



Grace focus

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE IMMANUEL BIBLE CHURCH
JANUARY 2015 – VOLUME 1

LET US PERCEIVE

*“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a **new thing**; now it springs forth, do **you not perceive it**? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:18-19 ESV*

Happy New Years!! I'm sure you are all jumping for joy at the thought of making a New Year's resolution, for the millionth time, and all the new days ahead; 365 to be exact. I spent some time reading a few devotionals and encouraging messages pertaining to the New Year, and they all were the same ol' thing I've heard year after year. Not that these messages are bad in any way, the message of, "Seek God in a Greater Way in 2015" is good...positive...encouraging, but what does it even mean?!? Should I find more exciting praise songs to sing? Deeper worship songs to give Him? Pray better? Louder? Longer? No. Well, yes. Yes, we should desire to do all of those things, but not because we feel pressured to start the New Year off with a big bang. Isaiah says,

“Now it springs forth, DO YOU NOT PERCEIVE IT?” I want to perceive it! I want this year to be spent noticing the new thing that God is doing in every moment of my life. The life giving things that He is doing in our community, our families and our nation. He is making a way in the wilderness of our lives. In those dry times that leave you parched and thirsting for more. *THAT* is the kind of new thing I long for. Let's get healthy. Let's be more aware of our words and actions. Those are all good things, but what if we all looked at our lives, our moments, asking God to show us the new thing He is doing? Asking how we can be a vessel to share His love and grace. To share Elohay Yishi - God Of My Salvation: (Psalm 18:46) with others.

-Drea Eady

Church Events

- Jan 4th-First Sunday/No Sunday School
- Jan 7th-Wed night Bible study in Colossians 3
- Jan 9th-Mens Meeting (Clark Sexton's house)
- Jan 14th-Wednesday night Bible study in Colossians 4/YOUTH GROUP
- Jan 21st-Wednesday night Bible study in Colossians 5/YOUTH GROUP
- Jan 28th-Wednesday night Bible study in Colossians 6/YOUTH GROUP

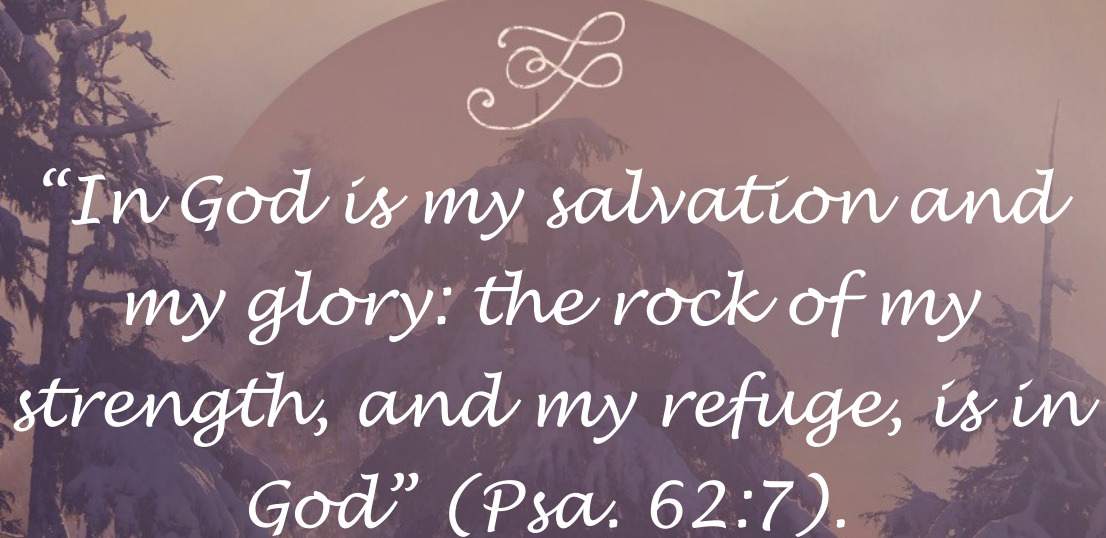
The Limpet and the Rock

There is a little sea creature called *Noto acmaea testudinalis*. It is a little gastropod animal having arched, non-spiraling shells with broad ventral openings. These little things are all over the world. They cling tenaciously to rocks and submerged timber. By the way, they are better known as Limpets.

What they do is scrape out a place on a rock and cling to it. They occasionally leave the rock to forage for food, but always return. The only danger they face in life is when they are not

clinging to the rock. Charles Haddon Spurgeon made use of the limpet in the following illustration.

“Our little friend the limpet does not know much, but he clings. He cannot tell us much about what he is clinging to, is not acquainted with the geological formation of the rock, but he clings! He has found something to cling to; and with his little bit of knowledge, he uses it to cling to the rock of his salvation; it is the limpet's life to cling. Thousands of God's people have no more faith than this; they know to cling to Jesus with all their heart and soul and this suffices.



“In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God” (Psa. 62:7).

Jesus Christ is to them a Savior strong and mighty. And they cleave to Him as to a rock unmovable and immutable.”

“In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God” (Psa. 62:7).

