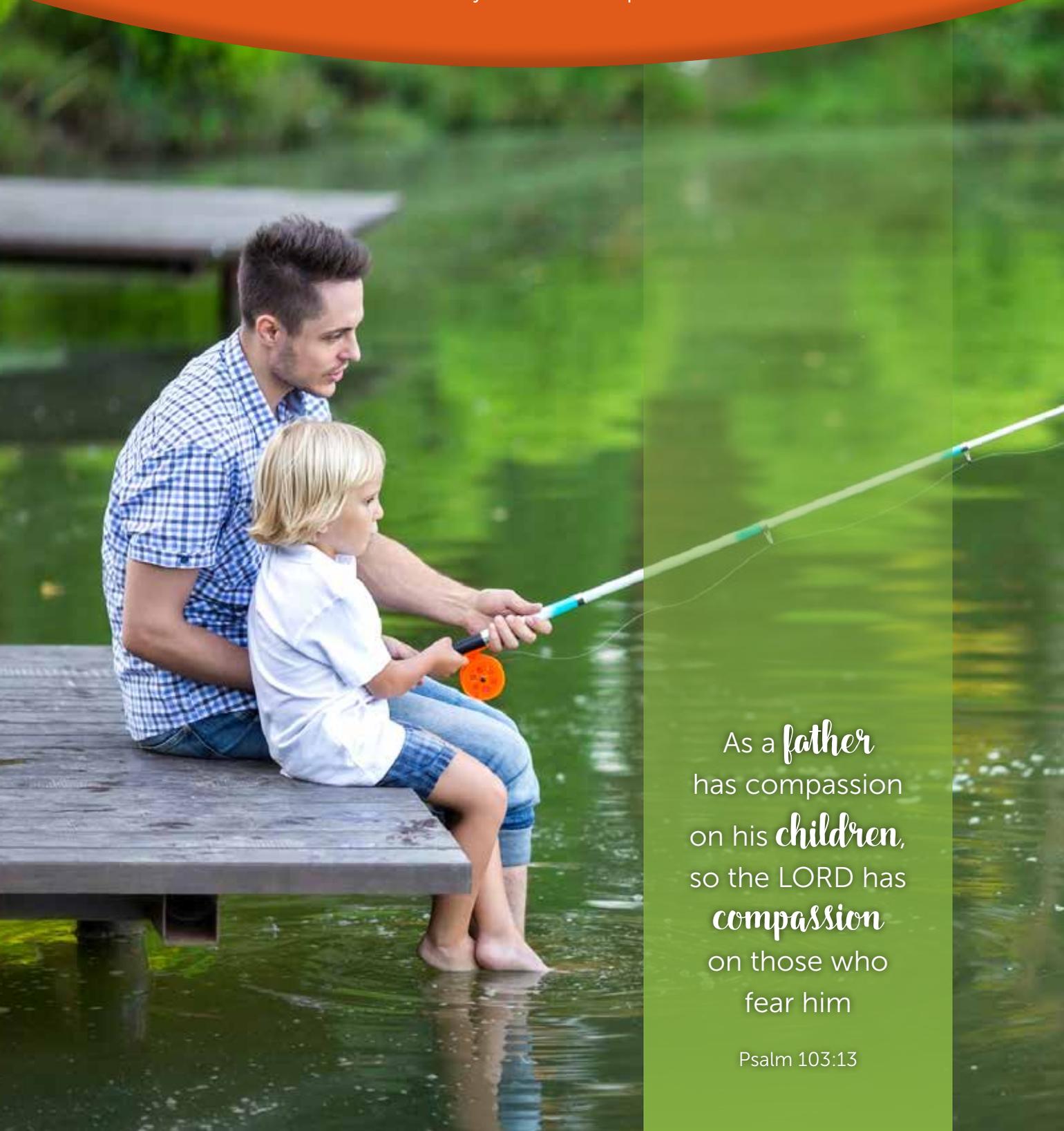


The Messenger

A Publication of Community Bible Fellowship

June 2017



As a *father*
has compassion
on his *children*,
so the LORD has
compassion
on those who
fear him

Psalm 103:13

A Special Invitation from the Outreach Team

Join Us for an Evening of Fellowship & Worship



The Outreach Team would like to invite all church family to a potluck and worship service that will be held at Young's Lake near Kirkwood on Saturday, June 17th. We will have fellowship time beginning at 4:00 PM, followed by a potluck dinner at 5:00. The service will begin at 6:00.

