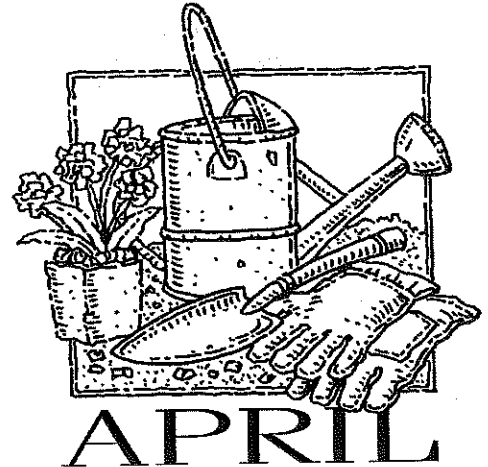


*Good News Guide*  
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*April 2011*



## **“Missing Hope” and “Got Hope!”**

**by Pastor Randy Brannon**

As our “Got Hope” campaign is in full swing with visits being made to the households of Madera, I would like to point our congregation to the two Sundays that are so important on the Christian calendar...Palm Sunday (April 17), and Easter Sunday (April 24). We should not only anticipate that the churches of Madera will be full of people, but we should be working toward that end on an individual basis. Many times we have used the slogan “*Each One Reach One*” as we were all challenged to invite a friend, family member, neighbor, co-worker, or acquaintance. Let us take up that slogan once again and reach out to people who need the Lord or who need to have their Christian walk renewed in a vital manner.

On Palm Sunday, our service times will remain the same – 9:00 a.m. Bible Classes for all ages, and 10:30 a.m. Worship Service with children’s ministries from the cradle through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. On Easter Sunday we will have two worship services – **8:30 a.m.** and **10:30 a.m.** We will have our children’s ministries offered during both services from cradle through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

My message on Palm Sunday will be “*Missing Hope*” as I bring to light the events that surrounded the Triumphal Entry of Christ into Jerusalem on that sacred day. When hope was offered in the Lord Jesus Christ, it was rejected by the religious leaders and the people as a whole. How might that parallel the situation today? Come, bring others, rejoice in the worship of our Lord, listen to the Word of God, and pray for the Holy Spirit to move on the hearts of men & women in a powerful way. The message on Easter Sunday will be “*Got Hope!*” as I focus on the response of one particular person after the resurrection of our Lord...this person receiving the eternal hope that comes only in Jesus Christ. Come, bring others, rejoice in the worship of our Lord, listen to the Word of God and pray for the Holy Spirit to move on the hearts of men and women in a powerful way.

Please continue to pray for and be involved in the “Got Hope?” campaign in a variety of ways. Also, let “each one reach one” be a personal challenge as we all seek to fill the Lord’s house for Worship of Him.

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## **My Preaching Schedule for the Future**

**by Pastor Randy**

Believe it or not, I will finish my series on the book of Romans this coming Sunday, April 3, as we study the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter of Paul’s gospel of grace where he says “Farewell” to his readers. It is unusual for me to sweep through an entire chapter of a book of the Bible in one message, but this particular conclusion of Paul’s writing makes it appropriate. In addition, it sets me up for my forthcoming preaching schedule for the rest of the year, Lord willing.

Pastor Virgil Reimer will be filling the pulpit on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, bringing you an insightful message on what it means to shepherd people within the body of Christ. It is one thing to bring people to the Savior and into the local church, but it is another thing to care for the people on a day-to-day basis, this taking the conscientious effort of the leadership and members of Grace Community Church.

After my messages on Palm Sunday and Easter, and during the months of May and June, I will take us as a congregation through a series on “*Biblical Worship.*” We will look at what the Bible says about what is worship, how to worship, who is to worship, etc. May our worship of our Lord be most pleasing to Him as we grow in our understanding of true Biblical worship.

Then, beginning in late summer/early fall we will study the book of Philippians together. We live in times of great difficulty and we need to have the joy of the Lord in the midst of our daily circumstances. Philippians gives us a grand tour of the topic of a “joy-filled” life. My prayer is that we will all learn to live with His joy as the hallmark of our lives for indeed “the joy of the Lord is our strength” (Nehemiah 8:10). Upon the completion of our study of Philippians, we will then embark on a journey through one of the four Gospels concerning our Lord Jesus Christ. We will all be enriched spiritually by this Gospel series.

## Confirmation of New Elders on Sunday, May 1

It has been such a privilege to have Geoff Tipton, Oscar Olguin, and Jay Quick serve alongside other men on the Council of Elders for the past 8 years. Each of these men has contributed significantly to the spiritual welfare of the body of Grace Community Church. They have set aside their own agendas in many cases in order to fulfill the responsibilities of an elder in the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. We all owe them much gratitude for faithfully tending to the flock of God at Grace Community.

