

GRACE *and Truth*



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For the law was given through Moses, but GRACE AND TRUTH came through Jesus Christ. (John 1:17)

February, 2016



A Healthy Church

by W. Ryan Steenburg

"I think a healthy church has a proper balance and understanding of doctrine, devotion, and discipleship."

A prominent evangelical leader recently commented that too many churches today are theologically shallow. Unfortunately, this leader went on to equate this shallowness with the fact that these churches are led by young people who have watered down the gospel and are theologically incompetent. His exact comment was that young pastors are not theologically sound; nor are they dedicated to teaching the Word of God. He intimated at the idea that young pastors are more interested in being culturally relevant over and above being theologically sound. I was offended. Not necessarily because it was all a farce, but because by nature of my age demographic I was included in this cluster of inept preachers. Granted, I am not as young as I used to be, but this evangelical leader is old enough to be my father.

This leader is right, however, in that there are a lot of churches in this country that have chosen to pursue the relevance of the culture while setting much of what the Bible teaches aside, or quite literally, setting the Bible aside entirely. In all fairness to the young pastors out there, just as many older pastors are guilty of this heresy. I want to promise you that we will not be one of those churches.

I shared at our annual business meeting in December that part of our vision for the church is that we would be a healthy church. Part of this process includes developing healthy men and women who will in turn produce healthy households. The healthier we are, the healthier they are, and the healthier we will be (read that a few times to let it sink in). I displayed this for us in what is called a Venn diagram. A Venn diagram is made up of two or more circles which are called "sets." In this case, we have three "sets." The cyclical nature of the Venn diagram I presented suggests three inherent attributes: one aspect leads to another, the aspects overlap at times and exist independently

at times, and the process is never ending. We will always be working on being a healthier church, healthier men and women, and as households progress and change with the tides of culture, so will the need for regular focus on healthy households.



This diagram presents at least two questions, and quite possibly more for some of you. The first question we should ask is, "Where is our starting point?" This question is asked in light of the fact that we are dealing with a cycle that does not have a beginning and an end.

Well, the place where we are "dropping in" to this cycle is the healthy men and women "set" in order to focus on and emphasize the health of the men and women in the church. This focus does not ignore nor should it stifle the development of health in the other areas, but it is our area of focus. This is the reason you will see, and even have

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Tristin DeHoff and Elena, Antonia, Nicole and Jubilee Georgen attended the Family Worship Workshop held in January. See page 4 for more pictures.

Visit our website at www.indygrace.org

First Quarter Sunday Classes, 2016

THE BOOK OF JAMES

Have you ever needed a "How To" book in your life? The book of James is the Christian's "How To" book on living a life committed to God. It shows us the purpose of trials and the stages of sin, and James exhorts us to look at our lives to see if we reflect God in everything we do. Join us as we take a detailed look at this very instructional book! ***Taught by Mike Monfreda in Room 111.***

CHRISTIAN HISTORY MADE EASY

This class summarizes the most important leaders and events in the history of Christianity, from the time of Jesus to today. It also covers the origins and formation of the mainline denominations. ***Taught by W. Ryan Steenburg in the cafe area.***

LEGACY OF WOMANHOOD

We will be looking at the legacy that the women of the Bible have left us and see how we fit into God's plan of living out the Gospel. In our responsibility and role, we will discover how we can be just as trusting, wise, and bold as those we study. ***Taught by Jo Witmer in Room 109/110.***

MAN'S BATTLE CRY: PROFILES IN THE LIFE OF DAVID

Join other men as we journey through the life of David, as recorded primarily in 1 and 2 Samuel. We will consider how the joys, challenges, triumphs, and defeats of David's life can apply to our own lives as men, and we will recognize how this shepherd, warrior, worshiper, husband, father, and king ultimately points toward our greater King, Jesus Christ. ***Taught by Gabe Doerksen in Room 112/113.***

DISCIPLELIFE: MIDDLE SCHOOL

This is a family-style class and parents are invited to join the group and participate in the discussion. ***This class meets in room 117 and is facilitated by Zach and Cristi DeHoff with various guest facilitators.***

DISCIPLELIFE: CHILDREN'S WING

You can always teach in the children's wing during ANY quarter!





Bill Boone

God's Blessings in 2015



by **Bill Boone**

Our holiday projects were just incredible! At Thanksgiving, Servant's Heart fed 641 families and touched 2,179 lives. On Thanksgiving morning we

had planned to feed 200 meals but after collecting the names Wednesday night we needed 268 meals. I told Chef Rick that we had a little problem. He said, "No problem. We just have to find some cooked turkey breast." Where do you find cooked turkey breast at nine a.m. on Thanksgiving morning? God knew. I went to the Beech Grove Walmart deli where one of our former clients was working that morning. Donna was very helpful and had just what Chef Rick needed. I told her that God had her working Thanksgiving morning to serve His purpose and help us feed those folks.

