



grace connected

Summer 2009

By Mike Sciarra

I'm a people person. If you know me it's no surprise. On the one hand I get recharged by being with people; most don't drain me. On the other hand, I need time alone, just me and God; otherwise I'm no good for people. It is a delicate balance that must be kept if I am going to fulfill the purpose for which I was made. God's Word and people are indispensable in my life and ministry. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 and you have it in a nutshell. But believe it or not I used to be shy. Back in my younger days it was hard for me to start a conversation. Then in high school I got a job at Miller's Outpost and everything changed. Forced to say hello to every person who walked into the store (that or find another job) I began to actually like initiating contact.

I also like to walk - most often in my neighborhood, but any neighborhood will do. Give me a dirt road, a foot path, a city street, doesn't matter. Knowing I have 30-60 minutes of uninterrupted time is sweet comfort. You'll find me with my sermon notes in one hand, pen in the other, walking, often. If I don't get my daily walk, I'm in a bad mood. I love to walk alone because it's just me and Jesus; sweet fellowship with my Savior and great sermon study time as well. God renews my mind and brings clarity. As I walk I pray, think, recite Scripture verses, pray for you and family and strangers, practice my sermon, talk on the phone - what I do all the time, just on my feet moving. I also love to greet anybody and everybody. Any excuse will do, the weather, a project they're working on, how good the roses look, you name it. Just the fact that I am passing by is reason to say hello and strike up a brief conversation; most of the time.

My daily walks are a lot like life - I'm torn between two desires - being with people and being alone. Sometimes I stop to talk but often I am on my way somewhere. At times too set on the goal to see what God has put in my path. I was once so focused on my notes I walked into a light pole! Too busy with the task at hand, and therein lies the rub. Maybe God doesn't want me to go where I thought I was supposed to; maybe He wants me to stop and engage someone in conversation. Am I too preoccupied with "life" to notice it staring me in the face? Too busy to brighten someone's day with a smile or kind word? Too busy to live or speak the gospel? When I'm not, it's rewarding. Last night with my kids at the neighborhood pool, I met a new neighbor.

We don't have to choose between walking with God and making friends. The two go together in tandem, an engaging combo. It is fact that as we walk closely with Jesus, the overflow blesses others. Love God, love people. If we don't love God, we can't truly love others; if we don't love others, we show we really don't love God (1 John 4:19-21). God wants us to care about people in the process. It's a primary way God gets the gospel out as He populates heaven for His glory. Happy walking, people.

*'AND YOU SHALL
LOVE THE LORD
YOUR GOD WITH
ALL YOUR HEART,
AND WITH ALL
YOUR SOUL, AND
WITH ALL YOUR
MIND, AND WITH
ALL YOUR
STRENGTH.'*

*"The second is
this, 'YOU SHALL
LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOR AS
YOURSELF.' There
is no other
commandment
greater than
these."*

Mark 12:30-31

a place
to grow
in
faith

Home Fellowships are Coming!

This August, home fellowship groups will be starting up. We've had ongoing men's groups, women's groups, and couples' groups, and now we are going to be starting up groups that are intended for all ages (whole families, couples, singles, anyone) to participate in. If you're not already in a small group, keep your eyes open as more information will be coming. Leader training will be held Wed., July 1 at 7:00PM. Contact Tom Licata at (714) 771-3594 or tlicata@graceorange.org.



Praying for those Serving

Several from Grace will be serving on various mission trips this summer bringing aid and the Good News to many. Please be praying for them as they serve. See below for info regarding their ministries.

Central African Republic: Nathaniel Parry will be serving with GBIM the month of July doing mission work as well as medical work.

Ireland: Nancy Watilo will be traveling with the Continentals, a choral ministry, June 27 – July 20 sharing the Good News through their God given musical gifts.

Peru: Grace Martin will be traveling with a team of 5 other college students June 12 – July 25 to encourage the existing church, conduct evangelism training sessions, and participate in outreach opportunities.

Scotland: Jamie Ahl will be ministering with Teen Mania July 12 – July 24. She will be helping with various outreach programs and construction projects at Overtoun House that ministers to troubled youth and teen moms.

United States: Anna Gnewuch, Caleb Hughes, and Jenna Weisenberger will be serving with CE National this summer as student participants on Operation Barnabas June 12 – July 29. Sara Hughes and Philip Roberts will be going as leaders June 6 – July 29. They will be ministering to churches through manual labor, dramas, puppets, or whatever each church needs.

