



grace connected

Summer 2008

And Now for the Rest of the Story...

By Mike Sciarra

Let's get right to the point. The stuff in the middle of this page isn't for show; it's for life. Not for mere looking and reading; but for living and engaging. For taking to the office, the beach, the supermarket, on vacation, to Starbucks, even while watching a Lakers game; for driving, for real life, not just for Sundays.

Contemplating what's important is challenging because it's so hard to put those things into practice! The age-old problem for most Christians is *we can say the creed, we just can't live it*. What did James say? "Be doers of the Word, not just hearers." It's easier said than done. How do I treat my wife and kids when you're not looking? How do I deal with people? True character un.masks true values. Who you really are shows up in line at Costco; shows its face while "discussing things" with your friend or spouse. Who you are in Christ shows up too because He is alive and well in us; working for His good pleasure.


Choosing to either walk in the Spirit and experience abundant life in Christ or to walk according to the flesh and reap those consequences is a daily struggle and a

moment by moment choice. The proof of the pudding, they say, is in the eating. The test of what's important comes out in the actual living. That's where the rubber meets the road in the Christian life. It's in the odd moments when no

one is looking that we trip and fall; circumstances overtake us, we're overcome with anger, pity, hatred or greed. Life goes tumbling. We do have our moments don't we?

Look at the stuff in the box. *It's my prayer that we'll live as stated*. The challenge lies not merely in putting words on paper, but in walking the talk. Do we walk alone? Is life really a boulevard of broken dreams? Resounding no's echo. We don't walk alone; we've got our Savior close beside us everyday. He's the one we trust to show us what we can't do on our own. Apart from Jesus we can't do diddly squat (John 15:5). In Christ who strengthens us is where it's at (Phil. 4:13). We know the end of the story. Christ is sovereign and He will win the day. That's gospel truth. So there's

nothing to lose. Are you ready to take the leap? Change the world? Trust God for the impossible? Yield it all to Jesus and see what He will do!


gracechurch 

Mission *(Why we exist)*
We exist to worship God, build up believers, and reach others for Christ.

Vision *(What we want)*
Becoming a worshipping body of biblically-equipped believers who effectively influence our world for Christ through purposeful relationships.

Values *(What is important)*
We seek to follow Jesus and grow in Christ through...

- God's Word** Learning, teaching and obeying what God says.
John 17:17; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:14-17; 1 Pet. 1:22-23
- Prayer** Fostering intimacy and dependence on God.
Matt. 6:7-13; Col. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:16-18; 1 Pet. 3:7,12; 4:7
- Families** Following Jesus as biblically-based households.
Deut. 6:6-9; Josh. 24:15; Ps. 127:1-5; 1 Pet. 3:1-8
- Relationships** Loving each other with grace and truth.
Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:23-25; Col. 3:12-17; 1 Pet. 3:8-9
- Service** Serving unselfishly in God's strength.
Ps. 100:2; Rom. 12:1-8; Col. 3:23-24; 1 Pet. 4:10-11
- Outreach** Sharing Christ's love with humility and gentleness.
Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:17-20; 1 Pet. 3:13-17



I can do all things through Him who strengthens me

Philippians 4:13

a place to **grow** in **faith**

Service Opportunities

As we focus on serving others unselfishly, let us take a look at what opportunities lay ahead of us this summer and beyond.



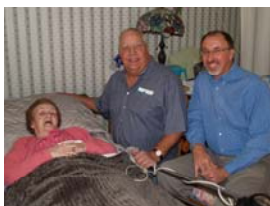
(Service Saturday)

Serve Day- Because you care, we know you will want to participate in demonstrating the love of Christ to our neighborhood and community. We will all have the opportunity of “letting our lights so shine that others will see our good works and glorify our Father in Heaven” on Saturday, June 21. Help needy neighbors with their yard work, house cleaning and repair, painting, electrical, whatever they need. Start your day off with a hearty breakfast at 8:00AM in the Fellowship Hall before heading out minister to our neighbors from 9:00AM-4:00PM. Come for the morning, afternoon, or the day. Let us know you want to help by signing up at the Information Kiosk.



(Tecate Orphanage)

Tecate Orphanage Trip- The 4th Saturday of every month a group goes to the Rancho San Juan Bosco Orphanage in Tecate, Mexico to help build a new boys’ dormitory. Contact Simon Goodyear at (714)931-5540 for more details. Meet at Grace at 5:30AM.



