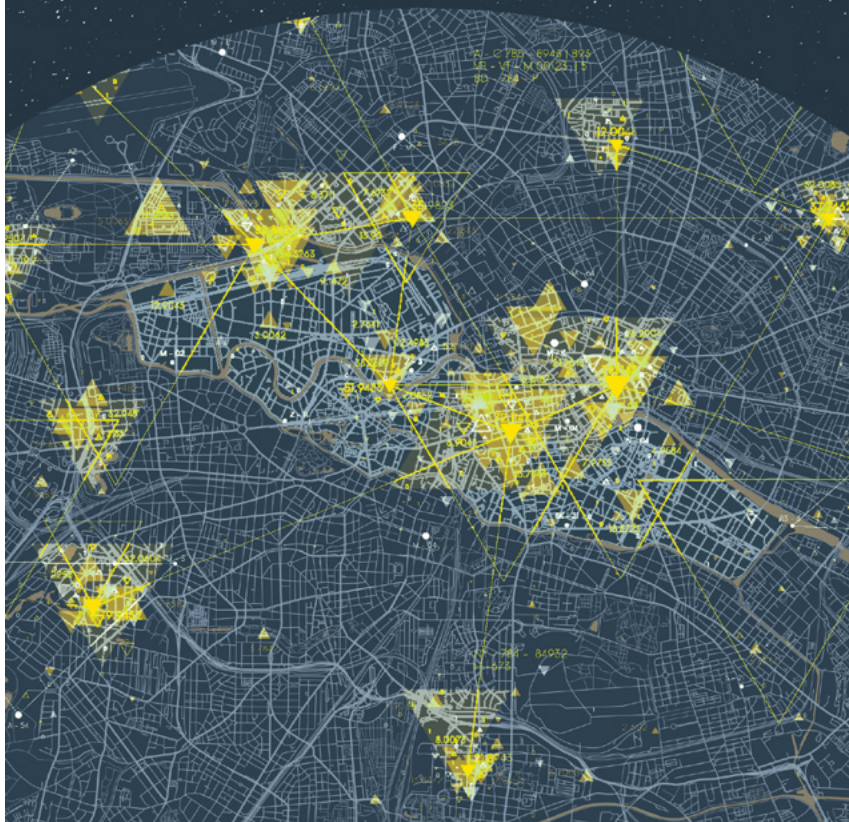


missions emphasis week

WHERE DO I FIT IN?

save the date

october 9-15



WHY FEELINGS MATTER p.9

THRIVE CLASSES PREVIEW p.6

GUATEMALA RECAP p.16

UPCOMING EVENTS

Learn more and/or sign up for events at graceb3.org/events

FALL SERIES COMPANION BIBLE STUDY

It's not too late! Pick up a study guide, grab a notebook, roll up your sleeves, and let's get into the word. Our church-wide 16-week study takes you verse-by-verse through the fall sermon series on 1 Peter.

Study began August 22 and will continue until December 23.

SOUL CARE WEEKENDS

Get trained on how to use Scripture to minister to the hurting... and your own heart as well.

Sessions will be held on September 10, October 8, and November 12.

MOPS (MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS)

MOPS provides a Christ-centered, caring environment where you can develop friendships, creativity, and personal relationships with other moms and with Jesus Christ. Meetings are every 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 9:15am - 11:15am, beginning September 13 and continuing through April. Registration required. Childcare is limited.

THRIVE CLASSES

Twice a year, we offer classes to equip you to become a person of God's word, care for one another, and live missionally. Class details on page 7.

Fall session begins on September 18.

COMING IN OCTOBER

**membership
class**



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GET THE NEXT INSIDER sent to your inbox at graceb3.org/insider

By Global Outreach Pastor Paul Hansen

keep praying *for missionary kids*

In June's Insider, we shared that all our Field Staff (missionaries) have kids! So there is a lot to pray for. Find them at graceb3.org/people. Here is a follow-up for our next steps to taking our charge seriously as a church.

An effective and powerful way to pray for others (and ourselves) is to pray Scripture for them. It's rewarding to know we are praying God's will over their lives while immersing our hearts in his word, resulting in our hearts being renewed. God offers us beautiful guidance to know exactly how to pray for others when we are weary, discouraged, or at a loss of what to pray. To follow up our request to pray for missionary kids (see the June Grace Insider), we wanted to offer this guide for you to more easily and effectually lift them up. Although we are focusing on the children of our missionaries, these prayers would also be very appropriate for any kids you know living cross-culturally due to their parent's service. Please tuck this in your Bible or post it in a prominent place to use spare moments to lift up these precious lives!

