



GRACE NOTES

Grace Bible Fellowship

Gunter, Texas

December 2015

THE ANGEL TREE



GBF has been given the opportunity to help local families in need this Christmas.

HOW TO HELP: The tree located in the sanctuary has been replenished with angel ornaments providing specific items that you can purchase to help provide a child and/or family with a wonderful Christmas.

WHAT TO DO:

1. Take an angel from the tree in the sanctuary.
2. Purchase the item(s) listed on the angel.
3. Bring back the item in a wrapped box or gift sack with the **ANGEL TAG** attached so we can get the gift to the right child and right family.
4. Deadline for bringing the gifts to the church will be **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13.**

Grace Bible Fam! Can you believe it's already December!? Crazy! The Cowboys are terrible, but hey, we got Blue Bell back! Praise God :)

If your family is like mine, a couple of days after Thanksgiving, it's all eyes on Christmas. I love it. Time with family, great food, and watching as many Christmas movies as I can leading up to the 25th. I even make my kids watch the old ones with me!

There's a lot I love about this time of year, but mostly, I love Christmas because it's a time to remember the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. And it's not just that He came, but HOW He came. The King of Glory came to this earth in the humblest of ways, wrapped in makeshift cloths, and laid in a manger. A manger - a trough used to feed livestock.

Sounds funny, but the fact that His first bed was a manger means the world to me. See, Jesus showed us from the moment He was born, that He'll go anywhere to fulfill His purpose. He came to save vile offenders, sinners - like me. As the old hymn says, "He sought me and bought me, with His redeeming blood". I know that's your story, too.

One of the things I hear consistently from people who visit Grace Bible is "these people are REAL." To me, they mean the people of Grace Bible are common, everyday people. Our church family is made up of imperfect people with real struggles and heartaches, in desperate need of God's amazing grace. We're in awe that he would grace us with His presence, like he did that dirty manger 2000 years ago. That's our Savior. That's our King.

I don't know how you feel about Christmas. Sometimes strained relationships, the loss of a loved one, or a painful past can make a joyful time of year feel anything but joyful. You may feel down. You may feel unworthy of Jesus, even at Christmas. Remember, Jesus was right at home in a manger. He's not put-off by our messes. He brought purpose and significance to a dirty manger. He can do that, plus bring never-ending, God-glorifying, JOY to you and your life. Focus on the fact that Jesus can, and will go anywhere.

The longer I serve as pastor of Grace Bible, the more I feel at home. There's no place like HOME for Christmas. Looking forward to it!

Love y'all,
Roy



Thank You

Thank you to our GBF elves for their time and talents in decorating our church for Christmas!

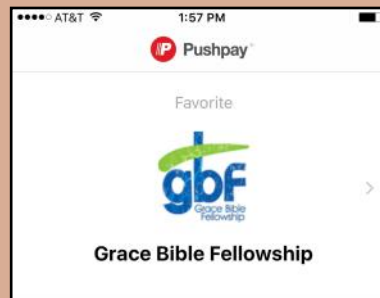
*Price Ferrell
Dee Dee Wilkens
Laci Bracewell
Ryli Bracewell
Billye Decker
Connie Applegate
Keelie Ferguson*

*Leslie Harrison
Morgan Harrison
Tiffany McGill
Ansley Baird
Magan Cavalier
Tinna Hood
Lara Martin*

Online Giving option available and easy

At GBF, part of our trifold vision is to SERVE God and our communities with all He has entrusted to us. We are called to give of our Time, Talent, and Treasures. Last month, we introduced online giving as a way to express heartfelt generosity. This new system is called *PushPay*. Please take some time, check it out, and consider it as an option for you moving forward. Here are the options to access this new and exciting option::

1. To start, text **'pushpay'** to **77977** and you will receive a link to download the app. Just search for "Grace Bible Fellowship" and you will see the option to give to us. It has our GBF logo, so you can't miss it. From there, you'll receive step-by-step instructions on how to give.



2. You can also give via the website. <https://pushpay.com/pay/thegbf/>. Options include a recurring gift or a one-time gift.

Please know that this is a fast, easy, and secure way to give. All major credit cards and online bank draft payments are accepted. If you have any questions, feel free to message Adam (adam@thegbf.com), and we'll be glad to help.

Grace Groups Update

As GraceGroups come to a close for the semester, we are able to reflect on the life-transforming work of God made manifest in these groups. Acts 2:42 says that the early church "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

One of the goals of GraceGroups has been to center on the Word of God as we wholeheartedly love one another - just as Christ has loved us. Additionally, Psalm 133:1 tells us, "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"

GraceGroups seek to honor the Lord by abiding in sweet fellowship and good harmony with each other. This semester has provided a rich opportunity for each group grow in their love for Christ and one another.

