

**Special
Points of
Interest:**

- Food Pantry
Oct 1, 16; Nov 5, 20;
Dec 3, 18
- Young Adults Study
Oct 1, 15; Nov 5, 19;
Dec 3, 17
- MOPS
Oct 4, 9, 23; Nov 1, 13;
Dec 6
- Baptism Service
Oct 9
- JIF (Just in Fun)
Oct 9; Nov 13
- Senior Saints Outing
Lehman's
Oct 15
- Youth Leaders Mtgs
Oct 18; Nov 15; Dec 20
- Church Workday
Oct 22
- IMPACT Service Day -
Leaf Raking
Oct 22
- Directory Photos
Nov 6
- IMPACT - Christmas
Wrapping and Childcare
Nov 19
- Thanksgiving -
Church Offices Closed
Nov 24-25
- Christmas Concert
Dec 11
- Christmas -
Church Offices Closed
Dec 23, 26
- Christmas Eve Svc.
Dec 24
- New Year's Eve Svc.
Dec 31

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Grace Family News

October - December 2011

Pastor's Pen

Matthew 5:48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in Heaven is perfect.

To often Christians and non-Christians laugh at this thought (of being perfect). This is not a funny subject. It is straight from God's Word and worthy of our thinking and examination, especially of ourselves. It is God's standard. Unattainable? Yes - by our own standards. But the great and marvelous TRUTH is that CHRIST has met this standard and on our behalf. 2 Corinthians 5:21 *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.* Please remember this, memorize it, teach it! This does not excuse us of our duty to be like CHRIST; not an easy task. Look up these preceding verses. Matthew 5:39-47. This is a challenge that, sadly, most of us do not take or too many times we fail. We, in our self-pity or self-justification, whine, "Oh well I just can't do anymore, I'm tired, I've been so misrepresented and so misunderstood, I'm done". Natural feelings right? Yes, but that is not sufficient. No excuse.

Our Christian circles are so filled with our own ideas and our own self-interest that we are so many times ineffective in our service to the Lord's work and are only stumbling blocks to weak Christians and especially to unbelievers in helping them find the TRUTH, CHRIST.

John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

We have these challenges to make us stronger. We should concentrate our thinking on the teaching that the Lord means for us to learn - through the Scriptures and inspired (by the Holy Spirit) writings made available to us by various servants of the Church. Our concern should be about God's honor - not our own, or how we are seen by the unbelieving world.

We are told to imitate Christ in our walk, but there are no imitations that work except when we have the Holy Spirit in us as we are in Christ. To honor GOD, not Grace Church, not Baptist, not Methodist, not Adventist, not



Mormon, or Catholic, no hierarchies, no traditions - just CHRIST, the great example. He gave His life for His creation. Maybe all we need is a few hearts that are willing to follow suit.

What about us? Can we fulfill His purposes, glorify Him? Being like the soldier who snaps to his senses, jumps to his feet and reminds the rest of us, "Hey, that's GOD on that cross!" We either have the nature of JESUS in us, or not in us, and we can't imitate it.

Let's be doers of the Word, not just hearers. James 1:22-24.

Tom Ralston

*Oswald Chambers - My Utmost for His Highest
Max Lucado - No Wonder They Call Him Saviour
MacArthur Study Bible*

Missions Moment Highlight

HC Stephen is our missionary in Churachandpur, India. He and his wife, Chingboi, have 8 orphanages they use to meet the physical and spiritual needs for the most disadvantaged children. Seven of the orphanages are in India and one is in Nepal. They have a thriving ministry to help support "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40).

Please keep the Stephens, the children they are raising for the glory of Christ, and those who help them in your prayers.

Also, if anyone would like to be on the e-mail list to receive the missionary newsletters as they arrive, please sign up at the Welcome Center.

Butch Wilhelm



Vacation Bible School

We had an AWESOME time at Vacation Bible School this summer! The theme was "Backstage with the Bible" with the Go Fish Guys. We think everyone agrees that it was a God-honoring VBS. We were in the Bible nightly and there was no question that the *good news* was taught. Several children memorized all the bible verses and we all enjoyed the high energy music! Praise God we had several children accept Christ!!

We are blessed here at Grace Church to have such willing volunteers to work with our VBS programs and we are anxious to see what God has planned for VBS and other children's programs in the future. Please continue to pray for us as we seek out a program and plan for next summer's VBS. Thank you to all who played a role in this year's program, from our prayer warriors, pie auction and pancake breakfast helpers, to nursery workers, etc....

Thank you all.

VBS Planning Team



IN THANKFULNESS FOR OUR HERITAGE



We thank Thee, Almighty God, for the rich heritage of this good land; for the evidence of Thy favor in the past; and for the Hand that hath made and preserved us a nation. We thank Thee for the men and women who, by blood and sweat, by toil and tears, forged on the anvil of their own sacrifice all that we hold dear. May we never lightly esteem what they obtained at a great price. Grateful for rights and privileges, may we be conscious of duties and obligations. May we be more concerned that we are on Thy side, than that Thou are on ours. In our hearts may there be malice toward none and charity for all. Amen.

Peter Marshal

(Submitted by Tom Ralston)

Something to think about...

A young couple moves into a new neighborhood. The next morning while they are eating breakfast, the young woman sees her neighbor hanging the wash outside. "That laundry is not very clean", she said. "She doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better laundry soap."

Her husband looked on, but remained silent.

Every time her neighbor would hang her wash to dry, the young woman would make the same comments.

About a month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband:

"Look, she has learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this."

The husband said, "I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows."

And so it is with life. What we see when watching others depends on the purity of the window through which we look...

