

WORDS OF GRACE

A Publication of GracePoint Church

LIVING AS IMMIGRANTS

*“But our citizenship is in heaven,
and from it we await a Savior, the
Lord Jesus Christ...”*

Phil 3:20

Colossians 1:13 reveals an amazing event that happens when we become saved, forgiven, regenerated, adopted children of God. *“For He (Father God) rescued us from the kingdom of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son (Christ Jesus)...”*

Even though we do not experience a physical change of location, when Christ embraces us with salvation, we become citizens of a new kingdom. As immigrants to a new country, we then begin the lifelong process of learning how to be faithful citizens of God’s kingdom.

We can bring in the best of our country of origin so long as it doesn’t conflict with God’s kingdom. But wherever the values of America conflict with kingdom values, we must choose kingdom values over American values.

American Christianity is often an unbiblical mixture of patriotism, nationalism, capitalism, and true Christianity. Nonetheless, many American values do align with kingdom values. American values, such as equality, freedom, perseverance, hard work, and the sanctity of all life, are also kingdom values we can still keep once we become immigrants to God’s country.

But American values such as the pursuit of excess wealth and property, the pursuit of personal happiness when it has priority over serving others, individualism, fame, power, having cheap commodities even if it means exploitation, the freedom to do whatever we want regardless of consequence, are in direct competition with kingdom

Wherever the values of America conflict with kingdom values, we must choose kingdom values over American

values, and must be rejected to be faithful citizens of God’s kingdom.

Christ declares that citizens of God’s kingdom must choose humility over vanity, service over ambition, honoring others over self-promotion, giving over acquisition, and love over bigotry. Even in our social and political views, we must choose what is best for God’s global kingdom over what is best for just America when the two conflict with each other.

Being a follower of Christ requires you to examine every area of your life—your finances, your career, your relationships, your recreation, your worldview, your values and priorities—and determine whether or not they line up with kingdom values and principles.

So, that is the challenge before you. Are you going to continue to live primarily as a citizen of America, or as an immigrant, a new citizen of your new country, God’s Kingdom?

Pastor Chris



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GLORIFYING GOD BY...

CONNECTING
people to God

LOVING
God and each other

GROWING
in grace and truth

SERVING
Dubuque and the world

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IT'S AS ELEMENTARY AS A – B – C !!

Our Annual commitment of a “love gift” payment to the John Knox Presbytery is due June 1st. We have Been making this payment annually since we left the PC USA to join a denomination that was more in line with our Biblical stance. This pledge is drawing to a Conclusion in 2011!

As of the end of January we have \$2,524.00 in the fund to make the payment of \$22,000.

Please pray to the Lord for the amount that He would have you put toward this final payment, remembering that all we have is His. Then we can send this final gift with a loud shout of Hallelujah to our Lord for His amazing provision to GracePoint!

Your Stewardship Finance Ministry Team

GRACEPOINT'S CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND AND PROJECTS UPDATE

New windows were purchased and installed in the narthex (four windows) and in Pastor Chris' office (one sliding type three-pane window). Capital Improvement contribution funds were used to complete the designated window replacement project.

The Capital Improvement Fund is open for contributions to help fund the replacement of the driveway and parking lot in late spring or summer. The amount shared with the congregation to complete this project was \$95,200. The Foundation has agreed to provide sizable support to help pay for this project. However, contributions are still needed to reach the amount required. If we can raise the necessary funds through contributions and with the foundation's solid support, it may not be necessary to borrow funds to complete this project. As always, contributions to GracePoint church are tax deductible.

Thank you for your prayers and continued support.

Finance and Property Ministry Teams

GRACEPOINT COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Purpose of Position

This is a volunteer staff position at GracePoint. The purpose of this position is to help GracePoint fulfill its mission and vision of engaging in community-based, evangelical social justice ministry.

The role of this position is fourfold:

- Help **educate** the leadership and congregation of GracePoint on the spiritual, physical, material, and relational needs of Dubuque.
- Help **equip** the leadership and congregation of GracePoint to better serve these needs using an evangelical, missional model.
- Help **plan and lead** such a community-based missional outreach.
- **Serve as a liaison** between the pastors and leadership of GracePoint, networking us with those in our community already serving in these areas.

Session Oversight

The person serving in this position will be a member of the Missional Outreach Team, and will serve under the Missional Outreach Elders.

Position Resources

The Coordinator will be allowed reasonable use of GracePoint's office resources. There is no separate budget for this position. Rather, any funds needed will come through the Missional Outreach budget or other appropriate budgets.

