



New Life Bible Chapel

Villa Park, Illinois

Twenty-one miles due West from the City of Chicago, Illinois lies the village of Villa Park. New Life Bible Chapel (NLBC) is located on a quiet residential avenue in this suburb of the greater Chicago metropolitan area.

NLBC is an assembly consisting mostly of believers from India. It was born on May 15, 2005, with a vision to minister across generations, to draw people from across India who speak different languages, and to attract local people from the community of 'any tribe, tongue, people, and nation.' Hence the services are in English.



The assembly at NLBC first gathered in the Banquet Hall of a hotel in Elmhurst, Illinois. In September 2018, the assembly relocated to Villa Park where it shared space with the Christian Church of Villa Park (CCVP). In November 2020, CCVP expressed a desire to sell their property. The property was offered to NLBC at a price significantly below market value, and the assembly entered into a contract to purchase the facility.

NLBC families, their friends, and several assemblies helped with the funds needed to make the purchase. Thankfully, Stewards Foundation approved a loan to NLBC to complete the purchase of the property. The sale was finalized on May 27, 2021, and a special dedication service held on

November 20, 2021.

The provision of this property is proof that our God is a prayer-answering God. It came as an answer to the prayers of the Lord's people for more than 15 years. How amazing are the ways and works of God!

"The prayer and desire of NLBC is that this Assembly will be the gate to heaven for many, and the place where Christ manifests Himself through the Holy Spirit to do amazing things."

In addition to the weekly Prayer Meetings on Wednesday and Friday, Bible Study on Saturday, Sunday School, Worship and Remembrance of the Lord on Sunday, NLBC has been involved in several outreach ministries over the years. Included in these ministries are an annual Vacation Bible School, work in Little India on Devon Avenue, work on Michigan Avenue Water Tower Park, and work among Hispanics. Until the pandemic, NLBC had monthly meetings at the Elmhurst Extended Care Home, and the famed Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago.

NLBC is also a participating assembly in the Chicago Missionary Study class, now known as Chicago Missions Encounter Meeting. Several assemblies in Chicago come together for a monthly meeting to encourage the missionaries presenting at the meeting, and to pray for missionaries around the world.

At the NLBC dedication service, the word of God was shared from Genesis 28. Jacob's statement

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I CORINTHIANS 4:2, "IT IS REQUIRED"

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in verse 17 was emphasized, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." The dedication prayer appealed to God that whenever His people gathered at NLBC heaven would open, and the presence of the Lord would fill the place, and that angels may ascend and descend to do the will of God.

The prayer and desire of NLBC is that this Assembly will be the gate to heaven for many, and the place where Christ manifests Himself through the Holy Spirit to do amazing things.

Prayers are requested for the spiritual and numerical growth of the people at NLBC.

Commended Workers

Matt and Wendy Phelan

I met Wendy Goodwin in 1974 while we were students at Emmaus Bible College in Oak Park, Illinois. We were married in 1977, and settled in my hometown of Nashville Tennessee. We became involved with at Nashville Gospel Chapel (NGC), the assembly I attended growing up, where we served the Lord in various capacities while working to support ourselves.

During that time, Horton Haven Christian Camp (HHCC), located an hour south of Nashville, was in the early stages of development. Over the next 18 years we served in youth ministry and taught Sunday School at the chapel while volunteering at the camp. Wendy served as camp Registrar, we directed a week of camp each summer, we helped with weekend retreats and with the Mid-South Bible Conference.

By the spring of 1995, the camp had grown to the point where the Board of Directors felt the need to bring in someone to serve in a full-time administrative capacity. Having gained management experience over the years, I informed the Board Chairman of my interest in this position and indicated that we would pray about serving in that capacity.

After prayerful consideration, and speaking with our elders and the HHCC board, we were commended to the Lord's work at the camp and the assembly in June 1995. I resigned my position at work and started as the camp Executive Director; Wendy continued as Registrar and later as Guest Services Coordinator.

