



Grace

focus

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE IMMANUEL BIBLE CHURCH

MARCH 2015 – VOLUME 3

Giving Thanks

I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD. Psalm 116:17 NKJV

The act of thanksgiving in worship has been around for many years. In fact, God made provision for it in the Levitical law. There were three types of peace offerings; thank-offerings, offerings for vows, and free-will or voluntary offerings. James M. Freeman in his book *Manners and Customs of the Bible* writes, “The offerings were accompanied by the imposition of hands and by the sprinkling of blood around the great altar, on which the fat and the parts accompanying were burned.” Another aspect of the peace offering was that parts of the offering were waved and others were heaved. According to Jewish tradition the parts of the offering were laid on the hands of the offerer. The priest would put his hands under that of the offerer and move them horizontally for the wave offering and vertically for the heave offering. This action was intended to be a presentation of the offering to God acknowledging him as the supreme ruler of heaven and earth. The tradition of offering the sacrifice of thanksgiving continued with King David, King Solomon, King Hezekiah and later

with Ezra and Nehemiah. The importance of giving thanks has always been a part of the church age. Jesus gave thanks. In his epistles the Apostle Paul exhorted the churches to give thanks. In modern day worship services there is a popular trend of lifting and even waving hands. I dare say many people who express their worship in this manner do so without a clue as to what it represents. You see, the offerer of the Old Testament sacrifice could have waved his hands, but without the blood sacrifice it would have not been acceptable to God. Therefore, the waving or lifting of our hands to God in thanksgiving is not acceptable to God if, through the blood of Jesus, we do not offer our bodies as a living sacrifice. So, as we enter God’s gates to come before his presence with our hands extended in thanksgiving, let us remember that we do so, not only in gratitude for his mighty acts, but as a presentation of our bodies as a living sacrifice in covenant with him, acknowledging that he is supreme ruler of heaven and earth. an attitude of gratitude.

Church Events

- **March 4th** -Wed Night Bible Study in 2 Thes: Chpt 3/
YOUTH GROUP
- **March 5th** – Retired Men’s Meeting
- **March 11th** – Wed Night Bible Study in 1 Tim: Chpt 1/
YOUTH GROUP
- **March 13th**— Men’s Meeting
- **March 18th**— Wed Night Bible Study in 1 Tim: Chpt 2/
YOUTH GROUP
- **March 25th** – Wed Night Bible Study in 1 Tim: Chpt 3/
YOUTH GROUP

Unashamed Love

“And behold, a woman...brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil.”

The washing of feet in ancient times was a very common practice. With most people wearing sandals and traveling on dry and dusty roads or terrain, washing their feet when they entered your home was not only a sign of hospitality but was necessary for cleanliness and health. It was just as important for a host to ensure that the feet of his guest were washed as it was to provide them with food or a place to rest. In most cases the

lowest servant was given the task of washing feet. Anointing the head of a guest was also an act of courtesy and hospitality. Jesus' rebuke of Simon the Pharisee in Luke 7 was justified seeing that Simon did not perform the basic acts of courtesy and hospitality. The kissing of feet was also a common practice among the Jews as well as the Romans and Greeks. Kissing the feet was a means of expressing reverence

and affection. Kissing the feet of a dignitary was also a token of obedience and subjection. The woman in Luke 7 lavished her love upon Jesus, not in response to a command but from a heart that was overflowing with gratitude. She was responding to the love of a Savior who had forgiven her of much. She wasn't concerned with what those sitting at the table thought of her. It was very likely that this woman was or had been a prostitute. It was a custom in those days for women to wear their hair up with their head covered. The only time a woman let her hair down was in the privacy of her bedroom with her husband, or in the case of a prostitute when she was conducting business. True worshipers are not ashamed to

Luke 7:37-38

“...She began to wash His feet with her tears...”

show their affection to the Father. They are so overwhelmed with his love for them that fear of looking foolish is no deterrent. God is looking for men and women who like this woman are not afraid to break their alabaster boxes and anoint him with fragrant worship regardless of what those around them may think. The Father is looking for those people who will unashamedly let their hair down and show publicly how much they love and adore him.

Meet Our Youth



Meet Emily (Emmy) D'Angola. Em is one of our many talented youth. Though her talents seem to be endless, she is currently enjoying photography, painting and is really into therapeutic art. As a Senior in high school, Em is planning on taking a year off after graduation and traveling the United States. She just broke the news to mom, Cristi, this last Sunday. How are we feeling about this plan Mom?!?

We've seen Emily with many different hair colors, but dark purple has been her favorite. Although Emmy has skills when it comes to painting on a canvas, she cannot seem to paint her own nails!

“The nail polish just gets everywhere”-Emily #letsgetsurreal

Her favorite worship song is *Spirit Break Out*—by Jesus Culture. Thankfulness has been the song in her heart lately. Her eyes have been opened to the pain, hurt and lack of true joy in those around her, which has made her more aware of the joy of the Lord that has always been her strength, even in the midst of depression and anxiety. We love you Emmy!

