

# GROTON ASSEMBLY OF GOD

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

## PASTOR'S PEN

### But I Want To Go

Penny and I like attending the New York State Farm Show each February at the New York State Fairgrounds. It's fun looking at the tractors and vendors, smelling the foods, picking up the free candy and booklets. It breaks up the winter.

But this last Friday when we tried to go, we couldn't seem to get there. Usually, we travel to Cortland from our house, then catch route 81 at the Home exit. But on Friday, the exit was closed to those getting on the Northbound ramp, and it looked like traffic was actually being diverted off 81 there. We were determined to get up to the Farm Show, so we drove up to the Prebble exit, and got on 81 there. But partway to Tully, traffic in the Northbound lane stopped. We were a long time getting to the Tully exit, where everyone in the Northbound lane was forced to exit.

By that time, Penny and I agreed that we weren't going to try any further to go to the farm show that day. We weren't sure what was going on, but we were pretty sure God had closed the door for us. We turned around and headed for home. Later we learned that there had been several accidents along the stretch of 81 around Cortland from early in the morning past the time we had tried to get up 81. We were thankful then that God had kept us off the highway.

This story reminds me of Psalm 127:1, which says, "Except the Lord build the house, those who build labor in vain; except the Lord guards

the city, the watchman stays awake in vain" (MEV).

What does this verse mean? It means that we need to put God first in our lives in all things. Otherwise, whatever we try to do will ultimately lead to frustration, disappointment, or wasted time. If we place God first in all things, and determine to follow His lead in all things, He will lead us.

Whenever we become stubborn about something, we should probably ask ourselves if we are really following God's lead, or are we trying to do something that we want to do. If we will humble ourselves, we will likely know the difference between the two, and we might find ourselves recognizing God's hand in showing us kindness when it seems as though events are going against us.



### Evangelistic Services March 9

On Sunday, March 9, we will be welcoming **Evangelist and Pastor Joe Chamberlin** for evangelistic services at 10 a.m. and at 6 p.m.

Please keep the services in prayer, and come in anticipation of witnessing and experiencing God's love being poured out in powerful ways.

## March Service Schedule

### Sunday, March 2

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Life Groups  
10 a.m. – Missions Team to Colombia

### Sunday, March 9

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Life Groups  
10 a.m. – Evangelist Joe Chamberlin  
6 p.m. – Evangelist Joe Chamberlin

### Sunday, March 16

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Life Groups  
10 a.m. – “Love Overcomes”

### Sunday, March 23

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Life Groups  
10 a.m. – *New Sermon Series: Living by Priority: A Study of Haggai, “God First”*

### Sunday, March 30

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Life Groups  
10 a.m. – “Be Strong”

## Coming Events

### **March 1**

Light meal & Game night, 4-8 pm

### **March 8**

Bowling for everyone, sponsored by the Men’s Ministry (\$3 a game) 1-4 pm

### **March 9**

Evangelistic services 10 am & 6 pm with Rev. Joe Chamberlin

### **March 30**

Chicken bbq after service

### ***Looking ahead to April***

### **April 12 & 13**

Bake, bag, and deliver cookies with Easter service invitations to neighbors. See page 6 for more details.

## March Birthdays

- 1 Alan Kress  
Shannon Davis
- 3 Sandy Tanney
- 6 Robin Cargian
- 7 John Huether
- 8 Erin Neno
- 10 Donna Bernhardt
- 15 John Conner, Jr.,  
Paul Morse, Sr.
- 19 Joel Twitchell
- 22 MaryLu Eveleigh
- 23 Faye Hacker
- 24 Chuck Moss
- 25 Brian Scott
- 27 Debbie Todd
- 28 Bob Miller
- 31 Dakota Craig, Vivian Craig

### Anniversaries

3/27/14 Scott & Mary Ellen Brown

**New Groups forming March 2!**  
**We’ve saved a place for you--**  
**Nursery thru Adult groups**



## Community OUTREACH



### **Easter Outreach: Cookie Crusade**

See page 6 for more details.

## MaryLu Eveleigh

### I Thank God

*[photo is MaryLu Eveleigh, right, and Linda Van Berkomp, left]*

My Dad joined the Jehovah Witnesses because his brother Lewis and his wife Mable came to visit, and they invited Dad to come to the Kingdom Hall in Gouverneur, NY. Aunt Mable was a Jehovah Witness Missionary in South America. When she came back to the States, she met my Uncle Lewis, and they got married. She converted Uncle Lewis to follow with her and join Jehovah Witnesses. He was lonely, and his wife had passed away.

