

# GRACE *and Truth*

# GRACE†

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

January, 2015



## What We Can Expect From the New Year

by Steve Agal

As we begin 2015, we want to reflect awhile on exactly what we can expect. In James 4:13-15 we read, "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit;' whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.'"

Let's look at three groups as we consider this question.

### I. THE WORLD

- We are in the "last hour" – 1 John 2:18: "Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour."
- We are in "perilous times" – 2 Timothy 3:1: "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God ..."

All of those descriptive words apply.

The OWLS Fellowship Group has recently completed a study of the Olivet Discourse from Matthew 24 and 25. In that passage there are some general statements which I believe will apply for 2015. In Matthew 24:4-12 several things are said that occur prior to the Lord's return to the earth following the tribulation. How much more then as the world prepares for that time!

- Wars and rumors of wars – verse 6
- Natural disasters – verse 7
- Afflicting of Israel – verse 9
- False prophets – verse 11
- Iniquity abounding – verse 12

When my brother and I were youngsters, he used to

say that things were getting "worse and worse." Not good English, but nevertheless true. How much closer are we to the RAPTURE in 2015?

### II. THE CHURCH

- Perverting the Gospel – Galatians 1:6-7: "I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ."
- Denying future prophetic events – 2 Peter 3:4: "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."
- Losing our first love – Revelations 2:4: "Nevertheless I have somewhat against you, because (Continued on page 4)



A few of the children of Grace practiced for our Christmas service by singing *Joy to the World*. Pictured left to right are Jacob Wiksten, Olivia Raymann, Emma Mayo, Eric Mayo, Scott Lawlis, Natalie Lawlis, Jamison Sudler, Evan Doerksen, Jessica Spence, and Ava Rizzi.

Visit our website at [www.indygrace.org](http://www.indygrace.org)

## Update on the Hult Family in Idaho

by Barbara Hult

Last summer we spent a couple of weeks at a “working farm” bed and breakfast in northern Idaho. Besides the local sightseeing, the 4th of July parade and fireworks, Bryan shadowed Farmer Steve throughout his property with his chickens, rabbits, goats, pigs and cows.

After vacationing in this area for several years, we decided to make the northern Idaho panhandle our home. After considering “hobby farm” properties in several areas, the climate and community of Sandpoint, Idaho is where we’ve landed on five acres. The micro-climate of the area is sheltered by the Selkirk and Cabinet Mountains. Although we are one hour from Canada and will have significant snow, it is a mild climate both summer and winter.

In September, we made the cross-country move, and yes, Katy, Matt, and the three girls decided to come with us! Matt is able to telecommute for his Indianapolis job, at least for now, so he continues working and blogging.

Bryan retired from Grace Evangelical Church, and after 27 years of ministry pretty much 24/7 (and years of seminary before that), we are taking a break! After we get settled, we will look into discipleship opportunities in the area. However, right now Bryan’s handyman skills are needed full-time. He is busy putting up walls, and honing his plumbing and electrical skills.

The BEST feature of our new place is a very large pole barn. Around here the value of your property is in the out-buildings. It has something to do with guys and their tools and toys, animals, and a more self-sufficient lifestyle. We



Barbara and Bryan Hult

are blessed to have a very clean enclosed area (with a concrete floor) to store our belongings until our living space is complete. The barn also has open areas with two stalls and hay storage. Bryan is talking about chickens, rabbits, sheep and goats, but they will probably be a springtime addition.

Dinnertime conversations now include topics such as the best brands of muck boots, how to juggle a septic system with seven people, how much firewood we will need to heat all winter, are we really going to need studded tires and chains to get around, which neighbor to call first to plow us out, how do you stir a frozen compost pile, and how do you move a pile of garden soil (one shovel at a time). We have learned that everything you need to buy you can find at Walmart, Home Depot and Staples, and that the locally owned stores are even better!

Sarah (5), Emma (3) and Liberty (1) all enjoy it here. They are learning new meanings of the word “work” and enjoy going on hikes in our heavily wooded backyard.

Yes, it does seem like we’re a long way from everyone, but fly into the Spokane airport and we’re not far away. Our address is Sagle, but if you’re on the internet or look us up on a map, Sandpoint, Idaho is where we shop, dine and go to the library. Sandpoint is a resort community with boating and fishing in the summer, and skiing in the winter. The local community is friendly and slow-paced (an adjustment for us!). No one apologizes for being closed on Sunday. We love the small town atmosphere.