(Convalescent Home)

Convalescent Home Ministry- This ongoing ministry serves the elderly at a variety of healthcare centers Monday-Friday during the day and Thursday evenings. It’s a great opportunity to read scripture, sing, and pray with the people at the home. Contact Tim Nagle at (714)979-3499 for more details.

Sewing Circle- This service-oriented ministry makes baby blankets, vests, Lovie dolls, and other items that will be donated to several hospitals in Orange County by Threads of Love. This ministry is open to all men and women, sewers and non-sewers. Sewers and donations are wanted. Contact Jacque Schuler at (714) 530-1662 for more info.

Care Team- Occasionally members of our church family and our community need a little neighborly help. Sometimes it’s a family needing a meal while a family member is in the hospital, or giving someone a ride to a church function or doctor’s appointment. Whatever the form, it’s a chance to share God’s love and bring Him glory. If you are interested in this ministry, please fill out the “Care Team Call Sheet” form at the Information Kiosk or contact Matthew Holbrook at (714) 996-1234.



Mexico City -- In Retrospect

By Tony Krebs

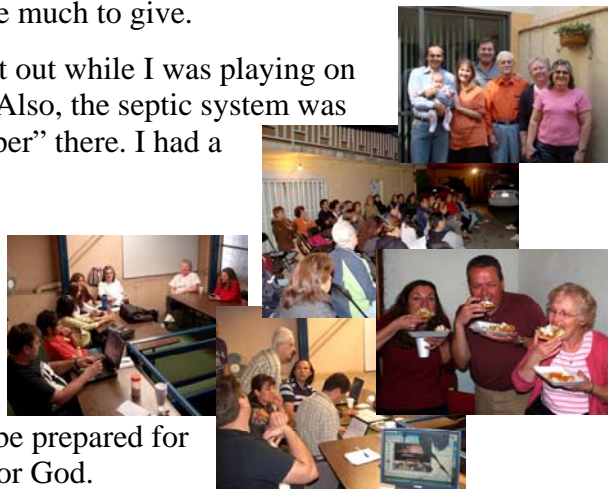
Ed and Carla Trenner and my family and I went on a mission trip to Mexico City in February 2008. They conducted marriage workshops. These are the things that stood out the most to me.

The People: I found the people to be friendly. Everywhere we went, people wanted to tell us their stories. They were always giving us food and drinks, even when they didn’t have much to give.

The Accommodations: The electricity was not very reliable. It went out while I was playing on Ricardo’s Xbox 360 and I lost my place. I had to start over again! Also, the septic system was very old and not very good. You are not allowed to flush your “paper” there. I had a hard time with that one!

The Culture: One of my favorite places that we visited was the Pyramids at Teotihuacan. I enjoyed the old buildings and many steps! Also, we visited the Basilica and the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It was very sad to see the people worshipping many other gods besides the one true God.

If you have the opportunity to visit a foreign country, you should be prepared for many different experiences. But, go with an open mind and heart for God.



Pleas For Prayer

In Colossians 4:2-3 we read Paul's plea for those of Colossae to be devoted to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving, praying that God will open a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ. As Ray Wan and Amanda Cech serve the Lord this summer on mission, they ask that you do the same for them.

▣Ray Wan will be serving alongside 29 other high school students on Operation Barnabas this summer. They will be encouraging churches through special programs, aiding in manual chores or doing whatever the church would most desire. If you would like to get updates on his team's progress, please visit www.cenational.org/obsite.

▣Amanda Cech is in Uganda until June 30. She and other students from Masters College will be ministering in universities, orphanages, and a refugee camp. They will be assisting the local missionaries with outreach and a construction project. Team updates will be posted at www.masters.edu/Blogs/Uganda2008.

Grace Prayer Room

If you are in need of a quiet place to pray, the Prayer Room (104) (behind the Auditorium) is open for you to spend time praying for those on mission as well as those in our congregation in need of prayer. If you would like to sign up for a time in the Prayer Room, or have a prayer request that you would like to share, please call the church office.



