



# Pathways

Volume 9, Issue

A PUBLICATION OF THE PATHWAY OF GRACE CHURCH

Spring 2011

Heart  
to  
Heart

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, it feels so good to be growing with you in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have heard the saying "God is good" and the words of Jesus, "God is Love". **All His love** showered out and poured out upon us **IS HIS GRACE**.

Paul tells us "his grace **IS sufficient**". Just as "love conquers all", "grace satisfies all". The more we study and grasp the essence and depth of the *Birth, Life, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus*, the greater is our Joy in his salvation and in his grace. "God's gift of grace" is really all we need for this life and eternity to come. **The grace of God includes EVERYTHING God has given to us** --- our creation, our forgiveness, our salvation, our life, our giftedness, our inheritance, our blessings, our hopes and our dreams **which are all fulfilled in our eternal relationship with our Father** made possible through his Son by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus, as our ever-present, ever-living High Priest, abiding in us and us abiding in him, by the power of the Spirit makes possible our "son-ship relationship" with our loving

compassionate Father. Jesus constantly prays through us "Dearest Father".

Our Father in heaven wishes us to **abide in his Son** that we might receive the **fullness of his grace** and then be instruments in his hands in **shedding abroad his love (grace) to others**. As we approach

## THE GIFT OF GRACE

this season of proclamation of the **treasures of God's grace gift to all mankind** presented in the Passion Week starting with *Palm Sunday*, then the annual "Lord's Supper", followed by the *Easter Sunday resurrection and the ascension of our Lord and finally the Pentecost outpouring of his Spirit in **Great Grace upon the multitudes***. God's gifts of grace are multiplied upon us.

During this season of the proclamation of God's great grace, let's let God use us "in Christ" to pour out and multiply his love and grace upon all we meet and touch. Let no one pass by us without receiving the love of God through prayer, service, kindness and

appreciation. Starting with our closest loved ones, our family, relatives and friends let his grace and love shine brightly through us. May Jesus attract all people to himself by shining his light of love and grace through us by his Spirit to everyone we meet and see. May we all yield to his heart of love and grace.

**Pastor Bob & Kay**



### Inside this Issue

- Dr. Ross Jutsum ..... 2**
- Black History month..... 4-5**
- Dr. Dan Rogers..... 6**
- Prayerful Dependence..... 7**
- Repentance ..... 8**
- Men's Ministry..... 8**
- Children's Church..... 9**
- Teen Lock-in..... 10-11**
- Financial Report..... 12-13**
- Book Review ..... 14**



**Pathway of Grace**

*"Come Join The Journey"*

5100A Gus Thomasson Road  
Mesquite, Texas 75150

Adult Discipleship Class .....1:00 pm  
(2nd and 4th Sundays)

Teen Discipleship Class .....10:00 am

Pre-Teen Class .....11:30 am

kidZone & Kids for Christ.....11:30 am

Worship Service.....11:00 am

[www.pathwayofgrace.org](http://www.pathwayofgrace.org)



## Dr. Jutsum Creates Atmosphere of Joy and Worship



Dr. Ross Jutsum

In a message entitled "The Amazing Love of the Father", Ross Jutsum on addressed our congregation and led worship on February 13th.

Beginning with a video shot by his nephew of the severe flooding in Queensland, Australia, he said this video had over six million hits on YouTube and urging to the brethren to pray for his native land, which went from extreme drought last year to catastrophic flooding this year.

"God appreciates the prayer of a little child as much as a choir singing the Hallelujah Chorus," and Dr. Jutsum invited everyone to sit back and relax "because we're in the family room."

He recalled growing up in Australia without cell phones, computers or video games, so his family spent time worshipping around the piano. During the he played an instrumental, Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Adoring." Years ago the group *Apollo 100* adapted it as a rock song.

He also played a song he wrote which was inspired by the rocks of the Rocky Mountains and the Grand Canyon. "There's only one living Rock in all creation, Jesus Christ;

even the rocks cry out in praise to God. The stars praise Him. How much more should we?"

During a segment in which he invited the children to join him at the front of the sanctuary, he performed a song about God delivering Daniel in the lion's den. At times he encouraged various audience members to provide the lion's roar. "Daniel was 80 years old when he was in the lion's den," he said.

Another song, "The Great Celebration" addressed the Prodigal Son. "While the son was long way off, the Father ran to him," the guest speaker said. "The Prodigal Son helps us understand our Father. The son represents each one of us. Our Father can't wait to throw his arms around us, welcome us home and invite us

*"Father, I belong to you and you belong to me. Jesus, you're my liberty and you have set me free." - From "You Belong to Me" By Dr. Ross Jutsum*

to the celebration. The Father leads the dance."

The musician discussed a song he wrote for his wife, Tammy, while visiting a church in the Bahamas. While listening to a steel drum band in the marketplace, he saw a man on a dance floor dancing with children. The man then walked his wife onto the floor and they danced a graceful waltz. Then he took turns dancing with other ladies. Dr. Jutsum wished he had spent more time dancing with his daughters Heidi, 26 and Lisa, 23.

Heidi is pursuing her master's degree at Yale and is in charge of dignitaries

who visit the university. She is on a first name basis with General Stanley McCrystal. Heidi's husband, Ryan, is seeking a Phd at Yale. Lisa is working overseas for an organization that feeds the hungry.

