

Good News Guide
Volume Twenty-Three
Number One
January 2011



"GOOD MARRIAGE CONFERENCE" 2011

Grace Community Church

Saturday, January 15th

8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Special Music:

The Traveling Nobodies

To pre-register:

Phone: 559-674-1172

Online: gcmadera.com

\$15 per person (includes workbook)

Who should attend?

Any married couple, engaged couple or those simply contemplating marriage... young or old.



WITH RANDY AND MONICA ZACHARY
 AFTER 10 YEARS
 IN CHRISTIAN RADIO AND
 YOUTH MINISTRY, MONICA FILED FOR
DIVORCE.

THEIR JOURNEY BACK FROM THE
 BRINK WILL MAKE YOU
LAUGH, MAKE YOU
CRY, & GIVE YOU **HOPE.**

**IF GOD CAN UNTANGLE THEIR MESS,
 HE CAN UNTANGLE ANYBODY'S!**

WHETHER YOU HAVE A GREAT
 MARRIAGE, OR YOU ARE STRUG-
 GLING LIKE RANDY & MONICA WERE,
 YOU WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS
 SEMINAR. YOU'LL LEAVE WITH HOPE
 AND HANDLES FOR A BETTER
 MARRIAGE....

**YOU, TOO, CAN HAVE A BETTER
 MARRIAGE TODAY!**

AWANA
What's Happening in January 2011

Where: Grace Community Church
When: Wednesdays
Time: 6:30 pm—8:00 pm

January 5
No AWANA tonight

January 12
Welcome Back! It's going to be a great new year!!!

January 19
Awanabe. Dress up in the career you want to become

January 26
BARF NIGHT. No it's not what you think it is!
It means Bring A Real Friend night.

In Other News.....

Ladies Bible Study with Robin Poythress

Our study in Isaiah will resume Wednesday January 12 at 6:30 pm and Thursday January 13 at 9:00 am. We are on Lesson 7 in our Isaiah workbooks. We have 6 more weeks in Isaiah, and then move on to Jeremiah around the first week of March.

I hope your holiday season was especially blessed and meaningful because of all you have learned in Isaiah! And there's more to come!

Welcome To Grace Newcomer's Class
Beginning January 16, 2011

Are you new to Grace Community Church?
Do you want to know what ministries are available?
Are you wondering what church membership is all about?
Do you want to know how Grace is involved in local and world missions?

A four-week Newcomer's Class will be
offered at 9:00 am Sunday mornings
During Sunday School hour in Room 301



2011 Short Term Mission Trips

This month is the last opportunity to join one of our short term trips for this year.

ALL APPLICATIONS due to Mark Lacaze no later than Jan. 9th

If you are interested in participating in one of the trips contact Mark Lacaze a.s.a.p.

New Mexico:

We will work alongside House of Prayer (a Navajo Church) in July.

Ministry: Leadership training, light construction and Children's Ministry

Approximate cost \$400 adult/youth, \$200 children

Nine day trip

Czech Republic:

We will work alongside our missionary, Jim Liljegren, to help the Slavic Baptist Church and new church planters minister to the lost.

Ministry: Building relationships with unchurched Russian speaking people and sharing about Christ

Approximate cost \$3300

Love Inc.

Love Inc. is a local ministry that acts as a Call Center and Clearinghouse to mobilize all the congregations in Madera to meet the needs of our community. The immediate need for the ministry is administrative work. Volunteers are needed to answer phones and complete "Intake" forms on people when they call. If you are willing to volunteer (only asking 3 hours per month) you will be trained in what to do.

In the first few months of 2011 the directors of Love Inc., Al and Barbara Christoffersen, will visit Grace Community Church and tell us more about their ministry.

If you are interested in helping Love Inc. as this local para-church ministry develops please contact Love Inc. at 674-4580.

Get ready for "Got Hope?" which is a city-wide outreach in which all the churches in Madera will be participating. The outreach will focus on the 40 days leading up to Easter. More information to follow next month.