Young's Lake is a family-centered, private, membership-only campground and park that offers swimming and fishing. We will be inviting campground members and others to join us. Please plan on bringing your own meat to grill, a dish or two to pass, your own table service, and lawn chairs. If you would like to fish or swim, please bring any items necessary for those activities. Inflatables are not allowed in the lake or the swimming area. The Pucketts will have a canoe and a couple kayaks available for use as well. A campfire will be available after the service for those who would like to sit under the stars together. Camping as a guest is available for \$10.00 per night and includes electricity. If you would like to camp, please contact Rick Puckett (309-371-7987). The Outreach Team will have a water purifying system available for people to try that is used by Compassion International.

We look forward to worshipping together while we enjoy some beautiful outdoor scenery.



Summer Flowers

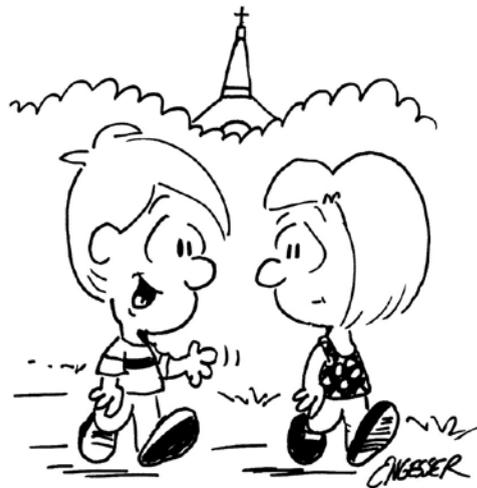
Behold the flowers of June!
How fair and bright their buds appear,
As, opening to the summer air,
Our eyes and hearts they cheer!

Who would have thought there could abound
Such beauty and delight
Beneath the cold and wintry ground
That hid those flowers from sight?

That power which made and governs all —
The mighty power of God —
Alone could life and beauty call
Out of the lifeless sod.

And He, who from the winter's gloom
Can summer thus disclose,
Shall one day make the desert bloom,
And blossom as the rose.

—Anonymous



"If we're all God's children, just think of all the cards he gets on Father's Day."



Music Notes – Secret to a Happy Life

by Lynn Pauley

Shhh...I have a secret. Come in closer, and I'll whisper it to you. I have discovered the secret to living a happy life.

If I began a conversation like that, you couldn't help but be interested. We are all intrigued by secrets, and who doesn't want to be happy every single day?

I do know what it takes to be truly happy, and it isn't a secret, but it is difficult. The difficulty is that it takes work – mainly on myself. Let's take a look at the verse:

He has told you, O man, what is good, and what the LORD really wants from you: He wants you to promote justice, to be faithful, and to live obediently before your God. (Micah 6:8, NET)

Your first reaction might be: What? That's it, your big secret? Already, your mind begins to offer excuses as to why that can't possibly be the secret to happiness.

Yet, God says this is the definition of good, and this is what He really wants from me – not big acts of heroism or beautifully crafted worship services. Just this! He

wants me to seek justice every day, in every situation. That pursuit may cause me to be unpopular, though, because I live in a society that doesn't value justice. I will certainly need to deny myself, because I can't seek what pleases or suits me and seek justice at the same time.

Then, God asks me to be faithful. Wow! That's hard too. We enjoy the mountain-top experiences in life. We enjoy the concerts, the trips, the adventures, but to just be faithful every day? That's boring! That's difficult - every day to follow the truth I know, every day to apply all the verses I've read, every day to live out the songs that I sing. Very quickly, I see that in order for me to be faithful, I will need to deny ME even more!

Finally, God asks that I live obediently. Some versions translate this phrase as "walk humbly." In James 4:10, I'm told to humble myself. Again, more self-denial! I'm not to seek my pleasure, my comfort, my recognition, my _____ (fill in the blank)!

