

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)

September, 2015



Prague Mission Trip, 2015

by Fred Sudler

“God’s love was shown to those at Teen Challenge and His strength was shown to be perfect in our weakness.”

In October of 2014, I was given the opportunity to go to Prague, Czech Republic, on a vision trip to discover areas in which our church could come and help serve with our brothers and sisters on the other side of the pond. The fruit of this trip came this August when a team of four (Gabriel Moreno, Elijah Smith, my wife Rochelle, and I) departed to serve at an English camp at the Teen Challenge Center.

Our time in Prague did not start off very smoothly. As we arrived at the Prague airport, we found that only Elijah’s checked luggage had made the flight from Paris. The rest of us only had what we had packed in our carry-on. Oddly enough, it occurred to me to instruct everyone to pack two days of clothing in our carry-on in the event that something happened with our bags. Thank God that He gives wisdom!

As an American, you tend to expect certain things to be true when you go places in the summer. One of those things would be that most places have air conditioning to help keep you cool. As we arrived at our hostel, we were forced to throw that expectation right out the window. It was H-O-T. There is no other way to describe it. I hope that you can begin to see the potential for disaster here.

The following morning Rochelle woke up with an awful headache. The room was still hot, so we went for a walk to cool off and look for a 24-hour drug store ... which we did not find because, unlike CVS, they don’t keep the stores open – you have to ring a bell to call the owner down. As I reflect on this one incident, I am again confronted with my American view of life and expectations. Thankfully, after the walk, Rochelle began feeling a little better.

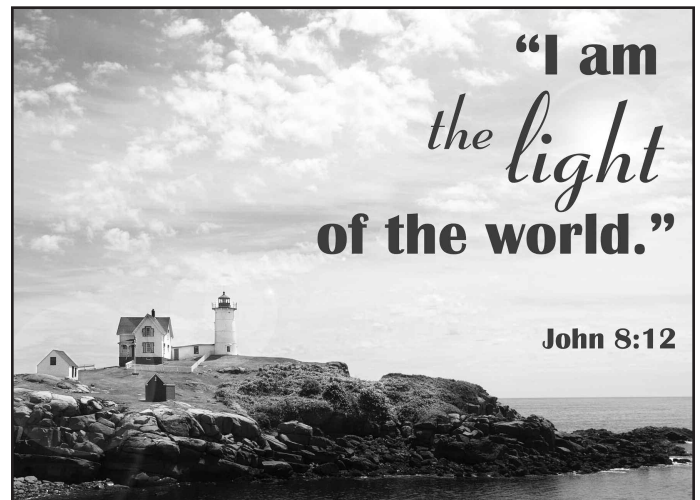
Later that morning we went for a prayer walk around Wenceslas Square. On the walk we stopped at specific points to pray for the Czech church, the city, its leaders, and against the human trafficking that occurs there.

Europe is very dark spiritually and atheism is very common among the Czech people. However, the church leaders who are praying for the city say that they are beginning to sense a change from darkness and black to a sort of gray. Please pray along with them that revival will come and that the Spirit of God will move mightily in their churches and country.

As we were getting closer to the time for camp to start we were praying that our luggage would arrive. Thank God that the day before camp started we received all of our missing luggage and had everything we needed!

During each day of camp the children enjoyed learning and playing American games such as *Red Light/Green Light*, *Simon Says*, and *Ninja*. At the end of game time we would break off into groups for English and Bible lessons. Rochelle and Gabe led classes for the pre-school-aged children while Elijah and I led the class for teens.