Missionaries to Trieste, Italy

Ryan and Sarah Marie have been called to ministry in Trieste, Italy. They will be assisting in establishing a church in this religiously open, but spiritually lost community of over 300,000. They will be using their gifts in the church as well as the community, by teaching art in a local school (Sarah) and full-time church work (Ryan). Please keep them in your prayers as they serve the Lord. If you would like to be in the know, visit www.triesteforchrist.com/marie or email sarah@triesteforchrist.com.

Women's Ministries Corner:

By Alice Holbrook

*Give a cheer... May is here!!! What a fun time we've had with our sisters this Spring! We kicked off the season with **Mug-n-Muffin**. We ate. We laughed. We shared. We prayed. What more can one ask for??? We had a great time getting to know each other better and lifting one another up to the Lord.*

*On Saturday of Mother's Day weekend, we had a sold out crowd for **The Princess Tea**. What a special treat to have Carol Rischer share with us about "The Princess's Secrets - things only a daughter of the King would know". We had sweet table fellowship and were spoiled by our brothers in Christ with a delicious meal and wonderful service that was fit for royalty! We are certain that extra jewels will be awarded to each one of these men in due time ☺.*

With the summer just around the corner, we are planning to have our weekly Summer Park Days, Summer Bible Studies, and other great get-togethers! Please keep your eyes peeled for our Summer Happenings page at the Information Kiosk. We will also post updated information on the Women's Ministries webpage through the church website: www.graceorange.org.

If you have any questions, suggestions or would like to become more involved with Women's Ministries in any way, please contact Alice Holbrook or Nancy Lauridsen.

Encourage... Equip... Excite!



Men's Ministry

In March, the Men's Ministry sponsored a **Guys Night Out** that included dinner at Grace and a variety of game options, in the gym of Calvary Church of Santa Ana. 40 men participated in this memorable event.

As you look forward to summer and plan your various activities don't forget to come to the monthly **Men's Breakfast**, Saturday, July 19 at 7:30AM in the Fellowship Hall. An excellent home-cooked meal will be provided as well as an opportunity to encourage one another in the Lord and receive sound teaching from the Word. You won't want to miss it.

The annual **Men's Fishing Trip** is planned for June 27-29. If you like to camp, fish, or both, then make sure you sign up for this trip. It is always a memorable time. Bring your friends and the men in your household. The cost is \$30 per person (campsite fees and food). More info coming soon.



(Guys Night Out)

Jr. High: A Year End Review

By Bob Gnewuch

May brings to mind the fact that we only have a few weeks left with the current group. Every June, about half of our class graduates up to high school and a brand new half finds its way in from elementary signifying the chance for a new start and reminding us of the "new mercies" that God offers to us every morning. It also means that our window of opportunity to impact the current 8th graders is quickly closing. Our hope as leaders is that we have done our part in teaching them to rely more on God's Word, and question teachings that may be contrary to it.

A brief look at this past school year reveals purposeful attempts to equip them for such encounters. The past several months in Sunday School the group has extensively studied the books of the Law (Genesis – Deuteronomy), truly starting at "the Beginning" followed by a serious look at the book of Romans as part of the "Foundations of the Faith". The reality of God's existence and His intentional plan of extending amazing grace to us through the sacrifice of His Son, were discussed in depth and with the enthusiasm that a seminary student can bring to the table. On Tuesday evenings, the group has explored the questions "What is Man?" and "Who is God?" in great detail. This bi-annual series exposes the students to the core teachings of evolution and the "Big Bang", contrasting the incredible difficulty of producing life from such a formula against the purposeful plan of creation found in the Bible. Being convinced that "Man" is indeed the product of a Creator, we spent several weeks reviewing the foundations and main tenants of the world's major religions in our quest to learn "Who is God"? The final week featured an evening game show quiz to test their understanding of these false religions against the corresponding teachings of the Bible. It was clear that many students retained key points, and expounded on the truths of Scripture with conviction that showed them to be part of their personal faith, not just memorized facts.

Jr High is also a place where we seek to have fun and develop close relationships. One of the activities we rely on for just that is the annual "Mystery Event", which happened May 4. Each student was whisked away (with prior knowledge of their parents) at 7:30AM for a full day of activity including breakfast, Bible Class, church, scavenger hunt at DownTown Disney, honing our reflexes and hand-eye coordination (isn't that what our kids say they're doing?) on video games at the ESPN Zone, and dinner. The day gave us opportunities to work and laugh together and left some of us leaders ready for a nap! The Daylight Savings Day event was one of those fun activities too.