Here are four categories to pray for our Missionary Kids (MK's). Have a name in mind, find a quiet space, and pray through these areas on their behalf:

A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." John 3:16-17

"For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the

riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." Ephesians 3:14–19

COURAGE

"But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior." Isaiah 43:1-3

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

PROTECTION

"For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard in all ways." Psalm 91:11

IDENTITY/BELONGING

"So then we are no longer strangers and aliens, but we are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." Ephesians 2:19

"But our citizenship is in Heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." Philippians 3:20

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you: I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Jeremiah 1:5

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away, behold, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17 🌿



THRIVE

By Spiritual Formation Pastor Dave Kirk

As I read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and passages like it in the Scriptures, I get excited about the power of God's word in our lives. God's words are true wisdom and are essential to building a life, a family, a career, and a church. At Grace Community Church, we take God at his word. We are excited to join him in equipping people to enjoy their relationship with him and to make disciples for the kingdom one relationship at a time.

Being people of God's word is one of our values at Grace. Our desire is to see God make everyone complete and be equipped for every good work just as the above verse says. To that end, we strive to provide equipping opportunities at Grace for people of all ages and backgrounds. One of the ways we do that each year is through our Thrive classes.

*"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."
2 Timothy 3:16-17*

WHAT IS A THRIVE CLASS?

It is simply an equipping class designed to help you

- 1) grow in your knowledge and application of the word of God, and
- 2) connect relationally with others as you walk through the class together.

Another way we say it is that **Thrive classes are like a tool shed, meaning in each class you can pick up a skill or tool you need to grow in your walk with Christ and as a disciplemaker.** Thrive classes are designed to be short, focused learning opportunities rather than a never ending class. Our classes are typically ten weeks long (though some are shorter) and are offered twice a year, in the fall and winter.

I am excited about the Thrive classes we are offering this fall. We kick off on Saturday, September 10, with the Soul Care Weekend Edition. Other Thrive classes start on Sunday, September 18, and end on November 20.

The main focus for this fall's classes will be on **growing to be people of God's word, being intentional about how we care for one another, and living missionally.** I want to encourage everyone to sign up for a Thrive class this semester, as there is something for everyone, no matter what age, experience, and spiritual journey you have had. See below for a list of upcoming Thrive classes. I look forward to seeing how the Lord grows us this fall as a church and as individuals.

THRIVE CLASSES | FALL 2022

The Anatomy of the Bible *Andrew Meredith*

This class is designed to teach people how the Bible came together and how to use it in their everyday life.

The Redemption Story of God From Genesis to Revelation

Jacob Varvel/Peter Chidister

This class will teach people God's redemption story from Genesis to Revelation in order to see Jesus in each book of the Bible.

Marks of a Disciple (Part 1) *Brian Hagedorn*

For Jr./ Sr. High students What are we called to be and do to grow in our faith and maturity? In this class, we will explore what it looks like to be disciples of Jesus.

Tying the Knot: Premarital Counseling Class *Dave Kirk*

This is for people who are engaged, thinking about getting married, or have been married but have never had marriage counseling.

1 Peter Discussion Group *Tim Rees/Rick Sly*

This is a group for people who are not in a Bible study or a community group but want to discuss the 1 Peter study series with other believers.

Class began August 28; you may jump in anytime.

Soul Care Weekend Edition *Biblical Counseling Team*

Saturdays: September 10, October 8, and November 12

This class is our foundational class to learn how to care for others with God's word.

Instruments in the Redeemers Hands *Dave Kirk*

This class is a follow-up to the Soul Care class. You will learn principles for applying and practicing the CARE model in your daily relationships.

Life is About M.E. (Missional Engagement) *Global Outreach Team*

What does missional living look like? This class is designed to equip and encourage people to live missionally in their relationships. 🌿