If you are interested in joining a GraceGroup in the new year, please contact adam@thegbf.com for more information.

GraceGroups will start back up January 10!

Welcome!

New Members

**Mark & Shelli Hales
Alex, Jacob & Zach**

**Jeff & Rebecca Egger
& Charlotte**

**If you would like to begin
the steps toward membership
or baptism, email Lara
to get more information:**

lara@thegbf.com

Beginning January 4, Roy will be leading a Men's Bible Study using the book Kingdom Man, by Tony Evans, as a guide.

The men will cover and discuss the topics addressed in the book, one chapter a week. Men are encouraged to buy the book, but not required to.

The study will meet TUESDAY MORNINGS, from 6 - 7 am, at the church, south hallway entrance, 4th room on right. All men are invited. No dress code, age, marital status, or level of Bible knowledge required.

If your work schedule prohibits you from coming every week, come once, or twice, or as often as you can. The only prerequisite is that you be a man who admits you need God, be willing to learn more about Him and His plan for your life.

You can buy the book here
http://www.amazon.com/Kingdom-Man-Every-Destiny-Womans/dp/1589977475/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1448985953&sr=8-1&keywords=kingdom+man

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY @ GBF

**TUESDAYS, 6 - 7 AM
beginning January 5**

**STUDY: Kingdom Man
by Tony Evans**



FAMILY2FAMILY NEW MEXICO MISSION TRIP



*A huge
thank you
to everyone
who made
desserts for
the trip!*



WINTER WOMEN'S RETREAT

February 5 - 6, 2016

IF : GUNTER

Where: Grace Bible Fellowship - Lock-in Style - Friday @ 6 pm.

Come ready to eat great food, hear the Word and enjoy awesome community!

We will be finished at approximately 3 pm on Saturday.

What: The world around us feels like it is crumbling and almost nothing seems certain....until we look to Jesus and see that our hope is very clear and certain. He didn't just give us salvation from sin - Jesus is our salvation and the example of what it means to live in the fullness of grace and truth. What the world needs is His redemption, the very redemption and hope that lives inside of us. Rather than shrink back, it is time to love like Jesus loved, serve like Jesus served, pray like Jesus prayed, and pursue holiness like Jesus pursued it.

Register: <http://www.ifgathering.com/localgatherings/ifgunter>

Cost: Online registration will require a minimum \$1 donation.

Fee of \$50 to cover retreat expenses.

If cost is an issue, please contact Magan Cavalier @ 225-933-4204.

An opportunity to bless others...



Help Kris battle Ovarian Cancer again!

<https://www.youcaring.com/kris-roberts-435881>



Help the Rigsbys during their
time of crisis!

<https://www.youcaring.com/kyle-and-staci-rigsby-429510>

Follow Pastor Roy's blog

<http://roylayman.wordpress.com>

where he shares resources,
Grace Bible church life, and pastoral
insights from a small church pastor
in a mega-church world.

You can also access the blog
by going to the church website
www.thegbf.com

From Pastor Roy...

In the wake of tragic events, like the act of terror that killed 14 people and injured many more in San Bernardino California, AW Tozer's daily devotional was especially timely on Thursday. My friend Kyle Rigsby, brought my attention to it via text message. Check it out:

DECEMBER 3

GOD'S PROMISE WILL OUTLIVE MAN'S VIOLENCE

*Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before,
beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of
the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.*

2 PETER 3:17

Those who still read and trust their Bibles in the midst of the nuclear age have found a great truth and a message the rest of the world does not know: after the warlords have shot their last missile and dropped their last bomb there will still be living men inhabiting this globe!

After the world has gone through the meat grinder of Armageddon the earth will still be inhabited by men; not by biological freaks, but by real people like you and me. If the world can escape annihilation only by adopting the ethics of Jesus, as some think, we may as well resign ourselves to the inevitable explosion, for a huge block of the earth's population is controlled by Communists whose basic ideology is violently anti-Christian and who are determined to extirpate every trace of Christianity from among them. Other large blocks are non-Christian and grimly set to remain so.

The West, it is true, pays lip service to Christianity, but selfishness, greed, ambition, pride and lust rule the rulers of these lands almost to a man. While they will now and then speak well of Christ, yet the total quality of their conduct leaves little doubt that they are not much influenced by His teachings.

All this being true, still we Christians can sing at the foot of the threatening volcano. Things have not gotten out of hand. However bad they look, the Lord sitteth king forever and reigneth over the affairs of men!