I cannot comprehend the nature of God, but I believe (Job. 9:10). God is beyond my comprehension. Where my feeble understanding fails, faith takes over. I need no deep and complicated explanation of my God in heaven in order to have a faith that keeps me in the cleft of the Rock of Ages. *From the end of the earth will I*

cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I” (Psa. 61:2).

O Rock in the desert, I fly unto thee,

When tempest and storms sweep the sky.

I hide in the cleft that was riven for me,

For safety on Thee I rely.

~BE A SPIRITUAL LIMPET~

Testimonies

Sarah Stockman and her family have been a part of our community at Grace for 4 1/2 years.

A few weeks ago, my kitchen sink drain got clogged for a couple of days. I tend to let things like that get under my skin. I



tried everything that I knew to do to fix it, Drano, plunger, snake, more Drano – nothing was working. I had dishes to do, and the clog was going nowhere. I was frustrated, and when I get frustrated, I get short with the kids and my husband, and everything kind of snowballs.

So, mumbling under my breath about the stupid clogged sink and having to call a plumber in the morning, I went and filled two dishpans with water to wash and rinse my dishes without the convenience of a sink. I had to go outside and dump the dirty water a couple of times, and I was not happy about it! At the same time, Isaiah, my oldest, was going to bed, and he turned on his favorite worship song, "Oceans." I could hear it in the kitchen where I was still doing dishes. I began to sing along, and when it came to the part that says "Spirit, lead me where my trust is without borders..." I stopped, and I prayed, "Lord, help me to trust you in every aspect of my life, to not create borders where I stop trusting you in the little things. And I'm even going to trust you with this clogged drain, that you will unclog it or that I will learn what needs to be learned from this clogged drain!" I felt a little silly praying about it, but at that exact moment – I can't even tell you how exact it was, because it happened immediately when I ended that prayer – my kitchen sink began to gurgle, and in about five seconds, it was empty of all the water and chemicals I had dumped in trying to clear the clog. I ran and ran the water – no clog!

I was reminded of the scripture that tells us He knows us so well and cares about us so much that He knows the numbers of hairs on our head. (Luke 12:7) How silly of me not to realize that He also cares about the things that frustrate me and just wants me to trust Him to deal with all the clogged drains in my life!



Winter is on it's way, and with it may mean snow or ice for you! Here are a few tips that will save time and frustration this winter. Did you know you could make your own de-icer, check it out!

-Slide off snow shovel: When shoveling snow, spray the blade with a silicone-based lubricant or even cooking spray to help prevent snow from sticking.

-Homemade De-Icer: Spray a mixture of 3:1 vinegar to water on your car windows and it will keep ice from forming on them. You'll still have to brush off the snow, of course.

-Face the Sun: When parking outside during the winter, park your car facing east so that the sun will defrost your windshield as it rises.

-Winter Ceiling Fan: Make sure your ceiling fan is spinning on the low setting in reverse (clockwise) during the winter months. It will re-circulate warmer air trapped near the ceiling down to floor level.

-Unstick your car: If you find your car stuck in the snow, you have a couple of easy options to get some traction. The easiest one, if you have cats, pour some of their cat litter under the tires to help you get traction. If you don't, you can also try using your car's floor mats or salt.

-Ziplocked Mirrors: Never worry about finding your car's side mirrors iced up again! Take a big freezer size Ziploc bag and zip it around the mirrors as far as it will go and they will stay clear.

-DIY Sidewalk Melt: 2 quarts rubbing alcohol, 1 cup warm water, and 1 teaspoon dish detergent then pour over walkways. They won't refreeze. No more salt eating at the concrete in your sidewalks.

Announcements & Games

- We would love to incorporate more arts and dramas into our worship this year. If you are interested in participating in a drama or two, please let us know when the time comes. We will be planning one within the first few months of the year.
- The Grace Immanuel smartphone App will be available for download this month. Please download it to your smartphone or tablet device so you can receive important updates throughout the year. You will be able to listen to worship and sermons as well as reading our devotionals. It's a great way to stay in-the-know!
- Don't forget the pantry for the church. If you are in need of anything, please take a look at the pantry. If you have extra, please add to the pantry. We are a family and enjoy helping each other out!
- If you have any skillsets that you would like to share with the body of Christ, (i.e. mechanical, home repairs, hobby knowledge, babysitting, photography...) please let Drea Eady know so it can be placed into the newsletter.

- **Bible Scramble:** Unscramble the letters in each word to discover the passage. Solution on last page.
- EH TTHA WTLKHEA WTIH WSIE NME SLLHA
EB WSIE: UTB A POONNMICA FO SOOLF
SLLHA EB YTSROEEDD. VLIE UUTSRPHE
SSRNNIE: UTB OT EHT UTSROIHGE OOGD
SLLHA EB RPIEDA.
- **Bible Treasure Hunt:** Solve the clue to discover the treasure, a Bible person, place, or thing. Solution on last page.

From palaces of ivory
Comes music of the strings.
The king wears fragrant robes, perfumed
With this and other things.

ANSWERS AT BOTTOM OF PAGE

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Puzzle Answers: He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed. Evil
pursueth sinners: but to the righteous good shall be repaid. Proverbs 13:20-21 — Solution to Bible Treasure
Hunt: myrrh - Psalm 45:8