

## A Month Devoted to Missions

Strictly speaking “missions” is not a biblical term per se. However, it is a biblical concept that permeates the bible and is central to the purpose of the local church. “Mission” involves God’s saving plan that spans from the original creation to the new creation. It encompasses the promises of God made to Abraham fulfilled in part in the coming of Jesus and reaches as far as the vision given John the apostle of people from “every nation, tribe and tongue” worshipping before the throne of God!

God is a missionary God and as such mission is His eternal plan of redemption and the renewal of the creation being worked out. He is sovereignly extending His kingdom and bringing glory to His name among the nations:

**“Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth.”**

Psalm 46:10

The church is a missionary body and as such mission is central to its identity. We are called in this age corporately to bear testimony to His salvation and announce the forgiveness of sins to “make disciples of all nations” in order to bring glory to God among the peoples.

**“Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.  
For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;”**

Psalm 96:3-4

Last year we devoted the month of January to the “topic” of mission. The goal of this emphasis is not merely to become more informed regarding the approach and work of various missionaries or mission’s agencies. Our prayer is to incite a growing passion for God and His glory by seeing what He is doing in the world. People enthralled with the glory of God can’t help but to tell others. As John Piper has stated, “Passion for God in worship precedes the offer of God in preaching. You can’t commend what you don’t cherish... Where passion for God is weak, zeal for missions will be weak.”

I find my heart warmed, my soul encouraged and my ministry challenged by interacting with missionaries who are serving our Lord in difficult and trying circumstances. Bringing them here for one month connects our fragile, local labors “to God’s invincible, eternal, global purposes.”

My challenge to the flock is to “tune-in” and not “tune-out” during this month. If we lack zeal for missions it just may be because we lack zeal for God’s glory. Let’s sit at the feet of our guests and learn and listen carefully. Pray that God calls some from among us to share in their labors and new works as well. You will find more details regarding this special month in Gary Rickman’s Missions Article. Please read it carefully and prayerfully. *(continued on page 2)*

### January Calendar

#### GSTM Winter Quarter Begins

January 2

#### Missions Night

January 14

#### Office Closed (MLK Day)

January 15

#### Church Potluck

January 21

#### Members Meeting

January 21

#### Game & Gab Night

January 26

#### Missions Night

January 28

### February Calendar

#### Men’s Retreat

February 2-4

#### Office Closed for President’s Day

February 19

#### Youth Group

#### 30-Hour Famine

February 23-24

#### Hospitality Homes

February 25

### Dates To Remember

#### Women’s Retreat

March 16-18

#### All-Church Retreat at

#### Koinonia

May 18-20

*Growing Together in the Knowledge and Grace of God*

### Weekly Calendar

#### Sundays:

Prayer: 8:15 am  
Worship Services: 9:00 am & 11:00 am  
Christian Education: 9:00 am & 11:00 am

#### Mondays:

Home Fellowship Groups: 7:00 p.m.

#### Tuesdays:

Titus 2 (1/30 & 2/27): 9:15 a.m.  
GSTM: 4:00-10:00 p.m.  
Home Fellowship Groups: 7:00 p.m.

#### Wednesdays:

Home Fellowship Groups: 7:00 p.m.  
Senior High Youth Group: 7:00 p.m.

#### Thursdays:

Women’s Bible Study: 10:00 a.m.  
*(beginning 2/8)*  
GSTM: 6:30-10:00 p.m.  
Junior High Youth Group: 7:00 p.m.  
Grace Period–DVC: 7:00 p.m.

#### Fridays:

Grace Period–Berkeley: 7:30 p.m.

## MERCY! HOPE! EVANGELISM! PERSONAL GROWTH!

*You Can be a part of it.*

Where can you participate in all of these at the same time? There is a need for saints willing to minister one or two nights a month to people who are incarcerated at the Marsh Creek Detention Facility in Clayton. We have a special need for people who would be interested in helping to lead worship songs and hymns as part of a Sunday night service. The commitment is low, the flexibility is high and the blessings are many. If you have been asking yourself where God wants you to serve, this might be your opportunity. If you would like to get more information on this ministry opportunity through Prison Fellowship, please call Chris Dellebake @ 925.287.9233 or Gordon Judd @ 925.673.9137.

