



# blessing our community



Backyard Bible Club (BBC) is something we look forward to every year at Grace. It gives us a natural way to build relationships in our communities, engaging neighborhood children with the gospel. We have seen so much fruit from these in the past and look forward to seeing God work again this summer.



Some things to know about BBC:

- There will be sites throughout the community during the month of July
- Each site meets for 4 nights, 3 nights of lessons and activities and the final night is a party with families
- There are many ways to be involved, from teaching the lesson to making snacks
- It is a great way to serve your neighbors with your community group

Be on the lookout for specific dates and locations and prayerfully consider how you can be involved.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Learn more and/or sign up for events at [graceb3.org/events](https://graceb3.org/events)

**May 4**

**Student Ministry Senior Night** • A night devoted to honoring our seniors and their time with Grace Student Ministry. We will spend some time praying for what's to come in their lives.

**May 22 • After 3rd Service**

**Volunteer Fair** • Meet staff and current volunteers in various serving areas and find out how you can serve on Sunday mornings.

# CONNECT WITH US

**Download** the “Graceb3” app to your mobile device and enable push notifications.

**Get the next Insider issue** sent to your inbox at [graceb3.org/insider](https://graceb3.org/insider)

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# Guatemala

## MISSIONS TRIP

JULY 26 - AUGUST 2

ESTIMATED COST:  
\$1300, PLUS  
FUNDRAISING FOR PROJECTS

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INTERESTED? HAVE QUESTIONS?  
CONTACT RYAN AT  
[RYAN.MILLER7999@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RYAN.MILLER7999@GMAIL.COM)





# THIRD CULTURE KIDS

## WHAT'S THAT & WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

By Pastor Paul & Amy Hansen

One thing that goes with being a pastor's kid or missionary's kid has been the title "PK" (pastor's kid) or "MK" (missionary's kid). Interestingly enough, I married an MK (my wife Amy spent her formative years in Australia), and I was a PK. As a second-generation full-time ministry couple, we often joked that would make our kids "TO's" (theological offspring). With all of these acronyms, do we need another one? In a short answer, yes. The reason for that is that **there is a unique set of challenges the families of our Field Staff face**. The acronym TCK helps to distinguish that.

Part of the sacrificial service of our Field Staff (missionaries) involves the family's total commitment. When mom and dad get on a plane and move to another culture, it is a family commitment, not just a couple commitment. Interestingly enough, after years of observation, it has been widely recognized that

it may even be a more significant commitment for the kids. TCK stands for a Third Culture Kid. When children travel overseas, they lack the foundational connection to the country of origin (their 1st culture), and the transient lifestyle of missionaries prevents roots from growing deep in their new second culture. The result is that they are not really from either culture, and frequently, later in life, can have a hard time putting down roots or building deeper relationships that are normal to most people. So being a third culture kid (TCK) comes with both a tremendous privilege and challenge. Lauren Wells, the author of *Raising Up a Generation of Healthy Third Culture Kids*, explains, *"I loved growing up overseas, but it certainly was not without challenges. When I realized that I was not the only TCK dealing with significant challenges in my early 20s and that, in fact, the majority of TCKs do, I really*





*felt called to find ways to prevent those challenges early on in a TCK's life."* As a church, we want to make sure that we care well for our Field Staff *and* their kids. There is a growing number of people interested in helping out through a variety of opportunities. Please email Pastor Paul, [paulh@graceb3.org](mailto:paulh@graceb3.org), with the title CARE TEAM if you are interested in being a part of it.

### ADVERSITY REDEEMED IN PAPUA

Those of us fortunate to see "Ends of The Earth" movie when it was in town several months ago featured a ministry couple named the Ingles who minister amongst

Wano people in Indonesia. Our Field Staff, Alex and Tricia Ludvicek, recently interacted with these people in their service area. Alex was able to spend some time with that tribe who had heard about his harrowing event last year that destroyed his MAF plane. Alex was able to share that **two Pagamba people had given their lives to Christ due to that incident.** While these two tribes are separated by language and culture, geographically, they are pretty close to one another. This story encouraged their hearts in the Lord. What story of God's redemption in your life can you share with those around you to encourage them in their walk? 🌿

### COMING SOON!

In the month of May, there are more ways to BEGIN WITH PRAYER. **Monthly prayer digests will be available at Missions Central by the middle of the month!** Look for it in the foyer at the North Liberty Campus.

