

GRACE INSIDER

FEBRUARY 2024

Building Classrooms in Haiti

**Bringing Hope to
International Students
this Easter**

Dedicated Servants

Guatemala Team Updates

WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF THE CHURCH?

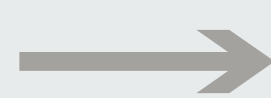


UPCOMING EVENTS

Learn more and/or sign up for events
by tapping on the events or visit
graceb3.org/events

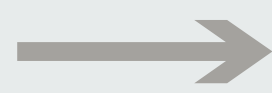


10TH - 17TH *follow along on their blog*



Guatemala MISSIONS TRIP 2024

11TH

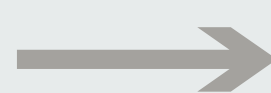


all-church WATCH PARTY

MARCH 5TH *after 2nd service*

COLLEGE STUDENT *monthly lunch*

MARCH 23



BIBLICAL SOUL CARE WEEKEND EDITION

WHEN & HOW SHOULD PRAYER HAPPEN

WHAT IS PRAYER, *PART III*

By Executive Pastor Josh Haveman

WHEN DOES PRAYER HAPPEN?

1 Thessalonians 5:17 instructs us to “*pray without ceasing.*” Taken by itself, and out of context, that verse keeps many people from prayer. Many Christians have heard it said that prayer is something that they should always be doing, and they immediately feel overwhelmed. Questions like, “*how am I supposed to always be talking to God,*” and “*how am I supposed to always be adoring, confessing, supplicating, and giving thanks,*” are commonplace.

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO ALWAYS BE ADORING, CONFESSING, SUPPLICATING, AND GIVING THANKS?

That does seem impossible. And in the simplest sense, this would be impossible.

We cannot really pray while we are sleeping, talking to a friend, or even while completing

a complex task. Our brains are limited. Our attention is limited. In the most basic way of thinking about the concept of doing something without ceasing, we know that even prayer can't truly be done nonstop.

The context of Paul's instruction to the Thessalonians solves the problem for us. Paul is telling the church that they ought to be developing ongoing default attitudes and behaviors. He wants the church to constantly be full of joy and encouragement. He wants the people who worship together to constantly pray with and for each other. And he wants the church to understand that prayer is something that Christians should return to again, and again, and again. Maybe one person will need to stop praying to sleep, or to engage in a task, or to focus on a child in need. But the church as a whole should always be approaching the throne of God. And every time a person stops praying, it should be with the understanding that they need to return to prayer very soon. **It isn't an instruction to be busy filling every minute with words to God. It is an encouragement to be godly by frequently communicating with him.**

This is the key to a healthy prayer life: make prayer a part of everything you do. Talk to God when you wake up and before you go to bed. Talk to him when you're driving your car and while you're eating your meals. If you have to stop talking to God because your mind is focused on something else, tell him about it when that thing is over. Talk to him when you get frustrated. Talk to him when you feel joy. Talk to him about every person and every circumstance. Before you know it, the praise and confession and requests and thanksgiving that Jesus teaches us about will naturally fit into all of these conversations. In talking to God frequently you will become more comfortable asking him about your needs, and praising him for his provision. **When talking to him is a part of your routine, it will be obvious to**

you how he can be a part of every conversation and interaction.

“**MAKE PRAYER A PART OF EVERYTHING YOU DO... THE PRAISE, CONFESSION, REQUESTS, AND THANKSGIVING THAT JESUS TEACHES US ABOUT WILL NATURALLY FIT INTO ALL OF THESE CONVERSATIONS.**”

HOW DOES PRAYER HAPPEN

You won't have meaningful conversations with anyone unless you prioritize that conversation. At your job and in your home, these priorities will often be set for you by someone else. Your boss, spouse, child, or parent will often demand that you communicate with them by one means or another. But God is rarely like this. Occasionally, in Scripture, we see him confront people directly with commands they cannot ignore. More often, though, he stands at the door of people's lives and knocks, waiting to be invited in. **Communication with God happens when people choose to make it happen. He is waiting and ready, but we have to make it a priority.** Once you have made prayer a priority, it is good to consider who you are with and the circumstances you find yourself in.