**“THEN THEY THEMSELVES ALSO WILL ANSWER, ‘LORD, WHEN DID WE  
SEE YOU HUNGRY, OR THIRSTY, OR A STRANGER, OR NAKED, OR SICK, OR  
IN PRISON, AND DID NOT TAKE CARE OF YOU?’”**

MATTHEW 25:44

*“We hope that you also will be encouraged, challenged and educated by the messages these men bring.”*

The GBC Missions Ministry is enthused about those who are scheduled to preach in January to help us focus on missions throughout the month. Two of the speakers are new to GBC and bring a great wealth of experience and knowledge about doing God’s work around the world. Three of the speakers are missionaries that GBC has supported and prayed for over the last several years. We hope that you also will be encouraged, challenged and educated by the messages these men bring.

DATE	SPEAKER
January 7	<b>Tom Steffen</b> Missions Professor at Biola and former New Tribes missionary
January 14	<b>Mark Christopher</b> Missionary and Pastor, Cape Town, South Africa
January 21	<b>Austin Duncan</b> Short Term Coordinator, Grace Community Church
January 28	<b>Pablo Ramirez &amp; Tony Varela</b> Missionaries and Pastors, San Quintin and Tijuana, Mexico

Tom Steffen is a veteran missionary of 20 years with New Tribes Mission, primarily in the Philippines, followed by 15 years as a missions professor at Biola University in Los Angeles, training new generations of missionaries for today’s world. It is a great privilege to hear from Tom during the morning services about the lives of several heroes and heroines of missions between 1700 and the present, lives which have a lot to teach us about how Grace Bible Church can have an impact in missions in our 21st-century world.

Mark Christopher is one of our own Grace Bible Church missionaries, working in Cape Town, South Africa for 11 years. Mark is pastoring Living Hope Bible Church and directing the Shepherds School of Theology and Expository Preaching. During the morning service, Mark will preach from Matthew 24 on the second coming of the Son of Man and what that means for those who are unprepared. The imminent return of Christ has always been one of the key motivations for missions throughout history. During the evening service, Mark will bring an update of the ministries in South Africa, how God has blessed and grown the church and his witness, as well as how ongoing challenges remain. We will also get to hear from Mark’s wife, Debbie, Sunday evening for a personal and family perspective.

Austin Duncan is the Short-Term Missions coordinator from Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California. They have at least 16 different short-term mission trips identified for 2007. Austin has a great deal of experience in making mission trips be effective outreaches. He will speak Sunday morning from Mark 10 on the encounter between Jesus and the rich young ruler. That interaction has important lessons for how we understand evangelism and the lost.

Pablo Ramirez and Tony Varela are two more of our own Grace Bible Church missionaries. Pablo’s Church in San Quintin, Mexico, recently celebrated their fifth anniversary with great joy. Grace Bible Church has invited Pablo to come speak to us all at our final missions Sunday morning service in January. Lord willing, Pablo’s visa and traveling documents will be completed in time for that Sunday. Tony Varela, whose church in Tijuana was instrumental in the work of planting the San Quintin church, will also join us that Sunday morning. During the evening service that concludes our January month of missions, Tony and Pablo will both share on their ministries in Mexico.

*(continued on page 3)*



## Children’s Education

### Children’s Education Sailing Smoothly

First, let me thank God for His faithfulness and kindness to us over these last couple of years in how He has graciously provided for us in our ministry to our children. Part of His blessing has been seen through the nearly 70 people that are involved in the CE Ministry and the roles that are being filled, each and every week. Over the last year and a half, we have not had a lack of Teachers, Teacher Assistants, Substitute Teachers, CE Helpers and Emergency Substitute Teachers. Everyone has been ready and willing to step in to their roles and serve our children either weekly, semi-weekly or in some cases, as needed. Even things like Mike Becker getting the sun shade put up over the play area have been parts of the ways the Lord has blessed us.

