

**Good News Guide
September 2011**



How To Pray For America

A Special 9-11 Message

by Pastor Randy Brannon

Ten years ago, America was shaken to its very foundations with the radical Islamic attack and destruction of the World Trade Center's twin towers, along with other horrific components of this well-orchestrated plan by Osama Ben Laden and his operatives. Americans responded with heroic efforts and much prayer. A nation was called to its knees, and words of encouragement and compassion flooded in from all over the world. As believers, we prayed for revival but, alas, it was not to be as we went right back to slumbering in our plenty and independence. Yes, war ensued and has been on the forefront of our minds for a long period of time as many men and women gave their lives to penetrate the forces of hell and dislodge the terrorists from their strongholds and power, but the spiritual impact on our country waned.

I recall the first anniversary of the attack when Americans gathered in their cities to commemorate this atrocity and prayed for God's intervention. In Madera, we had approximately 1500 people from all walks of life gather in Courthouse Park. The Madera High School band provided patriotic music, and the singing group "Second Take" sang from the old courthouse's balcony. Our elected officials stood up for America and our pastors led us in prayer. It was a grand occasion and it is as if it happened yesterday. As chairman of the committee for this event, I was so blessed by citizens who diligently worked to make it a memorable night. Our community was galvanized into one body of people as never before, at least to my knowledge.

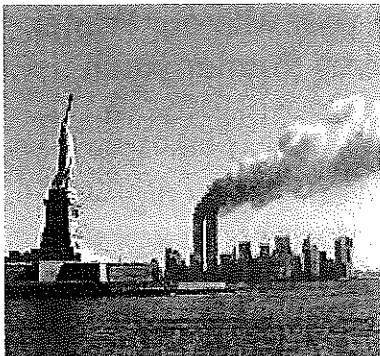
So where do we stand today as a nation? Where is the church ten years later? I would suggest that the plight of America has been in a downward direction, and the church of the Lord Jesus Christ has plunged to a new low in its gospel integrity and effectiveness. Today, God is asking us to pray for our nation and to pray for the church as we await His second coming.

But, how do we pray? Is there a model in Scripture we can use as a template for our prayers for America and the church? The answer is yes, and I will bring forth a message from God's word based on this specific dynamic passage that is pertinent to our situation. I will attempt to rapidly describe a picture of the state of America and the church. Then, I will transition into a message on prayer.

I trust you will be present for this Biblical message. This message will precede two weeks of sermons on the pre-eminence of God's Kingdom in our lives, and the use of our spiritual giftedness for the work of the Lord. All of these messages will set up our mission's conference which begins October 2. During the conference, we will be blessed with messages from Rich Bartlett, Dr. Prosperly Lyngdoh, Dr. Fermin Whittaker, and evangelist Reid Saunders who will conclude our 2011 conference by speaking at our annual Mission's Banquet on October 23.

May the Lord give us America as we pray for her, and may He bring true revival to His church in the days ahead. May we do our part by getting educated and motivated in the direction by the Lord from His Word.

To seek the Lord's cause with you, first in prayer, Pastor Randy



FROM THE STUDENT MINISTRIES PASTOR...

It's late August and around Grace that means it's time for "All for the Family." Specifically for students, it's the restarting of our Small Groups Ministry on Wednesday nights.

Throughout the summer we've taken some time off, met at different places, been to Camp and a few students even went on the Missions Trip to New Mexico. But now it's time to come back together on Wednesday evenings for our small groups where we seek to reach students where they are and connect them with other Christians.

On Wednesday nights students will hear a challenge from God's Word and then be able to talk about that challenge in their small groups. In the small group students have the opportunity to participate in biblical discussion, accountability and prayer. This is their time to share the situations in their lives and see what God's Word has to say about what they are going through. It's also a great time for them to bring friends and meet new people.

To give you just a bit of an over view of the Fall: September and November are Small Group months. During these months we encourage the small groups to get together and do something outside of their small group and the Wednesday night church setting. This gives them a chance to connect with one another in a more casual way and get to know one another just a little bit more.

We will also have (2) Big Group Nights and (2) All Worship Nights. On Big Group Nights we encourage students to bring their unsaved friends where they will hear a clear gospel presentation and have the opportunity to receive Christ as Lord and Savior. This year we are trying to get (2) very special guest speakers so students definitely don't want to miss out on this. On All Worship Nights we spend an extended time in worship through music. God has blessed us with some very talented young men that lead us in worship of the Lord.