Good News Guide January ~ Men's Ministry Geoff Tipton

Dear people of Grace Community, there are several exciting events coming in the 2011 that you most definitely will not want to miss! We are pleased, no really excited, to be hosting a long awaited **Marriage Conference with Celebration Radio personality Randy Zachary along with his marriage partner of 30 years Monica!** The date for this conference is **Saturday January 15th** from 8:30 am until 4:30. **Cost is a mere \$30 per couple or \$15 per single.** Along with **Randy & Monica**, we will be moved by the incredible music of **"The Traveling Nobodies"** playing several songs from their album, Real Clear.

The focus for the conference will begin with the real testimony by our conference speakers of how their marriage was on verge of divorce and how our LORD turned their hearts back towards HIM and each other. Communication skills and many "nuts and bolts" principles from the very pages of scripture will be presented. Registration is open by simply pre-registering on Sunday's in the foyer or by calling Lynne @ 674.1172 GCC office. Lunch will be available for an additional \$3 per person. Child care will be available. Please call Lynne or tell Geoff of required needs.

The second event will begin on **Sunday January 23rd** around 5:30 pm @ GCC. This will be a short five week marriage series called **"Love And Respect"**. Randy & Sarah Brannon will present video series along with question and answer time. Some of you may have read the same titled book by Dr. Emerson Eggeriches. He is President of Love and respect Ministries whose purpose is to help build strong healthy marriages along with parent child relationships for a lifetime.

Finally, on **Saturday evening February 12th** we will once again host the **"Sweethearts Banquet"** which is designed as an encouragement for HIS institution of Marriage. If you have attended one of these banquets in recent years, you know what a beautiful time we will have! We are truly honored to have with us this year **Mr. and Mrs. John Yakligian** to share with us a "snapshot" of their marriage that has lasted the test of time. Together, they have raised two children Phillip and Jane who are serving the Lord with their lives'. **Cost for the "fresh dinner" will be \$30 per couple or \$15 per single.** More information along with sign up sheet will be forth coming.

Dear people, with the divorce rate in America, both outside and inside the Church, over 50%, the above tools we have put in place for all of us to take advantage of are truly a way of safeguarding our future so none of us will become part of that statistic!

I encourage everyone to "plug in" to these events. Let's all pull together & build stronger relationships.



TRUE LOVE WAITS - Pure

Well, it's that time of year again. Our in-town retreat is just around the corner, February 25-26, 2011. We'll be talking about it to our students but they may forget to relay the information so... here you go!

Each year, around this time, we have a retreat to help our students sharpen their focus on the Lord. We spend time in people's homes, from our church, building relationships with one another and focusing on God's Word. This year's theme is "True Love Waits - Pure" and the focus of the study is to help students understand the value of a life of purity, the consequences of moral impurity, accepting God's love and forgiveness, and developing a deeper walk with Him.

We'll meet at the church at 7:00 pm on Friday the 25th, spend time in Worship with a brief challenge on this topic from God's Word and then head to the homes for more in-depth study. On Saturday the 26th, each group finishes their study in the morning and then heads back to the church around 11:30 to wrap up the topic and have lunch.

Please encourage your student(s) to sign up (at youth) and be a part of this Retreat. The cost is \$10 which helps to cover the material and food for the event. If you would like to be a host home (approximately 6-8 students plus leaders) please let me know. Please call me at the church if you have any questions (674-1172, ext. 103) or email me at (gperkins@gccmadera.com).

Why our students need to be a part of

TRUE LOVE WAITS - Pure

- ✓ Parents are usually unaware that their young children have had sex. Only about one-third of parents of sexually experienced 14-year-olds believe that their child has had sex.
- ✓ Relationships between a young adolescent (age 12-14) and a partner who is older by two, three, or more years—compared with those with someone only slightly older, that same age, or younger—are much more likely to include sexual intercourse. For example, 13 percent of same-age relationships among those aged 12-14 include sexual intercourse. If the partner is two years older, 26 percent of the relationships include sex. If the partner is three or more years older, 33 percent of the relationships include sex.
- ✓ Young teens seem to have opportunities to have sex. One data set in the report indicates that one-third of 12-year-olds and about half of 14-year-olds have been at a party without any adults in the house.