Position Expectations

- The Coordinator will be fully aware and supportive of GracePoint's mission and vision statements and will plan and lead ministry that is consistent with these.
- The Coordinator will always work in cooperative partnership with GracePoint's pastors, Elders, Missional Outreach Team, and congregation.
- The Coordinator will always represent GracePoint in a positive manner.
- There are no required work days or set hours for this position. The Coordinator will work whatever hours he or she has available for this position, but will be expected to put in enough time to make this position purposeful and fruitful.
- This position will continue at the discretion of GracePoint's Session.

New Volunteer Position at GracePoint

COMMUNITY OUTREACH WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

Dear GracePoint Friends,

After two years of interim ministry at another congregation, Jan and I are thrilled to be back with you zealous bunch of Christ followers. We believe this is a particularly vital moment for GracePoint as we respond to God's call to reach out to our community with deeper compassion. Recently, Pastor Chris and the Session asked me to fill a part-time volunteer position as Community Outreach Coordinator. I will be a resource for the congregation as we seek new connections with needy neighbors. Jesus came to announce good news to the poor and the oppressed. We are the body of Christ, the Lord's hands and feet in the world to bring hope to the hopeless and love to the loveless. Jesus just wants us to love others as he has loved us.



The most important thing you can do to be involved is to pray regularly for spiritual power at home, in discipleship triads, in small groups, and especially at Fresh Encounters on the first and third Wednesday nights each month. We cannot do the work of Jesus without the power of Jesus. The Lord says, "I am with you always," and he longs for us to experience his presence as we join in his ministry. The next important thing is to listen carefully to God's whispers and to do what God tells you! Join with others who hear the same call to mission. Be willing to give your time, money, and talents to make a difference in our community. You will be hearing soon from the Missional Outreach Team about concrete ways to be part of Christ's revolution of love!

Yours in Christ,
Alan Crandall

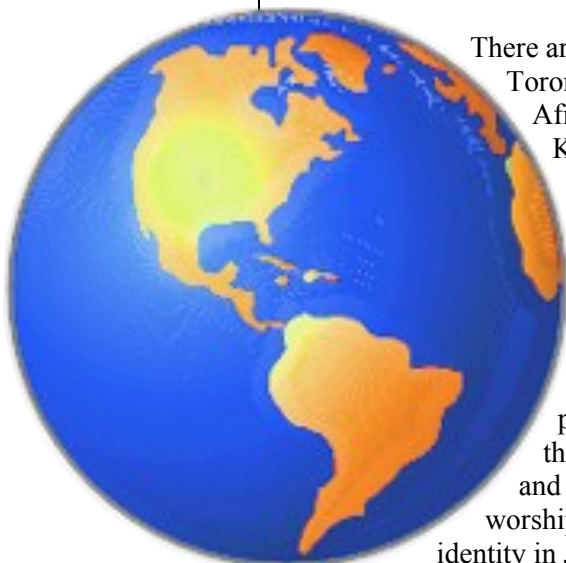
Global Missions Report

Jews for Jesus

On Saturday, April 9th at 7:00pm, Jews for Jesus will present a program to the congregation of the work they are doing all over the world.

The Jews for Jesus organization was founded under the name Hineni Ministries in 1973 by Moishe Rosin, an ordained Baptist minister who was born Jewish and converted to Christianity at the age of 17. Moishe Rosen remained Executive Director until May 1996 when he was replaced by David Brickner, the current director.

Jews for Jesus is funded by donations from Messianic Jews and like-minded Christians. It has a full-time staff of 150 employees running branch offices in nine cities across the United States.



There are also branch offices in Australia, Canada (in Montreal and Toronto), France, Germany (in Essen), Israel, Russia, South Africa, the United Kingdom and Ukraine (in Dnepropetrovsk, Kharkov, Kiev and Odessa).

Stan and Holly Meyer are the Jews for Jesus missionaries GracePoint supports. Stan is the Los Angeles Director of Jews for Jesus and wants to share their ministry this summer.

Stan and Holly had 115 high school students who participated this summer in their Camp Gilgal program on the West Coast. Their camps were led by Matt Friedman and Dave Garrett. They taught the Bible, had times of worship, lots of fun activities, and learned about their Jewish identity in Jesus. Four of the kids professed faith in Jesus and several made rededications. Stan participated as a driver for the teens and Adventure Camp. Adventure Camp was held on Lake Shasta on a houseboat at the end of the summer.

