

**Grace Baptist Church**  
2550 Jewetta Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93312  
(661)589-0424  
www.gbcbak.org



*You don't have to become a pastor or a missionary to work full-time for Christ. God's work is going on right where you are. Where is your Jerusalem, and who are the people God has called you to influence? Ask God to show you opportunities that you've never seen before.*

◀ **WEEKLY SCHEDULE** ▶

**Sunday**

9:15 am - Sunday School (for all ages)  
10:30 am - Worship Service  
Home Groups - meet in the afternoon & evening

**Tuesday**

6:30 am - Men's Prayer Breakfast  
7:00 pm - REFUGE - College/Career

**Wednesday**

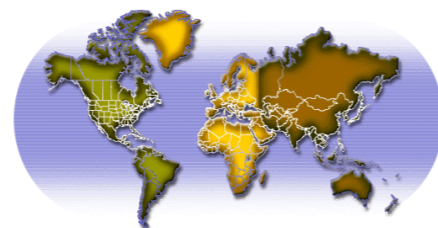
5:00 pm - Dinner  
6:00 pm - IGNITE Youth Group &  
Adult Worship & Prayer Service  
Club JBQ (begins June 17th)

**Thursday**

6:30 pm - Prime Time [May 21st & June 18th]

*Declare His glory  
among the nations,  
His wonders  
among all peoples.*

I Chronicles 16:24



**May/June 2009**

**THE MISSION TO REACH THE WORLD**

By Pastor Andy

One day I found Anderson and Daniel playing nicely together. I was furious. Not because they were being nice to each other, but because I had asked them to clean up the play room before our home group arrived. They kept on saying, "We'll get to it right after we play this one thing." I said, "As long as it gets done before home group." Now, just five minutes before people arrive, the mess was still there.

I think sometimes God feels the same way about us. We think things are okay because our church has good music, great teaching, and even genuine fellowship. But God is asking, are you doing what I commanded you to do? Are you reaching the world? Are you making disciples?

Acts 1:8 states that the Holy Spirit gives us power to be witnesses in our Jerusalem, our Judea, our Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. That means we are to share Christ here in our community, our city, our state, our nation, and around the world.

Each local church, including Grace Baptist, is called to be a world mission center and that means we are called to be world mission Christians. We need to pray, strategize, and participate in reaching people with the gospel all throughout the world.

In the month of May, we will be focusing on missions and how we fulfill our calling to be a world mission center. One of the great advantages

we have is to partner with other churches of like faith and practice. These churches, fellow Southern Baptist Churches, each contribute funds to the Cooperative Program to do greater works than we could do individually. In fact, the resources pooled together from all these churches allow us to be part of the largest mission work in history.

The Southern Baptist Convention sends out more missionaries than any other denomination. So, while our church cannot support a seminary, a disaster relief agency, or a local, state, country or world missionary individually, by supporting the Cooperative Program, we are doing our part in helping reach the world.

Our obligation to reach the world does not stop there. We must also pray and participate in missions within our own community. That is the focus of our Reach the World ministries on Wednesday nights. Starting May 13th, at 6:00 pm, we will have a worship service and prayer time focused on reaching our community through our Hands of Grace and Angel Food ministries. [You can read more about Angel Food in our "Reach the World" section on page 4.]

*"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."*

Luke 10:2



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## LOVE GOD

When we look in Acts, the early church did not begin with a heart for missions. In fact, they became focused on reaching people just like themselves. They had no problem reaching fellow Jews with the gospel, but they had no desire to reach the Gentiles. However, as the church worshipped, prayed, and loved God, the Father changed their heart. God is still doing that today for those who seek to love Him.

In the early church, the Holy Spirit had to move the disciples to come to the place of obedience in taking the gospel to the uttermost parts of the world. He had to lead Phillip to the Ethiopian Eunuch; He had to prepare Peter with a dream and bring Cornelius to him; and, He had to raise up Paul and challenge the Jerusalem Council to receive the Gentiles. But, God moved His church where He wanted it be – one way or another.

Last year, I did not want to participate in the Awana Grand Prix, but I had to do my pastoral duty and also my duty as a dad in making three cars. But, when I came that night and saw the excitement of the kids, and most interestingly of the adults, I found myself catching the passion of the event. This year, I am actually looking forward to the Grand Prix, as the kids make their cars and we have a fun evening with the church family. It is when you hang out with people, that you tend to catch their passion.

To help you catch God's passion for the lost, we are going to begin having a full worship service every Wednesday night at 6:00 pm, beginning on May 13th. Let's come and hang out with God and let Him change our hearts. Then, the Holy Spirit will be able to move us into those places where we will be able to share the good news.