Dr. Jutsum played a recording of Tammy singing a song he had written for her, "You Belong to Me." The refrain says: "Father, I belong to you and you belong to me. Jesus, you're my liberty and you have set me free." The musician recalled meeting his future wife when he was director of the Young Ambassadors and she was student who performed in the group. In May they will celebrate their 33rd wedding anniversary. He wrote "The Anniversary Song" for Tammy to celebrate "the 31st anniversary of her 19th birthday."

Dr. Jutsum's travels have taken him all over the world to churches of 150 different denominations and a number of non-denominational churches. Sometimes while he is in a given city, he'll look for a nursing home where he can give a free concert. He recalled doing a concert at a Jewish nursing home in Boston where he met a resident named Jeannette, the home's activity director. During the concert Jeannette was healed of a lifelong neck pain. She turned 100 years old prior to his next visit to the home.

His presentation included a number of eye-catching graphics. He is now in the 14th year of his **State of the Heart** music ministry. He asked for prayers for his family and himself. He concluded the service by asking everyone to stand, join hands and sing "In Christ Alone."

~ Frank Lewandowski



Worship and Teaching through music and video with Dr. Ross Jutsum and Leo Burnett, supported by children of all ages.



The "Family Room" experience

## In Celebration of Black History Month

On February 27th, Pathway of Grace celebrated Black History Month with a special service. Worship leader Tammy Ford gave a reading about Peter Claver, a Jesuit priest who lived in the 1600's and served slaves for over forty years.



Tammy Ford

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"I often wondered how the slaves came to know and accept Christ long time ago. God gave me that answer this month while I was changing channels & stopped to listen to a Catholic priest. He mentioned Alfonso de Sandoval, a Jesuit Priest who devoted his life to serving slaves for 40 years. I wrote the name down and later searched his name on the web, finding information on him but even more about his predecessor, **Peter Claver**, also a Jesuit priest, served the slaves for over 40 years and declared himself "the slave of slaves forever." The term Jesuit refers to the Society of Jesus, which is a religious order of clerics within the Catholic Church, focused upon education, evangelism, and the support of the Christian faith. Sandoval and Claver were the only two priests given the task of ministering to African slaves.

Claver was born in Verdu, Spain in 1570. Claver's parents were devout Catholics and taught Peter from early childhood to let nothing come between him and the love of God. Noted for his piety and high intelligence, Claver entered the Jesuit College at age 22 in Palma, Majorca in 1602. After two years of study there, he wrote these words in a notebook which he kept with him throughout his life: *"I must dedicate myself to the service of God until death, on the understanding that I am like a slave."*

Ten thousand slaves poured into the port yearly; crossing the Atlantic from West Africa under conditions so foul and inhumane that an estimated one-third of them died in transit. Although slave-trading was condemned by Pope Paul III and later labeled "supreme villainy" by Pope Pius IX, there were fortunes to be made and it continued to flourish.

Although timid and lacking in self-confidence, Claver became a daring and ingenious organizer. As soon as a slave ship entered the port, he headed for the wharf to doctor and minister to the ill-treated and terrified human cargo. Claver said, *"We must speak to them with our hands before we try to speak to them with our lips."* Claver plunged in among them with medicines, food, bread, brandy, lemons and tobacco. With the help of interpreters and pictures which Claver carried with him, he gave basic instruction and assured the slaves of their human dignity and God's saving love.

During the 44 years of his ministry, Claver single-handedly instructed and baptized an estimated 300,000 of these slaves. Furthermore, Claver followed up to see that as Christians they were accorded their legal rights. Through years of his unrelenting toil the situation of the slaves slowly began to improve. He was canonized in 1888, and Pope Leo XIII declared him the world-wide patron of missionary work among black slaves.

~ Tammy Ford (submitted by Frank Lewandowski)

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Ted Dusek introduced a CD presentation of Negro Spirituals from a performance at Carnegie Hall by renowned Wintley Phipps. *"He is a world-renowned musician with multiple advanced degrees in theology. He's an ordained minister who has performed for six consecutive U.S. Presidents, ranging from Jimmy Carter to Barack Obama. Mr. Phipps has also performed at several National Prayer Breakfast events and other distinguished celebrations."*

In the video, Mr. Phipps says that almost any Negro Spiritual can be played with just the black piano keys and he demonstrates that. He plays the "white spiritual" **Amazing Grace** and hums it the way he said he hears it, with the sound of the waves hitting the slave ship and the sounds of some of the slaves sobbing and gasping below decks. Then he sings it slowly and we can join in and sing with him.

Mr. Phipps says he is fortunate to have lived a blessed life and fulfilled his childhood dreams. He's won numerous accolades for his music and philanthropic work. He credits much of his success and good fortune to a higher power. "I've never had a manager,

