

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, 2016



Embracing Our Families

by Cristi DeHoff

I want you to think about your first child. If you do not have children, imagine a possible family. You planned. You read. You visited the doctor, and took vitamins, and talked with friends and family members, and had baby showers, and painted rooms, and set up cribs, and bought little tiny items for the tiny human growing inside. And the rest of the time that teensy person was all you could seem to think and talk about.

And whether you meant to or not, you planned for this little person's future. You had hopes and may have day dreamed about the day when the child could talk, walk, read, learn, and communicate with you. You remember when you held them – so small, sweet, precious, vulnerable. Loud? Possibly. Smelly? Probably. But they were yours.

Over time, as they grow, there are play dates, friends, school, sports ... and nestled somewhere in there is family time. Somehow it gets shoved somewhere between Saturday cleaning and last minute homework Sunday night. Time spent with your child grows increasingly smaller.

And even the most important education they will get, the one about their relationship to the Creator of the *entire universe*, gets to be taught by someone else, and usually only once or twice a week.

I encourage you to be jealous of that time and that honor. You are your child's GREATEST role model. You will influence them so much more than you know! And they will learn more about God – loving Him, worshipping Him, sharing Him, living for Him – from you than anybody else.

It can be difficult to find the time to teach them all that you want them to know. But it doesn't have to be formal. Every time your child sees you during quiet time, in prayer, and serving others, you are teaching them to worship God.

It is a privilege to be able to lead your children in this manner. It can be work – hard work. So is parenting, marriage, and true friendship ... but it is totally worth it!

If you have no children, sit with a family; offer to help if they need it. ALWAYS be quick to tell parents when their child(ren) do well during the worship hour. Encourage a parent until they ask you to stop! Tell them that *they* did well too!

A couple of years ago, the Children's Department was allowed to begin bringing the elementary age students into service for its entirety once a month. We chose the first Sunday of the month, since it is the day we celebrate communion. We felt that was most important, since these children are beginning to accept Christ and also understand the practice. And so many of our elementary children are not only our "babies," but are also our **younger brothers and sisters in Christ**.

We did what we knew best, as best as we knew how to do it, and over the course of several months, prepared the
(Continued on page 4)



The church Christmas cookie decorating party held on Monday, December 21, was a huge success! All of the attendees pictured above enjoyed decorating sugar cookies, making "buck-eyes," decorating ornaments, coloring pictures, playing in the gym and listening to LuAnn Young read a story. Photo by Kari Jo Doerksen.

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, 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 Room 115.**

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!



Update on Larry Waters

by Mike Lawlis

When Grace Evangelical Church was first formed with the merger of two smaller churches we supported three missionaries at \$100 a month each. We now support 17 missionaries and our annual giving to missions is around \$53,000. Among the first three missionaries we supported, and the only one of the three we still support, is Larry Waters at \$200 per month.

Larry and his wife Mary served for many years as church planters in the Philippines where Larry was also involved in starting Bible colleges. Currently, Larry wears a number of hats. He serves with an organization called BEE which stands for Biblical Education by Extension. The primary focus of BEE is to establish church-based training centers in closed or underprivileged countries where it is difficult or impossible for pastors to get a quality education. Most of this training is done by DVD or internet. Larry's primary responsibility with BEE is to develop the educational content for these DVDs.

BEE has a presence in several countries but most of Larry's work has been with the Philippines. Larry, usually with a team from Dallas, makes regular trips to the Philippines where he teaches in seminaries and Bible colleges and exposes those he takes with him to foreign missions.

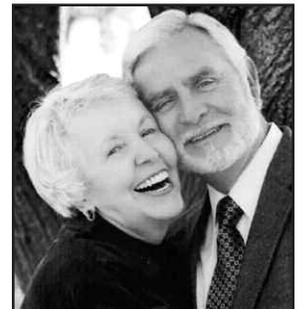
For the last several years Larry has been on staff at Dallas Theological Seminary where he not only teaches but also works with students to prepare the teaching material for pastors training with BEE. Much of Larry's work and teaching has been on the subject of suffering. In addition to writing a book on Job he has contributed to a book written

by Joni Eareckson Tada.