***"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you. I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."***

***Ezekiel 36:26***

### The Mission To Reach The World (Continued from Pg. 1)

Angel Food will not be our only way to reach people in our community, but it will be a large part of our Hands of Grace ministry. We also plan to partner with other parachurch ministries within our community.

To wrap up our focus on missions, the Missions Committee will have a Missions Fair on May 17th to help us learn more about the local partnerships we have and our Southern Baptist Convention agencies that we support.

We will also be collecting a special missions offering that day that will go to support the mission efforts of our church and the ministries we support. Please pray about what you will give to this offering.



Luke 10:2 says, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

We have an exciting opportunity ahead of us to come together on Wednesday nights to pray for the lost and then find those ways where we can offer ourselves as laborers in the Lord's harvest. Whether it's through our financial support of

world missions or getting involved locally through our Hands of Grace ministries, we all can obey the Lord's command to reach the world and make disciples.

Join us on Wednesday nights and let's see what God's going to do through Grace Baptist.

## MAY & JUNE EVENTS

### YOUTH CAMP FUNDRAISER

**SATURDAY, MAY 2nd  
10 AM TO 4 PM**

Come get your car washed & support our youth who are going to summer camp.



### CHURCH PICNIC & BAPTISM SERVICE **Sunday, May 3rd @ 3:30 PM**

**Dinner @ 5:30 PM -- Baptism Service @ 6:15 PM**  
*Bring a main dish, plus a side dish, salad or dessert.*

### PRE-TEEN CAMP SPAGHETTI DINNER

**Friday, May 8th @ 5:00 PM**

Come support our kids going to camp and enjoy a spaghetti dinner before the Awana Grand Prix begins.



### AWANA GRAND PRIX

**Friday, May 8th**

**Check-in @ 6:00 PM -- Race begins @ 6:30 PM**

### MISSIONS FAIR & OFFERING SUNDAY, MAY 17th

During the Sunday School hour, we will have a missions fair in our Fellowship Hall for all ages to learn about mission opportunities both locally and world-wide.

We will also take a special offering to support missions work through Grace Baptist Church.

### Church Finances

March 1st to 31st	April 1st to 30th
Budgeted \$ 47,469.05*	Budgeted \$ 37,975.24
Received \$ 38,973.16	Received \$ 35,952.37
<b>Fiscal Year-To-Date</b>	
Budgeted \$ 322,789.54	
Received \$ 288,555.48	
Needed \$ 34,234.06	

\* Based on 5 Sundays in March.

### NEW MEMBERS CLASS

**Sunday, May 3rd @ 9:00 AM**

If you'd like to join the church or just find out more about us, please plan to attend. RSVP at 589-0424.

### PRIME TIME

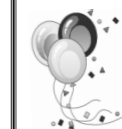
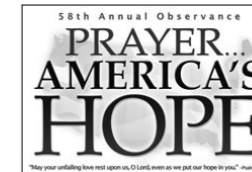
**Thursday, May 21st, 6:30 pm**  
**Special Guests: The Goldenaires and**

**Thursday, June 18th, 6:30 pm**  
**Special Guests: Mike Bussell & Family**  
*The Bussell family will be home from Africa and will share their experiences with us.*

### NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE @ GBC

**MAY 7th @ 6:30 PM**

*Let's come together and pray for the Lord to spark a revival throughout our nation, protect the witness of our pastors, and continue to sanctify and purify Christians around the world.*



### 3rd Anniversary Celebration Potluck Dinner

**Sunday, May 31st @ 12:00 PM**

*Come help us celebrate our 3rd anniversary and spend time together fellowshiping and thanking the Lord for all that He's done here at GBC.*

### The Grace Investment

Total Amount Pledged -	<b>\$ 380,594.08</b>
Received as of February -	\$ 118,160.58
Received in March -	\$ 18,809.78
Received in April -	\$ 20,876.08
Remaining Pledge Balance -	<b>\$ 222,747.64</b>

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

As we think about Reaching the World, I cannot help but think about our biggest annual outreach toward boys and girls for Christ—Vacation Bible School.

While we have fun with the songs, crafts, Bible skits, recreation, and all the other parts of VBS, the most important thing we are doing is sharing the love of God with the kids and parents whom He brings us. Please be praying now for those involved during this exciting week of ministry.

Among the most important part of VBS is not the work that we do the week of VBS, but the following week! Pray about how you would like to be a part of the follow-up where we can plug parents and children into growing more in their relationship with Christ through the ministries offered at Grace!

**Kristine Prince**  
(Kristine@gcbak.org)  
Children's Ministry Director

### Student Missionaries Summer Housing

Every year our association provides us with student missionaries to help our church with various needs. These students are unpaid and willingly spend a summer away from their homes in order to serve the Lord.