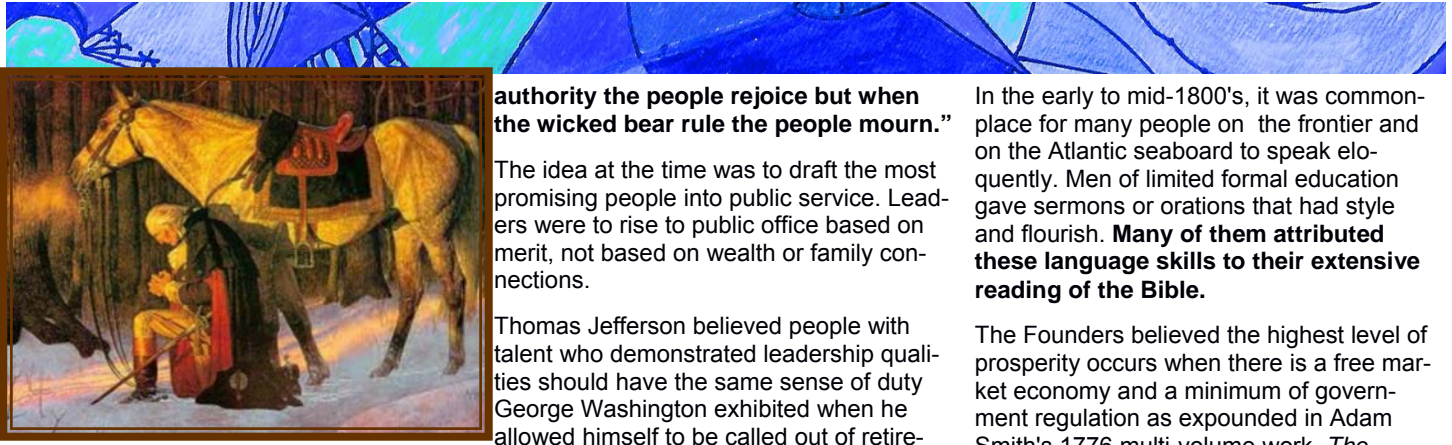
I've never had an agent, but I've had what I call hook-ups from heaven," he says.

For more than twenty-five years, he has traveled the world delivering messages of hope, advocacy, and equality to many thousands of people. A video of Phipps performing "Amazing Grace" has enjoyed nearly six million views on YouTube.

Our February 27th our church service also featured musical talent from the congregation including a vocal solo by Earl Thomas, "In the Garden" and Barry Ford performing a saxophone solo, "Wade In the Water." ~ Frank Lewandowski



Earl Thomas



# AMERICA'S GODLY FOUNDATION

In a message on February 27th, I pointed out that many of the key people who helped start our country were Christians. They purposely began America based on Godly principles and ideals of freedom, liberty and every person having certain God-given rights.

My main source for the message was a book called "The 5,000 Year Leap" by Dr. W. Cleon Skousen. Our Founders ranged from farmers to presidents of universities. The Founders were remarkably well-read, mostly from the same books. They were also students of the Bible. They came up with 28 different principles on which America was founded, and believed God created all things and upon him all people are equally dependent. We are also all equally **responsible** to God. John Adams said we have rights that pre-date **"all earthly governments, rights that cannot be repealed or restrained by human laws, rights derived from the Great Legislator of the Universe."**

**The Founders said that religion is necessary to maintain the government of a free people.**

**The core unit that determines the strength of any society is the family and the government should foster and protect its integrity.**

America's leaders had been teaching them that a free people cannot survive in a republic unless they remain virtuous and morally sound. Samuel Adams had said the people also needed to have wise and virtuous leaders.

**A favorite scripture of that era was Prov. 29:2: "When the righteous are in**

**authority the people rejoice but when the wicked bear rule the people mourn."**

The idea at the time was to draft the most promising people into public service. Leaders were to rise to public office based on merit, not based on wealth or family connections.

Thomas Jefferson believed people with talent who demonstrated leadership qualities should have the same sense of duty George Washington exhibited when he allowed himself to be called out of retirement three different times to serve his country. **Washington declined a salary as both general of the Continental army, a post he held for eight years, and later during his eight years as president.**

In 1787 Congress passed the Northwest Ordinance, which encouraged schools to teach religion and morality. The Founders sought to provide equality for all religions, both Christian and non-Christian. The Founders did not object to religious meetings taking place in public buildings. In Charlottesville, VA near Jefferson's home the courthouse was rented out one Sunday a month to a different religious denomination so each church rented it once every four weeks on a rotating basis.

**The Founders were God-fearing people. Days of prayer and fasting were common and leaders sought their Maker both privately and publicly. They were quick to thank him for intervening in their personal lives and for sparing our country from one danger after another. The book says George Washington faced at least sixty-seven different occasions where he felt God's intervention had saved Americans in their struggle for independence.**

*The author extensively quotes Alexis de Tocqueville, a French official who traveled extensively in America from 1831 to 1835 then wrote a book called *Democracy In America*.*

**De Tocqueville wrote that faith was so common that a county court judge in New York was shocked to learn a witness did not believe in God. The judge disallowed his evidence, feeling the non-believer had thus destroyed all confidence in what he was about to say.**

For de Tocqueville, the secret to America's success and power as a nation was in its churches. He said: **"America is great because she is good. And if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great."**

In the early to mid-1800's, it was commonplace for many people on the frontier and on the Atlantic seaboard to speak eloquently. Men of limited formal education gave sermons or orations that had style and flourish. **Many of them attributed these language skills to their extensive reading of the Bible.**

The Founders believed the highest level of prosperity occurs when there is a free market economy and a minimum of government regulation as expounded in Adam Smith's 1776 multi-volume work, *The Wealth of Nations*.

The free market created an atmosphere that encouraged creativity and an entrepreneurial spirit. **By 1905, the United States was the richest industrial nation in the world with only 5% of the world's land and 6% of its population yet producing more than half of virtually all goods and services in the world.**

Today, our nation faces many challenges and it behooves us to pray and seek God like the Founders did many generations ago.

~ Frank Lewandowski

## The Pastor comments on Black History Month

"Black history has to do with all nations. Thank God we're a nation that has freedom," Pastor Bob said at our Black History Month service. He said America began as a Christian nation and 145 years ago Abraham Lincoln made the Emancipation Proclamation to free the slaves."