Jehovah Witnesses believe they have spiritual superiority over other religions. They believe that their way is the only way, and there is no other way. I would say they turned their religion into an idol and that the Watchtower Bible Society became their idol.

They convinced my Dad that the Jehovah Witnesses are the only way. They told Dad and Mom that all the religions and churches on earth are pagan, and that God chose the Jehovah Witnesses to warn the people. They said that if he became a Jehovah Witnesses, he would go to a Paradise on earth--but not heaven when he died. Heaven was reserved for the 144,000—a special, chosen group of Jehovah Witnesses. Earth would be a beautiful Paradise like in Adam and Eve's paradise. The land would be divided up on earth between the Jehovah Witnesses. They said that each Jehovah Witness has their own land to build a home on. Jehovah God and



the 144,000 will rule over them. However, If any man refuses to become a Jehovah Witnesses, then when they die they would go to the grave. There is no hope for them.

Jehovah Witnesses believe salvation is faith, works, and obedience to them. In order to go to paradise on earth, you are required to earn your way through

works. For example, you must participate in evangelism. You must attend a ministry school on Thursday evenings. You are taught how to speak to "outsiders."

Jehovah Witnesses have everything scripted based on their many years of experience going door to door. When you go door to door, if "outsiders" refuse to speak with them, or they say something to put them down, Jehovah Witnesses have been trained to know how to respond. If the "outsiders" still say no, then they offer a free magazine, Watchtower (older version) or Awake (newer version). If no one is home then they leave an older magazine and a tract.

When I went door-to-door with Jehovah Witnesses, I remember people shutting doors in our faces. I also remember that in one town some men got together and came after us with bats to scare us off. I was 12 years old then. When they tried to scare the Jehovah Witness group that I was with, the Jehovah Witnesses had the men go to the front of the group, women and children in the middle, and the rest of the men at the end of the group. Unfortunately, when Jehovah Witnesses are

persecuted like that or called names, they feel they have found favor with God. When they go back to the Kingdom Hall they are rejoicing and telling others. They get "patted on the back," falsely thinking God is with them.

Jehovah Witnesses meet at the Kingdom Hall on Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday. They give a sermon on Sunday and have a Watchtower Magazine study. Many Watchtower magazines have questions at the bottom of articles to use for a bible study. My dad would sometimes give the sermon on Sunday.

When people decide to come to the Kingdom Hall to see what it is all about, the Jehovah Witnesses are very loving and make you feel you are a part of their family. I was taken rollerskating, ice skating, and invited to lunch at Jehovah Witnesses homes. Gradually you leave your family (if your family does not join Jehovah Witness) and you make them your friends and family. They flatter their congregation by preaching what the people like to hear instead of what God said.

I grew up in a family of eight—four brothers and a sister. My mom loved to bake, and she kept our home spotless. She ironed all our clothes. She had no electric dryer or washer. She hung all our clothes on a clothes line. When we got older, we were given chores to do in order to take some burdens off her. We loved her very much. Dad worked at a newspaper, the Tribune Press in Gouverneur, NY. Dad worked on the Press, setting up the ink dyes to print the information going into the newspapers. He loved his work and was promoted as a supervisor to the press room.

When they hired 18-30 year-olds, Dad was the one who taught them how to run the press. He also printed ads from different businesses for their customers to hand out and he put their ads in the newspaper. Dad was good at what he did. My brother, Dale, decided that was the job he wanted. Dad taught him and Dale loved it. Dale landed a job at the Watertown Daily Times newspaper when he left home to be on his own.

Before we went to the Kingdom Hall, Uncle Lewis and Aunt Mable would come to our house. Uncle Lewis would teach Dad and Mom. Aunt Mable would teach the children, and we were all converted. We started out in the book Paradise Lost, and then later on, we were invited to a Tuesday night Bible study at the Jehovah's Witnesses' Kingdom Hall in Gouverneur, NY. One of the teachings we learned was communion. When they received communion with the bread and wine, only the Jehovah's Witnesses who were chosen to be one of the 144,000 were allowed to take communion. Aunt Mabel's father was chosen as one of the 144,000. The rest of us couldn't take communion, so we had to pass it on.

I thank God for sending many people my way to tell me the Good News of the Bible and see how deceived I was. I praise God for those Christians who prayed for me. God and I talk a lot together now through His Word, and in the power of the Holy Spirit in prayer. I praise God that my brothers, sister, and parents no longer belong to the Jehovah Witness. Open up your Bible and ask God to speak to you as you read His Word. He will also send people in your path like He did for me.



