

January, February 2011
Volume 2, Issue 1

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Graham Covenant Church
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The Grapevine

Pastor's Ponderings

New Constitution is Your Opportunity to Pray

Two months ago in this space I wrote about how our new Constitution is all about releasing people to serve in ministry as God directs. Today prayer is on my mind. I need you to pray. You need you to pray. We need to pray. Nothing of significance is accomplished for the Kingdom of God without prayer. Our Lord Jesus was a man of prayer while on this earth. Faith and trust are given voice through prayer.

Give God thanks and praise repeatedly for this amazing welcome into His family that we have through Christ.

Pray that as God's people we will be of one heart to praise God with one voice whatever the details of our governance may be (Rom. 15:5-6).

With trust in your heart ask God to appoint the leaders He desires for this stage of transition and growth at Graham Covenant (Mark 3:13-14).

Plead with Him that we will all grow in love and faith and hope (Mark 9:24; Eph. 1:18, 3:14-19).

Pray that we will be indelibly marked by love, faith and hope.

Implore God to enable us by His Spirit to be compelling witnesses for Christ in this community. Entreat this living loving powerful God to do miracles of salvation, healing and deliverance in our midst for His glory and to bolster our witness (Acts 4:29-31).

Pray with faith that we will have wisdom from God so that we can do His will and be fruitful in ministry (Col. 1:9-11).

My brothers and sisters, let us pray! We have barely begun to pray. Stay tuned for extra opportunities to pray together in January. Pray in your houses. Pray in your cars. Pray on a walk. Pray in your Bible studies. **PRAY!**

Seek God and forsake love for this world (1 John 2:15-17). If you seek Him, you will find Him (Jeremiah 29:13; Matthew 7:7-8).

Yours for seeing God's kingdom here and now,

Pastor Rich

Missionary Moments

Bethany Clapp and Chelsea Arnold

With HIM in India from January 2011 to June 2011



Trip Details

Our destination is the city of Nellore in Southeastern Indian province of Andhra Pradesh. We will be working among the Yanadi's Tribes. We will be living and working with the Hebron Believer's Assembly pastored by David Dayasagar. We will be involved with: Prayer and music ministry, encouraging the evangelists and their wives, visiting villages, assisting medical work, helping prepare VBS programs, teaching English, and some administrative work.

Finances:

Total trip cost=\$3000 each

Bethany: *I have dedicated my heart and life to the Lord for spreading the Gospel; whether in another country or home, through finances, time, or prayer. About 9 years ago my dad took a trip to New Delhi, India to work with an*



orphanage. A special love for the people of India grew in my heart. Since then, I've wanted to work among the women and orphans of India and to support the local believers there.

Chelsea: *I have heard missionary's stories all my life and dreamed of being a missionary from a young age. God placed India on my heart as a place in desperate need of His love and justice, particularly among the women, when I was about 13. Since then, I've thought and prayed about going to India. I am so excited to fulfill the dream God laid on my heart.*

Commissioning Ceremony: Sunday, January 9th during worship service.

Pastor Tim

One of the things I love best about getting to work with young people and children is it forces me to remember to keep simple the great mysteries of God.

How can an almighty God the creator of the universe, allow Himself to become a baby born into extremely humble circumstances, spend His life as a servant, and then ultimately pay the price for my sin on Calvary? The simple answer is because...He loves us! A simple answer and yet the implications of it are staggering!

It is truly a great mystery to be invited by Christ to live intimately close with Him. The picture He gave in His word is found in John 15. He is pictured as the vine and we the branches. The branches can do nothing outside of the vine. Without being connected they will wither and die but connected they bloom and produce much fruit. So it is with us, if we allow ourselves to simply experience His love, provision and care we will become who He has called us to be. We will produce much for His glory, all from allowing Him to live through us.

As we enter into 2011, I want to remind all of us to live with a simple Faith. A faith that truly believes in God's great power but also in His great love. An ability to simply "Fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith..." (Hebrews 12:2). If we do that, then no matter what goes on around us, this can simply be one of the greatest years ever.

