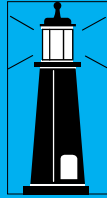


C.P.A. Beacon



Issue 54

Church Planters to America

Spring 2025

From the Director



Rob Andreas

Our **BEACON** publication is released twice a year, in the spring and fall. We want to keep our entire mailing list updated on how things are progressing at Church Planters to America. God has been so good to us over the years, and we praise Him for His many blessings.

We started C.P.A. back in the late 1990s with a dedication to assisting and building the local church. One challenge we face is the need for more missionaries to reach deeper into this needy world. The process of moving from God's call to the mission field is not easy—it requires raising both prayer and financial support. Only then can a person step out in faith to plant or strengthen a church.

We are so grateful for those of you who come alongside us, interceding for the work God has called us to do. Through your prayers and financial support, we accomplish great things together.

"For we are labourers together with God."

1 Corinthians 3:9a

The Challenge of Closed Doors

By Mark Ruggerio

Most people have heard the saying "When God closes a door, He opens another." We here at Emmanuel are praying and waiting for the open doors He wants us to go through. A number of years ago, at the Church Planters to America Annual Retreat, I remember a theme that developed for the week from several of the messages and teaching times... "Just Do Something!" Meaning, when we are working, God will direct our paths. John MacArthur gives the example of an eighteen wheeler, that it's much easier to steer a moving truck than one that is stationary.

Over the past little while we've had some people who have tried to get out of their "comfort zones" and attempted to minister to people in the area. Most recently, a woman in our church had several contacts with individuals involved with the Reintegration Program. She has a desire to minister more to these families, and attempted to host a Valentine's Day for the young families and others in the area. At the last minute, some people cancelled for various reasons and the interest from families at the Center did not materialize. This resulted in the event not taking place.

This event got me thinking about the concept of closed doors and the challenge that they pose. It is very easy for people who are attempting to step out in ministry to get discouraged when things do not go as planned. Galatians 6:9 tells us, "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." Pray the people don't get discouraged as they explore what the Lord would have them to do.

A little over five years ago In Touch Ministries had a daily devotional that highlighted some truths I want to share here.

Closed doors prevent mistakes. Just because a path is clear doesn't mean it's the one God intends for us to follow. Sometimes we won't have the information we need to make a wise decision, so He blocks the way. The Holy Spirit knows the whole road map for our life, so we should follow Him.

Closed doors redirect our walk. God won't leave a willing servant with nothing to do. Closed doors can result in better fruit, more satisfaction, and greater glory for Him.

Closed doors test faith and build perseverance. Waiting for the Lord is hard, but it's a means by which we can learn wisdom, patience, and trust.

Closed doors buy us time. We aren't always as prepared as we'd like to think. God may temporarily hold shut an opportunity for service until we're ready.

I pray that we all are actively looking for His direction in our lives for His path is perfect. If we stay in His will and on His path, then as believers we will surely live a life that is satisfying, serving, and bringing glory to God.



Moriah Ruggerio to Graduate in May



Mariah Ruggerio started her studies at Houghton University four years ago. Her major is in Environmental Biology with a special interest in Botany. She is exploring different options for her career in this field. She is presently working locally and is excited to graduate.

CPA Annual Retreat June 16-20

Our CPA Annual Missionary Pastors' Retreat is coming up this June! Many of you have faithfully supported this retreat for years, and we deeply appreciate all you have done.



This retreat provides much-needed rest and refreshment for each of our members. Thanks to your generosity, we can offer meals and cover travel expenses, allowing all who attend to come without financial burden.

If you would like to be a part of this special week, there is a form enclosed for you to fill out and send back in.

Thank you for your continued support!

Loyal, Faithful Saints

In January, Portageville Community Baptist Church said goodbye to two faithful and loyal saints who went home to be with the Lord. Both men had previously served as trustees and deacons, dedicating their time and efforts to the church.

Forrest James had moved a few years ago to live with his daughter and her family. Hiram Kemp served as an interim pastor and worked tirelessly to ensure that this church would remain strong for generations to come.



**Forrest & Laura
70 Years of
Marriage**

**Hiram & Oleath
66 Years of
Marriage**

Both men are deeply missed. Please pray for their wives as they adjust to life without their husbands and for our church family as we grieve their loss. Their presence, wisdom, and dedication will not be forgotten.

Celebrating Life

Rob and Sue are excited to welcome another grandchild in May! Their youngest daughter, Mary, and her husband, Eric, are expecting their second child—a little girl. Her big brother, Bodie, is thrilled to have a new baby sister join their family. Please pray for a smooth and safe delivery for both Mary and the baby.



All Praise to God



We have had our headquarters building for sale for a couple of years, and just recently, there has been some interest in purchasing it.

This winter, we narrowly avoided a major disaster. Our realtor called to say she was showing the building and noticed that the heat wasn't working. The next day, I went over with a friend to check it out, but we couldn't determine the issue. I called a professional, and he scheduled a visit for the following morning.

Jeff arrived on Friday and discovered that the boiler was low on water because the fill line had been shut off. Thankfully, the boiler's safety feature prevented it from fully engaging. When he turned the water source back on, we found a puddle of water in part of the building. Jeff immediately shut off the system and advised us to place heaters in the building over the weekend to prevent further damage. He also noted that some pipes had frozen.

I was concerned that there might be multiple breaks in the system, leading to a major mess. However, when Jeff returned on Monday, he was able to isolate the affected zone with a valve. He located and repaired the one break; it was only in a closet, sparing us from what could have been a disastrous situation. He was able to fix the pipe and turn the water back on. Praise the Lord—there were no additional broken pipes!

God is good! We are praying that the building sells soon and before next winter. Please join us in praying for this need.