We hope this finds you well! God has blessed all the changes in our life this past year.

## Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Servant’s Heart continues to be blessed by its faithful supporters and volunteers. In 2014, we served 483 new families and the ministry touched 11,160 lives. Lots of food drives took place throughout the year for a total of 41,115 pounds of food.

Our holiday projects have been a big success by exposing families of volunteers to our ministry for the first time. At Thanksgiving dozens of volunteers came to help us serve 594 families and feed 1,991 people. Christmas sponsors have adopted 193 families, blessing 466 children. What an outpouring of love for our kiddos!

This year we have seen different strategies by some groups for the Christmas holidays. Others have decided to charge a fee for holiday assistance per child. I am so thankful that we don’t share that same philosophy for our projects. As we extended our help to families for Christmas, God raised up donors to cover the need. What a blessing it was to see it come in!

One of the last families added to our Santa Shop was doing fine until the layoffs came in October. After we com-

mitted to help them, within minutes a gentleman walked in and handed over a check for \$300. God knew he was going to come in way before I ever met him. We love these divine appointments.

We look forward to helping all the families this ministry will touch in 2015. God bless the folks at Grace for your continued support.

– Servant’s Heart Board

**The budget of the Missions Committee operates solely from designated giving, and not from the general offering. In order to support the Grace Evangelical Missions outreach, you need to mark your offering envelope with the specific amount you wish to go to MISSIONS. God has richly blessed our church and the missions giving has always been very good. Please join with us in making certain that you designate a portion of your giving to MISSIONS. Let’s see where the Lord leads us and how we can expand the outreach of Grace Evangelical Church.**



# Fellowship Group Spotlight

## OWLS

Steve Agal is teaching a new study in Galatians with the OWLS Fellowship Group. Galatians was written by the apostle Paul to the churches in Galatia and contains the foundational Biblical truth that a person is justified by faith in Christ. After warning the Galatians not to desert the Gospel, Paul encouraged them to live out the freedom they have in Christ. **The OWLS meet in room 112/113 at 9:00 a.m.**

## REFUGE

Jeff Stevens will be teaching from the book of Judges which looks at the first 300 years of the history of Israel, from the time of the death of Joshua to the time of Samuel, the last of the Judges. This generation of Israelites, and every generation after that during this time period, fell into idolatry, they forgot the commands of God and there was a severe decline morally and spiritually. As each generation unfolded, idolatry would prevail, a foreign invasion would take place and oppress the people of Israel, they would cry out to God for help, and God would send a deliverer. This speaks clearly about the cycle of sin and its consequences, as well as God's love and willingness to send help when his people cry out to Him. The Refuge has a time of fellowship which includes sharing praises and prayer requests. **The Refuge class meets in room 115 at 9:00 a.m.**

## Update On Our Search For a New Pastor

The Search Ministry began meeting on a weekly basis this month. After having read and discussed numerous resumes, doctrinal statements, personal statements of faith and testimonies, researched church websites, and listened to many sermons from said applicants, we are pleased to tell you we are making significant progress.

We are working our way through the application process at a prayerful and deliberate pace as this procedure is both purposeful and detailed in its mission. God has blessed each member of the Search Ministry with unique abilities and talents, and they are being put to good use. Communication, administration, counseling, Biblical knowledge, and interpersonal skills are just some of these gifts. This team is working together diligently and is very excited to see what God has in store for Grace.

During the upcoming weeks we ask that you pray specifically for:

- God's will and perfect timing;
- the specific pastors under consideration and their families;
- the continued wisdom and discernment for the search ministry;
- patience for the congregation and assurance that God is in control; and
- Gabe and Steve as they lead.