Next month, **the Insider Global Outreach section will share a unique way to pray for our TCKs.** We hope you will stop by and pick one up to help us build a stronger prayer base.

# SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

## STUDENT MINISTRY

*By Student Ministry Director Brian Hagedorn*

Summer is always a busy and exciting time in student ministry. As we prepare for summer, we wanted to take a moment to highlight some recent and upcoming student ministry things.

### TRANSITIONS

Beginning this year, **incoming 7th-grade students will be invited to join the Student Ministry in August** to align with the transition dates for all other ages in our church and alleviate some of the challenges that transitioning in June previously created for Life Groups and our seniors that stick around through the summer.

Speaking of our seniors, this year we will be saying goodbye to fifteen seniors. **On May 4, we will be having a senior night** devoted to honoring them and their time with Grace Student Ministry and praying for them and what's to come in their lives.

### SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

We are finalizing the details for our **summer Bible study that will meet on Mondays**. We are also working on a **10-week Theology and Church Doctrine study**. Our desire is to create a space for students and our student ministry team to dig even deeper into the truths of the Bible, and hear and discuss key doctrines of the church.

Additionally, we are **actively looking to get students plugged in and serving in the church on Sunday mornings**. We know that the best

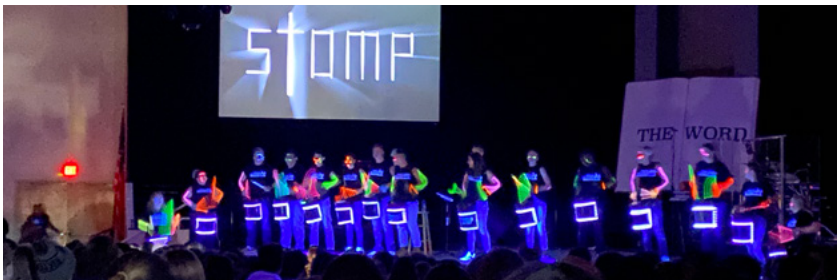


way to learn about the church and to understand how you can use your gifts and talents to advance the gospel is by getting involved with the church! We believe that if we want students to be the church and be a part of it when they graduate, then they need to be a part of it while they are still here with us.

### IGNITE CONFERENCE RECAP

This past March we were able to take 38 students and leaders to the Ignite Youth Leadership conference in Des Moines. The weekend was full of great teaching, conversations, and laughter. **There were several students who made a decision to take their next steps in their relationship with Christ as a result of what they heard and were challenged with during the weekend!**

We are so excited and encouraged by what God is doing in the lives of our students here at Grace, and we pray that God would continue to raise up a generation of students that love him, the church, and the world around them! 🌿







*bless • listen • eat • serve • story*

## B.L.E.S.S. VIDEOS

find the playlist on [graceb3.org/bless-stories](https://graceb3.org/bless-stories)



# A PREVIEW OF JAMES

*By Pastor Jason Blackley*

**C**hanging our behavior is hard. We try resolutions, disciplines, tricks, and technology to try and start new habits or quit old ones. When we read the Epistles (letters) of the New Testament we are given truths about the gospel and the church, but we are also given things to do. The book of James is the ultimate example. James loves giving us things to do. In fact, there seems to be so many things he asks the church to do that many commentators and believers have concluded that there is no way Paul, the champion of writing about grace, and James can be talking about the same gospel! However, as we learn about who James was and dig into the text, we see that the book of James, and everything he asks the church to do, is built on the foundation of the person, work,

and teachings of Jesus.

James can be best summarized in his own words found in Chapter 1:

*"<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. <sup>25</sup> But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."*  
*James 1:22–25 (ESV)*

It is sections such as this one that we initially get the impression that James is just giving us a new law. In fact, he uses the word law in this section. However, we must look no further than Jesus to see that James is simply building off of the foundation that Jesus laid.

When Jesus walked the Earth he came in contact with lots of religious people. Not only so, but the majority of them were Jewish just like he was. It seemed at every turn, everything that Jesus said had riled them up. In fact, after his first teaching in the temple, they tried to throw him

***"[Religious folks] were more likely to fight about what they believed than actually live it out!"***

off of a cliff! There are two primary reasons that Jesus was much-maligned and eventually given over to the Romans for his crucifixion by religious people. The first and most important one is that he claimed to be the Messiah. We do not have enough time or space to go into that here, but suffice to say, he did not look like the Messiah that many of them were waiting for. The second reason is because Jesus found that the religious folks who were more zealous about their beliefs were more likely to fight about what they believed than actually live it out! The things Jesus said and did certainly got them fired up, but they particularly hated it when he healed on the Sabbath and dined with "sinners." Jesus also held them accountable for their actions being

inconsistent with what they said they believed. As author and philosophy professor Dallas Willard said, in his book, *The Divine Conspiracy*, "genuine beliefs are made obvious by what people do."