The Difference - Youth 7th - 12th grade Meets every Thursday from 7:00pm to 8:20pm @ Graham Covenant Church CE Building.

Join us for Bible Study - Prayer - Fun

Contact Pastor Tim for more info. 253-230-3078

****Watch the bulletin for upcoming youth events**

"Finally Friday" - January 14th from 7:00-9:00pm hang out, play games, and hear the gospel.

Youth Sunday School:
In the CE Building

High School -Sundays at 9:00am
Jr. High- Sundays at 9:15am

Kid's Corner

Sunday School

CE Building

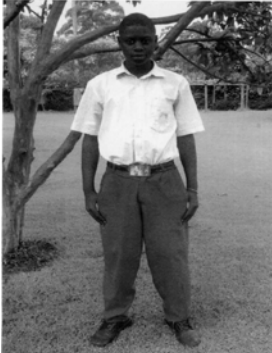
Classes for ages 3 to 6th grade meet in the CE Building during worship service for a great time of learning about God's Word.

February 18th, 6:30-8:30pm

CE Building (weather permitting)

Kid's Night Out

Crafts, games, Bible lesson, and more. For Kindergarten thru 5th grade. 6th graders welcome and encouraged to be helpers for this event!! \$3 for supplies but scholarships available. Contact Rita at whaledlfn@centurytel.net.



Compassion International

Luky Byaruhanga from Uganda, Africa

-sponsored by our Sunday School children

Help your child earn/ bring money for Luky's support each week.

Men's Ministries

Saturday, January 8th

8-10am, CE Building

Men's Breakfast

Great food and great speakers.

Saturday, February 5th

8-10am, CE Building

Men's Breakfast

Great food and great speakers.

Geezer Group:

Meets every Tuesday at Lipoma Firs Restaurant for coffee. Contact John Purcell for more details.
253-847-0319

Ladies' Lane

Book Club

Monday, January 24th at 7:00pm
the home of Kim Baker

Book Club meets once a month at the homes of the women of the church to discuss the current book being read and share dessert and coffee. This month the book is Who Stole My Church by Gordon MacDonald. Copies can usually be found at the library, on amazon.com, or you can borrow one from someone who is done with their copy.

Bible Study

The ladies are studying After God's Heart by Myrna Alexander each Monday at 10:00am in the CE Building. It delves deeper into 1 Samuel. The study is led by a team of women each week.

Getting to Know You

Jeff, Kathy, & Hannah Wood

Hi, we are the Wood family; Jeff, Kathy, and Hannah. I would also like to add; Zoey, Sadie May, Stinky, and Opie (self-proclaimed king of our domain). We moved here as a family in August of 2008, settling in Graham, January of 2009. Jeff is a native Washingtonian, born and raised in Tacoma, whereas I am a Cheese head who grew up in Colorado. Jeff and I met as a result of what we like to call "AOL 2.5", better known as the internet, in 1995. Jeff moved to Colorado later that year, and we were married in April of 1996.

Jeff is a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant), working for a nurse-staffing agency, and I am an Engineering Tech for the City of Tacoma, Water Supply. Hannah is in 7th grade at Frontier Junior High School.

-Check out their picture before service next week on the announcement slides!!

The New Year

Dear Lord, as this new year is born
 I give it to Thy hand,
 Content to walk by faith what paths
 I cannot understand.

Whatever coming days may bring
 Of bitter loss, or gain,
 Or every crown of happiness;
 Should sorrow come, or pain,

Or, Lord, if all unknown to me
 Thine angel hovers near

To bear me to that farther shore
 Before another year,

It matters not- my hand in Thine,
 Thy light upon my face,
 Thy boundless strength when I am weak,
 Thy love and saving grace!

I only ask, loose not my hand,
 Grip fast my soul, and be
 My guiding light upon the path
 Till, blind no more, I see!