PRAYING PRIVATELY

Many times in the gospels we see Jesus leave his friends, family, and disciples to spend private time in prayer with the heavenly Father. Many others in Scripture speak privately with God, too. Once you have prioritized prayer, and made it a part of your everyday life, private conversations with God can happen almost anytime and anyplace within your thoughts. But as Jesus shows us, there is value in also separating yourself from other people so that you can give intentional time

and focus to speaking with God. In doing that, you are freed up to speak out loud to the Lord.

This might feel awkward to you, but it can be a great help in keeping your mind on track. If you have ever prayed with people before, it is likely that you have talked to God out loud so that others can hear what you are praying. Praying out loud to God privately is no stranger than praying out loud with others. Doing it privately simply means you are speaking out loud without anyone but yourself to hear. Yet, being able to hear yourself speak can be the very thing that helps you concentrate on what you are saying.

PRAYING IN COMMUNITY

Different Christians and Christian traditions approach prayer in community from many different perspectives. Some traditions teach that communities that pray together should all pray simultaneously, with everyone who participates speaking at once. Other traditions practice corporate prayer where one person speaks and everyone else listens. Many Christians extemporaneously pray with other believers, making their prayers up as they say it. Some Christians believe it is better to write out corporate prayers beforehand, or to pray directly through a psalm or other piece of Scripture.

Depending on your convictions, any of these methods can be beneficial. What is most important is that you do pray with other believers. **God desires that we have the same unity with each other that he has within himself.** That won't happen if we don't talk to God together. Every member of the body of Christ benefits from hearing every other member commune with the Creator. Every member of the body of Christ can grow and be edified by listening to their brothers and sisters talk to God.

PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT

Whether you pray by yourself or with other people, remember that it is the Holy Spirit who interjects on your behalf. God the Spirit wants to speak to the Father and the Son for you. He wants to communicate the very feelings that define you - what Paul (Romans 8:26) calls, *“groans too deep for words.”* So **don’t neglect him. Don’t ignore him.** If the Spirit prompts you to say a quick prayer when your heart is moved to compassion at the news of a tragedy, take him up on the offer. When the Spirit moves you to enter into a long prayer for a loved one who is far from God, rely on his power to communicate all that burdens your heart. Let the Holy Spirit lead you to true thankfulness. Praise God in the Holy Spirit’s power.

HOW TO GROW YOUR PRAYER LIFE

A couple final thoughts — if you want to grow your prayer life, you may need to do or at least think about the following:

Routines are important: train for a healthier spiritual life by conforming your physical routines in such a way as to make space for prayer: during your commute, at breakfast, at a regularly scheduled time, etc.

Confess sins in corporate prayers: Talking to God about the deepest, hardest things requires practice – especially in community. It can be embarrassing to confess sins when others can hear. But remember that God already knows everything. You aren’t revealing something new to him. You are simply acknowledging the truth so that you can grow.

Don’t overthink this. God desires a sincere heart above any specific form or type of prayer. **Be willing to pray messy, disorganized prayers so long as you trust the Lord with your whole heart and rely completely on his Spirit.** 🌿

A photograph of two women wearing hijabs, laughing joyfully on a city street. The woman on the left is looking upwards with her mouth open in a laugh, while the woman on the right is looking towards her. They are standing in front of a brick building. The background shows a street with trees and other buildings. The image has a warm, golden-hour lighting.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

BIBLICAL SOUL CARE

WEEKEND EDITION

3.23 | 8AM - 4:30PM

4.20 • 5.18 | 8:30AM - 4:30PM

** Bring your own lunch or pay \$35 to have lunch catered at all three meetings.*

This class is for everyone who has ever wondered how to help someone who is hurting, losing hope, or struggling with deep set sin (and it's for everyone that has been there, too). Our stance is that everyone gives counsel (or what we more frequently call advice) and that, as Jesus' people, we are called to give biblical answers to life's questions and problems. This class will get you off to a roaring start on what a biblical answer is to some of the sticky things that life throws our way.



BRINGING HOPE TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS THIS EASTER

By Field Staff Wade Summers

“The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.” Acts 8:34-35

It is hard to read the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch and not be inspired. Through God’s prompting, Philip gets to unpack the good news about Jesus in answer to the Ethiopian eunuch’s question. But if you are like most people, the story can also be intimidating. You might be saying to yourself, when would I have such an opportunity?