Nicaragua Report

By Alan Weisenberger

"This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles." – Psalm 34:2

Few blessings in life exceed that of being used by God to deliver on His promises to others. The physical and spiritual poverty in Nicaragua provided a rich opportunity for a team of men to share out of the relative abundance God has bestowed on us at Grace Church of Orange. In March, Oscar Chavez (Hispanic Church Planter from Lancaster, CA whom we support), Bud Gilbertson, Steve Manthorne, Ed Trenner, Paul Wan, and Alan Weisenberger joined about 30 others to bring God's blessing to Barrio #20 in the town of Somoto. In one week we picked up where a team the previous week left off working alongside the villagers on the construction of 11 homes. The team also provided a medical clinic that saw nearly 700 patients, a dental clinic that saw about 125 patients, filled 1700 prescriptions for vitamins and medications, delivered rice and beans to every family in the barrio; conducted events for the children, held worship services and small groups with the villagers, baptized 30+ people, and generally showed God's love in every way we could to this community.



As an example of the extreme poverty, a bag of beans spilled open and some beans spilled on the ground. The kids scrambled to collect the beans like they were candy from a piñata. Those beans meant their families had another meal.

The project was sponsored by Project Hope, an organization that works in many ways to bring God's love to Nicaraguan villagers. Thank you for your support.

Caring Team- Helping Meet People's Basic Needs

By David Andritch

The GCO Caring Team exists to help mobilize members of the body to serve church and community members when basic needs arise. For example, we may help provide meals with the arrival of a new baby, when a death occurs, or when there is a hospitalization. Others help provide rides to and from church, the market, or medical appointments. Still others help with childcare, gardening, laundry, minor home repairs, grocery shopping, or house cleaning. It is our goal to show Christ's love to one another in physical and tangible ways. For information on helping meet the needs of others in these or similar ways, please contact Mark Kreider at (714) 309-1800.

Help People Find Their Way!

If you are interested in being a patio greeter or an usher, please contact:

Patio Greeters

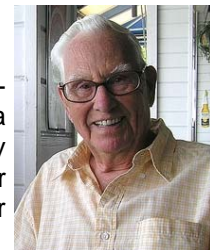
Steven Zuniga
zuniga.steven@sbcglobal.net

Ushers

Norm Schrock
nschrock@me.com

Fountain Senior Assisted Living Worship Services

We hold a worship service there from 1:30 - 2:15 PM the 1st Sunday of every month as a ministry to the residents. Please prayerfully consider being involved. Contact Pastor David at (714) 633-8867x222 or dandritch@graceorange.org.



SUMMER CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS



WHAT: Make neighborhood connections! Invite people over for dinner, dessert, games, host a block party, have a barbeque, etc. The possibilities are endless.

WHEN: Sometime during the week of June 28-July 4.

WHERE: Your home or block, a local park, etc.

WHY: To build relationships and share the love of Jesus.

Come ready to share your story at the evening communion service Sun., July 12.



Angels Game Big Bang Friday- August 28

Spend quality time together watching the Angels take on the Athletics followed by a fantastic firework show. Plan to come and invite your friends. Tickets go on sale Friday, June 26 for \$10.00 each (2yrs. and older, ticket required).

PICNICS

**Sunday, July 19
&
Sunday, August 16**

Bring your family and a picnic lunch to the field here at Grace after 2nd service and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship together.

Barbeques will be available.

Hope to see you there!!

Kids Corner

Outback Adventure (VBS): June 22 – 26 from 9:00 AM – Noon (for those entering K – Grade 6) Registration deadline is Thurs, June 18.

Popsicles and Praise: Fun summer choir experience for entering K – Grade 6. Every Wednesday, July 1 - Aug 26, from 1:00 – 3:00 PM at Grace. Registration deadline is Thurs., July 2.

Mom & Me: Wed., July 15 & Wed., August 12 at 1:00 PM. Enjoy time with your preschool children on the church playground.

Elementary Bible Hour rooms for June: Kindergarten- room 304, Grades 1 & 2 - room 305, Grades 3 & 4 - room FH2 (205), and Grade 5 & 6 - room FH3 (206).

Note: Awana resumes September 9.

Snap Shots

March 2009-May 2009



(Clockwise from top left: Preschool promotion, Byers visit, Easter Brunch, Awana Olympics, National Day of Prayer at City Hall)

Spring Calendar: June-August

Father's Day	June 21	Evening Communion	July 12
Outback Adventure: VBS	June 22-26	Preschool Mom and Me	July 15
Men's Fishing Trip	June 26-28	Men's Breakfast	July 18
Bread and Cup	June 28	Summer Picnic	July 19
Popsicles & Praise begins	July 1	FGBC National Conference	July 26-31
Office Closed	July 3	Preschool Mom and Me	August 12
Independence Day	July 4	Summer Picnic	August 16
Hume Lake Christian Camp	July 5-11	Angels Big Bang Friday Game	August 28



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