This year, two female college students will be helping with our VBS the week of June 7-12. We need to provide housing and transportation for these students.

If you would be willing to host these students the week of VBS, please call the church office.

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**PRE-TEEN CAMP JULY 13—17**

PONDEROSA PINES IN LAKE ARROWHEAD  
FOR 3rd—6th GRADE CHILDREN

**Cost is \$199**

There are a couple of spots still available.  
Call the church office for more information!

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### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 7th to 12th ► 6:00 to 8:30 PM

*It all comes back to Jesus!!!!*

Online registration available at [www.gcbak.org](http://www.gcbak.org). Click on the VBS link.

It is not too late to sign up to help!! Check out the bulletin board in the front of the sanctuary or call the church office to find out how **YOU** can be a part of this exciting week of ministry!!!



### CLUB JBQ - Begins Wednesday, June 17th - All kids grades 1st thru 6th are invited!

Want to learn more about JBQ or the questions behind our children's Sunday School program? Then come check out **Club JBQ!!** Anyone interested in being on a team can come practice questions, play games, and most importantly, learn how to apply the truths found in JBQ questions to their everyday lives!

#### Mark your calendars . . .

- May 6:** Awana Awards—6:00 pm
- May 8:** Awana Grand Prix—  
6:00 pm Check-in, 6:30 pm Races Begin!
- May 8:** Pre-teen Camp Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser—  
Dinner served between 5:00 & 6:15 pm
- June 7—12:** Vacation Bible School—Nightly 6:00 to 8:30 pm
- June 17:** Start of Club JBQ—6:00 pm

#### Summer Sunday School Workers Needed Pre-School thru 6th Grade

Are you looking for a short-term ministry project this summer? Why not volunteer to be a Sunday School worker?

We need help from June 7th to August 16th (11 weeks) to give our regular Sunday School teachers a break. Contact Kristine Prince at 589-0941 or the church office.

### LOVE OTHERS

One of the highlights of my life was going on mission trips to Kenya. I noticed that when I was obedient in fulfilling the Great Commission, I grew closer to God and the church more than in anything else I have done.

One of the great benefits of reaching the world was drawing closer to His people. Some of the best times of fellowship were getting back from that day's work and sharing the stories of what God had done. It bonded us together more than anything else I have experienced.



You do not have to go to Kenya, however, to have that experience; many of our Home Groups are experiencing that same fellowship and joy as they meet together. Hearing the testimony of groups who have served meals together at the homeless shelter, or ministered at a retirement community, or had an outreach at a park and how it brought their Home

Group closer is so encouraging. When our times of fellowship are for the purpose of reaching others, we actually will grow closer to one another.

Encourage your Home Group to participate in a mission project. Perhaps it can be a very ambitious one such as taking a mission trip together overseas, or maybe it will be the decision to work with Angel Food each month as a group and share Christ with our community.

The good thing is that there is a blessing waiting for you as you develop deeper love relationships with other members in the body as you serve the Lord together.

*When our times of fellowship are for the purpose of reaching others, we actually will grow closer to one another.*

### Hands of Grace

A ministry to meet the needs in our community using the skills & talents of the people within our church.

- ◆ Are there current needs in your neighborhood?
- ◆ Do you have skills or services you have to offer?

Let us know by filling out one of the Hands of Grace forms.

#### Here are some opportunities to get involved:

- Glenwood Gardens Assisted Living Residence:
  - Church services in the afternoon on the 1st Sunday of the month in 2 units.
  - Volunteers needed to minister in the Memory Unit (reading scripture, singing songs & prayer).



We will be ready to receive orders during the first two weeks of June for pickup on June 27th. Anyone can place an order -- they do not need to attend our church.

To make this ministry possible, we need many volunteers. There are lots of ways to get involved, from taking orders, unloading the trucks, to helping on distribution day. Come out on Wednesday nights and see where you can plug in, or contact Eric Bruxvoort at 587-5701.

### White Family Update

As Wes & Michelle pursue the possibility of entering the mission field in Spain, we want to support them with our love & prayers.



**May 10th -** We will pray for them during our morning worship service as they get ready to go to the International Missions Board Candidate Conference in Virginia.

**May 17th -** **Farewell Reception** (immediately following worship)

If the Whites are confirmed to go to Spain, we've planned a time for us to come and say goodbye and send them off with our blessings and best wishes.

We'll notify everyone of the final outcome once Wes & Michelle receive word from the IMB.

Continue to pray for the Lord to guide and direct the White Family as they seek to serve Him.