In 1999, we sold our house in Nashville and built a house adjacent to the camp property. We continued in fellowship at the assembly where I serve as an elder and speak on a regular basis, and Wendy plays the piano and teaches Sunday School. The Lord has blended a multi-national group of

believers into assembly fellowship at NGC.

Over the years the Lord has blessed in tremendous ways in the assembly and at the camp. Wendy has especially enjoyed directing the Girl's Discipleship Program consisting of a week of discipleship camp each summer, and then meeting with the young ladies for teaching, prayer, and fellowship throughout the school year. Each summer 10 weeks of camp are conducted where boys and girls come to understand their need of salvation, and place their trust in the Lord.



We have watched as young people who grew up in the assembly and attended camp, serve on the high school staff, then the college staff, and eventually as adult staff serving at a week of camp.

The purpose of Horton Haven Christian Camp is "to create a camp environment where people can come to know and follow Jesus Christ". Thankfully, the camp ministry not only gives an opportunity to present the gospel to those who do not know the Lord, but offers many areas in which a person can serve the Lord.

During the past two years it has been especially encouraging to see how the Lord has provided through difficult times. Each year there are a large number of guest group retreats, in addition to the roughly 1,000 campers attending summer camp sessions. Our own sponsored retreats are also conducted for children, teens, ladies, couples, father and son canoe weekend, as well as family camp.

In 2020, all of our guest groups scheduled for March - August postponed or canceled, and about half of those scheduled for the remainder of the year postponed their planned retreats. In May 2020, we had to cancel summer camp after a positive Covid case occurred during a week of staff training.

From our perspective, things looked bleak, but the Lord had a plan. He was faithful to provide everything needed,

IN STEWARDS THAT A MAN BE FOUND FAITHFUL”

and we were even able to make some needed improvements to the facility. This past summer we were once again able to conduct camps, and many of our guest groups returned. We are currently planning for summer camp 2022, and trust that things will be more normal again this summer.

The assembly also experienced challenges during the pandemic, but we are thankful that the Lord has faithfully continued to bless His work at NGC.

“Over the years the Lord has blessed in tremendous ways in the assembly and at the camp.”

We have three grown children. Our oldest son Justin and his wife Claire live nearby on farm in Culleoka, Tennessee with their children, Della and John. Justin owns a web design business. Our daughter Holly and her husband Darin live in Jupiter, Florida, with their daughter Willow. They own several exercise franchises. Our youngest son Nathan and his wife Gisel live in Dubuque Iowa with daughters Mia and Evie. Nathan works at Emmaus Bible College.

Please pray for us as we continue to seek the Lord as we serve Him.

News you Can Use

The 100% Pass-Thru Fund

At the beginning of this year, checks totaling \$223,724 were sent to 154 commending assemblies for 252 families, couples and singles in the Health Care Assistance Program (HCAP). Of this amount, \$2,725 was given by various parties through the 100% Pass-Thru Fund to supplement the HCAP gift.

Assisting commended workers with healthcare goes back to the days when Stewards Foundation owned or controlled the operation of six hospitals. From 1953 to sale of the hospitals in 1982, many of the Lord’s servants were provided with reduced cost or free health care.

Following the sale of the hospitals, Stewards Foundation continued this ministry by paying for commended workers medical expenses. By the mid-1990’s, medical costs had risen so dramatically that the Board of Trustees realized a change was necessary. At the end of 1994, the Board made the decision to convert this ministry into an annual gift program that continues to this day.

In 2010, the Board of Trustees initiated a way for others to contribute to the support of those in HCAP. The 100% Pass-Thru Fund was instituted to provide assemblies and individuals the opportunity to give to those in HCAP. One-hundred percent of the funds sent to Stewards Foundation for this purpose are used to bolster the annual HCAP gift.

From 1989 through 2022, almost \$26,000,000 has been given by Stewards Foundation to commended workers for their medical expenses, then subsequently through the annual HCAP gift. From 2010 through 2022, \$29,590 has been given by assemblies and individuals through the 100% Pass-Thru Fund to supplement the annual HCAP gift.

Feel free to contact us if you would like more information about the 100% Pass-Thru Fund.

Psalm 126:3, "The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad"

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