Most of the churches in the Philippines struggle not only with poverty but also with frequent typhoons and building damage, so part of Larry's ministry is fund raising for churches in need.

One of the churches Larry helped start is currently working with the government which gives grants to poor families with children in public schools. Parents who are participating in this program are required to attend Family Development Sessions regularly. Volunteers from Larry's Philippine church serve as facilitators for this project and the group meets in their church. They have 200 parents coming to them on a regular basis and are able to not only teach and counsel but share the Gospel. They also have a Compassion Ministry where they are able to provide food and clothing for hundreds of poor children.

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.



Mary and Larry Waters

Resolutions

by Jennifer Wilkerson

Much has been said about this time of year when we say goodbye to the old year and greet the new one. I found many insights about this subject – some contemplative and some humorous ...

“A new year is unfolding – like a blossom with petals curled tightly concealing the beauty within.” –Anonymous

“Youth is when you’re allowed to stay up late on New Year’s Eve. Middle age is when you’re forced to.”

– Bill Vaughn

“An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.”

– Bill Vaughn

*“Glory to God in highest heaven,
Who unto man His Son hath given;
While angels sing with tender mirth,
A glad new year to all the earth.”* – Martin Luther

Of course, no New Year’s holiday would be complete without RESOLUTIONS! Wikipedia’s definition:

“A New Year’s resolution is a commitment that an individual makes to a project or the reforming of a habit, often a lifestyle change that is generally interpreted as advantageous. The name comes from the fact that these commitments normally go into effect on New Year’s Day and remain until fulfilled or abandoned.”

According to one website I found, the top ten New Year’s resolutions are ...

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|------------------------|--|
| 10. Get organized | 5. Enjoy life |
| 9. Help others | 4. Quit smoking |
| 8. Learn something new | 3. Tame the bulge |
| 7. Get out of debt | 2. Fit in fitness |
| 6. Quit drinking | 1. Spend more time with family and friends |

– Albrecht Powell, *About.com*

What does the Bible say about these?

Well, several resolutions in the list above refer to disciplining oneself to keep the body healthy. In 1 Corinthians 9:24- 27 we read:

“Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we for an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a cast-away.”

“For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.” – Psalm 30:5

As for the others...

Philippians gives us *many* ways to “enjoy life more” by walking with Him. Luke 10 gives us a great model to follow about helping others – the Good Samaritan. If my life is a “mess,” I need to read 1 Corinthians 14:40 (*“Let all things be done decently and in order”*). *“The borrower is servant to the lender,”* found in Proverbs 22:7, is one principal among many given in Scripture about handling money.

Some tips on making New Year’s resolutions:

1. Here are some of the synonyms for “resolution” I found: determination, purpose, backbone, constancy, conviction. – *dictionary.com*

The only problem is that we can’t possess these traits with perfect consistency and perfect motives when relying on ourselves! Here are some verses that talk about man’s efforts to do good works:

“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

– Matthew 26:41

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.”

– Zechariah 4:6

“O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”

– Romans 7:24

“For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”

– Romans 8:13

Playwright Oscar Wilde, although not claiming to be a believer, echoed this truth when he stated *“I can resist anything but temptation!”*

It is only through Christ’s power that we do *anything* worthwhile!

2. Another quote I found:

“Never tell your resolution beforehand, or it’s twice as onerous a duty.”

– John Selden

This insight is witty and its advice undoubtedly has a widespread following, but...what do we do with James 5:16? It tells us to: *“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”*

What are God’s resolutions for us? And could it be that He expects us to follow His commands not only in January but throughout the rest of the year?

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Embracing Our Families (Continued from page 1)

children for sitting in the service. We practiced and talked about it with them. We communicated with parents and answered questions. When it came time to sit in the service, the children did pretty well! Various members would comment on how well they behaved during worship, and we agreed.