Matt Friedman has served Jews for Jesus for over eight years, three of which were in Los Angeles as camp and youth worker. He is leaving to attend graduate school and be certified as a high school teacher. Stan says Matt will be greatly missed.

In June, Jessica Pollack was part of their evangelistic campaign in Germany, led by Avi Snyder. This campaign brought the Gospel to several cities in Central Europe where today there are an influx of Russian Jews. For Jessica, it was especially exciting that Jewish people are preaching the gospel message of forgiveness and reconciliation in a country where the worst atrocities was committed against Jews. Jessica meets regularly with Holly, Stan's wife, pertaining to her missionary work.

Pat Kohler, Global Missions Team

2011



2011

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30p Precepts	2 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00a Precepts 5:30p Bell Choir 5:30p FE Praise Band 6:30p Fresh Encounters	3	4	5 11:30a Baptism Class
6 8:00a Vocal Choir 8:45a Traditions 9:30a Horizons Band 9:45a Bible Classes 9:45a Guys and Gals 10:35a Fellowship Time 11:00a Horizons 1:00—8:00p Session Retreat	7 6:00p Food Pantry	8 9:00a Missional Project Ladies 6:30p Precepts	9 Ash Wednesday 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00a Precepts 5:30p Bell Choir 7:00p Ash Wednesday Service	10 7:00p Deacons Meeting	11 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Ignite Youth Conference</div>	12
13 Daylight Savings begins 8:45a Traditions 9:30a Horizons Band 9:45a Bible Classes 10:35a Fellowship Time 11:00a Horizons 12:00p Taco Sunday 1:30p Bethany Home 6:00p GraceUnderground	14 6:00p Food Pantry	15 6:30p Precepts	16 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00a Precepts 5:30p Bell Choir 5:30p FE Praise Band 6:30p Fresh Encounters Communion 7:30p Elder Ministry Teams	17 11:30a Red Hat Ladies	18  6:30pm Bridges Out of Poverty	19
20 Spring begins. 8:45a Traditions 9:30a Horizons Band 9:45a Bible Classes 10:35a Fellowship Time 11:00a Horizons 6:00p GraceUnderground	21 6:00p Food Pantry	22 6:30p Precepts	23 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00a Precepts 5:00p Golden Oldies 5:30p Bell Choir 7:00p Session	24	25	26 11:30a Baptism Class
27 8:00a Vocal Choir 8:45a Traditions 9:30a Horizons Band 9:45a Bible Classes 10:35a Fellowship Time 11:00a Horizons 6:00p GraceUnderground	28 6:00p Food Pantry	29	30	31		

CLERK'S REPORT

Membership to Date:

Active	144
Inactive	3
Perm. Inactive	6
Total	153

Pat Kohler was appointed Clerk of Session for 2011. Tim Walsh was appointed President of the Corporation for 2011. Judy Adelman was appointed Administrative Bookkeeper for 2011. Paulette Kress was appointed Financial Secretary for 2011.

Wilma Sanders and Ben Temple were appointed to the Foundation Board of Directors. Mary Hirschey was appointed to the Nominating Ministry Team for 2011 and 2012. Tim Walsh will President of the Corporation for 2011. Jan Jenner and Beverly VanDerZyl were appointed to the Pastoral Care Team for 2011.

Elder assignments for 2011 are Equipping: Mary Hirschey and Stephanie Lange; Fellowship: Jan Jenner and Ray Wlochak; Missional Outreach: Pam DeMeester and Beverly VanDerZyl; Stewardship: Mary Burns (Finance), Ben Temple (Personnel) and Tim Walsh (Property); Worship: Wilma Sanders.

A Blood Drive will be held on Wednesday, July 20, 2011 (watch for further details). There will be one Summer Worship Service starting Sunday, May 29th and ending September 4th at 10:00am. Two services will resume on Sunday, September 11th. Session Retreat will be held on March 6th at Four Mounds from 1:00 to 8:00pm.

A new volunteer staff position was approved at the last Session meeting and will be called Community Outreach Coordinator. Rev. Alan Crandall was appointed to fill this position.

Pat Kohler, Clerk of Session



GraceCompany, children's ministry for kids K through 5th grade, just finished studying our unit on Noah. We had a great time! We played games, walked out the length of the ark, watched movies, listened to stories, built a set, and performed a puppet show as we learned more about God's faithful servant Noah! During the next few weeks we will be taking photos for our upcoming Resurrection Sunday slide show. We try to include all kids that are present while our photographer is available.