(All comments from: Albert, B., Brown, S., and Flanigan, C. (Eds.) (2003). *14 and Younger: The Sexual Behavior of Young Adolescents (Summary)*. Washington DC: National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.)

Researcher analyzed data of 1,027 adolescents (608 female and 419 male) from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. Some key findings:

- ✓ Average age of first sex was 15.8 years
- ✓ Average length of first sexual relationship was 3.8 months
- ✓ 23.4% of first sexual relationships were "one-night stands" (21.2% for girls and 26.5% for guys)
- ✓ **16.7% of adolescents (20.6% girls and 11.2% boys) who took virginity pledges became sexually active**

(All comments above up to prior section, can be found at <http://www.cpyu.org>, Youth Culture E-Update, Edition # 51, January 15, 2004)

"Got Hope?" Campaign Readiness

The implementation of the "Got Hope?" evangelistic campaign which is spearheaded by the Madera Ministerial Association is rapidly approaching. Please be in prayer for this 40-day event. Remember, by God's grace, every household in Madera will be given an invitation to attend Easter services on April 24. In the process, we will see hundred's of Christians mobilized to share their faith with others, pray for people in every conceivable situation, and demonstrate the love of the Lord Jesus Christ for the people of Madera.

How about it? Will you begin to pray for this endeavor? Will you get trained so you can share the gospel of Jesus Christ with people during the campaign and for the rest of your time on earth? Will you be one of those who assists at our phone calling bank? Will you possibly walk and pray for specific areas and neighborhoods within our wonderful community? Will you put out a "Got Hope?" yard sign when the time comes? Will you take a Bible to somebody that needs one? Will you provide some extra finances to be used to reach people for the Lord Jesus Christ?

There are so many ways to be involved in the "Got Hope?" campaign. Be praying how God will use YOU. Be listening for opportunities for training in specific areas of ministry. Then step forth to be used by our mighty God right here in Madera.

"All For The Family" Resumes Wed., January 12

Join us for a fabulous time of food, fellowship, and study of God's Word on Wednesday evenings. It all resumes on Wednesday, January 12, at 5:30 p.m. when we come together for a wonderful meal prepared by our own people who serve us every week. While sitting around the tables, enjoying the meal that has been provided, you will meet people for the first time or solidify your relationships with others. You can also join one of five cooking teams and be a part of a serving group that has a lot of fun in the process.

Then, at 6:30, there are ministries for all ages. AWANA ministry is for 3-12 year old children, this including Bible memory, lesson time, and games (Train up your children while you have the opportunity). Youth ministry for Jr. and Sr. High School students goes on under the direction of Pastor Greg Perkins. And then there are multiple Bible classes on a variety of subjects for adults, this including some classes in Spanish. Nursery care is provided from 6:30—8:00. All for the family is life-changing and spiritually invigorating.

JOIN US!

"Love and Respect" Marriage Video Series Begins, Sun. January 23

We will be showing the 5-part video series by Dr. Emerson and Sarah Eggerichs right here at Grace Community Church. This will serve as an extra boost for those who attend the marriage Seminar put on by Randy and Monica Zachary on January 15. This is for all those between the ages of 16 (even younger) and 100+. Everybody has much to gain by watching these presentations and then being led through a few moments of interaction during each session. This teaching is very biblical and has been used to transform many marriages while preparing others for future matrimony. As some have said, "Unlike anything I've ever heard", "I've never laughed so hard", "This is so simple, and it works!", and "Biblically, nothing compares." These are very high recommendations for being present each **Sunday night at 4:30 p.m.** Childcare will be provided.

"Let each individual love his own wife...and let the wife respect her husband." (Ephesians 5:33)

Christless Christianity and the Christless Christian

“But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.” (Rom. 13:15)

In Romans 12 and 13, the apostle Paul taught on the sanctification (setting aside for holy purposes) of: 1. Ourselves, 2. The church body, 3. Our relationships with others, and 4. Our government. He concludes his teaching with a plea for us to truly love one another, and to abstain from a variety of ungodly activities. As we look at the list of improper actions it is easy to identify those problems, but I would like to suggest that in the grand scheme of things, Paul was going to the very essence of the true and effective Christian life that we are all called to live. That essence is CHRIST. Yet, we find ourselves going about doing ministry as churches and living the “Christian” life without Jesus as our central focus...and how easily it happens to every church and to each and every one of us at one time or another. At the same time, this state of Christlessness is not often diagnosed correctly. We live and do ministry without considering that Jesus has been shoved into the background.