However, we missed an incredibly important step in all of this, possibly the MOST important step – helping the parents of these amazing kids understand the whole point, and equipping them for the process.

We realized that this needed to be addressed, especially since having children sitting in on the service started increasing in frequency. Thankfully we were given a great opportunity that helped this issue.

Holly Phoenix and I were able to attend a Family Worship Workshop in Tennessee this year. It was unlike anything either of us had attended before, and it was incredible! It was a lot of fun, but so helpful and informative at the same time. We have translated much of that workshop for our families at Grace, and are very excited to share it with you!

Not only is it fun and involves a free lunch (because who doesn't love free food!), but there are very practical ways demonstrated to help us implement the worship of God every day. Questions can be asked and answered. Tools, materials, handouts, and ideas are used, given out, suggested, and practiced. This is an interactive way for your family to see many options on how to worship together, both at church and at home.

If this is something you are passionate about and would like to attend but have no elementary age children, we would love to have help. Please contact me and I would be more than happy to talk with you.

Please keep us in your prayers – not only for the workshop, but also for Holly and I as children's leaders, for wisdom and clarity, and the ability to help our families. For those families, since this may be a new experience – please pray for patience and understanding, and peace in this process.



Life Centers

by Veronica Schilb

Nearly half of all pregnancies in America are unintended. One in five pregnancies ends in abortion. Over 10,000 abortions occur in Indiana each year. In America, one baby is aborted every 24 seconds. Over 45 million abortions have occurred since Roe v. Wade in 1973. But David tells us that "... *Thou didst form my inward parts; Thou didst weave me in my mother's womb.*" (Psalm 139:13 NASB)

For 32 years, Life Centers has provided compassionate care to women in Central Indiana facing unplanned pregnancies. Staff members provide confidential, free services including pregnancy tests, ultrasound exams, peer counseling, support services (such as diapers, bottles, maternity and baby clothing, etc.) and post-abortion support groups. The vision of Life Centers is to "provide a resource where men and women faced with pregnancy decisions are met with God's love and compassion that transforms their lives while protecting the life of the unborn."

Life Centers value not only the physical lives of women and their unborn children, but also their eternal lives. In 2014, Life Centers served over 6,500 women, saved 239 babies, and had nearly 300 people accept Jesus as their Savior. In December 2015, Life Centers opened a new location in Plainfield, so the message and hope of the Gospel will reach even more people. This is a ministry that we are blessed to support at Grace!

There are several ways that we as a church body can support Life Centers in the coming year. Life Centers is an organization that we support through our Missions fund, so by designating part of your offering to Missions, you are financially supporting this ministry. In addition to giving, many churches in the area, including Grace, will participate in a baby bottle campaign from Mother's Day to Father's Day; look for an announcement about that in May. Additional opportunities will include meeting some of the material needs of the clients that Life Centers serves, and participating in the annual *Walk/Run for Life* in the fall. Finally, Life Centers relies heavily on prayer. Including regular prayer for the work that Life Centers does and the clients they are supporting is a critical way to support them in their mission and vision.



JANUARY

- 1/02 Sam Handy
- 1/04 Bill Graham
- 1/04 Caitlyn Steenburg
- 1/11 Carol Lawlis
- 1/11 Larry Dilk
- 1/11 Antonio Garcia
- 1/12 Wendi Bridwell
- 1/14 Steve Wilson
- 1/17 David Butler
- 1/21 Pam Farrar
- 1/21 Charolett Urban
- 1/22 Lily Handy
- 1/24 Edward Urban
- 1/25 Janet Simpson
- 1/25 Martin Weile
- 1/27 Libby Davis
- 1/28 Matthew Wiksten
- 1/29 Rita Manley
- 1/31 David Dale

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1/02 Jim & Cherie Brown
- 1/05 Mark & Hellen Sahn
- 1/27 Mike & Pam Rutherford