Here is a brief description of the rest of the year. We will host a six-week kids version of Hole in the Gospel beginning February 27th. We will also include an Easter unit, and end the year with a unit on Abraham. Great things are happening at GraceCompany!

GOLDEN OLDIES

Golden Oldies will meet on Wednesday, March 23rd, 5:00pm, at Sunshine Family Restaurant.

Sign up at the Connect Center on the Sunday before the event or call Bob Boelk, 557-9166.

All seniors are welcome!



GUYS AND GALS

On the first Sunday of the month, after the first service, a group of seniors meet for brunch at Chuck and Jo's restaurant on Iowa Street. All seniors are invited to join us. If you have any questions, contact Betty Muellich at 582-3505.



Friday
March 18

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Chris Barajas
- 2 Gaye Grote
- 2 Martha Intveld
- 3 Fred Thomas
- 4 Robyn Schwarzmann
- 8 Angela Godwin
- 8 Jim Hynes
- 8 Jonathan Briden
- 11 Maddy Shaffer
- 11 Michael Vandenberg
- 12 Dave Zwart
- 13 Mary Scherf
- 17 Jenna Bell
- 20 Betty Emerson
- 20 Tammy Moore
- 21 Mike Kelley
- 22 Mike Boland
- 25 Scott Arnold
- 26 Andrew Baumann
- 28 Nickolis Pope
- 29 Allison Buol
- 29 Diana Conrad
- 31 Janet Marshall
- 31 Jean Bruce



ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 Frank & Gaye Grote
- 15 Pete & Diana Conrad
- 17 Richard & Juanita Cottrell
- 19 Dale & Ruth Zschoche

Check Out the Library

We receive donations of new and used books and videos all the time. There is always something new in the library.

The library is open Sundays from 8:30am till noon. If you have any new books or videos you would like to donate to the library, contact Mable or Bob Boelk, 557-9166.



Women's Spring Gathering

GracePoint Church

Saturday, April 2nd

1:30 to 3:30pm

Inspirational Message by Mindi Thompson "Spring Cleaning" ... make way for the new creation and growth God wants to bring in our lives.

~ Music by a GracePoint quartet ~ Prayer

~ Beautifully Decorated Tables

We'd like to reserve a place at the table for you! Please sign up in the narthex beginning March 6th or call the church



**Middle and High School
Youth
6:00 to 8:00pm
Sunday evenings**

MARCH SCHEDULE

March 6th / Session Retreat — No GraceUnderground

March 11th-12 / IGNITE- Des Moines (there's still time to sign up)

March 13 / GraceUnderground 6-8 pm. "Teenage Politics"

March 16-19 / Tri-State Work Camp, Camp Albrecht
Acres (High School)

March 20 / GraceUnderground 6-8 pm. "Teenage Politics"

March 27 / Parents of 6th Graders Meeting 12:00pm in the
youth room

March 27 / GraceUnderground 6-8 pm. "Teenage Politics"

Parent's of 5th and 6th Graders Meeting!

It has come to my attention that some parents are concerned about their 6th graders being in with the High Schoolers during GraceUnderground (both my wife and my boss, for example). That makes sense. I do background checks on the leaders, but not the kids. So, let's get together and talk. Should 6th graders be in with the older kids? Should we find a different way to divide? I need the opinions of parents. If you're interested in this topic, come and help me figure this out.

Pastor Dana

From "Suite101.com"

As children grow toward the adolescent phase or teenage-hood, they are stigmatized with fluctuating and difficult moods, what may seem like erratic or risky behavior. Most of this, we as adults having been there ourselves, can recognize as symptoms of the emotional trauma of leaving childhood behind. But because we have been there ourselves doesn't make it easier sometimes to cope with. We tend to forget what it was

(Continued on page 11)

Connecting
Loving
Growing
SERVING

PRAYER CHAIN

To start a prayer, call Pat Kohler or Lois Trausch-Wolfe.

Daytime Prayer Chain

Pat Kohler
583-8978

Gerry Vandenberg
583-5338

Ramona Hennings
583-8739

Edie Ege
583-1974

Wilma Sanders
582-7346

Mable Boelk
557-9166

Sue Lemon
583-4454

Lois Trausch-Wolfe
583-0534

(Lois starts the evening chain.)