## Dan and Deanna

**Klepel**, Missionaries

to Thailand

Supported by

Groton AG

### Testimony: Miracle of a Healed Heart

I, Deanna, got a call from the mother of a former student one day. The mother informed me that her son, whom I and other missionaries taught for over five years, was in ICU with a heart infection and could I come visit. That evening, my husband Dan and I went to the hospital. When we got there we found out that Book (my student) was in a coma. We prayed for him, sang to him, shared the gospel with him, and talked about memories of our time studying together. We found out the doctor had given him just a 10% chance of survival. The next day, his mom said Book was improving and could move his finger. A couple days later, we went to visit again to find out he had come out of the coma, was eating, and was totally cognitive. He had gone without breathing for four minutes, and yet had no brain damage. Twice while visiting Book, he made the hand motion of a cross and then touched his heart. We were overjoyed to know God had ministered to him while in a coma. A few days later, his mom told us he had written down some things he experienced when he was in the coma. He was able to come home about a week later. On December 22, 2024, Book and his mother went to church with us, and Book accepted Christ into his heart! We are so excited to walk with Book in his newfound faith.

## Missionaries to Nepal,

names withheld, sensitive country

Supported by Groton AG

Winter 2025. It has been over a year since we came back to the States to birth our son, Jireh; for my foot surgery; and to pursue the idea of a PhD program for my husband. We have done all of this. My husband was not accepted into the program for his PhD. This was a desire of his heart that we placed in the Lord's hands. We asked that God would make clear His plans for us. We trust that God has our best interests in mind and that now is not God's timing for a PhD. We are not disappointed. Our calling is still for missions. With our board's support, we are responding to the call to missions.

Tentatively, we are planning to return to India this summer 2025. It is dependent upon our visas being approved to enter in. As our plans are confirmed and more thoroughly defined, we will communicate them to you. We know we will continue to be involved with discipleship, Biblical education, and most likely, church planting as well. Please pray for confirmation of the Lord's plans as we move forward.

In March 2024, I was able to lead a team of ladies to visit India and Nepal. They got to attend the New Theological College Graduation in India for two of our seminary students who have been with us the longest. It was a joy and honor. We sent five new graduates to seminary this fall who feel the call to full-time ministry. Seven students from our 2024 class started studies at Global School Bus Discipleship Center. Please join us in praying for the Holy Spirit to empower, strengthen, and equip these students.

As you may recall, God just so happened to position our Discipleship Center in the backyard of a local AG church. We have formed a

tremendous bond and partnership over the last few years. The lead pastor along with the other staff volunteer at the Discipleship Center throughout the week. With your help, we helped this church with their church building expansion project. The project started before we left in 2023. By the fall of 2024, the Discipleship Center has a completed roof and cement walls. The church held their first service in the new building. We praise God for this larger building that will accommodate our growing church congregation as well as allow for the church doors to stay open even during annual monsoon flooding. Recently, the church was able to hold a Youth Retreat for close to 700 students. The church still awaits plaster, paint, windows, doors, and furnishings. We trust the Lord will provide the church funds for this in His timing. This organization will also serve as a

platform for us to work in persecuted countries where borders are often closed to missionaries.



*40 days for Life is an internationally coordinated 40 day campaign to unite the world. It is a peaceful initiative consisting of 40 days of prayer and fasting, and peaceful vigil at abortion facilities.*

Thank you for helping close 157 abortion facilities—45% in blue, pro-abortion states. Thank you for making this effort built for post-Roe America. Thank you for saving babies whom you often do not get to meet—but today you will! Back in March, a Colombian 40 Days for Life participant named Maria contacted us because her friend in New Jersey was considering abortion. We immediately contacted Montclair, New Jersey, campaign leader Lisa. Lisa then found a Spanish-speaking 40 Days for Life volunteer named Sol—who turned out to be the abortion-minded woman's neighbor. Thanks to Sol's intervention, the mom chose life...and Baby Elena was born. When you get involved in 40 Days for Life, you never know how your efforts will pay off. "Both Mom and baby are doing well. We're all overjoyed! The help 40 Days for Life offered brought new hope and new strength," Maria said. 40 Days for Life has proven to save lives and close abortion facilities in New Jersey, California, New York, Illinois and elsewhere. Thank you for your love and support for those who have no voice but ours.

*The Spring 2025 campaign Kick-off Rally will be at Peruville, NT Church, March 1, 1-3 pm. Spring Vigil, March 5-April 13. [40daysforlife.com](http://40daysforlife.com)*

## Community OUTREACH



### Cookies to our Neighbors

We need bakers, baggers, and deliverers.  
We need you.

**Bake** cookies and bring to church.

**Bag** cookies, Saturday, April 12.

**Deliver** cookies with invitation, Sun.,  
April 13.

**The more cookies baked, the more homes we reach!**

*(Please homemade cookies only.)*