

The Boys of Summer at Grace Community Church, 2011

by Pastor Randy Brannon

In 1971, Roger Kahn released his book, *The Boys of Summer*, a monumental work which gave an insider's view of the Brooklyn Dodgers during their last 10+ years in the city of Brooklyn, NY. Kahn then jumped ahead many years to the late 60's after the Dodgers moved to Los Angeles in 1958 to investigate what was going on with all those baseball heroes of the past that were legendary in New York. It is without doubt one of the most gripping secular books that I have read in my lifetime as he brings those players right into your home and life. These men not only made history, but were history.

Without trying to force the analogy, we have had many men of God at Grace Community Church who have communicated the Word of God in an excellent fashion, and still do. When they teach or preach the Bible they are bringing God's history right into our lives, this always calling for personal change on our part. This summer you will have a great opportunity to hear from many men of Grace Community Church as they stand in for me in the pulpit during the months of July and August. They will etch in our minds many truths from the scriptures that need to be proclaimed. You will enjoy the variety of messages and methods of delivery that they present. These men will in their own way be "The Boys of Summer" at Grace Community Church in a most memorable way.

After a brief vacation in early July, I will be taking a study leave to work on a book about the eternal security of the believer. This book has been germinating in my heart and soul for over 15 years. At this time I have the makings for approximately 24 chapters on this issue that I consider of great importance for the vitality of the Christian life, and above all for the glory of God. I have never taken a study leave during my 28 years of pastoring at Grace...now is the time. This being said, consider the list of men that God will bless us with from the pulpit of our church:

- July 10 - Pastor Greg Perkins** - Greg has effectively preached the Bible on many occasions at Grace Community. Greg has served as our Pastor of Student Ministries for 11 years, and also Pastor of Administration for the past 5 years. He ministers to people of all ages in our church body.
- July 17 - Pastor Virgil Reimer** - Virgil was ordained at Grace over a year ago after pastoring a church in Madera for four years. He loves to teach the Bible and is currently teaching the book of John in one of our Sunday School classes.
- July 24 - Pastor Dennis Braga** - Dennis grew up at Grace Community. He attended & graduated from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in 2010. He currently is an associate pastor at Calvary Baptist Church of Lafayette, CA. We welcome one of our own young men back home.
- July 31 - Tony Tavares** - Tony is an elder at Grace Community. He teaches The Defenders Bible class on Sunday mornings. He will be starting seminary in the fall at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. He has a passion for God's Word that will come through his message.
- Aug. 7 - Warren Parr** - Warren was radically transformed through the teaching of The Institute For Creation Research in 1993 at Grace Community. Since that time, he has taught the 5th-6th grade Sunday School class. Warren will preach on *The Days of Creation* from Genesis 1. He will follow up this message with a Creation series on Sunday nights throughout August.
- Aug. 14 - Pastor David Rogers** - David pastored a church in S. California 25 years ago. He is a great communicator of God's truth. He is one of our worship leaders and currently serves District 2 on the Madera County Board of Supervisors.
- Aug. 21 - Pastor Mark Lacaze** - Mark has served as our Pastor of Missions and Outreach for 3 1/2 years. He recently graduated from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. Mark loves God's Word, teaches a Sunday Bible Class, and effectively proclaims God's Word from the pulpit.
- Aug. 28 - Pastor Greg Perkins or Pastor Mark Lacaze**, all depending on the demands of ministry at the time.

What a joy it is for me to set forth this preaching schedule for you, recognizing that we are a rich congregation when it comes to men who can teach and preach the Bible. We will all be blessed by these "Boys of Summer" at Grace Community Church & God will be glorified. Anticipating God's good work with you, Pastor Randy

Announcing a Summer Series on Creationism

At Grace Community Church we are concerned that people believe in the Word of God instead of the vain philosophies of this age. About six months ago I set forth a position paper for Grace Community regarding our firm belief that God created the universe, including the earth, stars and moon in 6 literal days. Not only is this the testimony of Scripture, but it is the position that scientific evidence backs in a very clear manner, although the educational elite of our country would have you believe otherwise. The evolutionary theory has no evidence to stand on and it will become

evident in this series, along with the fact that the days in Genesis were not "ages" as many people teach, even Christians who want to make the Bible palatable.