"Black History Month helps us realize we need to recognize the worth in each other," the minister said. He cited John 3:16-17, which talks about how God so loves the world as proof that He loves all races. "In Acts 17:22 Paul proclaimed to the Athenians the 'Unknown God' whom they had been worshipping in ignorance. All nations sprang from Adam and Eve whom God created so we are all neighbors. The Church is to bring everyone together," Pastor Bob said. "Many congregations are of only one race and they don't get to know the other races. We need to really love one another with the love that comes only from God. We need to see the value God has placed in His children. We need to love one another and it starts in the Body of Jesus Christ. God bless America and the fact that we can be together. Thank God for the freedom to believe."

~ Frank Lewandowski

# THE HOW-TO'S OF CHURCH GROWTH

**Dr. Dan Rogers**

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Dan Rogers on shared with our congregation his enthusiasm about the recent Generations Ministry conference in Cedar Hill. "By God's grace it transformed into an emerging leaders conference," he said. Over 100 people attended and three-quarters of them were under age thirty. Participants came from all over the U.S. One of them is pastoring a church he started. Dr. Rogers expressed great enthusiasm and hope about such a large number of people in their twenties and thirties who want to pastor churches.

The church also held a multiplication team leadership meeting to strategize about starting new churches. He said our congregation has the resources to be effective in church multiplication because of our number of members, talents and gifts, financial stewardship and leadership.

"What is the score card for your church?" he asked, adding that many churches evaluate their effectiveness based on the number of people attending and total financial donations. "Nickels, numbers and noses are not the complete scorecard," he said. "Today, I'm going to suggest a new scorecard. The Gospel produces changes in **individuals, congregations and communities.**" The minister expounded on Acts 1 and the weeks after Jesus' ascension when the 120 disciples including Jesus' mothers, brothers and sisters met frequently for prayer. "The Believers were close," he said. "They were seeking how to get on mission with God."

He stressed the need for that attitude of prayerful dependence to motivate us today. "When you meet at church, do you expect anything to happen?" he asked. He advocated

having some variety in our church services so people will be moved to come see what God is doing in our midst. "The 120 were expecting something big to happen for Pentecost, and they were praying about it," Dr. Rogers said. "You've got to plan to be together."



He said that every church thinks it's friendly but that's not enough, we need to develop relationships. "The Holy Spirit works in community. God is a relational God. Jesus will appear in loving relationships with other people. People need to belong before they can believe." He spoke of the Holy Spirit having a missionary mentality. As the result of mission the disciples developed more community, exploding in one day from 120 to 3,000 people. "Food is community. Building relationships is everything in Christianity," he said.

The speaker talked about seven elements necessary in a transformational church:

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Missionary Mentality      | Prayerful Dependence |
| Vibrant Leadership        | Worship              |
| Relational Intentionality | Community            |
| Mission                   |                      |

"A transformed life leads to a transformed church leads to a transformed community," he said. "If your church disappeared tomorrow, would the community notice? Ultimately, the Holy Spirit will transform the world. The Holy Spirit propels us if we are eager to participate."

The church on March 27 had the opportunity to view a video about the seven elements listed above.

*~ Frank Lewandowski*

On March 20th, Carl Clopton thanked our members for their work in cleaning and organizing his house while he prepared to come home after several weeks of recovery from surgery. He said all the work done on behalf of Larissa and he was humbled. "It's called family," he said. "That's how it should be."

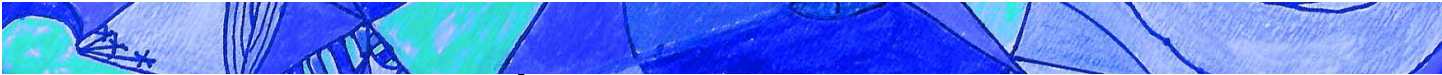
Carl and his late wife, Susan, moved love and brotherhood," he said. "The one another before and after church. we should lay down our lives for one everyone."

## Thanks

to Dallas in 1984. "Service is done from only way to have brotherhood is seeing Because God laid down his life for us, another. This a blanket thank you for

After he spoke, Bruce Hard told the congregation: "Carl has done a lot to help others over the years. He's right -- we're family."

*~Frank Lewandowski*



# PRAYERFUL DEPENDENCE



"There is a great need for true transformation in the Body of Jesus Christ," Pastor Bob told our congregation on March 20th. He added that prayerful dependence is one of the key elements that makes a church transformational.

"The change takes place because he is the Potter and we are the clay. He gets all the glory." The pastor spoke of how connecting with God in prayer changes us.

Referring to a book entitled Transformational Church, he described how such a church makes disciples whose lives the Gospel transforms so ultimately the society around them changes as well. Churches that become prayerfully dependent grow and do the work of God. "These people change everything they touch," the minister said.

"How much do we trust in ourselves and how much do we trust in Jesus Christ? How soon do we pray? Whatever Jesus saw the Father do, he would do. Jesus is not only our example, He's in us, which is how we grow."

The pastor asked the congregation to read aloud the model prayer Jesus gave in Matt. 6:9-13. In Matt. 21: 12-13 Jesus drove out the money changers and overturned their tables because prayer was not going on in the temple, God's House.

Prayer is part of the whole armor of God in which we cry "Abba", "Dearest Father." The speaker said: "**Jesus is our mouth by whom we pray to God.** We depend completely upon Jesus Christ. Without Him, we could not be presented to the Father. He makes us holy."

Pastor Bob outlined some prayerful dependence goals for our congregation:

There are prayer opportunities for every member. No one is left out. Pray in groups, over the phone, with at least one other person.

Monthly prayer meetings

Prayer connected to Life Net with everyone praying for one another as needs arise.