-Martha Snell Nicholson

**Graham Covenant Church Bible Studies
 SMALL GROUPS**

Host	Day	Time	Location	Phone	Study
Lynn Scheid & Sheila Dines	Sun	9:00am	GECC	253-843-4095	High School Sunday School -starts Jan 9 th
Pastor Tim	Sun	9:15am	GECC	253-230-3078	Jr. High Sunday School- starts Jan 9 th
Women Co-leaders	Mon	10:00am	GECC	360-893-6573	After God's Heart
Betty Cooley and Joyce Harrington	Wed	10:30am	Graham	253-847-7475	Great Prophetic Themes
Dennis and Gael Riksen	Wed	7:00pm	GECC	253-847-4628	Revelation
Colin Kertson	Wed	9:00pm	Graham	360-893-8578	Men's Study- Colossians
Pastor Rich	Thur	7-8:20pm	GECC	253-847-2223	Parenting Discussion Group- starts Jan 13 th
Ken & Delores Klubberud	Thur	7:00pm	Graham	253-847-6959	Hebrews
Keith and Deanne Miller	Thur	7:00pm	South Hill	360-893-0765	Hebrews
Schmidt home-led by Greg Bennett	Thur	7:00pm	Graham	360-893-6786	Spiritual Gifts

Art of Marriage Conference

@Graham Covenant Church

Friday, February 11th from 7:00pm to 9:30pm

Saturday, February 12th from 9:00am to 4:00pm

This is a 6 session video event built on the same biblically based content as the Weekend to Remember marriage getaway.

This program will help couples fully experience God's design for marriage.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!
2 Communion Worship Team 9am	3 10:00am Women's Bible Study CE Bldg	4 PRC Meeting 7pm	5 7pm Riksen Small Group- CE Building 7:30 Worship Team Practice	6 The Difference 7-8:20pm in CE Bldg	7 Elder Prayer- 7am Clothing Bank Open 10-1pm	8 Men's Breakfast 8-10am CE Building
9 Worship Team 9am High School Sunday School 9am Jr High Sunday School 9:15am **Commissioning of Bethany Clapp & Chelsea Arnold missionaries to India	10 10:00am Women's Bible Study CE Bldg 7pm Board Meeting	11 Membership Class 7pm-sanctuary	12 7pm Riksen Small Group- CE Building 7:30 Worship Team Practice	13 The Difference 7-8:20pm in CE Bldg Parenting Discussion Group 7-8:20pm in sanctuary	14 Elder Prayer- 7am Clothing Bank Open 10-1pm "Finally Friday!" – Youth 7-9pm in the CE Building	15
16 Food Bank Offering Worship Team 9am High School Sunday School 9am Jr High Sunday School 9:15am	17 10:00am Women's Bible Study CE Bldg	18 Membership Class 7pm-sanctuary	19 7pm Riksen Small Group- CE Building 7:30 Worship Team Practice	20 The Difference 7-8:20pm in CE Bldg Parenting Discussion Group 7-8:20pm in sanctuary	21 Elder Prayer- 7am Clothing Bank Open 10-1pm	22
23 Worship Team 9am High School Sunday School 9am Jr High Sunday School 9:15am 96 th Birthday Party for Carol Bennett after service until 3pm	24 10:00am Women's Bible Study CE Bldg 7pm Book Club at Kim Baker's	25	26 7pm Riksen Small Group- CE Building 7:30 Worship Team Practice	27 The Difference 7-8:20pm in CE Bldg Parenting Discussion Group 7-8:20pm in sanctuary	28 Elder Prayer- 7am Clothing Bank Open 10-1pm	29
30 Worship Team 9am High School Sunday School 9am Jr High Sunday School 9:15am ANNUAL MEETING	31 10:00am Women's Bible Study CE Bldg	Notes				

◀ January		~ FEBRUARY 2011 ~					March ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1	2 7pm Riksen Small Group- CE Building 7:30 Worship Team Practice	3 The Difference 7-8:20pm in CE Bldg Parenting Discussion Group 7-8:20pm in sanctuary	4 Elder Prayer- 7am Clothing Bank Open 10-1pm	5 Men's Breakfast 8-10am CE Building	
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