Warren Parr has not only studied this issue, but has defended the truth of the Bible on Creation in 6 days in many venues. He will bring a preaching/teaching series on this subject in August. His first message will be on Sunday morning, August 7, and he will follow this initial teaching with successive messages on Sunday nights, August 7, 14, 21, and 28 if necessary. You will want to be here for each of these foundational messages.

Be not only seekers of the truth, but defenders of it. Warren will give you much information to chew on, discuss with others, and bring glory to God. Sarah and I cut our spiritual teeth on Dr. Henry Morris' teaching on Creation, this changing our lives and view of the Bible as the only authoritative Word from God on all issues of life.

See you in August! Pastor Randy



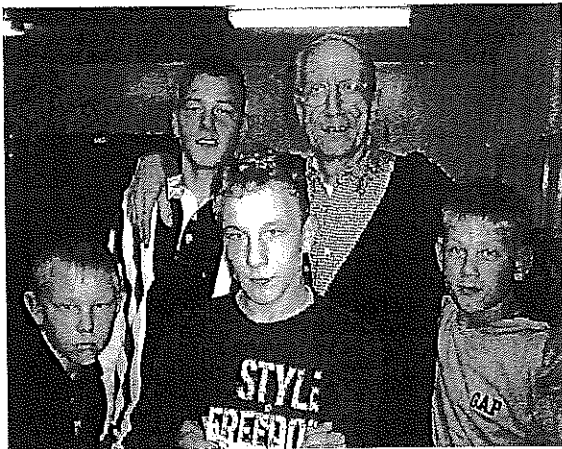
Until the Whole World Hears

2011 Short Term Mission Trips

The Czech Republic team will be working with Jim Liljegren in his ministry to the Slavic immigrants in and around Prague. The team from Grace Community Church will join two other American churches and Slavic Christians from Prague. Together they will build relationships with unchurched Russian speaking people in the Czech Republic leading them to Christ. Each morning they will be involved in teaching English. The afternoons will be used for recreation, seminars, music, etc. The team includes: Caleb Magnuson, John Henson and Brian Loftis. They will be serving July 6-19th.

The largest group (18 people including children and youth) being sent from our congregation this year will be sent in New Mexico. As in previous years our team will do light construction on their church buildings, put on a small VBS ministry for the children and teach the adults. In addition to this the leaders within House of Prayer have expressed the need for knowledge and training in the teaching of God's Word. Two of the pastors at Grace Community Church and one elder will be leading this team as we teach the people how to teach the Bible. The New Mexico mission team will be serving July 15-23rd. The team includes: the Tavares Family, the Molina Family, Pastor Greg Perkins, Kyle Olguin, Donald Hamblin, Karen Reimer, David Garcia and Pastor Mark Lacaze.

Let's continue to work together to Pray, Give, Go and Send Until the Whole World Hears!



Missionary Highlights for July and August...

Jim and Barbara Liljegren have followed the Lord's leading to minister overseas. Jim takes three trips a year to minister to Slavic people throughout Eastern Europe and Russia. He works with pastors to plant new churches throughout Europe for the growing Slavic immigrant population. Pray for Jim's travel and his health. Pray also for the short term team from Grace who is in the Czech Republic serving with Jim this month.

Hugo and Miriam Gomez have a ministry throughout Central America using his gifts and background in medicine. They follow Christ's example of meeting physical needs as well as spiritual needs. Pray for Hugo and Miriam as they continue to minister to sick people throughout Guatemala and other Central American countries.

What is Faith Promise?

