

⬇ February 2021

# Grace Insider

## Where to Find Soul-Refreshing Rest

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**Our Field Staff  
Witnesses God's  
Protection**

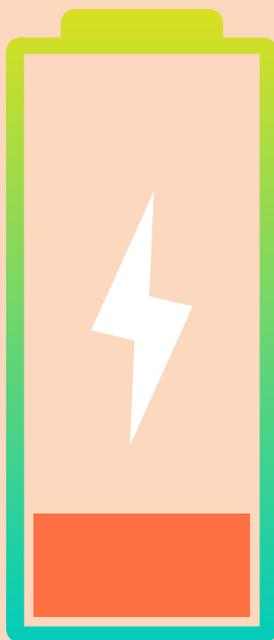
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**Dr. Gilbaugh Shares  
What's In Store For  
His Next Season**

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**Making Disciples  
Digitally... What's  
Next?**

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# Global Outreach

**<sup>8</sup>For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.**

**<sup>9</sup>Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. <sup>10</sup>He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. <sup>11</sup>You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.**

2 Corinthians 1:8-11



Our mission is not an easy one; nor is it free from stress, difficulty, and sometimes danger. Our Field Staff, Alex and Trish Ludvick in Indonesia, who serve with MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship), had a very trying and dangerous circumstance this month.

On the afternoon of January 6, Alex landed at an airstrip in Pagamba, Papua, Indonesia. Alex was transporting cargo for the village. Following a normal landing, the aircraft was surrounded by armed men who later identified themselves as part of the West Papua National Liberation Army – Free Papua Organization. Alex, his passengers, cargo, and all other items that could be removed were taken out, and the aircraft was set on fire. The Free Papua Organization

has provided a statement to Indonesian media about the reasons for their action. The group claims that the aircraft was used to transport military personnel and supplies, which is not accurate as MAF never does so. MAF is committed to a neutral stance when it comes to the politics in the countries they serve. This policy includes the prohibition of support of paramilitary groups like the Free Papua Organization.



Alex after he reunited with Trish and their children.

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**For all of those who pray for Alex and Trish regularly, we thank you! Those of you willing to pray for our Field Staff regularly, we invite you to join our monthly Zoom call. All are welcome.**

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**DATE:**  
Third Sundays

**TIME:**  
11:15AM - 12:00PM

**ZOOM MEETING ID:**  
882 8352 8964

**Passcode:** 574051

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Alex was released and used his VHF radio to contact aircraft for his rescue. Local church members from the village assisted Alex on a hike to another village for his extraction by helicopter; he safely reunited with his family the following day.

Once again, we thank each of you for your commitment to sharing the gospel! We want to do so across the street, across cultures, and across the globe. Thank you for your dedication to see that we do so to the ends of the earth till Jesus returns!

Grateful to serve with you in reaching the world for Christ.

Pastor Paul and Amy





# thrive

Classes going on now! Find meeting links at [graceb3.org/thrive](https://graceb3.org/thrive)

There's still time  
to participate in  
Spring Thrive!

## Deep Valley. Great Joy.

An Inductive Study on 1 Peter  
9:30am

## Preparing FOR Marriage

Premarital Counseling  
11am

## NEW BELIEVERS

11am

Questions? Contact Aimee at [aimeem@graceb3.org](mailto:aimeem@graceb3.org)

# Coming Up

## FEB 7

**Do you have a hard time connecting scriptures to hardships and suffering in practical and hope-filled ways?**

Buckle up for a jam-packed training on biblical counseling. Even if you don't plan to counsel formally, this is a helpful training to equip you in sharing the hope we all have in Christ with your children, your friends, and your coworkers.