A portion of class time was spent working through fun and themed activities to learn English. The children had the opportunity to make cards or bracelets while learning about friendship, or to pretend they were at a restaurant or store when learning about money. Each theme was chosen based on the Bible lesson for the day. For example, the
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Visit our website at www.indygrace.org

Fellowship Group Spotlight

OWLS

Steve Agal is teaching a study of Jesus from the book of Isaiah. Jesus the Messiah is alluded to, or directly spoken of, many times in Isaiah. Come and join us on Sunday mornings. OWLS of all ages are welcome. **The OWLS meet in room 112/113 at 9:00 a.m.**

WORD PROCESSORS

The Word Processors are studying 2 Peter. Peter wrote to warn Christians to be aware of the false teachers who were spreading destructive doctrines among the churches. He also encouraged his Christian readers to grow in Christian character and to be patient as they wait for the Lord's return. **The Word Processors meet in Room 109/110 at 9:00 a.m.**

LEGACY

Rich Witmer is teaching from the message-based questions. **The Legacy Fellowship Group meets in the café at 9:00 a.m.**

REFUGE

Mike Lawlis is conducting a study of the patriarchs. He began with Abraham and will continue with Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. The biblical patriarchs are the line of men God used to establish the nation of Israel. Perhaps the most well known of the biblical patriarchs is Abraham, because from him all Israelites descend. God made a covenant with him and promised that he would be "the father of many nations." (Genesis 17:4) 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.**

FAMILY GROUP (Grades 6-8, along with parents)

Sunday mornings will be a departure from teaching time to one of discussion and application of the sermon from the previous week. We are going to be encouraging the youth to learn how to think critically about what is being taught and how to apply that to our lives. Zach and Cristi DeHoff will be facilitating the discussion. **The Family Group meets in Room 117 at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings.**

It's Time For Operation Christmas Child

by Carol Lawlis

Danniella, a girl from Kampala, Uganda, was excited to show her shoebox gifts to her family, but receiving these gifts was just the beginning. During the distribution, the pastor explained that the gifts were an expression of God's love, the same love that compelled Him to send His Son, Jesus, to take away the sins of the world. He invited Danniella and her friends to enroll in the twelve lesson Bible study program, *The Greatest Journey*, to learn more about Christ. Danniella prayed to receive Jesus as her Savior while taking the class.

After completing the course, she and her friends initiated their own Bible study group and shared the Gospel with others. She reported that they only had six others in the beginning, but it grew to 17. Danniella said that she found herself becoming a teacher. Her Bible study group spent time praising God, praying, and learning more about Jesus in their time together. She understands that God has sent us to spread His Word!

Other children who have been blessed by shoebox gifts are the Yazidi, a religious minority who have been displaced by civil war in Iraq. They also heard the Good News and were invited to attend Sunday school at a local church.

Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and discipleship programs provide amazing opportunities for congregations to proclaim the Gospel in their community. Pastors worldwide are teaching families who previously had little involvement with the local church. Hundreds of thousands of children are becoming faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

Those who complete *The Greatest Journey* disciplesh

ship program take home a copy of the New Testament in their own language which helps them to grow in their faith. Like Danniella, many of these children become ambassadors for Christ, encouraging others to experience the Savior's love. Congregations are growing and new churches are springing up around the world. To God be the glory!



I want to invite you to participate in this very worthwhile project by filling shoeboxes with gifts that will help children come to know Jesus' love for them. Please pray that God will guide you in your selection of gifts as He knows the child who will receive your box. If you don't have any shoeboxes at home, some have been wrapped and are sitting next to the Welcome Center to help you get started. The boxes are due back at Grace before November 15th so that we can send them on to distribution centers. Thanks so much for all your help!

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Standridge Family Serves in Italy

Dan and Donna Standridge serve with CrossWorld in northern Italy (Milan). Dan was born and raised in Rome, and his parents also served as missionaries. They have four daughters: Lucia is a freshman at Liberty University, Priscilla is working on her Ph.D., Lydia attends a college in Milan, and Elisa, the youngest, loves to play soccer! Dan and Donna are sponsored by CrossWorld, serving as church planters and counselors.

CrossWorld focuses on ministry within large cities such as Milan. One of the churches established is an Arab speaking church. The Standridges are participating in a larger two-year project in which a large group of Arab church leaders are praying specifically for Europe, considered to be a dark and spiritually dead continent. The Standridges plan to visit the states next summer, but until then they welcome visitors to join them as they minister in Europe!