Greetings from Around the Globe!!!

We're back! We left for Australia at the beginning of July and embarked on an adventure which has led to a strengthening of our marriage, a clearer vision for the future, and the development of many good relationships on the other side of the world.

During the past three months we have been able to learn and discover many things, both about ourselves and about what it means to live in Christian community. Our time in Tasmania was truly a time of reflection and future planning. We lived with five different families, all part of The Crowded House Tasmania (TCHT). This church group is comprised of three gospel communities all working together within a small area. TCHT is part of both the Crowded House Network out of Sheffield, UK and BILD International in Ames, IO. The families here are working towards developing communities which are one-minded around the gospel and firmly established in community life. We were able to be a part of a variety of people's everyday lives. Our schedule varied greatly depending on whom we were living with at the time and what sorts of things were happening that week. We spent lots of time reading, studying, and talking with others. This reflective time has been really good for us, but as the time for our return drew close, we began preparing for our return, and have become increasingly ready to move forward with our lives. Living with other families also has given us valuable insight into the world of parenting, offering hospitality to others, designing our home for missions, and establishing family order. Our more formal studies have allowed us to learn much about temperaments, key motivators for different personalities, and seasons of life.

We were also able to do a few touristy things as well. We took a trip to the beautiful Wineglass Bay on Tasmania's east coast, visited a wildlife park and saw the real Tasmanian Devils, fed kangaroos out of our hands, ate Vegemite and Wallaby, drove on the left side of the road, and watched Footie and Rugby. We had a wonderful time in Tasmania and are grateful for the relationships and insights we have gained.



Excellence Matters

A few years ago I was intrigued by the following statement listed as a value of a local church: "Excelling Ministry - believing that the spirit of excellence is a display of God's way and will for His children in their pursuit of constant and creative ways." I was so intrigued I wondered how many other churches used such terminology and to the best of my knowledge, there were none. We recognize "excellence" when we see it. It could be found in a painting of an artist or unique building design of an architect. Excellence could be found in the performance of a musician or the woodwork of a craftsman. We often see it displayed in athletic competition such as the Olympic games.

But can excellence be found in the

everyday life of a salesman, attorney, student, parent, or a housewife? Can excellence be found in the ministries and facilities of Grace Church? Can it be found in the process of our spiritual maturity? Far too often believers are satisfied with being "good enough" and this should be viewed as a sinful attitude. Paul instructs the Romans not to be "slothful in zeal" in our service to the Lord (Romans 12:11). Since our lives are to be considered an offering of spiritual service (Romans 12:1), whatever is worth doing in that service is worth doing with diligence and care. Therefore, I would suggest that excellence should be found in all areas of life and is expected by God.

Scott Burdett

GRACE CHURCH

P. O. Box 208
4808 Tallmadge Road
Rootstown, OH 44272

Phone: 330-325-7174
Fax: 330-325-7568

www.GraceChurchRootstown.com

Women of Grace

Ladies,

Whether you have kids in school, have nieces/nephews or grandchildren in school, or have friends' children in school, everyone remembers September as "Back to School" time. Back to school means fun times at Friday night football games, field trips, schedules, and special family traditions. A tradition for us is pizza the night before school starts. I've been doing this ever since my sister and I were small and our parents would take us out the night before school started for pizza. Problem was I generally sat through dinner crying. I hated the first week of school. I wanted to move every year because in my mind it would be better to know no one rather than go to school and all of my friends from last year wouldn't want to be my friend that year. It was a completely irrational fear, but a fear that gripped my heart every school year until 8th Grade.

Why did I just bore you with a walk down memory lane? Because the children in school today have much greater, heavier issues to deal with when they enter those classrooms. For instance, in the past year Caleb had to deal with the sudden death of a classmate, the suicide of a friend, and friends being pressured into a plethora of addictions. Hunter's friends aren't free of problems either. He has friends (triplets) whose father decided over the summer he no longer wanted to

be married and left the house.

It's not enough to be women desiring His precepts as we discussed last time, we must be women armed with His precepts, willing to take the youth of our church before the holy throne of God. GCOR's students must be bathed with prayer on a daily basis. Ask for a list of the names of the students in our church, from preschool through college, and begin to pray for them and send notes letting them know you are praying.

I am blessed to have two ladies daily praying for our boys; one prays for them at work, their pictures sit on her desk, one prays for them every morning while walking. Wouldn't it be awesome if each one of our students at Grace have at least two women praying for them by name daily? You can be in prayer for their family life, protection, feeling loved and accepted, freedom from fear, having an eternal future, developing godly friends, developing a hunger for the things of God, and to follow truth, rejecting Satan and his lies. If you'd like a list of topics, let me know. I have a list for a month's worth of prayers.

Ladies, our students are in a spiritual battle, not against flesh or blood (parents, other kids, teachers), but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places; this is their battle ground and we

must be about our Father's business of lifting them up to Him in prayer.

Go forth, dear friends, as prayer warriors on behalf of our children.

In Christ,

LeAnna Burdett

Lord, I pray that You would fill the students at GCOR with a love for You that surpasses their love for anything or anyone else. Help them to respect and revere Your laws and understand that Your laws are there for their benefit. May they clearly see that when Your laws are disobeyed, life doesn't work. Hide Your Word in their heart so that there is no attraction to sin. I pray they will run from evil, from impurity, from unholy thoughts, words, and deeds, and that they will be drawn toward whatever is pure and holy. Let Christ be formed in them and cause them to seek the power of Your Holy Spirit to enable them to do what is right.

(Prayer adapted from, *The Power of a Praying Parent*, S. Omartian, p.128)

INTEGRITY