Ask me to do some great work! Ask me to sing a beautiful song! Surely there is some worthy cause I can pursue to bring glory to God! But to just live every day in faithful self-denial, shown by my obedience, and to seek what is just, no matter what? I certainly won't get any "good job" or "well done" plaudits from my peers. But if I chase the praise of men, won't I give up the ultimate accolade – a "well done" from my Lord? (John 12:43)

I know it seems counter-intuitive, but this is the life we are called to live. When we yield, we win. When we give up, we gain. (Mark 8:34-37) Then, we find true joy that is eternal!

Let me lose my life and find it, Lord, in Thee.

May all self be slain; my friends see only Thee.

Tho' it cost me grief and pain, I will find my life again.

If I lose myself, I'll find it, Lord, in Thee.

Alcohol the Gift of God

by Cajun Pauley



Psalm 104:14-15 HCSB He causes grass to grow for the livestock and provides crops for man to cultivate, producing food from the earth, (15) wine that makes man's heart glad--making his face shine with oil--and bread that sustains man's heart.

The active ingredient common to all alcoholic beverages is made by yeasts: microscopic, single-celled organisms that eat sugar and excrete carbon dioxide and ethanol, the only potable alcohol.

From our modern point of view, ethanol has one very compelling property: it makes us feel good (Proverbs 31:6-7; Ecclesiastes 10:19; John 2:9-11). Ethanol helps release serotonin, dopamine, and endorphins in the brain, chemicals that make us happy and less anxious.

Yeasts produce ethanol as a form of chemical warfare – it's toxic to other microbes that compete with them for sugar inside a fruit. The anti-microbial effect benefits the drinker. It explains why beer, wine, and other fermented beverages were, at least until the rise

of modern sanitation, often healthier to drink than water (1 Timothy 5:23).

What's more, in fermenting sugar, yeasts make more than ethanol. They produce all kinds of nutrients, including such B vitamins as folic acid, niacin, thiamine, and riboflavin. Those nutrients would have been more present in ancient brews than in our modern filtered and pasteurized varieties. In the ancient Near East at least, beer was a sort of enriched liquid bread, providing calories, hydration, and essential vitamins.

Yeasts are diverse and ubiquitous, and they've likely been fermenting ripe wild fruit since the dawn of creation. Their gift brings several advantages: the ethanol in rotting fruit has a strong, distinctive smell that makes the fruit easy to locate. It's then easier to digest, allowing an easier route to a critical survival tool – calories. Then, its antiseptic qualities repel microbes that might sicken us. The alcohol content in such fruit is very low – insufficient to inebriate – just sufficient to produce a satisfied glow.

The problem with human consumption of alcohol, as usual, is that we take a good gift from God and overindulge. In the fourth century B.C., the comic poet Eubulus described a Greek symposium as including a first bowl of wine for health, another for pleasure, and a third for sleep. Eubulus warned, "When this bowl is drunk up, wise guests go home. The fourth bowl is ours no longer, but belongs to violence; the fifth to uproar; the sixth to drunken revel; the seventh to black eyes. The eighth is the policeman's; the ninth belongs to biliousness; and the tenth to madness and the hurling of furniture."

Like Eubulus, the warning the Bible gives against alcohol is not regarding consumption (Numbers 28:7; Deuteronomy 14:26 et al), but of inebriation (Ephesians 5:18), especially to the point of toxicity (Proverbs 23:29-35).

Humor for the Hard Times

Dr. John Morreall collected examples of poor medical communication, things that doctors have written on patients' charts:

- "On the second day her knee was better, and on the third day it disappeared completely."
- "Patient has been depressed ever since she began seeing me in 1996."
- "Patient has two teenage children, but no other abnormalities."
- "Patient refused an autopsy."
- "The patient is a 79-year-old widow who no longer lives with her husband."
- "Discharge status: alive but without permission."

-from *Laughing All the Way* by John Morreall



Carew's News ~ April 2017

James 4:14-15

Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, "If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that."

They weren't someone we knew. They weren't even individuals we likely would have come in contact with through 'normal' means. We know what has been said about them - that they were Seleka rebels. The young people Carol were with had an instant fear of them when they heard this. I wonder how their day began, here in the CAR. Did they have family...wives and kids? Did they have an elevated status in their peer group and position? Were they men of means, able to sustain themselves well here, where it is so difficult to do so? What kind of life did they lead? I wonder if they thought about what tomorrow would bring, what they would do...first, second, and after that. The day was really hot. They and their friends probably thought it would be very refreshing to go to the river and have some fun. They drank; they smoked some drugs, in plain view of the people around them, but that is common here where people go to have 'fun.' The water looked cool and inviting. Many people were swimming and frolicking in the river.