As the new year arrives, it is my hope that we will get to a point very soon where we will have all of our necessary curriculum and teaching materials for every class. In addition to that, we will also be updating some of the supplies in some of the rooms, as well as adding a TV and combo VCR/DVD player in each class so that teachers will be able to easily utilize media as they have need. It is very exciting to be getting to a point where we will have our classes set up just how we’d like and that we will essentially be “done” setting up the ministry and will be moving into more of a “maintenance” mode.

One new thing we will be adding in this year for parents is a take home sheet that will be available in each class and will have information regarding the lessons that were taught in each class for that day. It is my hope that this will be a useful tool in beginning conversations with your children in regards to what they have learned that day and how you can further point them to Christ in your discussions with them. Moms and Dads, please feel free to offer your feedback if you think there are ways we will be able to improve on this tool, once you get an idea of what it is like. The idea is to make this something that will be useful to you in getting your children to talk about what they are learning.

Lastly, please keep in mind that Summer will be here before we know it and we will be in need for Teachers and Subs that will be willing to serve during the Summer quarter, giving some of our regulars a break. So please be praying about future needs as well as current plans for our Children’s Ministry. I look forward to seeing the Lord’s continued blessing as we seek to raise up our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. May He always help us to do so faithfully!

In His Service,  
Chris Kiiskinen

# MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

**“But encourage one another daily,  
as long as it is called Today,  
so that none of you may be hardened  
by sin’s deceitfulness.”  
Hebrews 3:13**

Over the last two quarters, the Men’s Ministry has offered the men of GBC the opportunities to gather for fellowship for the purpose of encouraging one another in our walks with Christ. At our Men’s Breakfasts, both Pastor Tony Sanelli and Dr. George Fox have exhorted us to walk with Christ and with one another to the glory of God. We hope to have another breakfast in the first half of March, so stay tuned.

We are also in the beginning stages of planning a couples’ banquet in February, so keep your eyes and ears open for the date.

Lastly, we are all set to return to Wolf Mountain for our annual Men’s Retreat over the weekend of February 2-4. Pastor Doug Thompson from Middletown Bible Church will be our speaker. Sign-ups begin Sunday, January 7 and the cost is \$125.

“But encourage one another daily,...”

# CALLING ALL CHEFS!



Women of Grace  
2007 Cookbook

The Women of Grace are delighted to sponsor a fundraiser to help raise donations for the Phase 2 portion of the church’s building project. In keeping with the theme of Phase 2’s Kitchen and Storage unit, we’d like to invite **everyone**— men, women, and children— to participate by sharing your favorite recipe to be included in the GBC Cookbook.

We plan to have the Cookbooks ready in time for Mother’s Day and will be available for pick-up for a donation of \$25 or more.

## HERE’S HOW TO EASILY SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE:

- 1) Go to the church’s website, [www.gbcph.org](http://www.gbcph.org).
- 2) Click on “Women of Grace 2007 Cookbook”.
- 3) Follow the suggested steps.

**It’s easy to participate and will be fun for everyone!**

(Missions Article, continued)

The Missions Team is also excited to introduce to you some other missionaries who will be speaking during the 11:00 Adult Education Hour. These missionaries are new to GBC and have been invited to share with us their testimonies from the mission field.

DATE	SPEAKER
January 14	Danny Pasquale, Instructor at the Italian Evangelical Bible Institute in Rome, and church planter in Monte Porzio, Italy.
January 21	David and Christine Baxter with New Tribes formerly assigned to Panama and awaiting a new assignment.

Lastly, the Missions Team has asked our Christian Education Classes to set aside some time during their classes to pray for two supported missionaries each Sunday morning. Parents, this means that your children will also be praying for our missionaries. Please take a moment each Sunday to engage them about their prayer time for our missionaries.

DATE	MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR
January 7	Kelly Leibengood and Len Maselli
January 14	Mark Christopher and Kilwa Anderson
January 21	Scott Menez and David Mikulsky
January 28	Tony Varela and Pablo Ramirez

We hope that at the conclusion of Missions Month that GBC has a greater zeal and passion for spreading the gospel to every tribe, nation and tongue.