You have that opportunity this spring. International students from over 100 countries come to our community. Each year dozens of these students join the International Student Easter because they want to understand what bunnies and eggs have to do with the real meaning of the holiday. They also want to experience what it is like to have an Easter meal in an American's home. You see, these students are like the man from Ethiopia in many ways. Both are away from home in a foreign country for a limited amount of time. They both have vague notions but need full understanding. The Ethiopian doesn't understand the text, and the international students don't understand Easter. They both actively seek the answer but need someone who already knows the good news to unpack it.

**WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO OPEN
YOUR HOME AND MAKE YOURSELF
AVAILABLE LIKE PHILIP?**

HERE IS WHAT IT WOULD LOOK LIKE IF YOU CHOSE TO PARTICIPATE in this year's International Student Easter, which is **a few weeks before Easter**.

- 1) You would get matched with students who have signed up because they want to experience an Easter meal and learn the true meaning of the holiday.
- 2) Then, welcome them into your home for a light version of your Easter meal with the help of an optional co-host.
- 3) After your meal, you will head to the church with your students to listen to Brooks' message. Brooks will talk about the cultural meaning of the holiday, e.g., Easter egg hunts and chocolate bunnies. And he will share the true meaning of Easter: Jesus' death and resurrection.
- 4) After Brooks' message, you can unpack it with the students you hosted over delicious Easter desserts.

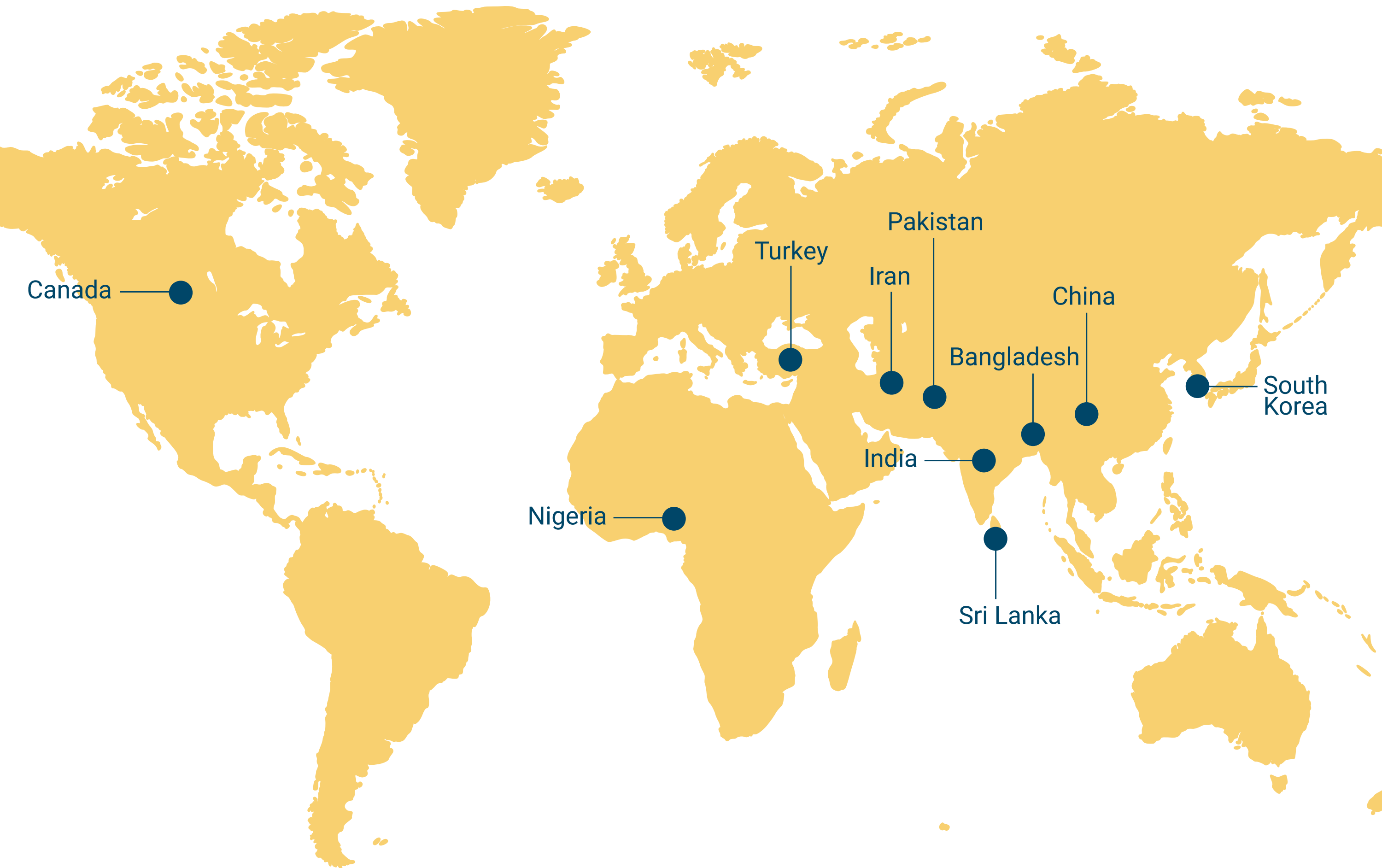
If you would like to host, please sign up at graceb3.org/ise.

