

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)

October, 2015



Newness

by **W. Ryan Steenburg**

“As a church body, we should seek to grow in our knowledge of Scripture, obedience to Christ, and reverence for God.”

Well, we have finally arrived. October 21, 2015 is just around the corner. This is the day that Marty McFly landed his modified DeLorean in the small town of Hill Valley in the movie *Back to the Future 2*. The *Back to the Future* trilogy depicts the history of Hill Valley as Marty and his companions travel back and forth in time.

Wouldn't it be amazing to be able to travel forward in time to see how things progress? Or what if we could travel back in time in order to right some wrong that we did? What's interesting about the movie made back in the mid to late 1980s is that the producers could imagine any kind of future that they wanted. And they surely picked some interesting things. According to Hollywood we should be flying our cars instead of driving them, we all would wear self-fitting clothing, and every one of us would have a fax machine as our primary means of communication.

What's interesting is that the producers could not have imagined the technology we do have, like email, cell phones, and pay-at-the-pump gas stations. If nothing else, this movie reveals that things do change as time progresses. Technology will advance, science will reveal new diseases while at the same time introducing new cures, more planets will be discovered and photographed, and cell phones may continue to get bigger before they get smaller again. Save God and the Bible, everything around us changes.

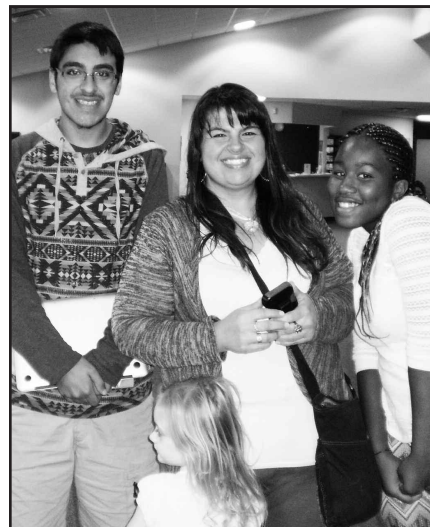
In my concluding sermon on the letter to Titus, I pointed out that Titus was being asked by the Apostle Paul to welcome new leadership in the church on Crete and to pass the baton to either Artemas or Tychicus whom Paul was sending. To the church in Crete, Titus probably seemed like an indispensable person. He had been the one person who had instructed them on all things Scripture, and he likely had a spiritual father-child relationship with the Christians

on Crete. The possible angst over Titus' departure was not solely Titus'. The Christians on Crete would also need to prepare themselves for the new leadership coming to their church. The church was most likely comfortable and possibly content with the way things were. Scripture does not reveal to us how the church in Crete responded to the new leadership or even how the new leadership interacted with the Cretan Christians. All we know is that Paul was asking Titus to leave the church and to join him to continue a different ministry, and the church in Crete was about to receive new leadership.

This new leadership would bring newness to the church. There would be newness in relationships, newness in communication style, and newness in personality. I am confident that they preached the same Gospel, while just as confident that the new leadership brought newness.

As a church body we have embraced two primary ventures of newness since I have been here. We introduced our Manna Sunday Nights event, and we have restructured our Sunday 9:00 hour to DiscipleLIFE. The primary purpose of Manna Sunday Nights is to provide an atmosphere for natural life-on-life discipleship. Some of this will be unintentional, while part of it will be very intentional. Our hope

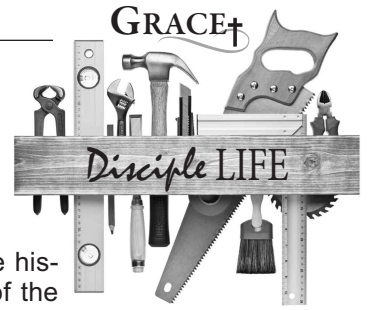
(Continued on page 4)



Our first-ever Manna Sunday was held on September 20 at 6:30 p.m. Attendance was greater than anticipated and extra chairs were rolled out! Pictured are Gabe Moreno, Mikayla Steenburg, Krissy Moreno and Joylene Gayflor. More photos on page 4.

Visit our website at www.indygrace.org

Fourth Quarter Adult Classes



THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Mark tells of the ministry of Jesus from his baptism by John the Baptist to his death and burial and the discovery of the empty tomb. *Taught by Mike Lawlis in room 111.*

GRACE EVANGELICAL CHURCH STATEMENT OF FAITH

This class goes through the church's Statement of Faith one at a time in order to teach the participant the essential doctrines of the faith and how they are reflected in what our church believes. *Taught by Rich Witmer in room 115.*

PRAYER

This class explores what the Bible says about prayer and helps you understand the power of prayer and experience the peace that comes from a deeper communication with God. *Taught by Ron Dodson and Michael Huff in room 112/113.*

CHRISTIANITY, CULTS AND OTHER WORLD RELIGIONS

This course will review the history and beliefs of some of the world's largest religions and cultic groups including Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, and others. During the class you will learn how these religions differ from authentic Christianity as described in the Bible. *Taught by Rick Storm in room 109/110.*

"UNDER THE SUN"

This class is an examination of the phrase "under the sun" in the Old Testament books of Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon. *Taught by Steve Agal in the café.*



Bill Boone

Festival, Food Drive & Groceries

by Bill Boone

On Saturday night we wrapped up our 13th Beech Grove Fall Festival. It's hard to believe that there are still folks who have never heard about

Servant's Heart. I had one teenager come up to me and tell me she had just gotten her driver's license. I had met Dominique and her mom at our very first booth when she was just three years old. That really made me feel old!