Order the book here:

http://www.amazon.com/Evenings-Tozer-Daily-Devotional-Readings/dp/1600667929/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=

MISSION: KENYA

By Trinity Layman

At the end of October, I left for a 10 day trip to Nairobi, Kenya. I was with Arch and Sherry Bonema, who are very good family friends of ours and a lot like grandparents to me.



While I was there, we visited an orphanage in the town, a “children's home” is what it is called there. Along with that, we visited the church and were able to see the fruit of many things the Bonemas had started before they left Africa the last time. We also were able to attend an ordination service in Nairobi!

My favorite part of the trip was FOR SURE the orphanage! I instantly fell in love with all of the kids. Two in particular- John and Leon - were both around 4 years old and were very special to me. The kids we visited were very well cared for and were taught the gospel day in and day out! This orphanage we visited is trying to expand to care for around 100 more children.



At first, the poverty in Africa really hit me hard. I never expected what I saw, and could never explain it. My thoughts immediately went to "what can I do? Shoes, food, etc?" But as I took time to soak it all in, God reminded me that food, shelter, and money, are all temporary. It doesn't matter if we are the wealthiest people alive, without the Gospel, it is worth nothing.

Of course, they do need help with temporal things. That's important. But what they need most, what we need most, what this world needs most, is the Gospel.

(Watch Trinity's video here: <https://vimeo.com/147104271>)

GRACEGROUPS

At GBF we firmly believe that the grace of God has the power to transform lives. Our home groups are where much of that power is able to take effect. Please be in prayer about joining a GraceGroup. If you have questions or would like to volunteer as a leader, please email Adam@thegbf.com. Below is a list of leaders, study topics, meeting times and places.

GraceGroups are finished for this year and will resume meeting the week of January 10. Please contact Adam if you are interested in joining a group for 2016!

BATTLING UNBELIEF

Women's Bible Study
Magan Cavilier

225-933-4204
704 N. 8th Street
Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm

SEAMLESS

Women's Bible Study
Shelly Baird

903-819-2074
105 Forest Meadows Dr.
Friday 9-11 am

DISCIPLINES OF A GODLY WOMAN

Nancy Nevil

469-401-3614
699 Wallace Road
Saturday mornings

DISCIPLINES OF A GODLY MAN

Jon Stovall

469-323-2393
GBF
Mondays @ 7 pm

TO LIVE IS CHRIST

Jason & Nikki Waligura

214-587-1427
82 Forest Hills Circle
Every other Sunday,
6 - 7:30 pm

TO LIVE IS CHRIST

Jarod & Lara Martin

903-815-0562
413 Autry Blvd
Sundays, 6 - 7:30 pm

TO LIVE IS CHRIST

Jason & Casey Pettett

(903) 818-2548
Sundays @ 4:30 pm

KINGDOM MAN

Roy Layman

roy@thegbf.com
GBF
Tuesdays @ 6 am

PRAYERS OF PAUL

Justin & Keelie Ferguson

903-821-3371
10434 Hwy 289
Sundays, 5 - 7:30 pm

TO LIVE IS CHRIST

Rick & Nancy Nevil

469-401-2615
699 Wallace Road
Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm

EXPLICIT GOSPEL

Dirik and Renee Jones

(214) 649-7563
1312 Missouri St, Celina
Sundays @ 5:30 pm

THE REASON FOR GOD

Jason Carney

903-819-8087
107 Arrowhead Dr
Every other Sunday @ 5 pm

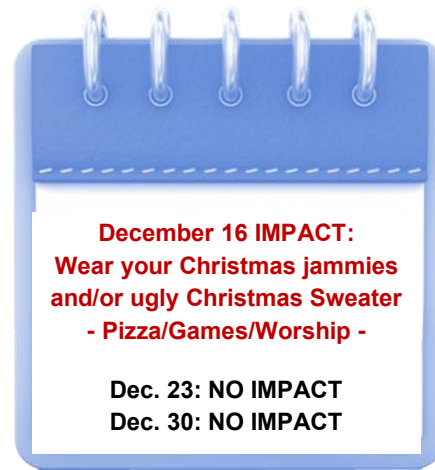
MARK BY MAX LUCADO

Jeff & Amy Crelia
Gane & Kris Roberts

903-815-1182
515 Kerfoot Drive
Every Other Wednesday
6:30 pm

**"Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house,"
... But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house.
And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.**

Hebrews 3:5-6



December 16 IMPACT:
Wear your Christmas jammies and/or ugly Christmas Sweater
- Pizza/Games/Worship -

Dec. 23: NO IMPACT
Dec. 30: NO IMPACT

DECEMBER GRACE KIDS

Joseph's Dreams Came True

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 42:1-46:34; 50:15-21
MAIN POINT: God sent Joseph to Egypt to establish a remnant.
UNIT KEY PASSAGE: Genesis 26:24
BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.