Carol heard some men yelling. She was swimming in the deeper water and looked toward where they were pointing to see two of the men in the river. They couldn't swim well and had gone out a little too deep. In the current of the large river, they were struggling to keep their heads above water. Carol shouted to their friends in the water to go and help them, but they refused, either scared or unwilling. Quickly Carol swam to where the closest one had now gone under. She dove under the murky red water and felt his shirt, grabbed it and started pulling him up. Carol and her friends on shore were afraid he might pull her under, but despite his initial resistance and his size, she was able to bring him closer to shore where some men in a canoe finally retrieved him to safety. Carol looked out into the water for the other man and dove repeatedly to try and find him, but he was gone....he was not seen again.... swallowed by the deep.

Does the spiritual application need to be made? What are your plans for tomorrow? For the remainder of today? Do you know what you'll do? ARE YOU SURE? If you were in trouble, would you want someone to help you? If someone else was in trouble, if their life, their eternity, was in danger, would you be able... be willing...to help? Are you trying to swim in the swift current of the world? It has a way of letting you enter in little by little until the stream is too fast or too deep for you to escape. Maybe you don't have a desire to escape. Such is the way of sin. It looks so refreshing. All your friends might be there, asking you to join them. Surely it is OK. One man was saved; one man was lost forever. With your eternity, there is no second chance. Is Christ your Savior? Do you have assurance you'll have eternal life with Him in heaven? What will you do tomorrow?

Tragedies occur over and over in this country, but there are blessings as well. With the help of a national couple, a FIBAT (the Baptist Seminary the Danneberg's began) graduate and his wife, we began going into the prison nearest us. There are 700 men in the prison, a true captive audience, and many of them were overjoyed to hear that Baptist pastors from CEBI (the church association BMM fellowship with) were coming in to preach to them. The first time we went with portions of soap, coffee, rice, etc., and tracts for them. Another FIBAT graduate has joined us now as well, and we have been in the prison several times. To date, we have seen several seeking repentance and restoration to fellowship with the Lord, and fifteen men have come to Christ. Two weeks later, after hearing their individual salvation testimonies, they were baptized, under armed guard, in the river across the street from the prison and enjoyed their first communion afterwards. Please pray for the two pastors involved in this ministry, as Satan is trying to cause it to cease.



Jeremiah being pulled from the mire.

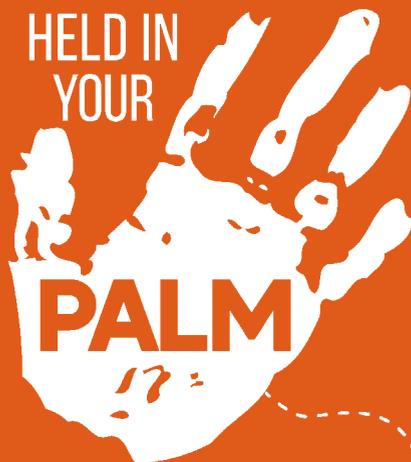
We have recently finished teaching another Eco-Dim (their Sunday school) course with about 17 people finishing the program. It's a tremendous blessing to see the point at which they "get it," and realize they can create their own lessons and do Sunday school with very few resources, have interesting lessons, and teach them with joy and imagination. The church has already increased the number of children coming to Sunday school, and they've made a place near the church, with a huge tarp overhead for shade, for the kids to have Sunday school while the adults have church inside. We saw the pastor a few days ago; he said it was the best service they have had in ages because there were no distractions from the children. The adult congregation made positive comments, and he said it allowed him to focus on his preaching like he has never been able to do before.

The Dannenbergs and Jewells have all recently returned to Bangui. Now we have the task of finding a way to send our truck and belongings to Chad for our transition back to Sarh. The container with the items we purchased in the States, that many of you helped us to purchase, has arrived in N'djamena, and Anna Beth Wivell of Bibles International who is in Balimba, Chad is overseeing the pickup and delivery of those things to the mission station for us. There is now an ambassador at the Chad embassy here in Bangui, so that will greatly simplify obtaining visas for the trip and hopefully help with paperwork for our truck and belongings as they are sent through the border crossings of Cameroon and Chad. Please be in prayer for this transition and travel.

