

Fall Newsletter 2022

Atlanta Christian Brethren Assembly Atlanta, Georgia

In July 1996, Atlanta, Georgia hosted the Olympic Games in Centennial Park, and the Games sparked a surge in the interest of Americans in what Georgia had to offer. Atlanta became attractive to families across the country, specifically among the Malayalee community. One by one, Kerala Christian families began moving to Georgia in hopes of raising their children in a faith-respecting and faithabiding environment.

In 2000, a Brethren family moved to Georgia from the north. Realizing that there were no Brethren assemblies in the area, they began gathering frequently for prayer and fellowship with two other families who had moved to the area several years earlier. As other believers joined the blossoming group, the families began to break bread together on Sundays in the apartments and homes of one another for one year. Thus, the Atlanta Christian Brethren Assembly (ACBA) was born.



It became increasingly difficult for the assembly to continue functioning in the current accommodations as the membership grew. The need for a permanent center for the assembly became apparent. After much prayer, ACBA was able to purchase property with a home on it that could accommodate up to 75 individuals. The new lot was a blessing, but due to the

continued growth, ACBA once again began praying and searching for a larger venue.

From the connections and camaraderie formed in the local Christian community, Mt. Vernon Baptist Church offered to sell a property of theirs to ACBA. This ready-touse property had the building and parking accommodations ACBA had been searching for. Located at 1969 Old Norcross Road, Lawrenceville, Georgia, this property has been home to ACBA since 2002.

"May His name be glorified in it all."

From the initial days of worship in an apartment in Norcross, to the years spent at the Lawrenceville facility, ACBA's primary goal has been to make the Gospel known. From food and tract distribution in the heart of Atlanta, to monthly visits to the elderly memory care rehabilitation center, to mission trips, ACBA has remained passionate about regularly participating in outreach and has been blessed with the talented, God-fearing youth necessary to carry this out.

ACBA is thankful to see their own members committed to His Glory. The assembly is home to gifted teachers and bright thinkers. Among those in fellowship are many who have completed Biblical courses and religious studies. A few are published authors, and many are commended speakers.

ACBA is especially proud of one by the name of Chris Samuel. At a young age, Chris decided to obey the Lord's call in taking up full-time mission work in the tribal villages of Andhra Pradesh, India. For years, he

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I CORINTHIANS 4:2, "IT IS REQUIRED

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worked to bring the Gospel and meet the daily needs of communities there. Chris ultimately gave it all for the community he loved as he was called to his eternal home at age 24. While ACBA and the people of Andhra Pradesh miss him dearly, nothing brings his home assembly greater joy than to see the villages he helped still flourishing in the truth to this day.

When the assembly began in 2000, the youth was comprised of just 4 children and 2 teenagers. In 2022, the youth is numbered at over 50. In the beginning, there were only 13 individuals; now the assembly is home to over 130. AC-BA has been blessed with the brotherly love found only in the Scriptures.

With the number in fellowship steadily increasing, the current facility has once again become too small. With much prayer and financial assistance from Stewards Foundation, ACBA was able to purchase a five-acre lot with tremendous meeting space potential. The loan process was much easier than it would have been with another financial institution.

Given the current state of the world and the economy, the assembly is now waiting for God's guidance to construct a new building on this lot to accommodate all the activities of the assembly. Pray with us for the furtherance of this endeavor, and for the assembly to be equipped in the work of the Lord.

Atlanta Christian Brethren Assembly welcomes you to visit and fellowship with us as the Lord permits. May His name be glorified through it all. God bless.

Commended Worker

Anne Denny

Ya'ah'tee,

Hello my name is Anne Denny. I am born of Duane and Billie Denny from Wichita, Kansas and I am born for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ who redeemed me by His blood. The Navajo people always introduce themselves by their clan. It shows connection and kinship. The Christian family is also like that; if you are born again, then we are related and obliged to help each other. Oh, and we can't get married if we have the same clans on the mother's side, so you need to find that out pretty quickly.

Westside Bible Chapel in Wichita, Kansas commended me to the work on the Navajo Indian Reservation in the northeast corner of Arizona at Immanuel Mission School. I am currently the principal at our preK-8th grade school but have been a teacher of all the grades from 2nd to 12th grade since I arrived here in 1990. The Lord prepared me for this job over the years with a college degree in music education and years of working with youth at Kansas Bible Camp where I am still involved in girl camps during the summer. It also helps that many of the current students' parents are my former students, so we already have a long-standing relationship.



I do some teaching of our 54 students but primarily, besides my administrative duties, I am involved with parents, and supporting the teachers and staff. We sing every day, and I am delighted to lead young children in worship of our Savior with songs and hymns and spiritual songs.