Michael Horton writes, *“Here we are in the North American church...conservative or liberal, evangelical or mainline, Protestant or Catholic, emergent or otherwise...cranking along just fine, than you. So we’re busy downsizing, becoming culturally relevant, reaching out, drawing in, making disciples, managing the machinery, utilizing biblical principles, celebrating recovery, user-friendly, techno savvy, finding the purposeful life, practicing peace with justice, utilizing spiritual disciplines, growing in self-esteem, reinventing ourselves as effective ecclesiastical entrepreneurs, and, in general, feeling ever so much better about our achievements. Notice anything missing? Jesus Christ!”* Horton continues, *“Somehow we’ve managed to preach Christ crucified in such a way that few are offended, a once unmanageable God suddenly seems nice, & the gospel makes good sense...as we are accustomed to making sense. Flaccid, contemporary Christianity is the result.”* *Christless Christianity*, pp. 9, 10.

Dear people, we have begun to take ourselves more seriously than God. Everything is about “us” or “our ministry” instead of Christ and His mandates for life and ministry as set forth in the Word of God, regardless of the difficulty. The biblical traditions of the church are being assaulted daily, even by those we would consider to be mature believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. The power of the gospel has been traded in for sensationalism, and human abilities and achievements. The unique ministry of the Holy Spirit has been bartered away for the pragmatic, “whatever works the best for the grandest results” style of ministry. What is considered by many to be sound expository preaching is riddled full of “it’s all about us and what we want” teachings in a most unsuspecting manner...often even to the speaker. May the Lord forgive us for selling out our great treasure...the gospel of God with us...for a mess of psychobabble, pragmatic self-help triviality, and human achievements. In our spiritually malnourished state, we are willing to and ready to receive an intravenous injection of almost anything that strikes our fancy and makes us feel better about ourselves. We have adopted the cultural norm of focusing everything on us...our desires, our needs, our feelings, our experience, our activity, and our aspirations. We have become the judge and jury of everything that does not fit into our model of life & ministry, while setting aside the scripture mandates that are not negotiable under any circumstances. Certainly, the American church and many Christians have been taken captive by the “American Dream” as David Platt points out in his book, *Radical*.





With these thoughts in mind, and with pain in my heart as I watch the carnage of Christians and churches piling up all around us and across America, I am compelled to bring a short series of Sunday morning messages entitled, *Christless Christianity and the Christless Christian*. This series will begin on January 9. By God’s grace we will focus on the problem at hand and God’s solution as set forth in His Word. We will begin with a look at what God’s true desire is for each Christian and each church body, then proceed to analyze what is going on with individuals and churches, and finally set forth the solution to this giant problem. May God be glorified in all that is taught, and may Jesus Christ take His rightful place in our lives and congregations.

To God alone be all the glory, in the Church and in our lives, Pastor Randy Brannon



JANUARY

2011

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
					1 
	4	5 Youth Only Meeting Tonight 6:30 pm	6 College Group 7:00 pm 26732 Frisco Way ***** Hispanic Ministry 7:00 pm	7	8  To Stop the Fun! Youth Winter Camp 1/7-1/9
11	12 Every Wednesday: Men's Study At Chubbies 6:30 am ***** "All for the Family Night" 5:30 pm Meal ***** 6:30 pm To 8:00pm AWANA * Pursuit * Ladies Bible Study * Men's Bible Study * Childcare Provided	13 Ladies Bible Study 9:00 ***** Hispanic Ministry 7:00 pm	14	15 Marriage Conference 8:30 am-4:30 pm	22
18 	19	20 Ladies Bible Study 9:00 ***** College Group 7:00 pm ***** Hispanic Ministry 7:00 pm	21	28	29
25	26	27 Ladies Bible Study 9:00 ***** Hispanic Ministry 7:00 pm	28		