NOT ABLE TO HOST? You could help make the International Student Easter a success by **helping someone host** and **giving students rides**. You could also **assist with the setup, teardown, and plating of desserts**. Another way you can serve is to **make a delicious Easter dessert**.

If you would like to host, cohost, assist, or make a dessert, please sign up at graceb3.org/ise. 🌿

DID YOU KNOW? The top ten home countries of the UI international students are:

- China
- India
- South Korea
- Nigeria
- Iran
- Bangladesh
- Canada
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka
- Turkey





baptism class

Our two-part baptism class is for anyone who wants to learn about baptism and/or pursue being baptized at Grace.

This class is a requirement to be baptized at Grace.

Register at graceb3.org/baptism or on the app.

March 17 & 24
8:30am

*Baptism is an outward sign of
an inward work of God in man.*

WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF THE CHURCH?

By Lead Pastor Brooks Simpson

***Is our church
a place or
a people?***



THE WAY PEOPLE VIEW CHURCH IS SHIFTING. The purpose of this article is to expose and challenge your view of church. Is your view of church based on the teaching of the Scripture, or just what you have caught from culture? Answering that question is hard – like asking a fish to describe water. Let's climb out of the pond and look at it from the shoreline.

Let's start with how we talk about church. Say you are having a conversation with a new neighbor and you discover they are a local who just moved across town from an apartment. You ask them the usual questions about where they are from, their work, their family, etc. You noticed the fish-thingy bumper sticker on the back of their car, so you assume they are a Christian. You decide to get really nosey and ask about church. How would you ask? What words would you say? How would you form the sentences?

I cannot speak for you, but typically the conversation would go something like this.

Christian: You are a Christian, too? That's great! *Where do you go* to church?

New Neighbor: *We go* to Awesome Sauce Church. How about you?

Christian: Oh, *we attend* First Generic Bible Church.

New Neighbor: How long *have you been going*?

Christian: About five years. We *used to go* to Name Brand Bible Church but after pastor Groovy left, *we stopped going*. His replacement was just not as good. Boring speaker.

New Neighbor: I get it. *We went* to a different church during college, but once the kids came along Awesome Sauce Church's children's ministry was a better fit for our family's needs.

Christian: We've been there. Generic Bible Church has great youth ministries. Our kids love it when we go, but our boy Jake-the-Jock plays on a traveling baseball team, so we *haven't actually attended* as much as we like.

New Neighbor: Yeah, we haven't been consistent either. Awesome Sauce Church streamed the services over COVID and we got used to Coffee, Couch, and Church. I know we are terrible, and we should *really start going again*.

Christian: Don't beat yourself up. You have to do what's best for your family.

Does that conversation sound familiar? Aside from the silly names, these are only slightly modified versions of conversations I have had with people about church over the last three years. The thing I want you to notice is the way both people refer to church. **Both people view the church as a place they attend** — we go here, we used to go there, we really need to start going again. The language we use communicates what we believe the church is. I think it is safe to say the average Christian in America believes the church is a place they go when they are looking for something of spiritual value, like an insightful sermon, a dynamic youth ministry, or moving worship.