James, who was also the earthly brother of Jesus wants to hold the church accountable for what they actually do. We have more opportunities than ever to share our opinion about every topic or controversy under the sun. We have more information and knowledge about the Bible and theology at our finger tips than in any time in human history. However, a life that is honoring to God and that emulates Jesus is a life spent doing the will of God and is shown in how we love and treat our fellow men. Not only so, but James tells us that if we think we have genuine faith and the right beliefs but do not see a change in our behavior, our faith is dead, meaning it was never alive (2:17).

It is right and good to sharpen our minds with sound doctrine so that we understand the depths of who God is and what he has offered us in the gospel. However, as we read and learn from James this summer, we will be challenged to evaluate what we truly believe about God when we look at the way we live our every day lives. Because indeed, "what good is it if someone says he has faith but does not have works," (2:14)? 🌿

***"Genuine beliefs  
are made obvious  
by what people do."  
Dallas Willard***



HIDDEN ACRES SUMMER CAMP 2022

# PURSUIT

FOR THE SON OF MAN CAME  
TO SEEK AND TO SAVE  
THE LOST. - LUKE 19:10



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# -GRACE- *Camp* SCHOLARSHIP

Grace Community Church believes that church camp plays a vital role in the spiritual development of our children and their families, and to that end we endeavor to see every child have the opportunity to go to camp. We realize that finances may be a deterrent for some families sending their children or teens to camp. We want to help offset the cost of camp by offering scholarships so that finances are not a determining factor.

Apply for a scholarship at  
[graceb3.org/scholarship](https://graceb3.org/scholarship)



# ADOPT A LISTENING POSTURE

## SABBATICAL LESSON #1

By Pastor Brooks Simpson

**J**ust prior to entering our sabbatical, the Lord showed me that I needed to adopt a listening posture - positioning myself to hear and not speak, to be taught instead of teaching. The sabbatical has provided us an opportunity to hear from Jesus in new and personal ways. Stacy and I thank the church for granting us this time away. If you prayed for us, thank you! God used your prayers and this time away to give us rest and refreshment. The Lord poured into us, stretched us, taught us, and healed us in ways we didn't know we needed.

As we prepared for the sabbatical, we were coached to choose a theme verse to help focus our attention on why we were taking this time off. Both of us chose Matthew 11:28-29.

*"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

Jesus seems to say if we come alongside him and take his yoke upon our shoulders, he'll do the heavy lifting. He invites tired, discouraged, and broken people to draw near and makes a point to show that his demeanor is gentle and lowly, almost as if he anticipates our reluctance. If this offer is real, and I believe it is, **why are so many of Jesus' servants worn out and weary?** Why did Stacy and I need a sabbatical if his yoke is defined by rest?

In January, neither of us were experiencing the kind of rest Jesus described. After 25 years

of Christian service, examining this verse alongside the state of our hearts and minds revealed we were missing something. Maybe we were missing many things. Both of us wanted the rest Jesus promised, but we would have to do something different if we were to receive this rest.

The week before my sabbatical began, I ran into another pastor who leads a local church in the area. He asked what was new and I shared the details of my upcoming sabbatical and why we were taking it. His shoulders dropped and he said, "I am happy for you, man. Brooks, I don't have anything left in my tank. There have been times I have felt dry but I always bounced back. I have been serving for 20 years. I have planted churches and built-up leaders, but I am in a place where I just don't have anything left to give."

What would you tell him? What do you tell a pastor who knows the Bible, serves Jesus, but is worn out? Do you tell him to take Jesus' yoke and he will find rest? I'm pretty sure he already knew the verse, and has preached a sermon on it. I have. What do you tell yourself when you don't really want to serve anymore? **How do we come to know at a heart level what we supposedly already know in our heads?**

## **JESUS' YOKE IS EASY. JESUS' BURDEN IS LIGHT.**

I didn't tell my pastor friend to look to Jesus. I told him I understood him, but I did not have any answers except that I knew I needed to shut up and listen.