Prayer walks in neighborhoods.

E-mail updates on individuals' prayer needs.

He recalled the results of some prayer walking he had done years ago in Orlando, FL. While his neighborhood was under construction, he prayed over an empty lot, asking God to put someone there who would help him serve the community. A Baptist family built on the lot, got to know Pastor Bob and talked about him as "the neighborhood pastor." That way, he kept learning of ways to help the local residents.

When one couple had a daughter whose appendix burst, he went to the hospital to see the family. He prayed over the girl and she began to recuperate immediately. The day Pastor Bob and Kay were leaving to move from Orlando to Dallas, the father came over, shook his hand and thanked him.

~Frank Lewandowski

Treasured Friends

Make new friends, but keep the old;  
Those are silver, these are gold.  
New-made friendships,  
Like new wine,  
Age will mellow and refine.  
Friendships that have stood the test ~  
Time and change ~  
Are surely the best;  
Brow may wrinkle, hair grow gray;  
Friendship never knows decay.  
For 'mid old friends, tried and true,  
Once more we reach and youth renew,  
But old friends, alas! may die;  
New friends must their place supply;  
Cherish friendships in your breast~  
New is good, but old is best;  
Make new friends, but keep the old;  
Those are silver, these are gold.

~ Joseph Parry

Treasured Friends

## Frank's Second Novel Nears Publication

Frank Lewandowski's second novel, *Light Years From Tranquility*, will be published in late April or early May. The book is the sequel to his first novel, *Light Years From Paradise*.

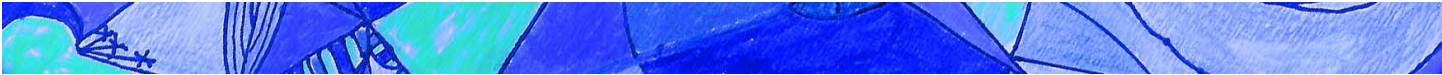
The publisher is Wipf and Stock of Eugene, OR. The volume will be available in both paper and electronic formats at the publisher's web site, [wipfandstock.com](http://wipfandstock.com) and through other online book sellers such as Amazon, Borders and Barnes and Noble. In addition, Frank will have a limited number of copies available.

*Light Years From Tranquility* takes place in the distant future. An enemy of Mankind is destroying space colonies, causing human expansion among the stars to come to a halt. Unaware these events have been taking place, Starship Captain Erik Houston is enroute to headquarters. He can't stop thinking about Zama, a female Believer from the last planet he visited. A shocking discovery aboard his ship causes him to question her motives. Despite his concerns he seeks to get re-assigned to her planet. Instead, his superiors send his crew and he on a high-risk mission against the aliens.

Some highly improbable events unfold yet seem meant to be, as if an unseen hand were guiding things. First Officer Fred Montoya, a religious skeptic, wonders if there is a God after all. The story offers adventure and a romance that transcends time and space.

Wipf and Stock produces books on theology, Biblical studies and church history. Established in 1995, the firm started as a joint venture between book store owners in Pasadena, CA and Eugene.

~ Frank Lewandowski



# REPENTANCE

# MEN'S MINISTRY MEETING

On January 16th the congregation enjoyed a video from Dr. Mike Feazell on repentance.

Pastor Bob introduced the message and said he's viewed it a number of times but continues to learn something new. He indicated that as we grasp who Jesus is, we will feel like the woman who was so grateful for Jesus' forgiveness that she washed his feet with her tears. "As you go further into grace, God will overwhelm you with his goodness," the pastor said.

***"You are totally secure in Christ forever. The more you learn about grace the more Godly you want to be. The biggest miracle of all will be when God makes us perfect."***

Dr. Feazell spoke of how some people feel God has rejected them because of repeated sins and that some people feel repentance means to stop sinning. But he said repentance really means realizing that we are God's and he paid a heavy price for us.

"Trust God to have mercy on you," he said. "He is our Savior, Teacher, Sanctifier. He loves you for who you are, his beloved child in Christ." He said Christ's resurrection redeems and makes right all our failures.

"Repentance is about trusting God to be your righteousness, not trying to do better on your own. We can rest in Christ because we trust in Him."

Dr. Feazell said God did not wait until we were behaving better before forgiving us. Repentance is coming to believe he has already forgiven us. Faith and repentance go hand in hand.

"Don't try to make yourself worth something to Christ," he said. "We were dead. Christ raises people from the dead. Repentance involves the Shepherd finding the sheep. The Prodigal son accepted his deadness and lostness. He learned his father had never stopped loving him unconditionally.

"To believe that God has washed away your sins and made you alive in His Son IS to repent. God loves us and is righteous and gracious to us. Repentance is saying "yes" to God's "yes." Rest in Him and give Him our burdens."

~ Frank Lewandowski

Nine men met to discuss outreach on Sunday, January 16th. The meeting began about 1 p.m. in the Teen Ministry Room. Those attending included Leo Burnett, Ronnie Boyce, Carl Clopton, Andrew Gordon, Niall Quinlan, David Boyce, Mark Schnee, David Miller, and Mike Read. Mr. Burnett opened the meeting with prayer.

Mr. Burnett read an email received from Richard Rutter in which the men were urged to provide input to the program, to promote growth, and not to stay static. The email included a story of a woman who paid for a stranger's groceries while standing in line at the grocery store. The stranger repaid the woman and included \$93.00 extra, telling the woman to treat herself. The woman gave the money to a local food bank and thus was started, the 9300 club, which essentially pays favors forward. The point was that we should keep our minds open to what God puts in front of us.