Many view [church] as a place where Christians go *if and when* they decide they need something spiritual which they cannot get from the internet, a good book, or their friends and family.

Sam Rainer writes that **an active member used to attend church two to three times a week, whereas that number has now changed to two times a month**. While simply attending church regularly doesn't make a person spiritually mature, changes like this mark a cultural trend amongst believers

in how we view church. Church missiologist Ed Stetzer describes these shifts as people/believers viewing church attendance as a new spiritual discipline. At Grace the typical congregant attends once or twice per month. If everyone who's attended Grace in the last year came on the same Sunday, we would need to have more than four services to accommodate the crowd.

Does that last sentence sound boastful to you? Like maybe I am boasting a little bit about the number of people who come to Grace? Well, if our vision is to get a whole bunch of people to have a mild affinity for what happens at 2707 Dubuque Street from 8:30AM to 11:35AM each Sunday morning, then that would be a boast. But our vision *is not* to coax people to visit the building to have their felt-needs met — making that statement much more of an embarrassing confession than a boast. Grace is pretty much like every other church in America. Many view it as a place where Christians go *if and when* they decide they need something spiritual which they cannot get from the internet, a good book, or their friends and family. This falls well short of our desire to be, and make, disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1:6-7

Let's revisit the imaginary conversation again, only this time let's craft it the way first-century believers would have the conversation.

Christian: You follow Jesus, too? That's great! Who are your people?

New Neighbor: We meet at the church in Priscilla and Aquila's home.

Christian: Oh, we meet in Apollos' home.

New Neighbor: How long have you been with them?

Christian: About five years. We were baptized into Christ and have been members of his body. And it was like we were adopted into a new family — everyone helping each other and building each other up as Timothy instructed.

New Neighbor: I get it. We were baptized into Christ ten years ago. Our church family's been through some hard times. Persecution, sin, backbiting. But these people are our brothers and sisters, and through Christ's power we are learning to love well — devoting ourselves to God and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Christian: We've been there. Apollos is a great teacher, but our brothers and sisters have had plenty of problems. Paul gave us a stern rebuke in his letter last year — which was read aloud and passed around to all the nearby churches. That stung! But God used it for our good, and our faith and love is stronger now than it ever was before.

New Neighbor: Yeah, there are times the other people in our church drive me nuts, but we are members of Jesus' body and belong to each other. You know the saying, "You can choose your friends, but you can't choose your family."

Christian: I understand. Being a member of Jesus' body means being a part of his family.

Reading Acts and the Epistles reveals that the typical American view of church is superficial at best. Whereas modern believers commonly see the church as a place they visit, 1st-century believers viewed the church as a people — the

body of Christ — of whom they *became a part of* when they were baptized. Which viewpoint has a better understanding of how we are united together? Are we united together through programs and events, or an invisible union forged by an intensely loving, omnipotent God? **Is church a people you are a part of, or is it a place you occasionally attend?**

To be fair, Grace is like other churches in the west — we find it extraordinarily difficult to describe the water in which we are immersed. Make no mistake, we've no doubt enabled and even facilitated a consumerist mentality. But that's the great thing about the gospel, Jesus paid for our sins and gives us his righteousness! We can repent, there is no condemnation, and change is possible. Grace can change as a local expression of the body of Christ. You can change as a member of Christ's body. We don't have to conform to the pattern of this world with its rampant consumerism — in fact we're called to something so much better.

Watch for future insider articles on how we are striving to act more like a family and less like a place. Meanwhile talk to your heavenly Father and ask the Spirit:

1. How do you want me to view the church?
2. How should I view my relationship to the church?
3. What would you have me do?
4. How would you have me pray for the church in my community? 🌿



ABOUT OUR DEDICATED SERVANTS *Children's Ministry*

*By Children's Ministry Lead Coordinator
Natasha Miller*

DID YOU KNOW APPROXIMATELY 50 PEOPLE SERVE IN THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY EACH SUNDAY? This army of volunteers is a dedicated group that some of you may never see because you don't have children in their classes. We want to share some things about them with you:

- The length of service ranges from a few months to 25 YEARS.
- The ages of those serving range from 12 to 70ish (we don't ask their exact ages).
- Many families serve together.
- Students, singles, married couples, and retirees serve alongside each other.
- The majority serve weekly for the school year - they are committed!