By Pastor Brooks Simpson

why feelings matter

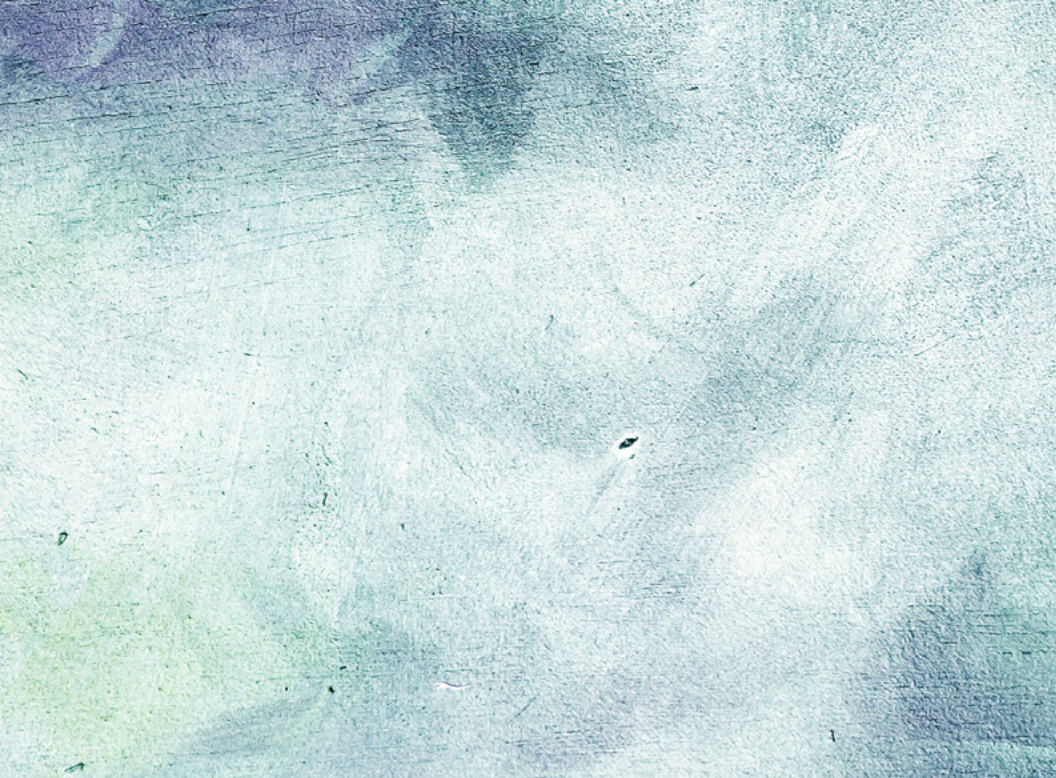
"Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!" Psalm 139:23-24

Have you ever prayed this Scripture, asking God to show you what was in your heart and to lead you into righteousness? I have prayed that prayer dozens of times over the years, but only recently have I begun to understand how God answers it.

When I first became a Christian, I learned that I should never allow my feelings to drive my faith. Facts drive faith and feelings should bring up the rear. That was good advice then and still is. One problem: I took that to mean that my feelings are not important. That is an exaggeration and just not true.

While I was on sabbatical, God taught me why feelings matter. Stacy and I have been married 33 years, and I have heard this question thousands of times:

"What are you feeling right now?"