Moses Was Born and Called

BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 1:8-2:10,23-25; 3:1-4:20
MAIN POINT: God rescued Moses to deliver His people from captivity.
KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 3:5-6
BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue His people from captivity.

Angels Spoke to Mary and Joseph

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 1:26-56; Matthew 1:18-24
MAIN POINT: God chose Mary and Joseph to be the earthly parents of Jesus.
KEY PASSAGE: Galatians 4:4-5
BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us from sin.

Jesus Was Born

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 2:1-20
MAIN POINT: Jesus was born to be God's promised Savior.
KEY PASSAGE: Galatians 4:4-5
BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us from sin.

GRACE KIDS

SMALL GROUP LEADERS FOR

DECEMBER

Pre-K/Kindergarten: Keelie
1st & 2nd Grade: Ashley and Lacy D.
3rd & 4th Grade Girls: Buffy
3rd & 4th Grade Boys: Taylor and Ben

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Nursery



Preschool



We love Mrs. Karen!

Grace kids

Volunteers are needed in these areas!
Email
Nikki@thegbf.com
to sign up!





STUDENT MINISTRY

This December, GBF Student ministry is taking a brief break from its journey through the New City Catechism. We will be celebrating the birth of Christ and what it means for our lives today.

As we look back at the first coming of the Lord, we also look forward to the second coming of Christ. This tension of looking back and looking forward is sometime referred to as the "already but not yet".

With the coming of Jesus Christ in the world 2000 years ago, the kingdom of God has *already* come upon us. However, we do *not yet* experience its full glory here on earth. We joyfully celebrate the coming of Christ. And yet we eagerly anticipate his glorious return where he will restore all things unto Himself. Oh, what amazing times we live in!

The Lord is actively working his purposes in this world, and we are able to see that played out everyday in our lives. With the angels, we cry out, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Please join me in prayer as the Lord is doing powerful things in the GBF youth ministry. Let this Christmas season be one the youth can look back on and declare that the "good news of great joy" impacted them in a mighty way for God's glory. When the students meet back up in the Spring, we will finish Part I of the catechism (God, Creation and Fall, Law).

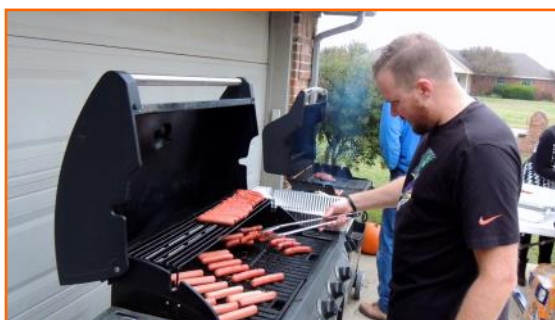


Join us on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:45 and bring a friend!



IMPACT 252: Games on a recent Wednesday night included Balloon Stick and Mummify a Leader.
Sign up for the children's ministry blog: <http://gbfkids.blogspot.com>

Happy Halloweenies



Contact Us

www.thegbf.com

Phone: 903.433.1732

Grace Bible Fellowship

101 West Pecan, P.O. Box 96

Gunter, Texas 75058

Senior Pastor: Roy Layman

Family Life Pastor: Adam Cavalier

Elders: Brent Wilkens, Jeff Crelia
Theron Whitley, Roy Layman

December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 IMPACT 252 STUDENT MINISTRY 6:30 pm	3	4	5
6 FAMILY WORSHIP 10:45 am	7 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	8 Men's Bible Study 6 am Women's Bible Study, 6:30 pm	9 IMPACT 252 6:30 pm STUDENT MINISTRY 6:30 pm	10	11	12
13 FAMILY WORSHIP 10:45 am ANGEL TREE GIFTS DUE	14 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	15 Men's Bible Study 6 am Women's Bible Study, 6:30 pm	16 IMPACT 252 6:30 pm Wear Jammies or Ugly Christmas Sweater! STUDENT MINISTRY 6:30 pm	17	18 GISD Early Release 1 pm	19
20 FAMILY WORSHIP 10:45 am	21	22	23	24 	25 	26
CHRISTMAS BREAK - NO SCHOOL THRU JANUARY 4						
27 FAMILY WORSHIP 10:45 am	28	29	30	31	1 	2
CHRISTMAS BREAK - NO SCHOOL THRU JANUARY 4						