Below is an August letter from the Standridges to their supporters.

Dear Friends,

Having survived the hottest summer in 40 years, we are enjoying the first thundershowers on the Alps, which move cooler air down into the Milan lowlands.

This week we will travel to the Conference Center in central Italy for its last summer events: a family conference and a week long seminar on Christian counseling, which Dan will teach. Please pray for the 15 students who signed up and were accepted for the course.

After many years of church-planting, discipleship, private counseling in our office in Milan, and speaking in seminars all over Italy, we have decided to step up to the task of training others in this specific topic. As you know, offering to "help" a person in need is already a solemn endeavor. Training others to do so is even more sobering.

Some courses on Christian counseling exist in Italy but the results have been very poor. Most of the graduates from these programs insist they will never be able to help others. What they received was mainly information on the many

different problems people may have and theoretical solutions.

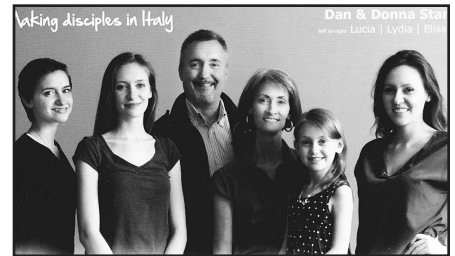
Taking the students on a slightly different track, we will present the basic personal characteristics that those who help

others need to develop. We hope our students (ten women and five men) will learn biblical truth and experience the benefits of self-disclosure, finding that God's Grace bears upon them first of all. Pray for wisdom and God's Spirit to teach and guide us in every way, and that many in this class of believers from different parts of Italy will grow personally and in helpfulness to others.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Knowing God Himself has placed us here for these extraordinary times and opportunities, and that you have chosen to be a crucial part of it, we pray for you and thank you deeply. Without your support we could never be here. Without God's work in all of us, no HOPE, LIFE and deep CHANGE could be possible or imaginable.

— Dan and Donna

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.



Lucia, Lydia, Dan, Donna, Elisa and Priscilla Standridge

News From the Children's Department

by Christi DeHoff

We would like to welcome Adam and Holly's new baby, Aiden William Phoenix! Since Holly will be busy enjoying her new little man, please direct any Children's Department questions to Cristi DeHoff (cristi@indygrace.org; 859-8008).

We are in need of teachers, helpers and substitutes for all age groups during both hours. Some of our incredibly faithful teachers are in need of a break to revive themselves. If you are interested, please contact Cristi DeHoff.

With the arrival of fall, we are usually in full swing with our Wednesday night children's program, Kids 4 Truth. **However, Wednesday nights will now take place on Sundays**, and the evening is going to be completely re-structured. Sunday nights will now be Manna Sunday Nights. Each Sunday evening, beginning at 6:30, **all ages**

are encouraged to come to the church for a time of fellowship, learning, sharing, discussing the Word, and strengthening the relationships between all generations! Since we are trying to connect more with each other, you will need to stay with your children. This doesn't mean, necessarily, that you will be side by side the entire time, but the parents do need to be present during the evening events.

The first evening (September 13) will be very beneficial in that there will be a question and answer session to give you a better idea of what this time will look like. We are very excited about this new event, and we pray that you will also become excited and support the family ties of Grace!

We will still have children's devotional books for sale again. Please contact Cristi with any questions, or if you would like one.

PRAGUE MISSION TRIP, 2015 (Continued from page 1) —

money theme was chosen on the day we discussed Matthew and his calling (Matthew being a tax collector).

The Bible lessons allowed us an opportunity to engage the children on a spiritual level. Elijah and I were able to ask some questions of the teens as we walked through the passages. Additionally, we encouraged the children to ask questions of us. It was here that we found that students in Czech schools are discouraged from asking questions and are expected to be silent. These kids are growing up in a shame-based culture where, in schools, they are made an example if they fail. Every bit of encouragement and praise we could lavish on the children was vital to them and instrumental in our abilities to build relationships with them.