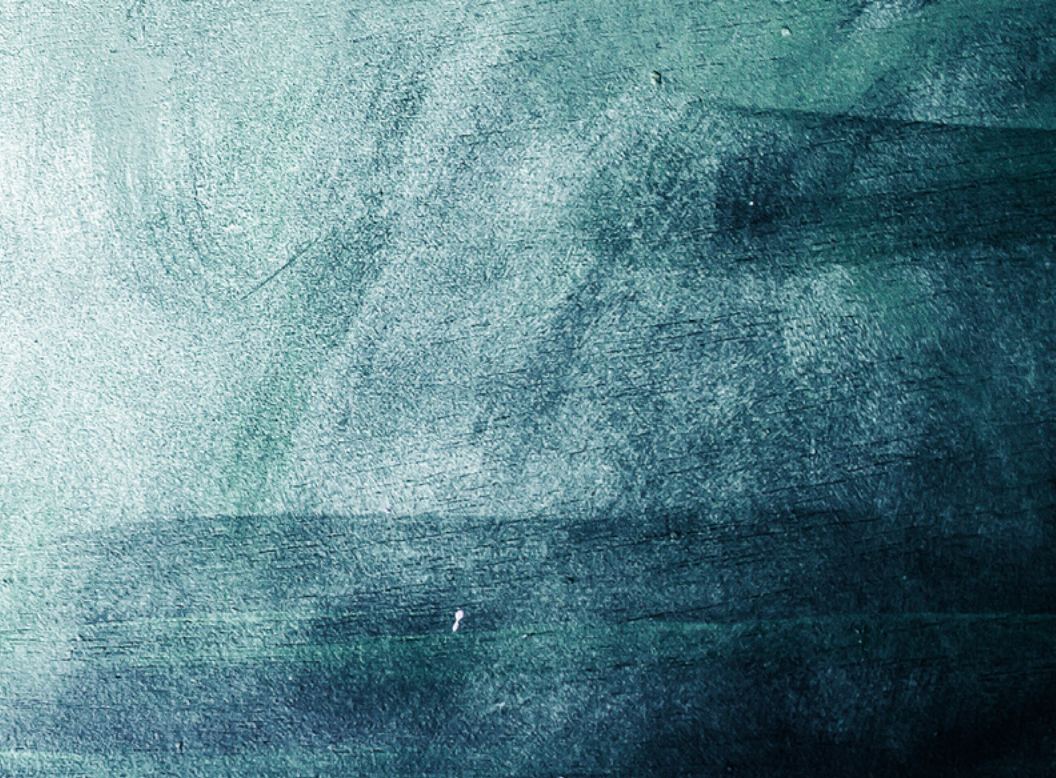


My response until recently had been decidedly unhelpful. Typically I would respond with, "I don't know. I don't really know what I feel." Predictably, this less-than-insightful answer did not lead to the emotional intimacy a God-honoring marriage is designed to foster. Stacy would ask because she desired to know my heart. She wanted to know the soul of her soulmate.

I used to hate that question. It wasn't because I wanted to hide how I felt; I just didn't always know what I felt or see the value in processing my feelings. I reasoned that since feelings are supposed to be subordinate to faith, what mattered was not "what do I feel?" but only "what should I believe and then do?" While we should always subordinate feelings to faith, that doesn't mean feelings don't matter.

THE PURPOSE OF FEELINGS

I made a point to pray Psalm 139:23-24 word by word while on sabbatical. I asked God to search me, try me, and change



me. God showed me that those feelings I always tended to ignore, stuff, or override were the very things he wanted me to discuss with him (and my wife, by the way). He designed them **to show me areas of my heart and soul that needed my attention**. They are like gauges on a car's dashboard – they don't determine the car's direction, but if you ignore them, the car will break down.

So how do our gauges work? How does what we feel translate into helping us have a closer walk with God? Go back to Psalm 139:23-24: search me, know my heart, and try my thoughts. God is omniscient; he knows everything. He already knows our hearts. He knows our hidden motives. He knows our thoughts before we think them. David did not pray this because he wanted God to know something God doesn't already know; David prays this way because he wanted God to reveal what he already knew about David's heart but David did not. Feelings provide a window into the heart.

After asking God to search my heart and try my thoughts, I would quiet my mind and ask questions about things I felt. For example, one morning in solitude and silence, I began to think about all the people who had left Grace Community Church before and during the COVID pandemic. Now typically, when I would think about something like that, I would tell myself how I *should* feel and then ignore any negative feelings. This time I looked at the gauges on the dashboard. I asked myself, "What do I feel right now as I think about all those people who left?" Then I wrote my feelings down. Here is an entry from my journal on February 13, 2022.

Father, I wonder why these people left Grace. I speculate and think of all I/we failed to do at Grace compared to the churches they now attend. I look back with regret for what I did not know or did not do. I feel regret. I feel foolish. I feel embarrassed. I feel like I have failed to lead well.

God used this candid analysis of my feelings to show me what he already knew was in my heart. In the weeks before and after this journal entry, God used my feelings to show me that I had an identity problem:

- I know that I can't please everyone and should not try, but I feel compelled to try.
- I know that I shouldn't pummel myself when I fail, but I feel compelled to anyway.
- I know my worth does not come from a worldly indicator of success, but I feel like a failure anyway.

In the past I might have just said to myself, "Those feelings are wrong, so ignore them and act in faith." The act in faith part is biblical. Ignoring the feelings is not.

Instead of ignoring these embarrassing feelings, I took them to God. "*Lord, why do I feel these things? Spirit, search me. Show me.*"

ASK AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE

I asked, and the Lord answered. He opened my eyes and showed me that while I knew on paper that my identity was in who I am in Jesus, my heart was insisting that I was actually finding my worth in what I did for Jesus. That is a subtle form of idolatry. Here is a scary truth. Five years ago, when all those people were still at Grace who would eventually leave, my feelings were different. I felt good and confident. What if COVID had never happened and they had all stayed and more had joined them? I would have felt great and never thought to ask God, "Why do I feel good?" I never would have checked the gauge and looked under the hood of the car. I would have driven on assuming those good feelings I never asked God to examine were an indicator of my spiritual maturity, when in fact they indicated a misplaced identity.

So, how about you? What do you do with your feelings? Do you just run with them and allow them to run you? If so, your growth in faith will be stunted. Do you ignore them? If you do, then you will miss things God wants to do in and through you. In order to change us, God shows us what is in our hearts if he is to change us. If we want to be emotionally intimate with God, we have to tell him what we feel. Not for his sake but ours. 🌿

Backyard Bible Club recap

This summer was another successful year for Backyard Bible Club, with five sites spread across Amana, Coralville, and North Liberty.