Evening Prayer Chain

Sharon Baker
588-2115

Glenda Temple
582-0464

Pam Hillary
556-5846

Karen Storlie
556-7548

Kim or Jerry Bell
582-4956

SERVANTS OF THE LORD**Traditions (8:45am)**

Ushers (March)	Dan and Pauline Brimeyer
Greeters (March)	Betty Carlson, Mary Ann Hopkins
Communion Preparers	Verna Davis, Margaret Fah
Communion Servers	Kevin and Mary Hirschev Steve and Sue Lemon

Prayers of the People Prayer Team Ministry

Mar 6	Bob De Meester	Paul and Sharon Jensen
Mar 13	Bob De Meester	Pam De Meester, Ramona Hennings
Mar 20	Wilma Sanders	Lois Trausch-Wolfe,
Mar 27	Wilma Sanders	Frank and Gaye Grote

Horizons (11:00am)

Ushers (March)	Matt and Jennifer Shaffer
Greeters (March)	Pete and Jan Jenner
Communion Servers	Doug and Karen Storlie

Child Care (Horizons)

	Infant	Preschool
Mar 6	Lorene Hynes	Kate Duehr
Mar 13	Beverly VanDerZyl	Paulette Kress
Mar 20	Rachel Lemon	Steve Lemon
Mar 27	Suz Birch	Sylvia Trofimchuck

MISSIONAL PROJECT LADIES**AND****RED HAT LADIES**

The Missional Project Ladies and Red Hat Ladies will be meeting in March. If you have yarn or fabric for quilt pieces bring the supplies to the church office. Watch the bulletin for details.

(Continued from page 9)

like and what we needed at that time. Many of us turned away from our parents or the other adults around us and sought comfort and support with our peers. We can, however, stay close to our teenagers and provide them with the support and help they may not know how to ask for, as they wend their way into young adulthood.

What teens need: #2 To feel appreciated.

Dana's observation: Why did kids wear bell bottoms in the 70s? Why do kids wear skinny jeans and piercings, or saggy jeans with gym shorts hanging out? They want to be appreciated. Parents may not appreciate it, but parents aren't usually the ones deciding what teens will appreciate in terms of fashion. Picture this conversation: "Wow, Jenny! Your mom sure dressed you cool today! I really appreciate the sense of flow in your pastel spring ensemble!" Nope. Not gonna happen. Kids are smart. They know they're negotiating a mine field of expectations every day, and because their God-given purpose is to grow to be responsible, independent adults, they have to choose. They can't please everybody, so, sometimes the ones they choose not to please are the ones who seem impossible to please—their parents. Here's the irony I'm pointing out—they love their parents more than their peers, they want their parents' approval and appreciation more than that of their peers, but sometimes it seems all they hear from their parents is all their failures and how they need to do better. A youth worker once pointed out that whatever behavior you draw attention to in a teen's life is what you can expect to see more of. That sent chills down my spine! Would I be saying this in a few years? "What dear? No, of course I didn't notice my brand new car wrapped around a tree in the front yard. Let's talk about the great job you did making it to school a couple times this week." Wow. It looks like we're painted into a corner here. Obviously, we need to set boundaries and make hard rules, but kids will eventually catch on if their peers show consistent signs of appreciation and their parents show mostly fear and frustration.

A youth worker once pointed out that whatever behavior you draw attention to in a teen's life is what you can expect to see more of.

The same thing goes for church. Youth who are old enough to enlist in the army and fight IEDs in Afghanistan are often considered unworthy of holding open a door at an average church. Institutionally speaking, teens aren't appreciated in most churches—their skills don't seem to be needed. They don't play the organ, they don't wear suits or professional business wear, they don't seem right for committee work, so what are they good for? The problem is not that teens have not been properly socialized to polite settings. The problem is that the church has forsaken its God-given duty to take risks and be bold for Christ (teens are bold risk takers). This has nothing to do with parenting; it's just something to think about.

I've got to level with you at this point. I've got no right to tell you how to parent a teen. My oldest child is only 11. Please bear with me. I know my top 10 lists may seem conceited and idealistic. I'm not trying to be smug and "wiser than thou." I just want to put before us all some of the things I myself want to be reminded of in a few years.

God bless you!

Pastor Dana



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Bridges Out of Poverty **6:30pm Friday, March 18** **at GracePoint**

Jim Ott, certified in Ruby Payne's *Bridges Out of Poverty*, will collaborate with Alan Crandall and other GracePoint members and friends to discuss the possibilities of addressing poverty through this lens. Whether you have or have not attended *Bridges Out of Poverty* events in the past, you will gain much by attending this event. Refreshments will be served. Bring a friend or two and join us!

Childcare will be provided upon request by contacting Martha Intveld (563)581-6371 or martha.intveld@gmail.com no later than noon March 11.