

EBENEZER COMMUNITY CHURCH OCTOBER UPDATE

Before moving back to the Tri-state area, my wife and I had a home and ministry in the Northwest part of Ohio. Situated an equal distance from Lima and Fort Wayne, Indiana, our tiny midwestern town was the hub of large family-owned farms. Autumn has been my favorite time of year for as far back as I can remember, and living in an agrarian area only served to deepen my affection for this time of year. I spent hours watching as those large and intimidating combines, necessary tools for anyone whose occupation and livelihood depended on a successful growing season, brought in the end product from months of careful planning, planting, watering, and tending the fields. I was impressed to find owners and workers from one farm lending other neighboring farmers a helping hand, and how they were willing to work together. I quickly found out that it was the harvest that mattered most. Although each farmer was concerned about his own crop and how it would meet the needs of his family, he was truly concerned about the other's seasonal success as well. This environment gave true meaning to the word "co-op", a term used to describe the efforts of farmers working together as a whole for the sake of the harvest.

I've often wondered what we would see God do if we, as the church, the body of Christ, were willing to be equally concerned about the field that He has called us to tend and the field of those working toward the same goal. I guess the primary question to answer is whether bringing in a harvest is what matters most. A careful examination of the exhortation given by Jesus to His disciples in Matthew 9:36-38 reveals His passion for reaching the lost and His prayer for others to work toward the same end. Matthew writes that He was "moved with compassion" when He saw a great crowd of lost, suffering, misguided people who needed a savior. Jesus desired that His followers would feel the same sense of urgency and be willing to work in the harvest for His glory. I am thankful to say, God has given the team at Ebenezer a sincere love for the field to which we have been called.

This past month has served as part of an ongoing realization that the harvest is truly plenteous here in our community, and that God has called us to be laborers in it as He brings the lost to Himself. Activities such as our fall family festival outreach were well-attended as Ben, Gwen, and the faithful members of our team engaged with families from our neighborhood for a day of fun and sharing the love of Christ. Our men's Bible study led by Tim Bilbrey, the women's monthly Bible study taught by Pam Smith, and the men's study at Recovery Point continue to grow in attendance as we study the Word of God together and encourage one another. This month marks the first of our monthly community meals offered. Except for our Thanksgiving meal scheduled for Tuesday, November 25th, from 5-8 p.m. and the December meal TBD, the free monthly dinner will be held on the fourth Thursday of each month from 5-7 p.m. We are praying that God will allow us to meet a specific need in the community and that He will use us to reach others who need salvation and a church home. Our ministry to children on Sundays continues to grow as our teachers faithfully pour into the lives of those attending through the nursery and children's church on Sundays and our monthly Kids' Club on the first Thursday of each month. We are asking God for laborers in this vital work as we partner together for the sake of the Gospel. If you are interested in finding out how and where you can help, please contact us at (419)203-7675 or call the main office, and they will direct you to us. Thank you for allowing us the privilege of working together with the LMBC family to reach the harvest for God's glory.