The vision for BBC is to help Grace families reach their neighborhoods while also serving Grace families. For Grace families, BBC offers a chance to volunteer and another space for their children to hear the gospel while also connecting Grace families with one another. For the neighborhoods, it provides an open door to begin or continue relationships with neighbors who may not know Jesus.

We are so thankful for everyone who served, but especially for the hosts. Hosting is a commitment that requires opening your home and keeping your family going through the week while serving your neighbors, volunteers, and kids attending. It requires energy and faith, and God has been so gracious to give that to each of the hosts. The blessings of serving alongside other Christ followers was an encouragement. It was also encouraging to have volunteers from other local churches – the body of Christ at work in neighborhoods and making outreach a reality.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Multiple youth helpers who had grown up attending BBCs and now are old enough to serve, with many of them taking on **leadership roles**.
- Registration at one site was so large that there was a last-minute location change to a neighborhood park. **One child came simply because he was playing in the park** and saw what was happening. He ended up attending every night. The park also allowed more options for activities.
- **Neighbors offered to help** by providing food and money to cover expenses.
- Connections were made with neighbors at the start of the week through explaining what was going to take place and taking them food from the block party. There were even **simple conversations with neighbors who had never interacted before**.

PRAYERS:

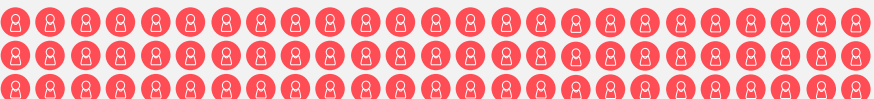
- Please pray that the open doors with neighbors, both adults and children, would continue.
- Pray that the B.L.E.S.S. practices we all learned about in the spring sermon series would continue to be lived in our neighborhoods.
- Pray about how you can be involved next summer. 🌿

BBC BY THE NUMBERS:
 5 sites

 3 cities

 14 local churches represented, plus many unchurched

106 families (200 children served)

**75+ volunteers**



By Guatemala Short Term Mission Team

GUATEMALA RECAP


Just over five weeks ago, a team of 11 from Grace traveled to Mazatenango and San Antonio, Guatemala, to share the saving work of Christ with the impoverished, widowed, abandoned, and starving. Here are their thoughts as they set out to build houses, give away wheelchairs, food, clothing, and Bibles.

For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” Romans 10:13 -15

DAY 1 TRAVELING TO MAZATENANGO RYAN MILLER

About 9 p.m. we arrived safely in Mazatenango, Guatemala, where we will spend the next several days serving in the surrounding area. We got an early start and were at the airport this morning at 5:30, so it has been a long day of travel.

Our trip out to Mazatenango was extra long because of very heavy traffic; we did not arrive until after dark. Because of this, we didn't really



have a feel for our surroundings. We were all ready to get some rest so we could hit the ground running tomorrow morning when part of our group would be doing home visits and the other part would be doing concrete work for the first house. We were all excited to see what the Lord had for us to learn this week and how we could help show his love to others in Guatemala.

DAY 2 HOME VISITS & LAYING A FOUNDATION AT SITE NO. 1

AMANDA CHIDISTER (HOME VISITS)

A small group of four of us, plus some of the local missionaries, headed out on some house visits today. A city employee, similar to a social worker, joined us and was the one that connected us to these families in need. It's going to be impossible for me to put into the right words the weight of what we experienced today. The needs varied from family to family, but regardless, the needs were immense.

We brought a 50 lb bag of food, backpacks for school-age children (school supply costs often prevent children from attending), clothing and shoes for each family member, a hygiene pack, and a Bible for each family. It doesn't feel like enough – but I'll come back to that. We sat on stools and talked to each family, listening and learning new needs and how they were getting along, and more importantly, encouraging them and reminding them about the love God has for them, despite the difficulties that life brings. Difficultly is a tricky word – a bit subjective. We quickly realized that "difficulty" is not comparable to what any of us have ever experienced. What we brought certainly didn't feel like enough, at least not long-term. Except remember that part earlier where I said we brought them a Bible, that's the part that was enough. His word is true and everlasting. God's love is enough. He is the provider even in our lowest of circumstances and he has hope, even for the least of these.

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" Matthew 6:25-26

HANNAH ISAACSON (CONCRETE WORK)

Today part of our team went to one of our home builds to make and pour the concrete floor for our first home build. We put cinder block around the perimeter of the home. Then we shoveled sand in the middle of the cinder blocks and leveled it to prepare for spreading concrete. The next step was mixing sand, rocks, concrete mix, and water with shovels to make the cement. Finally, we poured and finished the concrete floor by using shovels, wheelbarrows, and hand trowels.