Each of them will continue to serve the church body in vital areas of ministry in the days ahead. Oscar Olguin will assume his role as Deacon of Audio Visual ministries, Geoff Tipton will be the Deacon of Men's Ministries and also coordinate the efforts of all of our deacons, and Jay Quick will continue teaching the Word of God in the Sunday school class where he has taught for many years. Thank the Lord for each one of these men who love the Lord God and His people.

Two men are now set before the voting membership for elder confirmation on Sunday May, 1. They were both nominated by the congregation and also the existing Council of Elders. An 85% confirmation vote is required for each of them to be placed on the Council of Elders. They are:

1. Roger Poythress. Roger is married to Robin. They have raised three children in the Lord. He has previously served on the Council of Elders. In addition, Roger has been a teacher in one of our Bible classes and is the Commander of our AWANA ministry. He has demonstrated the qualities of a leader in many ways and is a man who is available to assist people and the body of Christ whenever called upon.
2. Bruce Chapman. Bruce is married to Charlotte. They have two daughters, Brandi Kirchoff, who attends GCC with her husband Ryan and their three children, and Michaela who is currently in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. In a previous ministry, Bruce was a leader at a Children's camp and in the children's ministry of the church. He has been a leader in AWANA and is currently working on property development and maintenance at GCC as well as being a key person in the development of God's Family Garden.

Both men are the spiritual leaders of their homes and are highly committed to the ministry and work of the Lord at Grace Community Church. The Council of Elders unanimously recommends that the voting membership confirm Roger and Bruce on Sunday, May 1. Between now and then, please feel free to discuss any issues of pertinence with these two men or any of the Elders of Grace Community Church.

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### Buyer/Reader Beware! Rob Bell's New Book, "Love Wins" is Unmitigated Heresy

Denny Burk, Associate Professor of New Testament at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY states: *"False teachers are often described as wolves in sheep's clothing. Eventually, every wolf loses the disguise. It looks like that is exactly what Rob Bell has done in his new book, Love Wins: A Book About Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived. It appears that Bell has embraced some form of universalism—the belief that every person eventually inherits eternal life. Perhaps he is leaving the door open for some kind of annihilationist perspective. In any case, he has jettisoned the doctrine of hell and almost any notion of the wrath of God against sinners."*

Bell, who is undoubtedly a key leader in the Emergent Church (or as they call it the Emergent Conversation), continues to assault the authority and integrity of the Bible as well as the very words of our Lord Jesus (Matt. 5:22; 13:49-50; 23:15, 33; 25:41; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 12:4,5; Luke 16:19-31) and other New Testament authors (2 Thess. 1:7-9; 2 Peter 2:4, 9 Jude 12, 13; Rev. 19:19,20; 20:7-15; 21: 8). Bell is no evangelical Christian as some would characterize him, but he is a charlatan who knows nothing of the truth of God's Scripture concerning heaven or hell. Given the Biblical evidence for hell, his denial demonstrates that he is driven by his own illusion and self-deception. We must remember that Satan is the master of deception, and Bell is just one more of the devil's workers who disguise themselves as angels of light. Not only does he attack the integrity and infallibility of Holy Scripture, but he slanders the very character of God as he denies the necessity of the atoning work of Christ on the Cross, this being the work of God as planned in eternity for the salvation of Adam's sinful, fallen race. Evidently, he has not come to truly know the full and complete revelation of the God of Creation.

Do not be duped by this teaching. This book even supersedes *The Shack* in its degree of heresy. If you read it, do so with your Bible open and an alert mind as Bell will throw his spin on the passages that demonstrate the severity of God with respect to how He deals with sin. Understand that Bell treats sin as something much less than disobeying a holy, omnipotent, infinite, and glorious Creator. Whereas the Bible is clear that without Christ as your Lord and Savior, hell will be your eternal destination. Bell's writing confirms that we live in perilous times and that we need to *"Study to show ourselves approved to God, workmen not ashamed, handling accurately the Word of truth"* (2 Tim. 2:15). Let us not be those who are *"tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men"* (Eph. 4:14).

To God alone be the glory in the world, & may His truth always prevail in the hearts and minds of mankind, Pastor Randy

# GOT HOPE?

## DOOR TO DOOR MINISTRY

6

6:00pm meet at Prayer House for training  
(at the Madera Rescue Mission)

6:30pm Door to Door ministry in teams

Monday April 4  
Tuesday April 5  
Monday April 11  
Tuesday April 12  
Monday April 18  
Tuesday April 19

9:30am meet at Town and Country Park

10:00am to 12:00pm Door to Door ministry in teams

Saturday March 19  
Saturday March 26  
Saturday April 2  
Saturday April 9  
Saturday April 16  
Saturday April 23.