## Women of Grace

MINISTRY NEWS

**Upcoming Classes**

- **The Practice of Godliness**  
A study of the book by Jerry Bridges will be held on Monday evenings from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at Bonnie Copland’s home in Concord. The class begins on January 29 and sign-ups begin January 7 at the Women of Grace table.
- **Philippians**  
Sheri Sanelli is leading a study of the book of Philippians on Thursday mornings beginning February 8 from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the church. Sign-ups begin January 7.
- **Titus 2 Study**  
This study meets monthly on Tuesdays from 9:00-11:30 a.m. at the church, beginning January 23. The Titus 2:3-5 passage calls all women to become involved together in the pursuit of a God-honoring, feminine lifestyle. Please contact Lynn Davis at 937-2797 if you would like more information.
- **Excellent Wife**  
Next fall, Barbara Telle will resume teaching this life-changing class on a weekday evening. Watch future publications for details.

**Winter Retreat: March 16-18 at Camp Koinonia in the Santa Cruz mountains.**  
Our resident retreat speaker, Amy Smith, will teach on a topic related to discipline in the godly woman’s life. The cost is \$136. Sign-ups begin Sunday, February 19, and you can reserve your spot with a deposit of \$36. Full and partial scholarships are available; if needed, please contact C.G. Senft at 323-0639. More details to follow.

**Ladies Tea: Saturday, April 28, 1:00-3:00 p.m., GBC Fellowship Hall**  
Marlean Felix (2006 winter retreat speaker) will be our guest speaker. All ladies are invited! Feel free to bring a friend (or mother, aunt, etc!)

# News and Events

## Christian Education

January 7 will mark the beginning of a new quarter for Adult Sunday School. During the first service, we will offer two adult classes: *Getting Acquainted with Grace*, which will meet in Room 203, and we will offer a video series about *Christian History*. This class meets in Room 202. During the second service, we will continue to offer our *Sermon Discussion Class* that meets in the Fellowship Hall.

## Grace School of Theology & Ministry

The Grace School of Theology will be starting its next quarter on Tuesday, January 2. We are privileged to have the school meeting right here at GBC. All of the classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On Tuesdays the classes offered this quarter at GBC are: **Theology 2, Soteriology/Atonement** and **Old Testament Survey II**. Beginning Thursday, January 4 and February 8, one 2 unit 5-week class is offered, **The Spiritual Life** and **Youth Ministry** respectively. For more information you may call GSTM at 676-1639 or visit them at [www.gstm.org](http://www.gstm.org).

## Pictorial Directory

A new pictorial directory is coming! Camera crews will be here to take pictures on January 11-13th and 25-27th. Sign-ups are going on now in the foyer. You can also sign-up online! Go to [www.gbcp.org](http://www.gbcp.org) and click on the green pictorial directory box. We need many volunteers to help with sign-ups and sign-ins on picture days. If you would like to help, please call the church office at 676-1584.

## Hospitality Homes

Here is an opportunity for everyone in our Grace family to spend some time in the comfort of a host home getting to know one another better. Put these dates on your calendar and look for the sign-up table, then come and join us for relaxed fellowship and good food:

**January 21, 2007**

**February 25, 2007**

**March 25, 2007**

**April 29, 2007**

If you have questions or would like to volunteer as a host call the Judds at 673-9137 or [kljudd@pacbell.net](mailto:kljudd@pacbell.net).

## CITIZEN'S CORNER

*"For you created my inmost being;  
You knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,  
Your eyes saw my unformed body.  
All the days ordained for me were written in Your book  
before one of them came to be.."*  
Psalm 139:13,15-16

On January 22, 1973, the United States Supreme Court ruled that "State criminal abortion laws, like those involved (in *Roe v. Wade*), that except from criminality only a life-saving procedure on the mother's behalf without regard to the stage of her pregnancy and other interests involved violate the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, which protects against state action the right to privacy, including a woman's qualified right to terminate her pregnancy." This 7-2 decision by the Supreme Court legalized abortion nationally. Soon, thereafter Sanctity of Life Day (now known as Sanctity of Human Life Week) would mark the anniversary of this decision.

On January 20th, you can show your support for Life by participating in the third annual WalkforLife • West Coast. For more information go to [www.WalkforLifeWC.com](http://www.WalkforLifeWC.com).