Faith Promise is an opportunity for you to be involved in God's work around the world. The Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 calls the Church to "Go and make disciples of all nations." Each person in the Church has a role in fulfilling Christ's command.

We can be involved through **PRA YING, GIVING, GOING, AND SENDING.**

Faith Promise is the way our church raises financial support for missionaries serving on the mission field. We partner with **THIRTEEN** overseas missionaries as well as half a dozen local ministries. Each month we send nearly \$6,000 to these partners as they fulfill His Great Commission. Faith Promise giving is **ABOVE AND BEYOND** your regular tithes and offerings. This ensures the money is used for mission-purposes both locally and around the world! On your checks or offering envelopes note how much should go toward Faith Promise as it goes into a different account than regular church offerings.

Occasionally, we have opportunities to bless new missionaries, both local around the world, with one-time gifts to further their ministry. This last month the Mission Team felt the Lord's leading to send one-time gifts to support the following Missionaries:

- Carol Perkins (Pastor Greg's mother) for her mission in Africa
- Russ Dean, Missionary in Brazil that many in our congregation have worked with in the past
- Cindy Vesperman, our local AWANA missionary
- Alexander Pascan, a Moldovan missionary working in his home country with Campus Crusade to bring God's word to the lost
- Jared Young, a young family from Fresno whose family is preparing to move in January to live and work in Thailand
- Jason Laird, a young family from Madera whose family is preparing to move to Togo, West Africa to work in Aviation ministry

For 2011 the amount pledged for Faith Promise was \$68,000. However, we are believing God to provide in ways only He can do. Our goal for this year is \$100,000. If you have not given to Faith Promise pray about how you can help further the Holy Spirit's work in every nation UNTIL THE WHOLE WORLD HEARS!!

From the Student Ministries Pastor...

I just finished my 26th year of Camp. (18th as a Leader and year number 12 here at Grace). That's over a quarter century of camp. Can I say I'm getting old?

Andrew Cantrell from Turlock was our camp speaker this year. Pastor Mark let Jared know about him because they went to school together. Andrew talked about the importance of community and challenged us for the week to look for ways to be self sacrificing and to pray that God would give us the endurance to serve one another in unity. His key verse for us was Romans 15:5-6 where Paul says, "5 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, 6 that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." (ESV) He said if the church is built on anything other than Jesus Christ it ceases to be the church. He said that working for community with one another is hard and that it's easy to take a shortcut but we must refuse to take the easy way out.

Andrew also talked about how after Christ, community is the most important thing to the church (John 17:20-23). He said that people will know that God sent Jesus and that we are His disciples by our love for one another (John 13:35). He then gave us some practical ways to focus individually on building community. These came from Romans 12:3-11 and included: not thinking of ourselves too highly, using our abilities for others and not self and detesting what is evil while clinging to what is good.

Thanks for praying for us. We had 45 students (32 from Grace/9 from 4th Street/4 from First Christian) and 12 adults attend camp. It was another good year.

Below is our schedule for the remainder of the Summer.

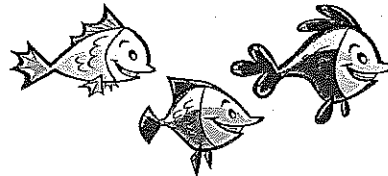
July 6 th	<u>NO YOUTH</u>
July 13 th	Pool Party – Parr Ranch
July 20 th	<u>NO YOUTH</u>
July 27 th	All Worship @ Grace
August 3 rd	<u>NO YOUTH</u>
August 10 th	The King's
August 17 th	Back 2 School BBQ (@Parr's – bring swimsuit)
August 24 th	<u>1st night of Small Groups</u>

* All Times are 6:30 pm.

- Call Grace Community if you have questions – 674-1172 ext. 103 Pastor Greg



Vacation Bible School
At
Grace Community Church
July 11—15
9:00 am to Noon



Meet Up!
Look Up!
Join Up!
Open Up!
Fire Up!