**The key to finding rest is to learn from Jesus, and learning requires listening.** So I shared that this sabbatical was going to afford me the opportunity to put myself in a position to hear my Savior's voice.

Jesus says, "*Learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your soul.*" If I was going to learn from him, I was going to have to put myself in a position where I could hear whatever he needed to teach me. It's ironic, but when you teach for a living, sometimes you need to step away from teaching in order to learn God's lessons. I needed to adopt a listening posture. I needed to stop multitasking and zero in on one task: learning from Jesus. I needed to follow Jesus' example and go to a lonely place where no one would be able to find me or contact me so I could hear from my heavenly Father.

The solitude and silence afforded us the opportunity to truly hear from Jesus. Adopting a listening posture positioned Stacy and I to receive the rest and renewal Jesus desired for us. As I listened, the Spirit revealed that

somewhere between accepting Jesus' invitation to come to him for rest in 1988 and taking my first sabbatical in 2022, I unintentionally exchanged his easy yoke for one I was never designed to carry. This new yoke looked like Jesus' yoke but it's a counterfeit. It looked "Christian." It had all the right doctrine and churchy words. **This counterfeit yoke pulls the cart of religion with all its programs, sermons, and pretense. It had me bearing the burden and doing the work.** But this yoke depended on my performance and was not easy. Its crushing weight does not offer any rest for your soul; it sucks the life out of you. The crazy thing is that neither those watching, nor the servant struggling, are aware that they're not being crushed under the yoke of Christ, but under a counterfeit. Sadly, the worn-out servant often quits in frustration, believing the lie that serving Jesus leads to joylessness.

### COME AWAY & LISTEN

Stacy and I are thankful we were granted the opportunity of silence and solitude. It wasn't until we were able to slow down, stop serving, and start listening that we began to realize we were burdened by a counterfeit yoke. Over the course of three months,

***"I unintentionally exchanged his easy yoke for one I was never designed to carry... This yoke depended on my performance and was not easy."***

we listened to his voice and began to allow Jesus to carry burdens we were never meant to carry. It turns out his promise is true. His yoke is easy and his burden is light. This revelation was not immediate, nor is it over. We will continue to adopt a posture of listening so we can continue to find rest for our souls.

Over the next few months, I will share different lessons I was able to hear from the Lord. God's working in and through us during our sabbatical is a direct result of the church's intercessory prayer on our behalf. It is my hope that you will be encouraged as you see how God answered your prayers for us.

But, a question before I sign off:  
**Are you tired?**

Jesus wants to give you rest. Does the thought of being yoked to Jesus and assuming his burden lighten your soul and encourage

you? Or does it make you tired just thinking about it? You may love Jesus, but if the thought of serving him or his people gives you a headache, then you probably are not yoked to Jesus. That doesn't mean you aren't a Christian. It just means you are serving him in your own strength or for reasons he never intended. If you can relate, then come away and learn from him.

Here are a few suggestions to put yourself in a posture to listen:

### **Share your burden with Jesus.**

Go to him in prayer and tell him what he already knows. Tell him you don't understand how his yoke can be simultaneously a burden and light. Tell him you are tired.

Tell him you are anxious. Let him take your burdens.

### **Put yourself in a posture to listen.**

Identify the noise in your life and step away from it. It's unlikely you will be given three months to do so but you can take a sabbath's rest each week, and you can take time each day to turn off the noise to listen and learn from Jesus.

### **Discuss your desire to learn to listen with someone you trust.**

Ask them to pray with you for the wisdom to know how to adopt a listening posture and the discipline to take that posture. 🌿

## **A note about the Sabbatical Lesson articles.**

*As you read each article in this series, you may pick up on unifying themes between each one. But the lessons in this series won't flow from month-to-month like a well organized book. They're also not a series of systematic truths which I read in a book. They are the fruit of walking yoked to Jesus every day for three months. Each day had its own need and Jesus met each need specifically. Each day I would come before God with an open Bible, an open heart, and an open journal. Over the three months of sabbatical, I placed myself in a position where I would be able to hear teaching that only my gentle and lowly Savior could deliver. Sharing these lessons helps to anchor them in my own heart. They may also bless you since there is a good chance you struggle with the same issues we do.*



SERMON NOTES

DATE:

MAIN IDEA:

NOTES:



coming soon this summer  
check back for details at  
[graceb3.org/events](https://graceb3.org/events)