With the recent death of John Bloom, our former principal and elder, I am finding myself in the role of making final decisions on many problems that come my way. Pray with me as I seek the Lord for wisdom and grace in this transition time. I want to be submissive to the Lord's leading as I seek to be a peacemaker in our community.

One of our prayers over the years was to see Navajo believers grow in their faith and work alongside us in the work here at Immanuel Mission. I praise the Lord that Immanuel Mission has 27 staff members and 13 (almost half!) are Navajo. Immanuel Navajo Chapel has recognized 10 elders and deacons in the past year and six of those are Navajo.

JR Hosteen (my former student and now our guitar teacher) is in the regular rotation as a speaker and we are hearing more Navajo men speaking up in the breaking of bread meeting each week. We continue to post our church service

IN STEWARDS THAT A MAN BE FOUND FAITHFUL"

on Facebook live but on many Sunday mornings nearly every seat is taken.

This has been possible because of faithful Christians around the country who help support the work here. None of our Navajo workers are paid above minimum wage but join us in trusting the Lord for most of their income. There are very few job opportunities locally and many have had to leave the reservation to find work - a two-hour drive one way. We are so thankful that the Lord has provided funds to keep these young Christians here in the community, serving the Lord at church, at school and in the community.

Other ministries here at Immanuel Mission are:

- EPIC a weekly youth group for families
- Open Shop every week for community help on vehicles
- Friday sewing group that makes things for the elderly in the community and local nursing homes.

All of these include time in the Word of God as a part of the Christian fellowship and service activities.

"We are so thankful that the Lord has provided funds to keep these young Christians here in the community serving the Lord"

Praise the Lord that He allows us to be a part of what He is doing around the whole world through the ministry of prayer. I also praise the Lord for Stewards Foundation that provides for my annual dental visits and bus driver physicals. The Lord has convicted me recently to be a good steward of my physical body just as I try to responsibly use other resources He has given. I repeat John's ending to the Word of God, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen."

News You Can Use

2022 Annual Members Meeting

Stewards Foundation held its Annual Members Meeting on September 23rd at Wauwatosa Bible Chapel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The assembly at Wauwatosa graciously offered to host this year's annual meeting. The Christians there not only warmly welcomed all who attended, but provided everything needed for a successful meeting followed by a wonderful lunch. It was especially encouraging to observe the display of a servant's heart on the part of so many.

Approximately 35 individuals from several assemblies attended this year's meeting. Among those in attendance were 3 Delegates from member assemblies in Bangor, Michigan and Chicago, Illinois. Following the Annual Members Meeting, presentations were made by Doug Rice for Stewards Foundation, Glen Deligdisch for Believers Stewardship Services and Phil Parsons for Christian Missions in Many Lands. These presentations provided historical background on each organization and information on the services they currently offer. A question-and-answer session was conducted after the presentations followed by lunch and fellowship.

One of the primary reasons for the Annual Members Meeting is the election of Trustees to the Board of Stewards Foundation. Trustees are elected to alternating three-year terms so that no more than three Trustees are up for reelection in any year. Three Trustees were re-elected at this year's meeting, Mr. Scott Leach, Mr. Ricardo Benitez and Mr. Robert Rankin. In addition, a new Trustee was elected, Mr. Sherman Fray. Scott was first elected to the Board in September 2013; Ricardo began his board tenure in September 2020 completing the unexpired term of Don Salter; Robert began serving on the Board in 2021 fulfilling the unexpired term of Tom Harrington. The biographies of all Trustees are available on our website, www.stewardsfoundation.org.

Another important activity at this meeting is reporting on the corporation's financial condition. At the end of each fiscal year, the firm of Cantrell Pearson & Associates, PLLC audits Stewards Foundation's books and financial procedures to produce a financial report based on GAAP – Generally Accepted Accounting Principals. The Board reviews the Auditor's Financial Report for final approval before it is distributed to the member assemblies as a part of Stewards Foundation's commitment to accountability.

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Stewards Foundation's fiscal year runs from July 1st through June 30th, so the report at this year's meeting covered July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. The 2022 fiscal year overview included the following:

Loans:

New Loans: \$882,141

Loan Portfolio: 42 Total Loans with a balance of \$9,157,470

Healthcare Funding:

Gifts to 252 Workers from 156 assemblies

Amount: \$223,724 (includes \$2,725 from the 100% Pass-Thru Fund)

Income / Expense:

Gross Income: \$(171,126) Cash Inflow: \$1,024,791 (excludes unrealized gains, sale of stocks, 100% Pass-Thru) Cash Outflow: \$561,264 (excludes Healthcare Gifts)

Cash Income: \$463,527



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