

A Note From The Pastor

WHO ARE ELDERS AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

We are fast approaching a time when we will be, Lord willing, concluding the affirmation process of two new elders. I want to take this opportunity to briefly refresh and in some cases inform members and regular attenders of GBC just who elders are and what they do from a biblical perspective.

WHO ARE THE ELDERS?

It is our conviction that two offices remain from the New Testament pattern for the governance, management and care of the church: elders and deacons. Elders and deacons have distinct functions that can broadly be categorized: elders, governing, shepherding and teaching; deacons, assisting with the manifold needs of the people (Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:1-13).

Elders, bishops, overseers, and pastors are all New Testament terms that refer to the same office. This is evident when one compares Titus 1:5 with 1:7 where bishop/overseer and elder are apparently interchangeable terms. In addition, in Acts 20 Paul calls the "elders" to come down from Ephesus. Then he says to them in verse 28 that God has made them "overseers/bishops" among the flock. So the elders are the overseers in Ephesus. A pastor is therefore an elder and an elder is a pastor and an overseer is also a pastor, and so forth.

New Testament churches were lead by a plurality of pastors/elders in contrast to the common "senior pastor" at the top of a pyramid model. Notice the plural in Acts 20:28, Phil. 1:1, and 1 Pet. 5:1. This is not to say that all elders have the same amount of influence and spiritual gifting. There may even be an individual, such as Peter, who might be considered

a "first among equals." Though this elder might have more influence and public prominence, it is the responsibility of the total body of elders to work in unity in order to govern, teach and care for the church.

WHAT DO THEY DO?

The reason for different terminology when speaking of the pastors/elders is appreciated when one understands the multifaceted role that pastors/elders must fulfill as a team. Their duties include:

Governing

Governing involves leading the flock by making decisions that effect and shape the direction, philosophy of ministry and structures of the local church. "Let the elders who rule [*proestotes*] well be considered worthy of double honor" (Timothy 5:17). See also Acts 20:28 and 1 Peter 5:2.

Teaching

The teaching ministry of the elders is a broad category that involves many different contexts and applications. Elders shepherd the flock of God by teaching them doctrine that causes them to grow in their ability to minister to one another (Eph. 4:11-13). Teaching takes place in both public and private contexts (Acts 20:20). It also includes reproof, correction and exhortation as well as information (2 Tim. 4:1-2). This would reflect what we commonly refer to as private counseling today.

Not all elders need to be able to do public preaching. The requirement is not for a preaching gift, but for a solid grasp of doctrine and the ability to spot and correct errors and explain biblical truth in

a manner helpful to the flock. "The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching" (1 Tim. 5:17). See also Titus 1:9.

Conclusion

We will soon be seeking the congregation's involvement in the affirmation process for Thomas Krugel and Vince Cuomo. Both have completed their doctrinal and practical preparation for the eldership/pastorate. While I have not taken space here to detail this process let me encourage all members to actively participate when called upon. Take time to reflect upon the questions and procedure and encourage both of these men with your prayerful responses.

—Tony Sanelli

GRACE
BIBLE CHURCH

APRIL CALENDAR

Hospitality Home: April 6

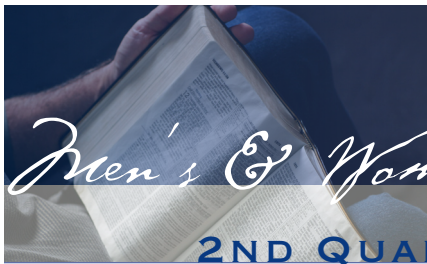
Members' Meeting: April 13

Ladies Tea: April 26

Baptism Service: April 27

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

All-Church Retreat: May 16-18



Men's & Women's Ministries

2ND QUARTER ADULT EDUCATION ELECTIVES

The Case for Kids

9:00 a.m.

Taught by Tim Menez and Tom Kruggel

This video and discussion class uncovers many of the heart issues affecting parents, their children, and their teenagers.

In this class we will discuss Christ-centered parenting from before the "terrible twos" through the often chaotic adolescent years. The topics we will discuss include: What is a family, Getting to the heart of behavior, Teaching toddlers to be under authority, It's not just your teen who is struggling, Helping kids see God's glory.

Instruments of Biblical Change

11:00 a.m.

Taught by Vince Cuomo

This class will build on the previous quarter's, *Dynamics of Biblical Change*, but is open to everyone.

The purpose of this class is to further equip our people for both personal change and personal ministry. Learn how the gospel of Jesus Christ practically produces change in all areas of our lives and how to encourage others to grow in grace and enjoy true biblical change. Develop a better understanding of what the Bible says about targeting the heart for true change as opposed to short-lived behavioral change. Pursue the kind of Christ-centered relationships that enable us to both understand people biblically and speak the truth in love in everyday life.

COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE

For the time period March 30 - April 13 we will have collection bins in the church Narthex to donate to **The Monument Crisis Center**. This center regularly serves 60 to 80 families a day with food items. 45% of the clients served are single mothers. The majority of those served (85%) are the working poor. Clients may receive one bag of groceries per month. They are urgently in need of the following items: Low sugar breakfast cereal, instant oatmeal, peanut butter (plastic jars), canned soup & broth, canned meals, dry soup, pasta, rice, pinto beans, macaroni & cheese, pasta-roni, cake & cookie mixes, granola bars, crackers, snacks.

Please consider helping if you are able.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Ladies Tea:

Saturday, April 26 • 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Grace Bible Church, Fellowship Hall.

Tea and a light lunch will be served. Please bring your favorite teacup, an appetite and a friend! During lunch we will be introduced to our 2008 Fall Conference speaker, Betty Price. Betty will bring a short message: "Priorities – Don't Miss the Best!"

To help with expenses, we are asking for a \$5 donation when you sign up at the Women of Grace table beginning Sunday, April 6. Take this opportunity to invite unsaved friends and family members to a casual church function where they can see what we are about and hear the Word preached at the same time. For those ladies new to the church, come meet the rest of us!

PROJECT FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

Project Fellowship is now three months underway and by God's grace we're making progress. We're about 3 weeks away from being "dried in" which will allow us to start working on the interior of the new building. Please continue to pray for the Lord's provisions. It is our hope and prayer that the Lord will meet our needs through the gifts and talents of the saints.

VBS IS COMING!

Monday, July 28th through Friday, August 1st.

VBS is coming... and so are sign-ups for volunteers! Sign-ups to help with VBS will begin this month. If you would like to be a part of helping out in this ministry, please contact Chris Kiiskinen or sign up directly at the VBS table or at the Member's meeting on the 27th. **Needs: all kinds!!**

What's going on at Grace?



MISSIONS UPDATE

Last month we saw in Genesis 12:3 that missions is God blessing His people so that they will be a blessing to all peoples. Abraham gives an example of that in Genesis 14 where he rescues the inhabitants of the nearby cities and gives honor to God with Melchizedek. Think also of how Joseph honored God in Genesis 41 while helping the Egyptians survive the famine.

The San Quintin ministry is an opportunity for GBC to share God's blessing with others. Some are participating in the construction trip April 5-10. They will finish doors, windows, and wiring for the classroom building which now has a finished roof thanks to the San Quintin church. About 40 people have signed up for the ministry trip June 21-29. The Sunday lunch during

March raised \$1100! Thanks to everyone who came and ate. More fund-raisers are coming. Individual team members are also raising funds. San Quintin church leaders (Sergio, Sarah, Tony) will be leading the ministries this year.

Pray for San Quintin. In November, Pablo asked prayer for a replacement car so that he, Sergio, and Sarah could do the five hour drive from San Quintin to Tijuana each week to attend the Bible Institute. God answered by increasing from three to twelve the number of people who wanted to attend the Bible Institute. Now, Tony Varela brings the Bible Institute to San Quintin twice a month! Prayer is an important way all of us can be a blessing to the community of San Quintin.

NEWS & EVENTS

Members Meeting

Be sure to set the evening of April 13 aside for our first quarter members' meeting of 2008. We will meet at 5:00 p.m. for a time of worship, prayer, and updating the church family on various aspects of the ministry here at Grace Bible Church.

Baptism Service

We will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 27, for a Baptism Service in the Worship Center. If you're interested in being baptized, please call the church office.

All-Church Retreat

Registration begins for the All-Church Retreat on April 6. Our speaker will be John Fernandez, Pastor-Teacher with Grace Church of Napa Valley. John's topic for the weekend is "Tranquilizing a Troubled Heart: Jesus' plan for your peace and joy". The suggested cost is \$90 per adult and \$45 for children ages 3-8. Children under three are free. **Please do not let cost be a factor in whether or not you can attend.** This is the one event the elders believe is important enough for the church to partially fund. While there is a suggested amount per person, please pay what you can. As we have done in the past an offering will be taken at the retreat to help pay for our time at Koinonia. Sign-ups will continue until May 11th.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Jonathan Wat ~ 3

Josh Telle ~ 5

Bob Margenau ~ 6

Rebeca Shreve ~ 6

Mary DuFault ~ 7

Dawn Payne ~ 7

Allison Sharp ~ 7

Helen Fukumoto ~ 8

Michael Cain ~ 10

Vincent Cuomo ~ 10

Darby Dresdow ~ 12

Vincent Vega ~ 13

Katie Clopton ~ 14

Jonathan Kamp ~ 18

Evelyn Shea ~ 19

Judy Davey ~ 21

Ken Vought ~ 21

Samuel Jones ~ 21

Barbara Sanabria ~ 22

Karen Schachterle ~ 22

Lynn Hayes ~ 23

Steve Schachterle ~ 24

George Radtke ~ 25

Chris Kiiskinen ~ 27

Mitchell Mathers ~ 29

Faith Rosenbaum ~ 30

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PARKING AT GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