<b>30 Days On-Demand Access</b>	<b>30 Hours of Online Training</b>	<b>4 In-Person Q&amp;A Sessions</b> on Monday evenings from 5:30-6:30 starting February 8.
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**STEP 1**

**REGISTER NOW**

[graceb3.org/bctc2021](https://graceb3.org/bctc2021)

**SIGN UP FOR IN-PERSON Q&A SESSION**

[graceb3.org/bctcq&a](https://graceb3.org/bctcq&a)

**STEP 2**

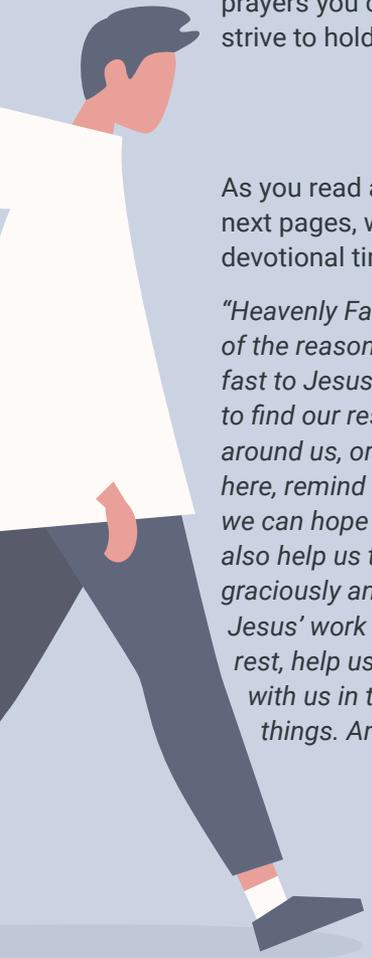
# Striving for Rest

*By Steve Scheperle*

*Missed the sermon? Catch it on [graceb3.org/sermons](http://graceb3.org/sermons) or on the app.*

In his sermon on Hebrews 4 on January 17, Pastor Brooks preached about striving to enter into the rest God has for us. Sin has thrown this world into chaos, leaving us alienated from God, at odds with one another, and struggling under the weight of a world that isn't working the way God designed it. But there's good news! Jesus has come to renew the world and offers an eternity of rest—full of joy, beauty, goodness, and peace for those who are in Christ.

But the author of Hebrews tells us to “strive to enter into that rest,” (Hebrews 4:11). Out of context you might misunderstand what this means – concluding we should do all sorts of good deeds so that when God judges us, we're deemed worthy to enter into rest. But that misses the point of Hebrews 4. The author explains in Chapter 10 that we are only able to enter into the rest in Hebrews 4 because Jesus died for the sins of unworthy people like us. To “strive to enter that rest” really means holding fast to Jesus who has made that rest possible, and not losing faith in Christ's gracious work for us.



The author of the Hebrews was writing to people who were tempted to abandon Christ and return to the Jewish faith. Our temptation is not to abandon Christ for Judaism; instead we are tempted to find our rest in other things. Here are some biblical passages, personal questions, and prayers you can lean on during the week as you strive to hold fast to Jesus.

As you read and meditate on the passages on the next pages, we encourage you to start your daily devotional time by praying; an example is below:

*“Heavenly Father, this week would you remind me of the reasons why we as your followers can hold fast to Jesus? As we feel pressure and temptation to find our rest in finances, in circumstances around us, or in building our own little kingdom here, remind us that the truest and richest rest we can hope for is only found in Jesus. Father, also help us to remember that you have loved us graciously and made that rest available through Jesus’ work on our behalf. And as we wait for that rest, help us to see all the ways that Jesus walks with us in this life. In Jesus name we ask these things. Amen.”*

Find the daily devotional on the next pages.



**Monday & Tuesday:** Read Matthew 6:19-20: <sup>19</sup> *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.”*

Do you look for rest, for comfort, or security in things that can be lost or taken away? What are those things? How does Jesus promise lasting rest?

**Wednesday & Thursday:** Read Ephesians 2:8-9: <sup>8</sup> *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*



Do you worry that you won't experience rest in eternity because you haven't been good enough? On the other hand, do you have a false sense of security that you will enter into God's rest because you have lived a good enough life? How are we saved in order to enter into God's rest?

**Friday & Saturday:**  
**Jesus promises sure rest**

Read Romans 8:37-39: <sup>37</sup> *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.* <sup>38</sup> *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,* <sup>39</sup> *nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

If you have placed your faith in Jesus, is there anything that can separate you from the love of God and jeopardize entering into His rest? These verses remind us that God holds us closely to Himself in Christ. How might this help you to hold fast to Jesus?