We really enjoyed being able to interact with many children and families while we were building. We loved handing out candy and toys to the children who were overjoyed to get the gifts. Several of the teens from our group connected with the children by teaching them the 'bottle flip.' They all had so much fun playing together despite the language barrier.

DAY 3 - WHEELCHAIR DISTRIBUTION LAUREN MILLER

"I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles." Psalm 34:4-6



ABOVE before and after pouring concrete

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NEXT GEN MINISTRY**

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Today we did a wheelchair giveaway; we gave out 56 wheelchairs and over 15 walkers and pairs of crutches. They taught us how to fit the wheelchairs for the people. We got them a wheelchair, put a seat belt on it, adjusted the foot pedals, and showed them how to use the wheelchair. Then they received a Bible, met with a local pastor and others who prayed with them.

My favorite part of the day was seeing their faces light up after they were fitted for the wheelchairs; they were filled with thankfulness because they could now get around easier and, for some, they had not been able to get around at all.

When I look back on today, I'll remember José Roberto — he would pop his wheelchair up and raise his hand into the air just filled with joy. Even though he had trouble talking he was so full of life and happy to receive his chair.

ZACH ISAACSON

Today was a very impactful day for me. I was surprised how people who had so little could be so joyful. Even though I couldn't understand their language, their emotions were crystal clear when

RIGHT joy captured after receiving some toys
BELOW getting wheelchairs ready to be distributed



they received a chair. It brought me excitement and joy whenever we gave them a chair and saw them praise God for it. It was obvious that this was going to impact their life! Some of the people coming in couldn't get around without a chair, so I felt like we were making a difference in people's lives.

I remember one person who couldn't talk; he was just blowing kisses and giving hugs. There was also an older lady who came in, and we couldn't get her sizing right for a while, but she was still thankful even though she had to wait awhile.

Before coming to Guatemala, I expected people to be sadder because they don't have as much stuff, but they are more joyful even though they don't have as much.

DAY 4 - LAYING A FOUNDATION AT SITE NO. 2 AND HOME VISITS

"And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them." Luke 12:29-30

CHAD GEORGE (CONCRETE WORK)

Today we returned to the same community and in the general vicinity of where we had laid the concrete slab on Tuesday. We started our trek with a devotion by Ben on "what is love." It was a powerful reminder of who God is, his grace and mercy, and how we needed to approach our ministering to the Guatemalan people.

The uneasiness of not knowing what to expect on the first day of the home build was gone which made for a greater observation of the day, having eyes to see our surroundings and get a better sense of those we were serving.

The home site for today happened to be a little further in, which required us to walk and carry all the equipment to where we would be building. Again, it gave us a wonderful opportunity to see the people. We reached our destination



LEFT path leading to worksite

and were greeted by the family who had kindly set out a table so we would have a place to eat our lunch.

The location layout required that we get creative with how we accomplished the task, but with all our eager team members coupled with the family, neighbors, and city workers willing to help, we completed it in a timeframe that we did not expect.

The day was filled with much hard work but also laughter, connection, relationship, bottle flipping, car rides with Zack singing the entire theme song to Puppy Pals, and finally Pizza Hut for dinner.

It truly was a joy to pour out all that we had to serve and bless the local people because **we were constantly reminded of the sacrifice and generosity of our savior which only motivated us to want to do more.**

HANNAH ISAACSON (HOME VISITS)

Today we visited two families who both needed hope and encouragement. The first family was a single mom with three kids living in her brother-in-law's house and renting from him. He was planning on selling the property, and soon they wouldn't have a place to live. Her youngest daughter has numerous health problems, including dwarfism, a hole in her heart, lung issues, Hepatitis, and parasites. They had almost no access to medical care. Her mom doesn't know how bad her heart issue is, and basically says that her daughter could die at any time.

Her daughter likes going to school, but, most of the time she's too sick to attend. Even though she has all of these problems, she was so energetic and joyful in showing us her school books and kittens — she wanted to show off for sure! She was really entertaining to watch; I loved watching her hang out with the missionary's daughter. I saw her dig into her school backpack and she got halfway into the bag to take out some items to show us.

Her mom is in such a desperate situation right now, having no home, no food, no access to medical care for her daughter, and three kids to take care of. When we first started chatting, we found out that she's been attending a Jehovah's Witness church — and that she was confident she was not 'good enough' to go to heaven. But **after we shared the Gospel with her, and she read several passages in the Bible, she wanted to accept Christ as her savior on the spot!** Praise God! The change in her demeanor when we first walked in compared to when we left was remarkable. She said that she felt like she was between a rock and a wall, but that the weight was completely lifted when she accepted Jesus. We gave her and her family clothes, shoes, blankets, toys and stuffed animals for the kids, 50 lb of food (lasts about three weeks), and a Spanish Bible.