## Regular Prayer Times

**Sunday Morning:**  
8:15 - 8:45 am; Room 203

**Friday Morning:**  
Men's Prayer  
6:30 am; Room 203

## Birthdays!

### JANUARY

SAMUEL ALBERT ~ 1  
GEORGE FOX ~ 4  
SHERI SANELLI ~ 4  
DON RIBERGAARD ~ 6  
KEN DAVEY ~ 12  
BARBARA TELLE ~ 13  
ANTONIO SANELLI ~ 19  
TIM ALBERT ~ 20  
HEATHER SMITH ~ 24  
PHYLLIS CARSTENSEN ~ 27  
NICHOLAS DENNY ~ 27  
JOHN KAMP ~ 27  
JEFFREY LANCASTER ~ 27  
BRYCE AXE ~ 28  
ALEXA KNIGHT ~ 29  
GREG DRESHOW ~ 30  
ALICIA BOOKMAN ~ 31  
DEBRA LYNCH ~ 31

### FEBRUARY

DAVID COPLAND ~ 1  
BRANDON RIBERGAARD ~ 3  
NATHAN JOHNSON ~ 4  
JAMES CLOPTON ~ 5  
JANE HAWKSWORTH ~ 5  
DWAIN BOTELHO ~ 8  
BILL LYNCH ~ 8  
GINA MENEZ ~ 8  
ED SIMMONS ~ 9  
JOSHUA BECKER ~ 10  
DON MASTERS ~ 10  
JORDAN SANELLI ~ 11  
JORDAN AXE ~ 12  
MARY LANCASTER ~ 12  
CHRISTINE WESTON ~ 13  
MARTY ARREGUIN ~ 14  
SUSAN RICKMAN ~ 14  
MADELINE SANDBERG ~ 14  
MARJ SMITH ~ 14  
JON ADAMS ~ 15  
ERIN HAMMACK ~ 16  
CAROLYN COPLAND ~ 18  
MORGAN RIBERGAARD ~ 18  
ESTHER PHIPPS ~ 23  
JOANN SPIER ~ 23  
JANET BALSIGER ~ 24  
GLENDA BECKER ~ 24  
JEANNE MORGAN ~ 24  
EMILY STEPHENS ~ 24  
NATHAN MORGAN ~ 26  
KEITH TELLE ~ 27  
DENNIS SCHRAG ~ 28

## What's News from THE Youth Group?

As the new year begins, we have been blessed to have around 80 students on our roster of Junior and Senior Highers here at Grace. Not all attend Sunday's with their family and not all attend all youth ministry functions, but it is a blessing to be able to minister to so many. Even with losing almost 20 students to graduation last year, the Lord continues to bring new faces under the teaching of His word both Sunday's and midweek. As we start 2007, we can look back at this last year and see many blessings that the Lord has brought in many ways. From the regular camps that we do, to Student Conferences, to our second summer of our "Late Nights Young Theologians Society" (called "Late NYTS")...God has been very gracious.

Looking forward to this year, we start off quickly with Winter Camp the second weekend of the month. Once again, we will be going away with a few other churches up to Camp Alta, this year's theme centering around being devoted to Christ in all things. After that, we will be gearing up for another 30 Hour Famine! Over the last few years, our students have become one of the top groups in the nation related to how much we have raised to help those in need around the world. Much of that we must thank many of you for as many in our church family have been a part of helping us help others.

Our recent teaching has us still in a series on the Attributes of God during midweek. In Sunday School we are finishing up a series on Apologetics that was preceded by a video series by R.C Sproul on different world views. Please pray for us as we desire to continue to bring the word of God clearly into the minds, hearts and lives of our students in a way that pleases the Lord and is applicable to them. It is our prayer that the Lord will use His word to save those that don't know Him and make more Christ-like those that do.

As always, we covet your prayers for us and our students, hoping that the Lord will be pleased to work in and through us to be an effective ministry here at Grace. We hope that He will not only teach us through His word, but also impact our lives in such a way that more and more of our students give more and more of their lives fully to Christ.

In His Grace,

Chris Kiiskinen