## REACH THE WORLD

### Isaiah 58:9b-11 says,

If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of finger and speaking wickedness,  
If you extend your soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul,

Then your light shall dawn in the darkness, and your darkness shall be as the noonday.

The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones;

You shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

The church has the responsibility to show the love of Christ in a real, practical way to its community. When we become a host site for Angel Food Ministries, this will allow us to meet real physical needs and it will open a door for us to meet people's spiritual need as we share the gospel of hope with them.

## MISSIONS UPDATE

There are few things in scripture as clear as God's call on all believers to reach the world. It is so clear and abundantly evident that we all should, in one aspect or another, be involved in world evangelism. It doesn't matter where you live, or what your gifts are, you need to be involved. But how??? Let me give you a real life example of how people all over the world are involved in helping just my family in world evangelism.

As a missionary learning an unwritten language, I rely heavily on a computer for language learning tasks like analysis and creating a Morop dictionary for our future translation. Well, our house is not properly grounded, which means that if lightning strikes close to the house, I could lose all our electronic equipment, including our computers. So as I sat down and tried to figure out what I could do to fix the problem, I decided that I needed a piece of equipment that would enable me to disconnect my power at a moment's notice, what they called a disconnect, used for air conditioners in the United States.

Well, they don't sell those here in Indonesia so I needed someone in the states to get it and I also need some other custom things added to it. So I called our Tech Center in Missouri to build me this. Once they had it built, they had a man who was already headed to Jakarta hand carry it over for me. Once there, he will

*You shall be like a watered garden . . .*

Angel Food will require many laborers, so there will be ways for everyone to help. From answering phones and taking orders, to packing up boxes and sharing the gospel, each member of the body will be needed to make this outreach a success.

Most importantly, we will also need to cover this ministry in prayer. You can play a vital role by participating in the prayer ministry of the church as we begin our Angel Food ministry.

Each Wednesday night we will have a worship service that will give us an opportunity to pray for the lost in our community, for the Angel Food ministry, and for our Hands of Grace ministry.

Notice that the Isaiah passage begins with two "If" statements and a "Then" promise from the Lord. "If" we will do our part, "then" God promises to do His.

*What part will you play as we continue in our mission to "Reach the World?"*



hand it to another man, who will then mail it to our mission base here in Papua. Once it arrives here in Papua, I will have another man take it to the mission that flies in here to our village. They will then bring that, along with other fresh goods and supplies we need, right to our little Morop village. Our disconnect is going through at least 5 different people before it gets to us. We have our supplies going through at least two different people before they get to us. Those are a lot of hands that are involved in keeping us here in the tribe. BUT, none of that would be possible without the prayers and financial support of you at home. It really takes a lot to reach the Morop people with the Gospel, and if one link of the chain is broken, it will all fall apart. So thank you for being a part of God's call to reach the Morop people.

Serving Among the Morop People,  
Justin & Becky Burt  
justin\_burt@ntm.org

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

On Wednesday Nights at Ignite we sometimes sing these words:

"Everyone needs compassion  
A love that's never failing  
Let mercy fall on me  
Everyone needs forgiveness  
The kindness of a Savior  
The hope of nations  
(Chorus:)  
Savior, He can move the mountains  
My God is mighty to save  
He is mighty to save  
Forever, Author of Salvation  
He rose & conquered the grave  
Jesus conquered the grave"

My question is this: Do we really believe these words we sing? Do we really believe the words of Jesus when He told us to "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

If we do, then what are we doing about it? Are we trying to be secret agents who try to disguise who they really are or are we proud of who we are in Christ?



### Upcoming Events . . .

**April 28: New Series: Hebrews**

**May 31: Graduation Recognition**

*(If you are graduating please let  
Wes know by May 17th.)*



### Upcoming Events . . .

**May 31: Graduation Recognition**

*(If you are graduating please let Wes  
know by May 17)*

**July 6-11: Centrifuge @ Jenness Park**

*(We still have spots available)*

Oswald Chambers said this of our task to tell others:

The special person called to do missionary work is every person who is a member of the church of Christ. The call does not come to a chosen few, it is to every one of us.

OSWALD CHAMBERS (1874–1917)

Evangelism is for every person who has ever claimed the name of Jesus Christ! I believe that you are the light of Christ to those around you wherever you reside, in your neighborhood, at school, at work, or the place you play.

Here is one of my favorite quotes:

Some wish to live within the sound of church and chapel bell. I wish to run a rescue mission within a yard of hell.

CHARLES THOMAS STUDD (1862–1931)

Oh that we would have the passion for the lost that our Savior has! Jesus said in Acts that you shall be His witnesses.

***What kind of witness will you be?***