached to support. With the space behind I am now building a library/study to the left to add to a small office space. We also refinished the wood



floor in the office...

Not pro...but at least it looks much better! Can't wait to see the study and the office set up! After these particular projects are complete, we will finish up with a front room remodel next to our lobby which will serve as a mission point for families, or singles with children. A living room style place to meet and greet those that visit. Pray for completion of all these projects!

Waterview Church of Christ Campaign Support:

To say we are grateful is an immense understatement! The Waterview brethren are a huge, HUGE encouragement! The team that came up from Texas did a wonderful job in making the summer campaign of 2019 a beautiful success. We had about 15 souls visit for our Sunday campaign event; all of which had not visited for a worship service before. Along with the Waterview brethren, we had Spanish brethren come from Bridgeton N.J. Brother Derrick Miller (an NEIE student) who works with the Bridgeton brethren invited them to come and help with the service. We sung songs in English, then in Spanish, and used a translator for the lessons. We built momentum that lasted into 2020!

Still Working on Contacts:

The Campaign we held last year was a tremendous effort to create new contacts and cause others to visit who we've been reaching out to. "The Rest of the Story" theme focused on what folks had not heard concerning Christ. The truth about Jesus, Who He is and what He expects from us was the emphasis. Some of the contacts have faded since that time, but the encouragement others gained and a continuous sharing of the message with a few we had already been reaching out to had led to more studies. Please keep Stephanie Yuannes (one who did attend) and Marc Thompson in your prayers. I had started a Thursday night men's study with Nicholas Beoethy inviting souls I was reaching out to. Marc started attending those studies.



We continued into the new year and near the end of January he said he was thinking about being baptized. By February he decided it was time. Please keep him in prayer, he continues to struggle with bible doctrine. False teaching is not automatically removed from the mind (even after) one is taught thoroughly. Marc is grappling with the fact that family members who are close to him have not obeyed the gospel. He started to recoil from his new found faith and obedience to Christ. He is trying to mesh a “faith only” position with the truth. Family (religious) ties that pull at the heart strings are tough to break for the cause of Christ (Matthew 10:32-38). Pray that he will stand for the Christ of Scripture and lead his family to the truth.

The Theme for 2020:

To help keep momentum going from 2019 we are focused on Acts 2:42-45-47; 20:20. An obvious theme that jumps out comes from Acts 20:20.



The public and private presentation of the Word should be a driving force in every congregation, in every year (Matt. 28:18-20), but a realization that occurred after reading material on church growth hit me between the eyes. Evangelism without shaping the spiritual body is not healthy. It's not something I had never thought about before (cf. Eph. 4:16), but the presentation of the material (Unlimited Growth by Mike Mazzalongo) made me think much deeper about where we've been and where we need to be headed. The ministries mentioned in (Acts 2:42-45) need to be intact and running (at the same time, **all the time**) so we can grow in a uniform fashion, this has been missing from our work. There has not been enough consistency. This is the road we were motoring on until the pandemic hit! We had just finished a Sunday morning book study: *The Domino Effect* by brother Tim Lewis, an excellent study that exemplifies how the right choices lead us in right living and eventually eternal life, and or how wrong choices make for a miserable life here and in eternity. When we return to our gathering we will pick up with our theme and prayerfully the Lord will give numerical and spiritual increase.

NEIE Students and the Future:

The Northeast Institute of Evangelism currently has five ladies in class. This is the fourth time we are going through the two-year program. We're currently in the second quarter— Introduction to Evangelism & Missions. Unfortunately, the annual Back to the Bible Campaign that was scheduled for June has been postponed due to the pandemic. Several of the students were planning on going; now they'll have to wait for the next out-of-state opportunity.



From left front: Angelina Lee (Overbrook Park CofC, Philly); Angela Perna (Media CofC); second row: Kathy Skolsky; Kim Faircloth (Media); Marlen Bundridge; Sandra Martin (Clayton, N.J.)