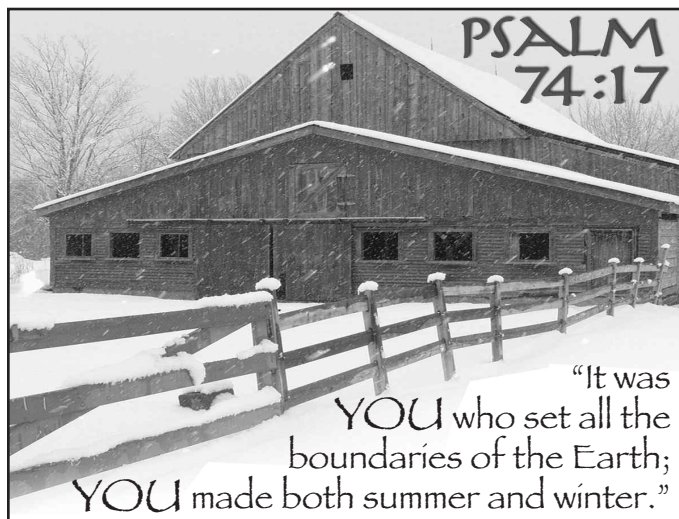
– The Search Ministry

## LEGACY

Rich Witmer is teaching from the book of Ruth. Taking place during the time of Judges, faithfulness is one of the key themes of this book. We see Ruth's faithfulness to Naomi, Boaz's faithfulness to Ruth, and everyone's faithfulness to God. God, in return, rewards them with great blessings. Redemption is also an underlying theme in the book of Ruth. As Boaz, the "kinsman redeemer," saves Ruth and Naomi from a hopeless situation, he illustrates how Jesus Christ redeems our lives. **The Legacy Fellowship Group meets in the café at 9:00 a.m.**

## WORD PROCESSORS

Ron Dodson and Mike Huff are currently teaching the Grace Evangelical Church Statement of Faith. Each week they will take each statement and study the Scriptures listed with added questions that relate to the topic. **The Word Processors meet in Room 109/110 at 9:00 a.m.**



*"For last year's words belong to last year's language  
And next year's words await another voice."  
– T.S. Eliot, Four Quartets*

*"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are  
going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called  
Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day."  
– Edith Lovejoy Pierce*

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**WHAT WE CAN EXPECT FROM THE NEW YEAR**

(Continued from page 1)

*you have left your first love.” And becoming lukewarm – Revelations 3:15: “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.”*

We do not fight against the “politically correct” agendas, nor the aberrant “alternative lifestyles,” but continue on as if nothing is wrong!

Having seen what we can expect from the world, and the church at large, what can we expect from ourselves as individuals?

**III. THE INDIVIDUAL** (in two groups)

- Believers
  - Falling asleep – Romans 13:11-12: *“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.”*
  - Failing to witness – 1 Corinthians 15:34: *“Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.”*
  - Fixing our hearts – 1 Peter 3:15: *“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”*
- Unbelievers
  - Dying in their sins – Romans 6:23: *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*
  - Without Christ, God has given them up – Romans 1:26: *“For this reason God gave them up to vile passions.”*

What can we say in conclusion?

**For the believer**, Ephesians 5:15-16: *“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”*

**For the unbeliever**, as John the Baptist said, Matthew 3:7: *“... flee from the wrath to come?”* and as Isaiah said, Isaiah 55:6: *“Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.”*



**JANUARY**

- 1/02 Sam Handy
- 1/04 Bill Graham
- 1/05 Phil Campbell
- 1/11 Carol Lawlis
- 1/11 Larry Dilk
- 1/11 Antonio Garcia
- 1/12 Wendi Bridwell
- 1/16 Kurtis Loy
- 1/17 David Butler
- 1/21 Pam Farrar
- 1/22 Lily Handy
- 1/23 Josiah Graham
- 1/25 Janet Simpson
- 1/25 Martin Weile
- 1/27 Libby Davis
- 1/29 Rita Manley
- 1/31 David Dale
- 1/31 Tim Miller

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 1/02 Jim & Cherie Brown
- 1/27 Mike & Pam Rutherford

**News From the Children’s Department**

by **Cristi DeHoff**

The Children’s Department had a Christmas get-together to have fun and fellowship with our smallest church goers. We had 23 kids – if you include infants! There were games, crafts, a story, and snacks provided by Vickie Hovenstine. We are planning a similar gathering in February and tying it to a service.

We want to be a constant in your family’s lives and offer support whenever needed. We appreciate your prayers, especially in the midst of change in the church.

Starting in January, the preschool class will join the congregation for the beginning part of the worship service. Then beginning the first Sunday in March, the preschool class will be attending each first Sunday worship, for the entire service. We are excited to start teaching them more about their church and show them how they can also be a part of the body of Christ!