The focus of the meeting was improvements to the Men's Ministry Website. Malcolm Elliott continues to maintain the church's website. The question was asked why have a webpage? Several answered that it was a communication tool, and was intended to help the church to grow. David Miller explained that it would be possible to set up a 'wiki' that would permit more communication, and would be almost like a blog. One of the benefits is that the technology could facilitate communication among members in various age groups, and allow young people to describe our church to others who might attend if they had a perception of what Pathway of Grace is.

Mr. Burnett said that our talents are a gift from God and that we need to 'come out from under the bushel basket.' He asked the men to pray about the webpage and what can be done to improve the outreach. Mr. Burnett said that his vision is "Let us touch every place we can for the Lord."

Another breakfast is being planned, and also a Friday night – Saturday retreat within the Pathway of Grace building.

Mark Schnee closed the meeting in prayer. The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

~ Mike Read, scribe

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH UPDATE

Leo Burnett gave our congregation an inside look at Children's Church on March 6th.

"We've been having a lot of fun in class," he said. "We've been talking about how everybody is a kid of God."

He showed slides of each of the children and said "We all play a part in that. We're all part of the Kingdom."

One classroom activity involved drawing a picture of a man, cutting it into pieces and putting it back together. "All parts fit together," Leo said. A head or a foot by itself can't do much. It takes everybody, all parts of the body to function right. Jesus is the Head of the Body."

The classes also talked about the beginnings of our country and what the Founders did to establish it, including the countless hours they spent writing the Constitution. The kids came up with their own Declaration of Independence listing traits they thought were important for this new American nation, including:

- Pursue peace
- Be able to speak freely
- Low taxes
- Treat others kindly
- Treat others with freedom
- Be nice to others

The kids signed the names of several of the Founders such as Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Samuel Adams and John Adams.

Leo told the brethren: "We want all of you to understand that we're in this together. We're all kids so now we're going to lead you in a song." Everyone then sang "If You're Happy And You Know It" while a slideshow showed various adults in the congregation.

~ Frank Lewandowski

## VEGGIE TALES VIDEO TEACHES BIBLICAL TRUTHS

On March 6th, the church held a special children's service in which a Veggie Tales video served as the main message for kids and adults alike. Veggie Tales is a humorous series in which animated vegetables teach Bible stories and Christian principles.

That day, the front of the sanctuary held a number of bean bag chairs to enable the children to enjoy the video in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere. The message was "The Ballad of Little Joe" and is based on the Biblical story of Joseph, except done as an old-time Western movie. (You can already see where some of the humor comes in.)

As in the Bible version, Little Joe suffers at the hand of his jealous brothers who sell him like merchandise in order to get rid of him. While spending time in jail for a crime he didn't commit, he tells the sheriff: "God is good. I don't know why I'm here, but I'll find out."

Sometimes he'd wonder what God was doing and at one point prayed: "I'm trying to do what's right but I'm a little confused."

Eventually, his God-given ability to interpret dreams and his prudence as a wise steward put Little Joe in the position of saving his town and his long-lost family from the prophesied seven lean years that ravaged the land. He told his brothers: "What you intended for harm, God meant for good. How could I not forgive you?"

One of the animated hosts of the Veggie Tales series, Bob the Tomato concluded: "Good things and bad things happen to everyone. God can use the good things and the bad things to make something great. (Romans 8:28).

"God loves you as much as Little Joe. If you try to do what's right, you might be surprised what God will do. God made you special and He loves you."

~Frank Lewandowski





The annual Teen Lock-In began Friday, January 7th at 7:00 p.m. and ended Saturday morning at approx. 6:00 a.m. It was held at the Pathway of Grace Church building. There were 14 teens in attendance and, since our teens were encouraged to invite their friends, 9 of those were guests. We also had four adult chaperones who lasted the whole night, barely.

Since the Lock-In was in early January, it had a “New Year’s” theme. The evening began with Mama Newkirk greeting the teens and giving them a welcome gift of candy and party favors all packed in a New Year’s party hat.

## Annual Teen Lock-In

The teens first participated in a Bible lesson presented by Mama Newkirk. Staying with the theme of “New”, she used I John 13:34 and Col. 3:10 to discuss the “new commandment” Jesus gave and becoming a “new man” in Christ.

After the lesson, a feast “fit for a teen” was served... taquitos, Bagel Bites, Pizza Rolls, burgers, chips, nachos, Oreos and of course, lots and lots of CREAM SODA!!

Once the meal was done, the organized games began. This year consisted of a wide variety and got high marks from the teens. (Good job, Mama!) The teens were divided into three teams. They competed in games such as: snatching tissues being blown off a straw by a teammate using only their blowout party favor (you have to see it to believe it), one team member catching popcorn in their mouth while all their teammates are throwing pieces at them – at one time, and playing some common games like Pictionary and word matching but using the New Year’s theme. They also had to build the Times Square New Year’s Eve ball using the limited supplies given. (These magnificent creations are still on display in the Teen Room). By far the messiest game of the evening was the Toe Jam game where they had to put their bare foot into a tub of gooshy Jello to retrieve tiny buried prizes. To round out the evening, they had to answer New Year’s trivia for a chance to whack at the midnight striking clock piñata filled with yet more candy.