This week we're enjoying a special treat, as Rev. Vernon Rosenau (President of BMM) and his wife Jan have come to Bangui. Rev. Rosenau is going to be the keynote speaker for a pastors' and wives' conference here in Bangui. Many have traveled a great distance under very difficult and likely treacherous circumstances to get here. We pray the conference will be a great encouragement to them.

On April 30th, we're presenting certificates to the previous Eco-Dim course students at Eglise Mandja Hoto. Pray for them as they continue the Sunday school ministry in their church. We're already gearing up to begin another session in another church on May 6th. On another note, we have been making use of the blank mini-SD cards that a family purchased for us to bring. We have found a number of story parables in the sango language and have been passing them to people for evangelism and using them ourselves when we go ojut with a pastor and his wife into Ouango, one of outskirt villages of Bangui. Les takes his I-pad and small speaker, and we always draw a crowd!

Les & Carol Carew • BP 900, Bangui, Central African Republic
 +236 72 02 01 80 - Les • +236 75 26 92 72- Carol
 Email: lescaw@gmail.com
 BAPTIST MID-MISSIONS • P.O. Box 308011, Cleveland, OH
 44130-8011
www.bmm.org • 440.826.3930



Make this heartwarming handprint gift to give your dad or another special man on Father's Day.

What you need:

- Tempura paint (any two colors besides white)
- A paper plate
- Two paintbrushes
- Your dad's hand
- White cardstock
- Paper towels
- A pen



What you do:

1. Place paint on the paper plate.
2. Paint your dad's palm and the insides of his fingers with one color of paint. Set his hand in the center of the cardstock and press down. Let dry.
3. Paint your palm and fingers with the other color. Place your hand in the center of your dad's. Let dry.
4. Write a loving message to your dad on the blank sections of the cardstock.
5. Give your dad the gift — and a hug!

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

6/2	Debbie Norton	6/13	Rod & Joan Link
6/4	Ben & Brittany Dowd	6/14	Warren & Mary Mayhew
6/5	Nick & Debbie Norton	6/15	Griz & Pam Hoffman
6/5	Eric & Lindy Shaw	6/16	David & Eileen Sipes
6/6	Mike & Robin Barnhouse	6/22	Alexa Keller
6/7	Pam Hoffman	6/24	Kay Hucke
6/10	Roy & Pam Langley	6/25	Keegan Bryant
6/11	John Chapman	6/26	Roy Langley
6/11	Marvin & Florence Reddick	6/26	Eric Shaw
6/12	Jase Konie	6/28	Travis Canaday
6/12	Keegan Rourke	6/29	Ray & Dawn Lee

Mark Your Calendar

6/1	4 PM – 8 PM: CBF Rummage Sale, Chapel
6/2	8 AM – 4 PM: CBF Rummage Sale, Chapel
6/3	8 AM – 2 PM: CBF Rummage Sale, Chapel
6/3	9 AM – 4 PM: Parish Nurses' Craft Fair, Courthouse Lawn
6/4	2 PM: Young Adult Bible Study; Sipes' Residence
6/7	7 PM: Paul's Prison Letters Bible Study, led by Bob Hoffman; Room N2
6/11	2 PM: Young Adult Bible Study; Sipes' Residence
6/11	4 PM: High School Youth Group; Activity Room
6/14	7 PM: Paul's Prison Letters Bible Study, led by Bob Hoffman; Room N2
6/17	4 PM: Outreach Event (Fellowship, Potluck, Worship Service); Young's Lake (Kirkwood)
6/21	7 PM: Paul's Prison Letters Bible Study, led by Bob Hoffman; Room N2
6/24	6 PM: Mother/Son Date Night; Sanctuary
6/25	5 PM: Junior High Youth Group; Activity Room
6/28	7 PM: Paul's Prison Letters Bible Study, led by Bob Hoffman; Room N2

CBF Financial Report - April

	Monthly	Year To Date
Total Income	\$21,062.58	\$73,173.83
Total Expense	\$18,257.86	\$63,047.38
Net Operating Income	\$2,804.72	\$10,126.45



1109 SE 3rd Street
Aledo, IL 61231
Phone: 309.582.7406
Email: office@cbfaledo.org
www.cbfaledo.org