

CGGC Staff Picnic and Recognition

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Former CCM Assistant, Dee Callahan, with her husband Lee



Darrell and Alberta Prichard



Mistress of Ceremonies, Kris Cupp

It's August and that means it's time for lots of annual happenings – the kids go back to school, football season finally arrives, and the annual CGGC Office family picnic and recognition dinner takes place too. We've got a tremendous staff here in the CGGC office and we like to take special times to play together and celebrate together (which helps us continue to work together well).

This past Tuesday was our annual picnic and recognition time and the building filled with current employees and their families as well as a good number of retirees and former employees too. This is always a great evening of food, fun, fellowship and catching up with dear friends. Kris Cupp served as the mistress of ceremonies and once again did an amazing job of planning, decorating, and making all the necessary arrangements for the evening's festivities. Kris has an amazing gift for putting together events like this and I always marvel at the great lengths she goes to in order to create such a special and fun evening.



A jungle theme set the tone for a fun evening

This year we recognized two employees for their years of service. Jenn Schlumbohm was recognized for her 5 years of service with the communications department and Don Dennison was recognized for 20 years of service with cross cultural ministries.



Jenn Schlumbohm

I'm going to guess that many of you may not recognize Jenn's name or picture, but you've probably appreciated her work in *The Gem*, *Church Advocate*, the CGGC Facebook page or any number of videos and other communication pieces that she's helped produce over the years. Jenn brings a lot to our team here with her creativity, new ideas and willingness to step out and learn new skills and tools for communication. She does all of this while being mom to four great kids and wife to husband, Tadd. Jenn represents our great team of support staff – folks that you may only know as a voice on the other end of the line or an email response to a question, but who give their gifts day in and day out to help accomplish the mission.



The Schlumbohm family



Don and Phyllis Dennison

I would assume most of you are more familiar with Don (and would even go so far as to say that a few of you even have some stories or favorite memories about Don's work with cross-cultural ministries). There's much that I could share about Don, but I'll briefly offer a few observations. He's a leader who bears fruit. Over his tenure we've seen our foreign mission work grow from three fields to its present eight fields. Through the grace of God and Don's hard work and leadership, our mission work has grown and is well positioned to continue to do so in the future.

Don is a leader who generously sows into the lives of other leaders. He's a voracious reader and learner, perhaps more than anyone else I've ever known; and Don has a habit of searching Ollie's for deals on books that he passes along to others who would benefit from reading them. He consistently works to pour his life, knowledge and gifts into others whether it is through teaching seminary classes or offering seminars

for others or investing personally into younger pastors and leaders. I've watched him time and time again offer what he's received so that others would benefit in their life, work and ministry.

Finally, Don is a disciple who is committed to finishing well. Now, just to make it clear, he's not finished yet! While he may have completed his duties as the director of cross-cultural ministries, he makes it clear that he hasn't retired and continues to serve the church at large as our church & mission consultant. But we have watched him finish this season of ministry well – planning for the day well in advance, making preparations to pass the baton, and doing all he could to make sure his successor is positioned to thrive in that role. I know that Don is always learning, stretching, growing and working to fully embrace all that God has for him so that one day, when he does finish, he will hear the words “well done good and faithful servant.”



New CCM Director, Ben Tobias, shares a funny story of his travels with Don



A room full of coworkers, friends and family



Kids enjoying some of the evening's activities (assisted by Pat Burnap, far right)

I'm grateful for Jenn and Don and all the great folks I get to work alongside here at the CGGC office in Findlay. I would encourage you to leave a note of encouragement for Jenn or Don here in the comments section and we'll make sure they get those. Perhaps you'd like to send them a personal note to thank them for their service or encourage them to keep striving in the race set before them. You can drop Jenn a note at comassist@cggc.org or Don at missions@cggc.org . In my own journey I'm learning (slowly) to become more intentional in offering encouragement to others; perhaps you'd like to grow in this area as well.

Christ's Peace,

Lance