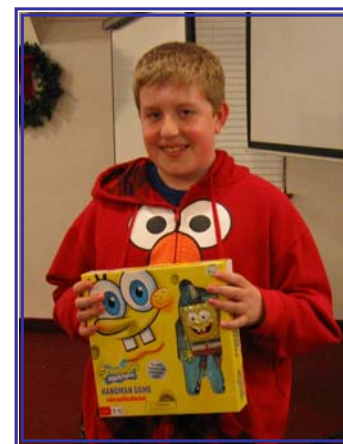
After the organized games were complete, the rest of the night was free time for the teens to play various other games and continue to snack at the bountiful food table. Also throughout the night, the teens had the chance to win prizes with the raffle tickets they had won during the games earlier.

We want to thank the teens, their friends, the parents including Cheryl Miller and Debbie Hard (who sacrificed a night’s sleep to serve the teens) for making yet another very successful Lock-In. Mama Newkirk and Mrs. G. are so appreciative of the Pathway teens and their wonderful friends for letting us serve them and be a part of their lives. ~ Jean Grunheid



Guests Lauren Pugh and Andrew Smith

Guest Lauren Pugh using her blowout party favor trying to snatch the tissue being blown into the air with a straw by guest Andrew Smith. Official game description: Tissue Snatchers—Have your group form pairs, and give each pair a chair with a back, a drinking straw, a party favor and 10 facial tissues. One partner sits straddling the chair, facing its back with the party favor in his/her mouth. The other partner lies on the floor with a straw in his/her mouth, draping a facial tissue over the top of the straw and blowing the tissue up into the air. The partner in the chair then blows the party favor and tries to snatch the tissue with it. “You’d have to see it to believe it” says the chaperone.



Michael Schnee



L-R: Matthew Hard, William Kuhn, Christian Taylor, Michael Schnee, Alexandria Shelton



L-R: Nathan Hard, Mark Miller, Gordon Herrmann, Spencer Warren, Cody Samples

Teams with their completed Times Square New Year's Eve ball replicas awaiting the judge's decision.

*These creations were built with limited supplies furnished them. They are on display in the Teen Room.*



L-R: Josh Medeiros, Hannah Ceniseros, Andrew Smith, Lauren Pugh



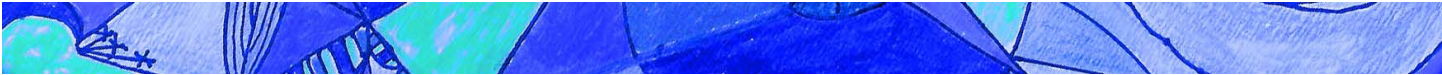
Cheryl Miller holding the "striking midnight" pinata.



"Toe Jam" game tub of Jell-O and small items to be retrieved with their toes. After all the teens were done, Mama Newkirk even took a turn, braving the ice cold, sticky Jell-O with her bare foot. This was by far the messiest game of the evening.



Photos and story by  
Jean Grunheid and  
Mama Newkirk



## **Pathway of Grace Church The Financial Status of the Church**

Our church is required by our corporate manual to inform the local membership about our financial status. Therefore, we hope that you will take the time to read the report and be informed.

### ***Income & Expenses***

The year 2010 ended with almost the same income in 2009. We projected that we would receive \$112,500, and we came close, with income of \$112,000. We anticipated that we would receive \$2,000 of interest income but due to low interest rates in 2010, we did not receive much interest on our certificates of deposit.

Our expenses stayed mostly within the budget. A number of our expense categories were well below their budgeted amount.

### ***History***

For the past four years, the church has been operating on a deficit. We are thankful that before 2007, the church had surpluses. Those reserves have allowed us to continue to operate as a church.

The income has gone down significantly for the last four years due to smaller number of membership. However, the expenses have not gone down as much as the income mainly because of some fixed expenses. For example, we have to pay our hall rent, utilities, pastoral salaries, and continue our different ministries within the church.

The decentralized financial operation started in the last quarter of 2005. In 2006, the first full year of decentralized operation, our income was \$181,000. For 2010, our year-end income stood at \$112,000. There has been a drop of 38% in income.

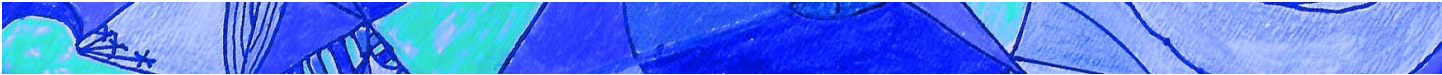
On the expense side, in 2006, we spent \$100,000 since we have no paid pastor for several months at that time. For 2010, we spent \$129,000. Assuming we spent for paid pastors in 2006, the percentage drop in expense from 2006 to 2010 would have been 26%.

Our church continues to support evangelism and mission projects, and give an apportionment to Headquarters that supports church-wide evangelistic efforts.

Our church has been supporting the Bengali Evangelistic Association, giving at least \$1000 every year. We also have been sending gift boxes for the Samaritan Purse for a number of years now. For 2010, we took up a special offering at Christmas to support the GCI congregation in the refugee camp in Ghana.

On the next page is a graph which captures the summary of our financial status the last five years.