On November 23rd, December 21st and December 28th there will be no Youth because of Thanksgiving and Christmas. We'll kick off the new year with our Winter Camp, January 6th – 8th with special guest speaker – Rusty Graves (former youth pastor at 4th Street Church of God).

Please encourage your students and their friends to attend on Wednesday nights. We also meet on Sunday Mornings in the youth room where our focus is to worship and grow through the teaching of God's Word. Here students learn about God in a deeper way with lessons that are Biblical and practical for their everyday lives.

Until the Whole World Hears

SEPTEMBER 11TH SIMULCAST

It has been 10 years since that tragic attack on our country. Beginning at 6:00pm on September 11th our church will host a community-wide event of remembrance and prayer. The Simulcast will present teaching messages by Anne Graham Lotz and Joel Rosenberg. The evening will be knit together with authentic worship music led by Selah. The goal is for the evening to be used by God to wake up His people. Join us as we consider the times in which we live, refocus on Jesus as our Hope for the future, and ask God to re-ignite such an intense longing for His return that we live the rest of our lives with no regrets.

We ♥ Madera

Thank you to all who were involved in going door-to-door in our community! We had warm welcomes from our neighbors. Pray the Lord continues to minister to the lost who live around Grace Community Church.

Thank you to those who helped donate and/or pass out water bottles. We passed out over 700 water bottles with the Gospel message to hot and thirsty passengers.

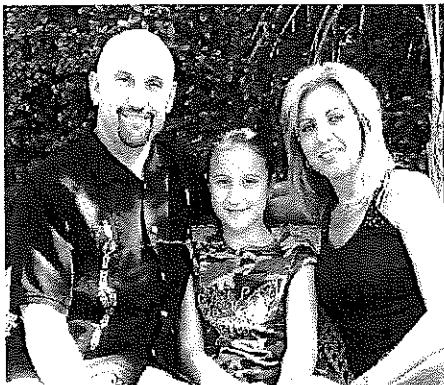
2011 Mission Conference/Banquet

Next month is our annual Mission Conference and Banquet. It is a time for our congregation to look back at what God has done this past year AND look forward to our role in the Great Commission this upcoming year.

Plan to be a part of this exciting time! Two key dates you need to mark in your calendar:

- Sunday, October 16 9:00am Hear what God is doing through their work and how YOU can join them! This entire morning will focus on our role as Ambassadors for Christ in our local community.
- Sunday, October 23 5:30pm Our annual Mission Banquet!

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



Missionary Highlight for September...

Vince and Gretta Payne left their life in Madera just a few years ago to serve the Lord in Panama. Vince works in the hard-to-reach villages, preaching the Gospel and building up the Body of Christ. He has helped build a church and is currently constructing a Bible training center. Gretta's ministry in Panama City is in the orphanages near their home. Pray for Vince and Gretta as they show God's love and speak God's Word to those in Panama.



THE GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL

of CALIFORNIA-NEVADA NORTH

A Christian Business and Professional Men's Association

August 14, 2011

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

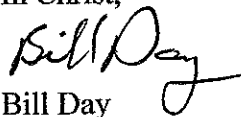
On September 15th, I will be leaving to participate in an International Scripture Blitz in Colombia. During the two weeks, from Sept. 15th through Oct. 1st, twenty four Gideons from the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Finland, South Africa and Germany will be joining the Gideons of Columbia to witness to the lost and distribute God's Word. We have a goal of distributing 500,000 Scriptures. We will be distributing them to hotels, students at schools and colleges, prisoners in jails and prisons, to police, fire and medical personnel, as well as men and women in the military. The first week the whole team will be in Bucaramanga. The second week the team will split with half going to Manizales, while I and the other half will be going to Pereira.

Please, brothers and sisters, be in much prayer during these next several weeks as final preparations are being made. Especially remembering the following:

1. Leadership of the Holy Spirit
2. Freedom to witness and fellowship
3. Salvation of souls
4. Logistical planning by host Gideons
5. Availability of reliable transportation
6. Availability of good interpreters (if needed)
7. Availability for the host Gideons to have time from their employment to assist us
8. Open doors so the distributions can be made
9. Traveling mercies and safety for participants
10. Satan will be bound and will not interfere with the distribution of the Word of God.

I ask only for your fervent prayer for God's will to be done.