**Sunday:**  
**Jesus provides rest along  
life's journey**

Read the following passages:

Jesus promises to be with us in this life (Matthew 28:20).

Jesus tells us that our Heavenly Father supplies our daily needs (Matthew 6:25-34).

In Christ, God uses even hardship and difficulty for our good (Romans 8:28).

In what ways have you seen God give you rest in your life? Are there ways you can look back and see God protecting you, guiding you, or providing for you?

*Hungry for more devotionals?  
Look for our Lent Devotional in the March*



*By Tarryl Bockelman*

*This is part 2 of the prayer article series. The first installment can be found in the December 2020 issue.*

Let's face it – human beings are not bent in the direction of unity. Since Adam tried to blame Eve for sin in the garden and Cain took the life of Abel, the natural state of mankind has been to wage war with one another in some form or another.

We see divisiveness in international relations; we see it in racial and ethnic relationships; and we see it in our own homes. The tragedy comes when disunity culminates in divided families, divided churches, and war-torn countries. The enemy's plan

for mankind is disunity, strife, and destruction. Swimming upstream against this division will begin with recognizing the enemy's scheme and resolving to not fall for his plan.

If you have felt unnerved by the divisive nature of affairs over the past months, it should come as no

surprise that the body of Christ would be under the same attack. World events have been marked by isolation and strife. COVID has forced us into physical isolation, and political strife has pushed us toward emotional

isolation. And as could be predicted, we've seen it creeping into the Christian community as well.

I have to confess that I have allowed my political philosophy to drive a log into my own eye, breeding anger and resentment

where there should be unity and peace. The answer here is simple in concept, yet difficult in implementation.

"Be angry but do not sin"  
Ephesians 4:26

Anger, like joy or sorrow, is an emotion that is part of being human. In his writing, Paul does

not forbid this emotion, and literally could not forbid it. Barnes Notes on this passage explains:

"The sudden excitement on the reception of an injury [real or perceived] is involuntary and consequently innocent. It prompts at once to self-protection." But,

he adds, "when that is done, its proper office ceases." God recognizes the validity of this emotion, but also does not allow for it to exist untempered by the Holy Spirit. Anger may be aroused but is not intended to be entertained as a lasting

**We must be willing to place all relationships, all conversations, and all debate under the control of the Holy Spirit.**

mood, and certainly not to be implemented as a driver in how we relate to others, especially within the body of Christ. The implication here is that there can be disagreement or even anger with someone and yet that anger does not have to be accompanied by sin. It should not be accompanied by shouting (in person or on Facebook), intolerance, and division. There does not have to be agreement on various issues, but there must not be relationships characterized by animosity and strife. We must be willing to place all relationships, all conversations, and all debate under the control of the Holy Spirit.

This is not an easy endeavor. If you know me at all, you know my biggest struggle in this regard is that I love debate; I always want to win and I'm not very subtle. This is surely

a pride-driven response. It is totally fine to speak the truth. But speaking the truth in love is critical. My wife's advice here is to evaluate my response with the acrostic W.A.I.T. – **Why Am I Talking?** Evaluating the motive for why we're saying what we're saying is so important: *Is my angry response really driven by righteous indignation or is it something else?*

We can only make that evaluation individually; and as Christians, we can only do it truthfully under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In the end we must decide that preserving unity within the body, even though all members may not be in agreement, is the highest calling. *"Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace."* Ephesians 4:3

# The Place of Our Online Presence

*By Josh Haveman*

When Grace first started putting sermons and other resources online, our strategy was simply to provide an accessible resource to the church community. We livestreamed sermons as a means of reaching those who were not able to come to the church for various reasons, but online content wasn't a major focus.

Then 2020 happened. A pandemic pushed all of our services online for a while. We quickly discovered that the work we had done in the past was not sufficient for the needs of the present. Our whole team did an excellent job of changing patterns and schedules to make more online content available at more times. This work has been essential as the church could only meet online for a good portion of last year. The result is that we now have more content online, and more ways in which people can interact with the church online than ever before.