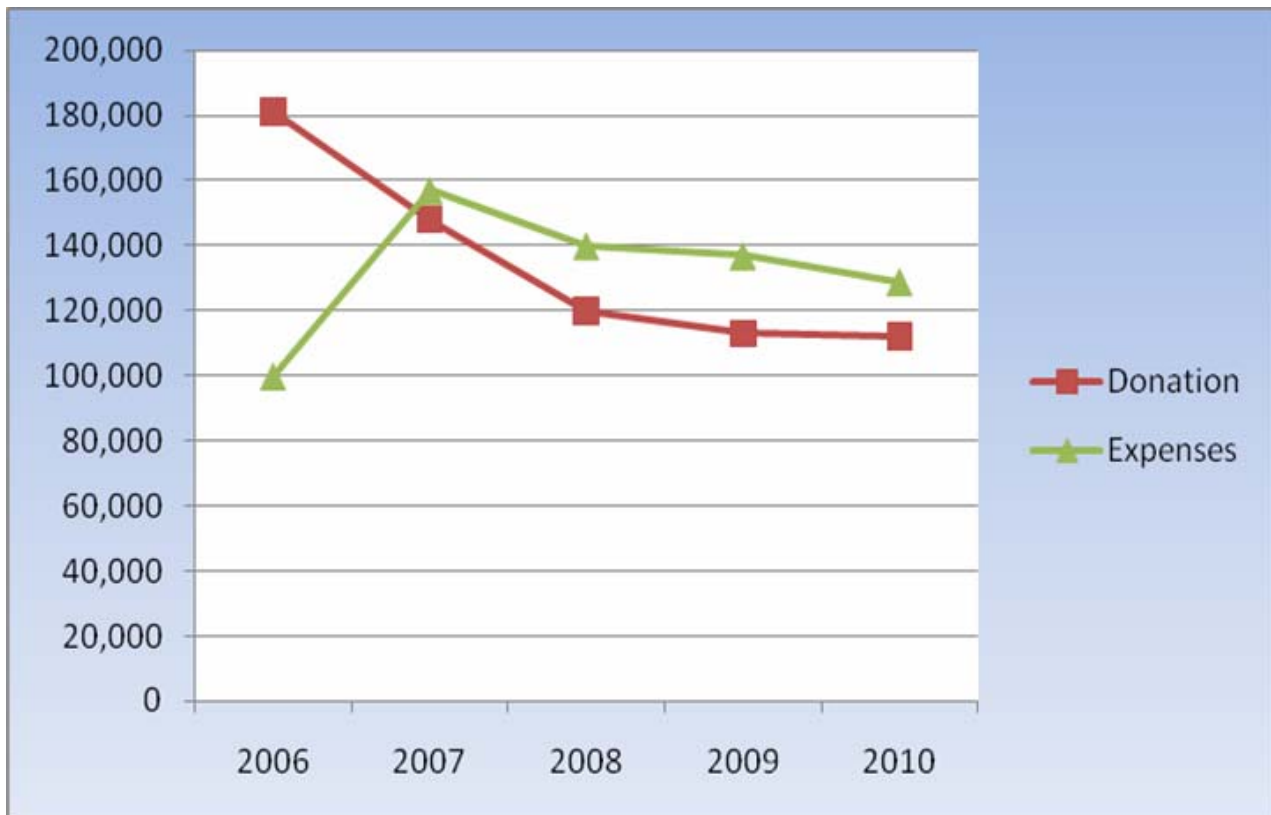
*(Continued on page 13)*



## The Financial Status of the Church

(continued)

Pathway of Grace Church  
Income and Expense Graph  
2006-2010



### ***Looking forward***

In the past, we have provided the financial activities for your information and we will continue to do so.

As a congregation that has the heart to do the work of God, we look forward to a better 2011. We pray that God will bless our church spiritually and financially. It is our goal to operate with a balanced budget and we truly appreciate your generosity, faithfulness and prayers to achieve this goal.

May God bless us all individually and collectively!!!

~ Pastor Robert Persky

~ Brian and Caroline Holsenbeck, Treasurer



# A MILLION MILES IN A THOUSAND YEARS

By Donald Miller

Donald Miller has written several best selling Christian books but a A Million Miles may be his most effective yet as the author describes experiences that transformed his life into a better, more meaningful one. He discusses how we can consciously do the same.

The book's sub-title is "What I Learned While Editing My Life". Most people would already consider Miller's life meaningful due to his literary accomplishments and involvement with his church. But he reveals that after his initial success he became complacent and somewhat of a couch potato. But by the end of the book we learn he had faced one of his greatest personal fears, had gone on a grueling hiking and camping expedition high in the mountains of Argentina, had started a significant new relationship and had participated in a cross-country bicycle ride for charity.

He began to change after meeting

Steve and Ben, two film makers who wanted to make of movie of one of Miller's books, Blue Like Jazz. The book was based on the author's experiences in his Christian walk. But as Steve and Ben began to explore the book, they found several aspects that would make for a less-than-compelling movie. Miller began to realize in some ways his life looked rather mundane, lacking much of the heroism, conflict and excitement we would expect from our fictional heroes.

He began to wonder how he could make his personal life story better. He shared some of these thoughts with a friend who was having trouble with his teenager daughter. Don's comments got the friend thinking and inspired some action that helped greatly improve his family situation.

When his Uncle Art unexpectedly passed away, Don learned the uncle had devoted his life to running a camp to help troubled teens turn their lives around. Uncle Art had lived a good life story. He had done something that truly mattered. Later the author met a Bob, a spontaneous and humorous attorney who had de-

voted his life to fostering understanding with leaders of other nations. Bob and his family had been living a fascinating story.

Meanwhile, Don and the two producers continued to work on the movie script. One of the producers and he attended a seminar conducted by a Hollywood legend on the art of script writing and film making. As Don learned how to improve the script, he found the same methods would allow him to "edit" his own life and make his own personal story better. He shares those secrets for our benefit.



This is a great book especially for writers but it is really for anyone interested in having more fun and excitement, learning how to live the abundant life Jesus promised us in John 10:10. A Million Miles shows us how to come closer to our God-given potential, thus giving more praise and glory to His name.

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