

# The Shepherd's Bethel Chronicle May 15th 2020

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1 Cor 12: 12 "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body being many, are one body: so is Christ!

There may be a lot of truths in the Bible that are difficult to understand fully, but the Church being one body is a revelation that is simple and extremely evident. You simply cannot spend many years in the Christian faith and not see, how God in His wisdom, has relegated the function of His plan into individual callings. Who, by the way He instructs, empowers, supplies, and stimulates to His purposes.

Susan and I are thankful for this method of support and confirmation, in the labors we are privileged to participate in for His Kingdom and Glory!

May it be as clear for all of you as it has become for us, that God is King, and that He rules completely in the affairs of this planet we call home. Especially in and with His Son's body, the Church, where all things are "working together for good, to them that love the Lord, to them that are the called according to His purposes".

I spoke of the purchase of a new tractor for SBBM in my last Chronicle, and here it is. I'm hauling out trees that we felled last November and have been selling them to Lowes, a local saw mill.



We raised several thousand dollars doing this and it was applied to the purchase of this beautiful piece of equipment.

Once again Wilber & Dee Bennett, a local family of sweet Christian people, invited us to make Maple syrup from trees on their property. As you can see, a big breakfast spread comes with the day and there was plenty of time for fellowship around the cauldrons. I think we made almost five gallons of syrup out of 250 gallons of tree sap. What a wonderful experience for my grandkids and daughter Laura, who is pictured below in the brown jacket.



I was able to give a pint jar to a couple of pastors, and a couple of missionary families. How sweet it is to serve the Lord!

Spring has arrived, well kind of, and what comes with having one home and yard to deal with is multiplied by 10 here. Of course there's the gardens, lawns, clean-up etc., also in Indiana we deal with mold on all the buildings.

Here is one of the missionaries, Ben Murry, helping out using the power sprayer to wash off all that green stuff. He spent several days doing all the homes and some of the buildings, and then turned around and washed off all the propane tanks. (There are 9-1000 gal tanks.)

Missionary Chico Pintos is pictured splitting fire wood for the upcoming year. He has been using this as an opportunity to teach the kids to help out. As a family, they have split wood, cleaned the laundry, and fellowship building, and he is now helping me stain decks.

Javier Jelson also pictured below is assisting with butchering the last two pigs that were donated. A sweet couple from West Baden bought the pigs and donated them because they knew the missionary families were stuck at the Bethel. They wanted to supply extra meat during this trying period in the lives of these young families. Yee ha!



Not pictured are Nate Shaver and Ivan Largent, missionary men who assisted me over this last couple of months while they waited for the Lord to end their families' isolation. Most of the ladies have also volunteered helping Susan with the laundry house, fellowship hall, and library clean-up. (There is a bright side to all this craziness!)



By the way, that couple who donated the hogs came and helped all day with the processing. Pictured above is Dawn, Danielle, and Steve working up the hogs and then helping with the clean-up. Bill is always there, for there would be no SBBM sausage without his expertise.



Steve and Ruth Carr, are pictured to the left, sharing dinner at our home with all the guest last year. They have been on staff as the maintenance director for nine years. Steve, who is an excellent carpenter and painter has been of great benefit to SBBM. They have moved from the mission into town and will be pursuing the Lord's direction for them as they enter retirement years. At this time I will assume his responsibilities and begin looking for a replacement in 2021.

Lastly, do I have a story to tell you!

Every year we get together with a couple for lunch who have supported SBBM for many years. This year with all the restrictions we couldn't go out to lunch, but went to visit them at their home. The husband had called and said he wanted to give us a five hundred dollar check but that his wife wanted to make it one thousand. (I said, well, I've always liked your wife better anyway.)

When we got to the house he hands me a check, and to our complete amazement, (not really a word that describes the feeling), the check was for \$100,000.00. One hundred thousand dollars!

I'm about to fall out of my chair and he turns to his wife and says "did you add all those zeros to that check"? (On the humorous side, this happened on April 1<sup>st</sup>.)

The long and short of it is, they want us to build a replacement for the 45 year old shop and fashion center that Dad and Mom built. Both buildings are falling apart and we have actually stopped taking cloths because it is unsafe to have missionaries in the building. Praise the King!

So, here is the purposed plans for an 80' X 40' structure. The front half is the fashion center and the back will be the new shop. God has already been arranging things and before we were told about the check Bill from Mt. Vernon Indiana had decided to donate his personal wood shop tools, and a complete set of Snap-On wrenches with a Hugh steel cabinet. The shop will include a car lift for servicing the missionary vehicles, a wood shop, and machine shop.

**My goal is to build and occupy within the amount of the gift total. Please keep us in prayer, because without church youth and men's groups, there will be little hope of that happening. What I am certain of is that the Lord who ordered the building will provide all that is needed to accomplish it! I've already broke ground, and Davis Co Metal will build the exterior in 6 weeks. My hope is to do all the interior work ourselves, except the HVAC, which I will have to hire out.**



Thanks for praying, your contribution in the body of Christ by being a prayer warrior for us is every bit as important as those who can give or labor with us.