Today we were able to meet some physical needs for both families, but the hope and encouragement they received in hearing about the love and faithfulness of God was the greatest gift by far!

BELOW LEFT family received new clothes **BELOW** little girl showing us her kitten



DAY 5 - HOUSE BUILDING AT SITE NO. 1 & HOME VISITS

"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction." James 1:27a

ABBIE CHIDISTER (HOUSE BUILDING)

Today we built the house on top of the first cement poured from two days ago. We got there and unloaded all the sheet metal and the bars. We started with the two-sided walls and the back wall, followed by adding beams across the roof to stabilize it. After that we put up the front wall, cut the windows, and put in the door before installing the roof and painting the exterior.

Part of the afternoon, a few of the other team members and I played with several of the kids from the house and the neighborhood. There were about ten kids aged 2 to 12 that we played with. We showed them how to flip bottles, ran around with them, and sang some Bible songs — it was really a lot of fun!

Once the house was done, Ben explained that **Guatemalans don't want to move into the house without it being blessed first, so we gathered inside with them and prayed over them and the house.** Then we all shared hugs and said goodbye and prayed that they would remember that God provided the house.

BELOW the house is done!



I liked seeing the kids who wanted to participate in the house build, and seeing their joy even in all the intense heat. It was a good reminder to have a childlike faith, even with all the bad things going on in the world. Something that I've noticed recently about the Guatemalan people is that they interact with each other differently than we do in the U.S. They know each other really well and like being with each other a lot. The neighborhoods we have worked in seem like one big family. I feel like we have that in our church in Iowa, but not in the greater community.

ELLIE ISAACSON (HOME VISITS)

Today I was on the team doing home visits, and we met with three families. At the first visit, there were many kids around, but there was one just sitting on a chair, and he wasn't really doing anything. We found out that he was blind and seemed hopeless because he didn't have anything to do. He answered Ben that he is sometimes angry with God. He was really lacking a sense of hope, but the rest of the family seemed to have a very strong faith. It was difficult to see that he was lacking hope and felt there was nothing good in life.

On the second home visit, the mother's parents were elderly and lived with them along with the wife's brother who has special needs. The parents are really focused on making sure their kids finish school, but the father got sick. Since then, they haven't been able to keep up with their loan payments and have had to borrow from loan sharks to keep the kids in school. They are committed to keeping their kids in school even though it would be easy to just have them quit and help out the family by working. They are just trusting God to provide for them.

We were able to encourage them by praying with them, giving them a 50 lb bag of food, and some clothes. We were also able to encourage them by sitting down and talking with them. This family stuck out to me because of how much the parents were willing to sacrifice for their children.

At the third house, it was loud and hard to understand everything, but I did find out that the father had died two years ago, and the mother had been sick but had been better recently. The doctor said that she's had a lot of stress from losing her husband and having to provide for the family on her own. Her main concerns right now are looking out for her younger kids and she prays for her older sons that they would follow Jesus.

It's remarkable how so many of the kids I saw today seem to have so much joy even though they have almost nothing.

DAY 6 - HOUSE BUILD ON SITE NO. 2 & HOME VISITS

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

JANE GEORGE (HOUSE BUILDING)

Today was the last day of our second house build and home visits. I loved starting today with a team breakfast. While we were all tired from the work this week, we still had energy to share stories of what God has done this week, laugh together, and have fellowship with each other.

On the way to the build, we stopped at a nearby grocery store to get food for lunch. While Nick and Ben (two of the missionaries we've been working with) got the food, Izzy led us through a devotion in the parking lot.

We arrived at the house build after taking the 10-minute trek up a narrow paved path and hiking a trail into the nearby hillside; the family receiving the house came out to greet us. While we did have to carry the tools for today's build with us, some kind city workers had already brought up the aluminum siding and studs to the job site the previous day saving us several hours of hauling materials.

The build went smoothly, with the home visit team joining us

for lunch and all of us finishing the job together in the early afternoon. We were able to move the family in, pray over them and head back to the hotel for some relaxation time. It rained for a while on the drive back but let up just before dinner, so we were able to swim a little bit.

The experiences and lessons that God's taught us this week will always be in my mind. Not only did we help others grow in their faith, the trip has also helped me in my faith – listening to Ben talk at home visits and seeing the weight of people's circumstances melt under the power of God's love and faithfulness in Christ. At the end of every visit, people had smiles on their faces because of their hope in the gospel and our help despite their circumstances.