TOLD vs. SHOW

Listen to Pete, Jill & Stuart Briscoe on the Telling the Truth broadcast at ONEOnePlace.com

Have I told you lately that I love you? Have I told you there's no one else above you? – Rod Stewart, "Have I Told You Lately"

I have one question that – if asked every morning and lived out every day – could cause the most stagnant marriages to grow again. Let's rearrange the song lyrics above and instead ask ourselves: Have I shown you lately that I love you?

When you open your eyes in the morning and see the person beside you, ask yourself: Did I demonstrate love to her yesterday? Did I invite the Holy Spirit to love him through me yesterday?

Doing this invites us to live out a daily demonstration of love. It's not perfect, mind you; but it's purposeful, and our marriages will reap the benefits.

Let me share a small exercise to go along with this question. You can start this today and anticipate the changes over the next week.

In 1 Corinthians 13:4, we see Paul define love as patient and kind.

The Greek word for patient has two roots:

Macro = large, long

Thymeo = hot, anger, or wrath

So this word patient means to love with a loooooong fuse. How is your fuse today? Do you have a longer or shorter fuse than you did when you got married?

The Greek root for kindness in this text means "useful."

How useful are you in love? Are you eager to make life easier, or do you begrudge any effort that is inconvenient or time-consuming? Here's the challenge: You can change your marriage this week by picking one of these two words, long-fused or useful.

Don't tell your spouse which word you picked. Instead, pray the Spirit would demonstrate love through you this week in accordance with the word you chose.

Every morning, for the next seven mornings, awake with the question: Did Jesus demonstrate love [patience or kindness] through me to my spouse yesterday in a way that was useful?

Why? Because nothing wakes a dormant marriage like a demonstration of love – true love – that flows from God, through us, to another.

God, it is entirely possible that I've wrapped my love in words only. Perhaps showing love hasn't even been on my radar. Thank You for teaching me that the best way to grow in marriage is to show love. As I choose my word above, I pray Your strength will fill me so that, together, we can love my spouse well this week. Today, and every day, show me specific ways You want to love through me. Amen.



Testimonial

Jim and Sandy Wagner and their family have been a part of Grace for 30 years.

Jim had a Hebrews 13:2 experience a few Sunday's ago while shoveling snow during the 11" downfall. Heading out around 7 p.m., he endeavored to clear the driveway, which had accumulated over 14" of snow due to blowing and drifting. Having succeeded in removing the white powder from the main part of the drive, he determined the rest would have to wait for another time. All of a sudden, the dogs started going ballistic as a stranger appeared and offered to help. This gentleman had the appearance of one of those tragic veterans who find themselves homeless and unemployed following courageous service to the country. He was short, more than middle aged, some what slouched, smoked what seemed to be a homemade cigarette, and was carrying a small black garbage bag with something a bit heavy in it. Jim's first reaction was, "This guy's gonna hurt his back and sue me for a \$million!!!" But he handed him the shovel and went to the garage for another. Between the two, they finished the drive in about 15 minutes. Jim then thanked the man and offered him money. He declined. Jim offered to give him a lift. No, he'd rather walk. He then offered him a pair of gloves, as his hands were uncovered. The man said he had a pair. Jim ask why he wasn't wearing them, He said they were not needed. Jim asked his name and he said, "Cleo." The two exchanged pleasantries and Cleo then disappeared into the night, carrying his small black garbage bag with him.

**"BE NOT FORGETFUL TO ENTERTAIN STRANGERS;
FOR THEREBY SOME HAVE ENTERTAINED ANGELS
UNAWARES"**

HEBREWS 13:2

Announcements

- Please remember to continue to fill our church pantry. This has been, and will continue to be, a blessing to those in our church in times of need.
- If you haven't had a chance to sign up for cleaning the church, please take the time to do so this Sunday! It is important that we rotate the responsibility. If there isn't a month available, you could ask someone who is already signed up if they would like to split the month with you. We are really flexible!!
- Would you like to have a CD of Praise and Worship songs from the hearts of our Grace community? Let us know if you would like the GIBC worship team to record a CD in 2015.
- We love our Youth here at Grace! As our Youth Group grows, we would love to see your young, beautiful and handsome faces every Wednesday night! It's just not the same when you can't make it. Give a friend a call if you need a ride. :)

When my heart
is overwhelmed
lead me to
THE ROCK
that is higher
than i. PSALM 61:2

Last Months Events

Saturday, February 14th

We had an amazing time at the annual Couples Valentines Dinner this year! We ate delicious food in between laughs and played men vs. women trivia and our own version of the newlywed game. This is always such a fun event and we missed those who were not able to make it. Hope to see you next year as we celebrate LOVE!

Monday, February 16th

GO REDWINGS!! A group of guys went downtown Detroit to see the Redwings play against the Montreal Canadiens. Unfortunately, the Redwings lost, but the guys still had a great time!

See Photo (left): Grace guys at the Detroit Redwings hockey game.