### *This Month's Missionary Highlight...*

Stepan and Vera Staucean are missionaries in Moldova. Our church has sent numerous short term teams to Moldova through the years to help plant new churches, reach out to the lost, etc. We have financially helped Moldovan Christians plant crops whose revenue is used to finance the Moldovan Christian's efforts to take the Gospel to other parts of the world. Pray for the Staucean's ministry in Moldova and for the churches to be strengthened.



For questions about the Got Hope? contact  
Mark Lacaze at the church office (674-1172) or [mark.lacaze@gmail.com](mailto:mark.lacaze@gmail.com)

## From the Student Ministries Pastor...

Eighty days to go. Eighty (80) days to what you ask? Summer Camp 2011. June 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>

This is going to be my 26<sup>th</sup> year at a Summer Camp as a student, leader and pastor. I've been going to a Camp for a decade longer than many students have been alive. If you want your students to connect with other students in the church, then they need to go to Summer Camp.

Next month we'll reveal our theme; now, I just want to emphasize the importance of going. As if getting away from the regular routine weren't enough, the chance to rid ourselves of the things that tend to distract us from Christ and for five days to keep our focus on Him, should be incentive enough. Here's an opportunity for students to connect with each other in a way that only Winter Camp and a Missions Trip can provide. In other words, these opportunities are rare. Over night events for several days in a row tend to bring us together in a way that one or two days a week strung together over time can't. This is our chance to live together and laugh together, to come together and grow together, to play together and to worship together. To give them a better idea of what it means to be the church.

So don't miss the opportunity. Camp is for students going into 7<sup>th</sup> grade all the way through those that have just completed their Senior year of High School.

If you have further questions, please contact Jared King at 674-1172 ext. 105.

Pastor Greg



**AWANA**  
**April 2011**  
**6:30 – 8:00 pm**

**April 6, 2011**  
**No Theme**

**April 13, 2011**  
**Easter Theme**  
**Forget the Easter bunnies and baskets**  
**What is the true meaning of Easter?**

**April 20, 2011**  
**No Awana (Easter Vacation)**

**April 27, 2011**  
**Build your fancy vehicles. Bring them to a fun night at the**  
**Drive-in Movie Night. Let's all enjoy a good movie!**





**Friendraiser Celebration Concert**  
**Saturday May 21**  
**With**  
**Jerry Camp and Francesca Battistelli**

Hey everyone at GCC. May 21<sup>st</sup> is around the corner. You do not want to miss out on this BIG concert. We need a few volunteers to assist in getting this campus ready. Please see myself, (Geoff Tipton) or Bruce Chapman if you would like to help get this campus put into top shape. If you would like to help in the food concession area, please see John Henson as he is heading this project up. This is sure to draw from south valley all the way to the north end of the valley.

**Annual Men's Retreat**  
**Geoff Tipton**

Men of Integrity 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference is coming May 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> at Sugarpine Christian Camp! Yes, it is back there this year. The conference speaker this year is Pastor Eug Breinig, former major league baseball pitcher for the San Francisco Giants. Several years later and a run in with the law, he surrendered his life to Jesus and ... well you will have to attend to find out the rest. Registration is open. See Oscar Olguin at the registration table on Sundays after worship. This conference will be used of our Lord to stretch each man & strengthen us for sure!



2011



Sunday

Monday




Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

		<b>Wednesday April 20 No Awana, Youth Etc.</b>			1	2
3 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service	4	5	6 <b>Wednesday:</b> Men's Study At Chubbies 6:30 am ***** "All for the Family Night" 5:30 pm Meal ***** 6:30 pm To 8:00 pm	7 9:30 am Ladies Precept Study ***** Hispanic Ministry 7:00 pm	8	9  <i>Ladies Spring Brunch</i> 10:00 am
10 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service Blood Drive Today	11	12	13 AWANA * Pursuit * Ladies Bible Study * Men's Bible Study * Childcare Provided	14 9:30 am Ladies Precept Study ***** Hispanic Ministry 7:00 pm	15	16
17 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service	18	19	20	21 9:30 am Ladies Precept Study ***** Hispanic Ministry 7:00 pm	22  <i>Good Friday Service</i> 6:00 pm	23
24  <b>Easter Services</b> 8:30 am & 10:30 am Social Time Between the Services	25	26	27	28 9:30 am Ladies Precept Study ***** Hispanic Ministry 7:00 pm	29	30 Adult Family Fellowship Night 5:30 pm @ Orosco's