Our Christmas project saw many volunteers come out to help shop, wrap and distribute gifts. Dozens of donors adopted families, and each classroom at South Grove Intermediate bought gifts for one family. The entire school uses this activity as a community service project. Instead of buying gifts for each other, they buy gifts for our kids. We had toys continue to come in after we had given everything away. God knew that there were five more families who were going to come on Tuesday and we were able to take care of their needs too. All together there were 212 families with 514 kids who received Christmas presents under the tree because of our generous donors.

In the year 2015, 10,201 lives were touched at the Servant's Heart Food pantry. We served 360 new families and collected 64,812 pounds of food to distribute.

In our first week of 2016 we saw 105 families. We have never seen one hundred families in January before! With the food stamp program changing, I think we will see more new families come and are excited that God will use us to serve.

A couple of weeks ago I got a call from a client who was in need of food brought to her home. After contacting her, I found that she had recently had a partial foot amputation due to diabetes. I took her several bags of groceries and a couple Marsh gift cards. When I went to see her she had her foot wrapped up in a plastic bag. The doctor said that she would have to go back and have more of her leg removed. I prayed with her and the family for the future sur-

gery. My prayer was that the doctor could get the infection but not have to take any more of her leg. When I went to see her last Thursday I had found a bedside commode for her and brought them more groceries. The doctor didn't have to take any more of her leg, just a little more of her foot. Her doctor thought that the antibiotics would heal the rest of the infection. Before I left I thanked God for using us to reach out to Joannie and her family in a very special way, and for her continued healing. It is amazing how God can use ordinary people to minister his love to his children in need.

My prayer for all of you at Grace is that you will hear God's call to come and help us serve people on Indy's south side at Servant's Heart. You don't need any special training, just a willing heart to serve.

A Healthy Church

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seen, a renewed emphasis on men's and women's ministerial events. This includes gender specific events like the men's breakfast, Titus 2 nights, men's and women's retreats, and currently DiscipleLIFE classes for men and women. We also have gender-blended events like DiscipleLIFE classes, family game nights, home groups, and the church picnic. With the various events and functions we organize, we are always mindful to protect the home schedule so as not to harm or hinder the healthy household before we even focus on it.

The second question we should ask is, "What do you mean by healthy?" Well, in a nutshell, I think a healthy church has a proper balance and understanding of doctrine, devotion, and discipleship. Wrapped up in these three concepts are things like a dedication to the Word of God, loving our neighbor as our self, sharing the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ, biblical stewardship in finances and in service to our spouse, children, the church, and community. A healthy church is primarily a spiritually growing church – not just growing in our theological acumen, but growing in our hearts for the love of God being translated in every aspect of our lives. It is a focus on Christ with a mentality of service. In a healthy church there is a culture of authenticity, accountability, and responsibility. Considering this perspective of "healthy," I think we could just as readily apply this to what it looks like to be a healthy household as well as healthy men and women.

Reflecting on the foundation from which the evangelical leader made his comments, every church is at risk of becoming like one of the churches of Revelation. The hope in this is that the churches in Revelation were also commended for their service, holiness, and exclusive love for Christ, as well as their love for each other. May we, as a local body of believers, as a sign that our faith is strong and the Spirit is working, turn the tide and be an example of a healthy church, to the glory of God!

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News From the Children's Department

by **Cristi DeHoff**

The Family Worship Workshop was held in January. Many were able to attend, a lot of good questions came up, and many good conversations were had. We've included a few pictures of the event below.

Keeping with the idea to help families at both church and home, we are going to try to include a small tip or word of encouragement in our monthly articles.

Family Time – If you are trying to establish a Bible study habit, pick a simple Bible study to do together, then start small. Commit to do three studies each week. After a few weeks, add a day. This way you don't feel defeated right away if one day is missed. Don't know where to start when picking the study? Start by asking Cristi, Holly, or Pastor Ryan. We would love to help you find something that works for your family!

We are now accepting donations of individually wrapped candy for the Eggstravaganza. Donations can be placed in the tub beneath the children's bulletin board. The Eggstravaganza will be held on Saturday, March 19th. Sign up at the children's bulletin board to volunteer for this event.

The children are in need of a kindergarten class teacher first hour for February, a preschool teacher two Sundays each month for first hour for this quarter, and one nursery volunteer once a month for second hour. Please begin to pray to see if you will be able to volunteer next quarter. See Holly Phoenix with questions, or to volunteer.



FEBRUARY

- 2/02 Anthony Monfreda
- 2/03 Andrew Smith
- 2/03 Stephen Scott
- 2/04 Jamison Sudler
- 2/05 Rose Hartman
- 2/07 Pat Witmer
- 2/08 Mike Monfreda
- 2/09 Ann Bumb
- 2/09 Danica Scott
- 2/10 Anna Williams
- 2/15 Joyce Young
- 2/17 Jim Brown
- 2/19 Linda Collyear
- 2/20 Vicki Raymann
- 2/20 Victoria Gayflor-Abbey
- 2/20 Pam Rutherford
- 2/20 Kayce Scott
- 2/24 Joseph Moore
- 2/26 Bunny Conlin
- 2/27 Seth Acree

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2/11 Bill & Sondra Belcher

Worship
the LORD
in all
his holy
splendor.

Psalm 96:9, NLT