In Christ,


Bill Day

AWANA
September 2011
Wednesdays 6:30 – 8:00 pm

September 7, 2011
Face Painting (T & T)

September 14, 2011
Face painting for Sparkies only

September 21, 2011
No theme tonight

September 28, 2011
Treasure Chest Night – Bring a friend, say verses, and earn a trip to the Treasure Chest

Ladies' Bible Study

Did you ever think that you could help fulfill Jesus' Great Commission by attending a Bible Study? Jesus instructed His believers in Matthew 28:19-20 to "Go and make disciples of all the nations...teaching them to observe all that I commanded you..." That's exactly what we do in Precept Bible Study! We observe what the Lord commanded us in His Word in such a transforming way that it becomes our lifestyle, and then find ways to encourage others to follow! You can think of Bible Study as Step 1 of home missions!

Now is a good time to join the Fall Precept Bible Study. We are in the book of Jeremiah, seeing what the Word of God says about such questions as: Do my actions really shape my destiny? Who is to blame for disaster? What happens when a person (or nation) refuses to obey God? What does God want from people trying to live obediently, but not seeing much reward for it? Does it really matter all that much?

If these questions stir your curiosity, join us! You can choose the time that best fits your schedule: Wednesdays 6:30pm in Room 304 or Thursdays 9:00am in Room 7 (behind the sanctuary). We have babysitting in place for either time. Any questions call 674-8185. It will be wonderful to study the Word of Truth together.

Robin Poythress

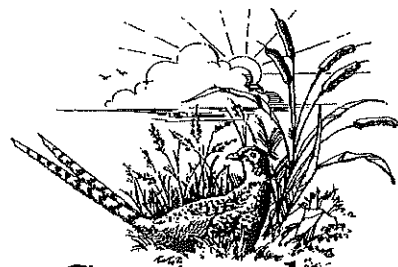
Men's Ministries

Men's Ministry, as this year is winding towards a close, we have several Men's Breakfasts planned for this fall. Beginning on Saturday September 10th @ 8 am, we will meet for great food, fellowship, worship & a personal testimony by Mr. Jose Garcia the Director of Men's Program at the Madera Rescue Mission. The cost is a mere \$3. The 2nd Men's Breakfast is slated for Saturday November 5th.

Men, I have some tickets for sale for the annual Men's Steak Night held in Chowchilla at Cornerstone Church on Monday September 19. Tickets are \$10 each and this year's featured speaker is Alistair Begg, heard daily on KCIV 99.9. He is truly a called & gifted Bible teacher. Last year many lives were impacted by Gregg Laurie.

More information on future events will be forthcoming which are being planned.

Geoff Tipton



September

2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p><i>Every Wednesday:</i></p> <p><i>Men's Study At Chubbies 6:30 am</i></p> <p>*****</p> <p><i>"All for the Family Night"</i></p>	<p>1</p> <p>Ladies Bible Study 9:00 am Room 7 ***** Hispanic Ministry 7:00 pm ***** College Group 7:00 pm</p>	2	3
<p>4</p> <p>9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service</p>	<p>5</p> <p>LABOR DAY</p>	6	<p>7</p> <p>*****</p> <p><i>"All for the Family Night"</i></p>	<p>8</p> <p>Ladies Bible Study 9:00 am Room 7 ***** Hispanic Ministry 7:00 *****</p>	9	<p>10</p> <p>PANCAKES!</p> <p>Men's Breakfast 8:00 am</p>
<p>In Remembrance of 11 Sept.</p> <p>9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service</p>	12	<p>13</p> <p>Ladies Bible Study 18735 Shell Dr 6:30 pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5:30 pm Meal * 6:30 pm To 8:00 pm AWANA * Pursuit * Ladies Bible Study * Men's Bible Study * Child Care Provided</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Ladies Bible Study 9:00 am Room 7 ***** Hispanic Ministry 7:00 pm ***** College Group 7:00 pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p><i>Women's Retreat Camp Sugar Pine Sept 16-18</i></p>	17
<p>18</p> <p>9:00 am Sunday School Jim Liljegren Speaking 10:30 am Worship Service</p>	19	<p>20</p> <p>Ladies Bible Study 18735 Shell Dr 6:30 pm</p>	21	<p>22</p> <p>Ladies Bible Study 9:00 am Room 7 ***** Hispanic Ministry 7:00 pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p><i>Autumn</i></p>	24
<p>25</p> <p>9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service</p>	26	<p>27</p> <p>Ladies Bible Study 18735 Shell Dr 6:30 pm</p>	28	29	30	