As we joyfully anticipate the change back to full, in-person services, we want to let you know that our online strategy is changing, too. From this point on, Grace Community Church will make its online presence a ministry focus. In addition to having more resources available online, the staff is actively seeking

ways to make our online content and tools more useful, accessible, and beneficial to you. We want our presence online to be more than just a collection of handy resources; we want to use them to actively help the church grow. We've already found early success with our online services, with our Christmas Eve service being recommended to over 4,600 people on YouTube.

In the short-term this means that even when most people are coming back to the building for in-person services, we will continue to provide online sermons. We are also actively working toward a solution to livestream full services, allowing people who watch online to take a more active role in worship time. Other planned offerings include video devotionals, online classes, and online trainings. In total, we want those who attend our live services to find our online resources to be a natural extension of their in-person interactions. And, if you find Grace online first, we want our online presence to naturally lead to full participation in the body of Christ.

This work toward a new online strategy is in its first stages of development. We are telling you now, though, for two reasons. First, we want to let you know we are committed to offering quality online resources in an ongoing manner. Many may not feel comfortable returning to in-person services in the near-term. If that's you, count on us continuing to provide online opportunities



for you to be involved in the life of the church. Second, this work is going to require your help. If you have interest in helping to produce, edit, and post our online content, we want to hear from you. Please contact our Engagement Pastor, Steve Scheperle, at [steves@graceb3.org](mailto:steves@graceb3.org) and let him know that you are interested in helping grow Grace online. And regardless of whether you intend to use our online services, or want to help make them, we do ask that you pray. Through our online offerings we have the opportunity to reach almost the entire world. Pray that God helps us make good use of that opportunity for His glory, and for the building of His kingdom.



**GRACE DOWNTOWN  
SERVICE**

**FEBRUARY 7**

**— IN-PERSON SERVICE  
RESUMES**

# For Everything There Is A Season

By Dr. Greg Gilbaugh

*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."* Ecclesiastes 3:1

The scriptures tell us that we can look at life as something that is made up of various seasons we can experience and grow through. These seasons have beginnings and endings in them, and we find great significance as we live through them because God has tremendous purpose in those seasons. There is a season of preparation and training for launching into life. There is a season of marriage, raising children, and beginning to work in the marketplace. There is also a season when a man has grown in depth, maturity, and wisdom, that he enters a time of giving and strategically building up the local church body by taking on the role of a deacon, elder, or church father.

In each of these seasons, there is an opportunity for impactful ministry towards others. There is also a time when God prepares a man for entering into a new season.

After serving as an elder for 18 years, I am now ready to enter into the next season of my life. It is something that God has prepared me for and has called me to. As I step away from church leadership, I am excited to step into my next season. My desire, passion, and focus will now move to the business community. Specifically, I will help business owners and entrepreneurs connect their faith with their business interests; so that they can experience a deeper faith, a better business, and a greater

impact in their family, church, business, and community. This will be done through speaking, teaching, and coaching business owners.

There are so many people that struggle connecting what they say is the foundation of their life (their faith) with the area that they spend most of their waking hours (their work). It's not that they don't want to make that connection; it's that they have mostly been left to themselves to figure it out... and it's hard!

Imagine wanting to get married or start a family and there was no preparation, encouragement, training, or discipling available. How difficult that would be! Yet, for many in the business community, this is a very real experience for them. I want to help change that.

What happens when God transforms the heart and renews the mind of His children and then releases them into the business world? Impact!

Grace Community Church is also in a time of change. It is growing and we have witnessed



and experienced God granting fruitfulness and impact. There are wonderful, mature, wise, and capable men serving as elders/pastors here. God is preparing others to step in and serve, lead, and care for the church. My season as an elder has prepared me well for my next mission, and I am so grateful for the experience.

Remember brothers and sisters, that God also has you in a season right now. He has you there for a real purpose. There are needs to be met, ministry to be accomplished, lives to be impacted, and a God to be honored. But He is also not even close to being done with you as He is also preparing you for your next season. There are big opportunities waiting there that He wants to use you as part of His solution in your part of the world.

That's called gospel living... and what a way to live!



Where do  
you find  
your rest?

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WITH US**

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