The festival is a long week but there are many priceless encounters with folks all week, especially when they come up and hug you for helping them through a rough patch in their lives. One couple asked for prayer for a three year old niece who was going to have surgery. I stopped what I was doing, wrapped my arms around them and prayed for Sophie right in the middle of Main Street. Another man came up to me and asked me if I knew what today was. I said, "Friday?" He said, "No, five years ago today you prayed for me to get my life back on track." He told me that it was an eight month struggle, but with God he got sober, and now he and his wife have gotten back together. That's what the Fall Festival means to me. I thank Jesus for allowing me to touch lives.

One of our goals for the week was to collect 5,000 cans of food. Bill Belcher and Larry Cooney helped round up 1,005 cans from Central Elementary and 600 food items from Franklin Township schools. That got us started on our way to the 5,000. I don't have a final tally yet but I think we

were really close to 3,000 cans. All in all it was a blessed week. God put me across the paths of several new contacts.

We are putting the Thanksgiving groceries list together. If you know of anyone who would like to pledge an amount toward one item, please let Larry Cooney know.

We have two special areas where we are looking for volunteers – the food procurement team and the furniture team. If you have any interest in helping gather groceries or helping families get a fresh start with furniture, please contact Bill Boone at 317-501-0281.

In closing I would like to share two of the verses I cling to. They keep me going.

"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."

– Galatians 6:9-10

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

– Philippians 4:13



Autumn burned brightly, a running flame through the mountains, a torch flung to the trees. ~Faith Baldwin

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NEWNESS (Continued from page 1)

with spending time together on Sunday nights is that we will develop a natural assimilation to be disciplers and even better disciples. The introduction of DiscipleLIFE classes has a hint of this kind of fellowship as well, but primarily focuses on foundations of the faith. As a church body, we should seek to grow in our knowledge of Scripture, obedience to Christ, and reverence for God. The DiscipleLIFE classes are a format where we hope you will grow stronger in these three areas while not negating the fellowship with each other.

As one of the elders of the church, I desire to see my family (that's you, by the way, in case you missed the sermon on September 20) grow in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man (Luke 2:52). This is the heart of the newness that we are experiencing at Grace Evangelical Church.

We do not have the advantage of flying through time like Marty McFly, and Kristen has already told me I am not allowed to buy a DeLorean, but we do have God's Word and that is all we really need. If we align our efforts with what God teaches us in Scripture, I am confident we will be wise moving forward to the future, never desiring to go back in time.

MANNA SUNDAY**your corner ...**

by Jennifer Wilkerson

Charles Haddon Spurgeon was a British pastor in the 1800s who is known as the "Prince of Preachers." In his lifetime he preached to an estimated ten million people, exhorting them to live holy lives and practice self-examination. Not afraid of controversy, he exposed unbiblical doctrines prevalent in that era.

But there was a side to this man that is perhaps less well known – a dry wit! This quality was reflected in Spurgeon's many writings, and here are just a few quotes that reflect both his philosophy of humor in the pulpit and its place in the Christian's life.

"I must confess that I would rather hear people laugh than I would see them asleep in the house of God; and I would rather get the truth into them through the medium of ridicule (humor) than I would have it neglected, or leave the people to perish through lack of reception of the message."

This is a place to submit poetry/prose that is meaningful to you, or short testimonies about how the Lord is working in your life! For consideration, please email them to newsletter@indygrace.org.

His response when criticized for this approach?

"If you had known how many others I kept back, you would not have found fault with that one, but you would have commended me for the restraint I had exercised!"

"There is no one part of a man's constitution, which is really a part of his manhood, which should not praise God. Ay, even the sense of humour should be sanctified to the service of the Most High!"

"I do believe, in my heart, that there may be as much holiness in a laugh as in a cry; and that, sometimes, to laugh is the better thing of the two, for I may weep, and be murmuring, and repining, and thinking all sorts of bitter thoughts against God."

"Amusement should be used to do us good 'like a medicine.'"

"A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes."

"Of two evils, choose neither!"

Birthdays & Anniversaries

OCTOBER

10/03 Ruth Decker
 10/04 Ron Dodson
 10/06 Allen Sparks
 10/10 Maria Via
 10/10 Michelle Hopper
 10/11 Sondra Belcher
 10/17 Shelly Hammond
 10/18 Kasey Ashley
 10/19 Ken Nine
 10/19 Cindy Loy
 10/20 Jo Witmer
 10/20 Dave Bannon
 10/24 Donald Andry
 10/26 Barbara Vandermark
 10/27 Kate Lawlis
 10/27 JoAnn Hart
 10/28 Kristen New
 10/29 Ari Hillebrand

ANNIVERSARIES

10/01 Michael & Donna Huff
 10/01 George & Rita Manley
 10/10 DeAndre & Stephanie Hill
 10/16 David & Melinda Moore
 10/19 Matt & Keli Handy
 10/20 Ken & Mary Nine