NEIE Launched Monday Evening Textual Classes:

Another goal that I wanted to accomplish with NEIE was to make available on-line classes for students who wanted to further their Bible knowledge beyond the ten courses already offered. One such offering began in January using the ZOOM App. It has become very popular (especially now) to use this app as a virtual classroom and or to simply meet with others face-to-face. The first class we offered is the Book of Acts. It started with Brother Roger Shepherd (Amridge University) teaching the first few classes, then we had to switch up. Brother Roger became ill for a time and was going through a battery of tests. Brother Edwin Jones (Formally ETSPM, now SEIBS) graciously took over the study. Edwin is preaching and teaching for the Lehman Avenue Church of Christ in Bowling Green, KY. Edwin is a great teacher and I am extremely grateful that he is helping with the school! Our current students: Milton Warrell (my brother-in-law, Lower Bucks CofC); Derrick Miller (Bridgeton CofC, N.J.); Eileen Beoethy (Media CofC); Marlene Bundridge (Clayton CofC, N.J.). The first three are formal students; the last is auditing the class. There will be more fine-tuning with a definitive curriculum being offered as we build this effort.

Plans for the Future:

Prayerfully I will be able to go back to my first love fulltime. All things evangelism is what I went to school for back in 2002. Pulpit work has a distinct place within the body of Christ and good preachers are always needed, but as many already know it's never been my first love. Working to reach the lost and then prayerfully training them to reach others, with what they just learned, has always been first on my list. The Waterview Church of Christ and all of our current supporters *will be* receiving the latest fund-raising package. Waterview will be working with Media to help replace me in the pulpit so there can be a more concentrated effort with NEIE and missionary work. The goals for our future work are listed in the package and prayerfully will be encouraging to our current supporters. The fact remains in our brotherhood—we're in desperate need of soul-winners! We are losing many congregations yearly! The time has long since passed that we gain new members from Gospel meetings and Sunday morning preaching. Training others to be soul winners is not a popular work, correct me if I'm wrong? The Northeast needs a school like ours, and it needs someone to administrate without trying to do five jobs at once. Please consider the package brethren and consider those that may be able to help.

On the Home Front:

Nick graduated from Sun Valley High School last June! We are still working with him to land a job. He was discouraged early on after he graduated. His hopes were set on being hired with Chic Filet, a brand new location just opened around the corner from us. Unfortunately, after being interviewed several times, he did not get the call. We are currently looking into the Herr's Snack's Company. They have a distribution center in Glen Mills, PA., not too far from our

location in Brookhaven. Please keep Nick in your prayers...Aspies kids have their challenges. We were actually getting closer to him being hired...then Covid 19!

In March Jordan was laid-off from Esschem (a chemical company he's been working for the last several years). He was the first with four more in the last couple of months. He actually wants to go back to school and was accepted at Wilmington University! He is going to study "Cyber Security" with their on-line program. Please keep Jordan in your prayers!

Cheryl is a champ! She has been doing all things motherly, taking care of (literally) all three of these DiGiorgio guys. A handful! LOL! She knows where our heads are when we leave them! Amen Jesus!

Well, as I'm writing...my left ankle has been killing me! I tripped when stepping down onto a ladder at the building working on the remodel. Ouch! All my weight on my left foot barely reaching the step...sprain. Please pray I'm able to get my weight back on that foot, and soon. I have a lot more to finish!

A Final Note:

Nothing is new under the sun...troubles come and troubles go...life on this earth is but for a season...Christ's work must still go on and will never cease until He returns. So...let us do all that we can, to share the message with as many as we can...where ever we can...with the gifts our Magnificent Father has blessed us with. To God be the glory!

BE STEADFAST my dear brethren, your labor is not in vain (1 Cor. 15:58)!

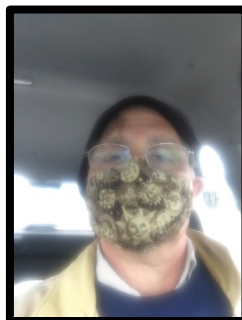
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS AND CONTINUOUS PRAYERS... YOUR CARDS... YOUR LOVE! WE LOVE YOU AND ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO OUR GOD FOR YOU!

Brother Russell, Cheryl, Jordan and Nicholas DiGiorgio

Text me (quickest to get a hold of me) – (610) 306-2946 or write: (russneie@icloud.com)

www.media.churchofchrist.info

www.wedoevangelism.com



Thank You Sharon for the Masks!