As June approaches we begin to set our sites on the next class, and all that summer has to offer us. Hume Lake is always a major highlight of the year for the group. Spending a week up in the mountains with friends and so much to do together is wonderful by itself. But when you remove the distractions of TV, radios, and cell phones, and replace them with multiple servings of God's Word creatively offered daily, and a healthy side of passionate worship and praise; it doesn't get much better than that.

Maybe you have a sixth grade student, or perhaps you are one yourself. If so, we can hardly wait to see you in June, and hope this article has given you a glimpse into what we have in store for you when you get to class!



(Top and Bottom: Daylight Savings Day)



HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

By Matthew Holbrook

The opportunity for life to be impacted may never be greater than during the high school years. And that is the joy of the high school ministry at Grace – seeing lives changed for Jesus in dynamic ways. And here's the great truth in this: the lives that are impacted are both the lives of the high school students – and the lives of those they touch.

We have been blessed in recent months to see evidence of this reality. The students in the group are growing, learning and stretching. Unbelievers are being brought to the group as outreach is embraced. God's work is evident.

On a recent Tuesday night, the Christian group "Everfound" held a concert at our church. Not only was our group blessed by God-honoring music and worship – but several non-Christians came with friends and were exposed to the gospel that night.

One of the highlights in recent months was the "Speechless" program this past April. Close to 500 people attended this dramatic presentation performed by our youth – and numerous reports have been received about lives being touched, changed and challenged by the gospel message that was presented. Those who attended would testify to the powerful impact of Speechless. But, just as important, the lives of the students presenting Speechless were changed in the process. They learned about working together for the gospel to be presented clearly, they learned to stretch, they learned about praying for something bigger than themselves, and they learned to trust God and see Him work.

Moving forward, there appears to be several opportunities to pursue further Speechless presentations over the next few months. In addition, the annual adventure at Hume Lake is scheduled for the second week of July. This week of intensive teaching – mixed with great music and fun is always a life changing time for our youth. A backpack trip is planned for August – a trip that allows for great fellowship – along with learning in a very different environment. And, as we look to the fall, a trip to the Dominican Republic is being considered to minister at an orphanage alongside Rebekah Holbrook. So, as usual, the high school ministry is packed with plenty of activity and opportunities for growth and service. However, activity is meaningless unless it has eternal value. And that is our hope for this group – that all we do would bring glory to God – the ultimate in eternal value.



....SPEECHLESS.....SPEECHLESS.....SPEECHLESS.....SPEECHLESS.....SPEECHLESS....



Vacation Bible School July 15-18

God's Big Backyard is full of opportunities for kids to have a blast serving Jesus! Those entering grades K-6 are invited to join in the fun. \$15 per family. Registration forms are available at the Information Kiosk or in the church office. If you are interested in helping, contact Pastor David at (714) 633-8867x222 or d_andritch@hotmail.com.



Angels Game Big Bang Friday Friday, September 12 Plan to come and invite your friends.

Spend quality time together watching the Angels take on the Mariners followed by a fantastic firework show. Tickets will be available soon for \$13.00 each (2yrs and older, ticket required).



Snap Shots

March-May 2008



(Clockwise from top right: Princess Tea, Small Groups Faire, Imago Dei, Commission Prayer for Tom Licata, Cadd's, Sunday morning smile, Mother's Day, High School Winter Retreat)

Summer Calendar- June- August

6 th Grade-High School Promotion	June 8	Men's Fishing Trip	June 27-29
Volunteer Appreciation	June 8	City of Orange Celebration	July 3
Awana BKCH	June 14	Independence Day (office closed)	July 4
Father's Day	June 15	Hume Lake Camps	July 6-12
Baptism	June 15	Communion	July 13
Women's Pool Party/Game Night	June 20	VBS	July 15-18
Operation Barnabas	June 21-23	College/Career Road Trip	July 25-27
Serve Day	June 21	Barlow's: London Missionaries (in town)	August 13-20
Summer Kick-off BBQ Lunch	June 22	Bread & Cup	August 31



2201 E. Fairhaven Avenue
Orange, CA 92869
714 • 633 • 8867

www.graceorange.org

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