At the end of every day, we would bring all of the groups together for song and wrap-up time. During this time we sang English songs like *Father Abraham*, *The Hokey Pokey*, and *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes* for fun, but we were also teaching the children *Jesus Loves Me*. A member of the team would then ask some questions about the lesson for that day and give some candy to the child who answered correctly.

Throughout the week we would meet with some of the teens in the morning for focus time. The goal of this was to encourage further discussion in English and also build on the budding relationships that were forming. It was during this time that we were able to connect very well with three or four specific teens. You could see them open up to us more and more as the week progressed.

The week's activities culminated on Friday when we had a carnival themed family outreach. The children were encouraged to bring their parents to come and play games and hear about what they had done during the week. The parents were encouraged to join in on the *Hokey Pokey* and *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes* and rewarded us with many smiles and much laughter. After some fun, the children sang *Jesus Loves Me* and it was sweet to hear the song's chorus sung so loudly. Before moving into game time, we wrapped up the presentation with a Bible story and a presentation of the Gospel. There was a sense of joy and accomplishment as the week came to a close, but it was coupled with a sadness in knowing that we would soon be departing for home.

As I reflect on our time spent in Prague, I can see how God carried us through and provided strength. There were many obstacles along the way but God knew exactly what this week was going to be like, even when we did not. He used it to His glory and to our benefit in humbling us and causing a further reliance on Him. His love was shown to those at Teen Challenge and His strength was shown to be perfect in our weakness. We thank you all for supporting us in this successful trip.

**SEPTEMBER**

9/05 Mary Monfreda
 9/06 Tammy Graham
 9/10 Stephanie Hill
 9/12 Pat Hillebrand
 9/15 Bill Simpson
 9/19 Selah Campbell
 9/19 Kristina Smith
 9/25 Douglas Decker
 9/25 Rick Wilkerson
 9/26 Christian Moreno
 9/26 Lea Spence
 9/27 Brent Hendricks
 9/30 Michael Huff

ANNIVERSARIES

9/01 Steve & Janet Agal
 9/17 Rick & Jennifer Wilkerson
 9/21 Ron & Sandy Dodson
 9/21 Jack & Mary Phoenix
 9/23 Larry & Rose Hartman
 9/27 Randy & Vicki Greb

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. — Mark 16:15"

Food Pantry Celebrating 12 Years of Service

by Bill Boone

August brings memories of Servant's Heart's beginnings at Grace in the café area. We didn't have a location of our own yet but God was already using us to minister to families. The very first family we helped selected clothes out of bags on the café floor. Bill Belcher and I went to the barn to bring out boxes of toys leftover from Christmas for the mom to select a birthday gift for her little girl. Wow, I can't believe that was twelve years ago!

Seeing dozens of new clients and providing furniture for many of their homes has made our summer fly by. We have a special relationship with Hayes and Hayes Restoration – they supply us with unclaimed furniture and appliances. Just last week we gave a refrigerator, washer and dryer, dresser and couch to a young couple with five kids. They only had a small apartment-sized refrigerator and a borrowed couch in their house. God provided the things they needed from several different donors.

We have had lots of young volunteers this summer – kids working faithfully alongside their parents in the pantry

and many groups coming to serve on some special projects. Two weeks ago we had the entire Roncalli freshman football team (50 players and three coaches) come to help us organize suite 112. We had things scattered all over the parking lot and between buildings. What a blessing to have so much energy! Big thanks to Bill Belcher and Larry Cooney for helping us feed that crew. The hamburgers and hot dogs didn't have a chance.

UPCOMING SERVANT'S HEART EVENTS:

- **Beech Grove Fall Festival**, September 16-19 with lots of volunteer time slots to fill at our booth to get the word out about us. We need homemade baked goods to sell in the booth. In 2003, the fall festival was where we presented our ministry to the public for the first time.
- **Annual Golf Outing**, September 19th at Eagle Pines golf course.

You can find additional details on our website at servantsheartofindy.org.