JACOB VARVEL (HOME VISITS)

This morning the team split into two groups, the first to complete the final steps of our second home build, and the other (which I joined) to visit two families before joining the home builders that afternoon.

The first family we visited was a single mother with four children (her husband abandoned them when their youngest was 18 months old). When we first arrived she appeared to bare the weight of the world on her shoulders. She described to Ben (in Spanish) how she'd been selling tortillas but that the transportation costs had more than doubled during COVID. She had a strong business sense and seemed to have a plan to start her own small business selling tortillas (and other food) out of a small road-side store.



Her eldest son, 12, was doing homework when we arrived. We quickly learned that he would finish 6th grade in a few months, and that 7th grade has significantly higher

ABOVE interior of a local home

costs than the family could afford. Ben spent time talking directly to this boy, having him read out of the Bible we gave them, and talking to him (and his mom) about how God has a plan for them, and they weren't a mistake. We read several other verses, encouraging them in their faith, prayed with them, talked them through the supplies we had brought, gave each family member several sets of new clothes, and then headed to the second house visit.

The second visit was with a multi-generational family with several children and grandchildren. This family attends church regularly and had a small altar for prayer in their home. We quickly learned that while the husband was able to work, the medical expenses of several children in the family were making it difficult to make ends meet. Again here, transportation costs were a central problem for the family. Medicines found only in Guatemala City (about a 3-4 hour bus ride and taxi) cost about \$100 round trip. The burden has been so significant that the family had been buying food on credit at their local market. We read several Bible passages, prayed together, and gave them supplies and new clothing. After we'd left, the Bethel missionaries we were with discussed the possibility of shipping the medicines directly to the family; however there appeared to be several logistical challenges to overcome.

This past week has demonstrated the immense power of the gospel, even to those in the most dire of circumstances. In fact, it seems that the gospel is more tangible to the destitute and the impoverished here than for many in our own country. But one thing is clear: if the saving work of our Lord Jesus can bring hope and joy to those facing death, crushing poverty, homelessness, and starvation, then its promises are just as real and powerful to me also. 🌿

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." Romans 1:16

THRIVE

INSTRUMENTS IN THE REDEEMER'S HANDS**DAVE KIRK • 8AM • RM 307****1 PETER DISCUSSION GROUP****RICK SLY • 8:00AM • RM 306****THE ANATOMY OF THE BIBLE****ANDREW MEREDITH • 9AM • RM 306****THE REDEMPTION STORY OF GOD FROM GENESIS TO REVELATION****PETER CHIDISTER & JACOB VARVEL •****9:00AM • RM 307****MARKS OF A DISCIPLE (JR./ SR. HIGH)****BRIAN HAGEDORN • 9AM • RM 203****TYING THE KNOT: PREMARITAL COUNSELING CLASS****DAVE KIRK • 10:45AM • CONFERENCE ROOM****SOUL CARE WEEKEND EDITION****BIBLICAL COUNSELING TEAM •****8AM-4:30PM • SATURDAYS SEPT 10, OCT 8,
& NOV 12****REGISTRATION OPEN****SIGN UP AT GRACEB3.ORG/THRIVE**

MEN'S FALL KICKOFF BREAKFAST

sept 24 7:30-9am north liberty campus
sign up at graceb3.org/events by sept 21

Men of Grace, don't miss this!
Men of all ages are invited! Enjoy
a catered breakfast and hear
about all the men's ministry
opportunities coming up this fall
and beyond! Bible studies,
mentoring, help groups, sports
ministry, Sons of the King, and
more!

*Event is free to attend. A free will
donation will be taken.*

Questions?

Contact Dave Kirk at
davek@graceb3.org



SERMON NOTES

DATE:

MAIN IDEA:

NOTES:

missions emphasis week oct 9-15

WHERE DO I FIT IN?

Sunday, Oct 9 | 9am & 10:45am; 5pm

North Liberty: Our morning worship services will highlight a **missionary speaker** and a **flag presentation** to represent the many nations who need the gospel. There will be a display of several **mission organizations** in the gym.

Downtown: Our evening worship service will highlight a **missionary speaker** and include the opportunity to interact with an individual who has served on a mission field.

Wednesday, Oct 12 | 6:30 - 8pm

North Liberty: Everyone is welcome to come out for Grace Student Ministry's Refill gathering - not only students but their parents and anyone in the church. Hear how **every individual can have a place in God's "Great Commission"** of sharing the gospel to the world.

Saturday, Oct 15 | 6pm

North Liberty: Come out for an evening of focusing on the challenges presented during the week, discussing and discovering "Missions - Where Do I Fit In?"