Last school year elementary classes focused on memorizing the books of the Bible. One kindergarten student was so excited about this that he took his key ring with all the books of the

Bible to show-and-tell at school. In fact, this year, he still takes it with him everywhere he goes. **Our volunteers love seeing this excitement for God's word, and we all pray that the seeds of the gospel will take root and grow into beautiful kingdom fruit.**

This school year, the elementary classes are focusing on memorizing Scripture. The volunteers are committed to working with the students in class and encouraging them to work on the verses at home. **We see many children excited to memorize Scripture and are praying this becomes a lifelong discipline.**

"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:11



As a Children's Ministry team, we see our volunteers living out Galatians 6:9-10,

"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

Children's Ministry would not be possible without our wonderful volunteers. Next time you pick up your child from class, **take a moment to thank them for investing in your family.** Those of you who do not have young children, please **pray that our volunteers may continue to share the gospel with the youngest members of Grace.** 🌿



By Ryan and Natasha Miller

GUATEMALA TEAM *february Update*

ON FEBRUARY 10-17, 19 PEOPLE FROM GRACE WILL LEAVE FOR A SHORT-TERM TRIP TO GUATEMALA where they will work with Bethel Ministries to meet people's physical needs and point them to Christ. This group is going with the support of Grace Community Church through people's prayers and donations, which means you can be part of this trip from Iowa.

If you haven't heard about this trip or have very little knowledge of it, you might be asking a few questions:

- What are they planning to do?
- How can I be involved?
- Why are we sending a group of Grace attenders to some other country?

This last question is the most important. The short answer is that we are commanded to in Matthew 28:19-20 which says: *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

Other reasons include **meeting specific needs of people in Guatemala to point them to Christ** and his love for them; **growing the faith of those going** on the trip; stretching us out of our comfort zone to **learn to rely on God in different ways**; and interacting with fellow believers in another country to help us to **see that the gospel and God’s love transcends language and culture**.



STRUCTURE OF THE WEEK

While in Guatemala our team **will be building three houses for families** that are the neediest of the needy. These houses are nothing fancy, consisting of a cement floor, some solid walls, a solid roof, and

enough bed space for each family member to have a bed. While in the US we would consider these houses as not enough, they are a welcome upgrade from the current living situation which often looks like old metal sheeting propped up against bamboo for walls and a holey tarp for a roof.



Another aspect of the trip is a **wheelchair giveaway** where around 50 individuals are fitted with a refurbished wheelchair. They are then prayed for, followed by a chance to hear the gospel shared from local pastors and leaders. In the direst cases, people are getting a wheelchair for the first time and have spent their whole lives never able to go out unless someone was willing to carry them.

The third aspect of the trip is **home visits**. The team, along with Bethel staff, visits homes of people who are facing a hard time. We give each family a bag of food and a Bible. While visiting, we ask how they are doing, share God's love for them, and pray with them. One home that I was able to visit in February 2023 was one of a grandma and her young granddaughter. They had many struggles including limited work,



which meant limited money for the necessary things of daily life. This grandma already knew Jesus, so we were able to encourage her in her faith. She couldn't read, but when we gave her the Bible, she wept. She had been praying for many years for a Bible because she knew that it is God's word and therefore precious. When it was time to pray, she prayed a beautiful prayer that sounded like a psalm. She thanked God for who he is and how he provides, and she asked God to meet her needs and sustain her. This was one of the most humbling experiences of my life. To see someone with so little in earthly possessions be so filled with joy because she knows her heavenly Father was an experience I will never forget.

In all three of these projects, **we want the recipients to know and remember these gifts are from God and not this group of people who showed up one day from another country.**

Now you might be asking how you can be involved in this trip or a future trip. There are **three primary ways to be involved:**

- **praying,**
- **giving funds to help pay for projects and travel expenses, and**
- **joining a future trip.**

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR OUR UPCOMING TRIP

- People would hear the gospel and see God's love through what we are doing
- Families receiving the houses would recognize them as a blessing from God
- Individuals receiving wheelchairs and their families as they meet and pray with local pastors
- City workers, officials, and community people in the areas where we will be working
- Team unity and the ability to be flexible if plans must change
- Team members to grow in their faith through the experience of going on the trip

I WANT TO GO, BUT...

You are not alone if you have considered joining a short-term mission trip, but had doubts and concerns. Common obstacles that make people hesitant to go include:

- Not enough time
- Not enough money
- Limited useful skills
- Language barriers
- Unfamiliar food
- Uncertainty about accommodations
- Travel concerns



While these are legitimate concerns, **God is more than willing to provide and overcome all these obstacles.** When we aren't sure of the outcome, where resources will come from, or if we have the skill to complete a task, that is when God can show his strength and provision the best. **If you feel God is calling you to go on a short-term trip, follow that call and let him take care of the details.**

TO GIVE TO PROJECTS OR SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS ON THE TEAM, visit graceb3.org/dgstm.

- House builds: \$3500 each
- Wheelchair distribution: \$7500
- Food for home visits: \$50 food bag per home
- Personal travel expenses: about \$1,500 per individual

FOLLOW ALONG WITH THE TEAM WHEN THEY ARE IN GUATEMALA by reading the blog at graceb3.org/gstm 🌿





ALL-CHURCH WATCH PARTY

By Student Ministry Director Brian Hagedorn

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Grace Student Ministry is teaming up with Men's, Women's, and Children's ministries to host a party where you and your family can **socialize, share snacks, play games, and of course, watch the Super Bowl!** So save the date, start prepping your favorite appetizers and gathering your favorite team gear to wear to the party!

Date: February 11

Time: 5pm until the end of the game

Location: Grace North Liberty

Needs: Bring an appetizer or snack to share if you plan to attend! 🍷



By Executive Pastor Josh Haveman

Building Classrooms *in Haiti*

FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS, GRACE HAS UNDERTAKEN A SPECIAL GIVING PROJECT AT CHRISTMAS. This year, the church partnered with Worldwide Village to bring assistance to Luly, Haiti.

Since 2021, the entire nation of Haiti has been in significant turmoil. This has included gang violence and large scale displacement of people within the country. Whole families have moved from their hometowns, or have been driven out by violence, and a select few communities remain safe havens.

One of those communities is Luly. Grace has long partnered with Worldwide Village to support people, pastors, and churches in and around that town. Prior to 2020, short-term missions teams would travel to Haiti about twice a year, and would often visit Luly. Today, travel to Haiti is not possible. But providing pastoral care and financial support is an option, and we are doing both.

Every month, Pastor Dave Kirk and Downtown Elder Jeff Thompson meet online with Haitian pastors for prayer and counsel. These meetings can be very difficult, as the Haitian pastors often share needs that we cannot meet directly. But we have been able to respond to many needs with prayer and words of encouragement. And we have also been able to respond to some financial needs with financial gifts.

The financial need we highlighted this Christmas is a perfect example. Due to the internal displacement within the country, **Luly has far more children than is typical for that area. Their existing school buildings are insufficient** for providing for the needs of all of those kids. Worldwide Village asked if Grace Community Church could help raise money to pay for the construction of additional school space to help meet that need. The pastors and staff passed those requests on to the congregation, and the congregation responded in an amazing way.

As of January 3, 2024, Grace Community has donated \$25,265! According to Worldwide Village, that money is sufficient for building **a brand new, two-room school building in Luly.** Praise the Lord for his faithfulness, and thank you for your generosity! What a blessing it is to be able to share with our brothers and sisters in Luly. 🌿



all-church **WATCH PARTY**

FOOD • GAMES • PRIZES • FUN | FEB 11 5PM

Whether you're a diehard football fan or just coming for the food and fellowship, this event is for everyone!

The game will be streamed live on the big screens in the auditorium. There will be seating up front for those focusing on the game, and tables and chairs towards the back for those who want to watch more casually, visit, play table games, etc.

Bring your favorite appetizer or dessert to share.

We will turn the game off during halftime for some raffles and games.

Wear your favorite jersey! Invite a friend or neighbor!

FEB 11 5-10:30PM

**BRING AN APPETIZER
OR DESSERT TO SHARE.**