

REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

MEN & BOYS @ GRACE OPC

By Pastor Brian De Jong

In writing to his protégé Titus, the Apostle Paul urges him to “*urge the young men to be sensible; in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.*”

Just as the older women are to teach and train the younger women in godliness, so older men are to set an example for the young men to follow. The church is to be an inter-generational training ground for boys and girls.

Certainly much discipleship can and should go on in the home. Fathers are to discipline and instruct their own sons. The content of this training is outlined in the book of Proverbs, where wise counsel is introduced by the formula, “*Now then, my sons, listen to me...*” When a father offers instruction and a son listens, the son is directed in life and enjoys God’s blessing. When a father stops teaching and/or a son stops heeding his words, the son comes to ruin.

In addition to the primary discipleship given by fathers to their own sons, there is a secondary opportunity for the men of the church to come along side of the boys of the church. These mature men have much to offer the men-in-training. Often the godly counsel of an older Christian man can reinforce and complement the very lessons the father is giving to his son. Thus the two men

work together to shape and mold the boy into a Christian young man.

The fact of the matter is plain: Christian young men do not magically appear on their own without the guiding hand of an experienced Christian man. Rather, God is pleased to use both fathers and

other older men as His instruments in the lives of the covenant boys of His church.

But if a boy is neglected by his father, and allowed to go his own way, good does not come. Rather, he plunges down a course that seems right in his own eyes. The further down that path he travels, the more dire the consequences.

He becomes a source of shame to his parents and will eventually destroy himself. Such young men are routinely lost to the faith and leave the church depleted of future leadership.

With this in mind, we are starting a new initiative to encourage fathers and to spur interaction between the men and boys at Grace Church. A Men & Boys Fellowship is being planned that will strengthen relationships and build bonds between males of all ages in our congregation.

Note that this is not strictly a Father/son affair. That would exclude too many who have valuable contributions to make. We desire every male in Grace Church to participate as they are able. Especially and particularly we want some of our older men to be involved, as their maturity is one of our greatest assets for...



Volume 5, Issue 3

March 2010

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Mnemonics...

- *Rev. Mike McCabe Visit, 10th*
- *Family Fellowship Lunch, 14th*

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The Purposes of Prayer Meeting, Part 2

*Submitted by DeLou De Jong
From John Brown of Haddington (1765)...*

7. Praying together is often the means God uses to initiate or increase revival.

8. Praying together increases the commitment of believers to the kingdom of Jesus Christ at home, throughout the nation, and around the world.

9. Praying together provides an important spiritual oasis in a busy week. R. J. George writes, "It comes midway between the Sabbaths to arrest the rushing tide of worldliness, and to draw the Christian apart from the exacting cares of this earthly life; and it makes him "to sit in the heavenly places with Christ." Prayer meetings cultivate a tender, devotional spirit, as well as quiet, inner strength in the midst of trials.

10. Praying together increases unity in the church. As Johnston says, at prayer meetings, "unity has its birth-place; here it is cradled; here it is trained; here it becomes a three-fold cord; here is the centre of the unity of the church; for here is the soil—the genial soil beside the waters—where unity strikes deeply its roots, and whence it draws its life-power to bind together in comely brotherhood."

Peter Masters put it this way: "In the prayer gathering, preoccupation with ourselves as individual believers slips away, and we become a group of people longing for the blessing of others, and for the prosperity of the cause. In the prayer gathering we are refined and honed as a united body of people. It cements unions, and promotes respect. We hear each other pray; we subordinate ourselves to each other; we appreciate each other. We feel as the old saying goes, one another's spirits, and we are warmed and deepened in oneness and regard. To adopt a well-worn phrase, the church that prays together, stays together.

11. Praying together utilizes the spiritual life of the church for the good of all the church's ministries. When members are called to exercise their Spirit-

empowered gifts in prayer, the spiritual power generated from the prayer meeting pervades all of the other ministries of the church. Thus, the prayer meeting serves as an important connecting link between the Spirit's power and human instrumentality.

12. Praying together increases the Christ-centeredness of believers. David Bryant writes, "Prayerfulness is the natural response of a heart that is fully caught up in all Christ is to us and for us, over us and within us, through us and before us and upon us. Christ defines our agenda in prayer. Christ opens up the door to heaven to present our prayers. In other words, prayer and the supremacy of Christ must forever walk together."

13. Praying together provides an education in prayer for the entire church. Believers grow in the gift of prayer as they hear others pray. They learn to appreciate specificity in prayer, passionate pleading, Christ-centered wrestling, and fresh modes of expression. Iron sharpens iron. Young believers learn from older ones, and older believers are encouraged by the sincere petitions of the younger.

14. Praying together enhances private prayer. It makes us realize that, due to the intercessions of Christ and true believers, every time we pray, we are entering a twenty-four hour per day prayer meeting. Surely this ought to increase our expectations and fervency as we pray in "private."

15. Praying together demonstrates our complete dependence upon God's sovereign power and gracious blessing for all His ministries and all our work in His church and kingdom. It is a corporate recognition that without Christ we can do nothing that with Him we have large expectations. Praying together helps us turn our eyes heavenward to the God of the harvest who has promised great things. It focuses our minds on large-scale blessings."

Upcoming Events 2010

Dates are subject to change!

Sunday, March 14	Family Fellowship Lunch	Friday, August 27	Ice Cream Social
Wed., April 21	Family Fellowship Dinner	Thurs./Fri., Sept. 8/9	Group Camping
Friday, April 16	Art/Crafts Night	Friday, Sept. 24	World View Movie Night
Sunday, May 2	Family Fellowship Dinner (after evening worship)	Friday, Oct. 1	Hayride/Bonfire
Saturday, May 15	Ladies Banquet	Friday, October 17	Potluck Luncheon, morning
Thursday, June 3	Men & Boys Cookout/ Baseball game	Fri./Sat., Oct. 29/30	Reformation Conference
Sunday, July 18	Family Fellowship Lunch	Saturday, Nov. 13	Harvest Home
Thurs., August 12	Church Picnic	Thursday, Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Football Game
		Wednesday, Dec. 29	Bowling/Pizza with Pastor

Missions Talk

Come to hear about the work of missions in the land of China from the Rev. Mike McCabe on Wednesday, March 10th starting at 7:00 p.m. Rev. McCabe and his wife Lili have two children – John (5) and David (3). They serve in Yanji, China – in the NE of the country, near the border of North Korea.

Mike labors in the Chinese (Mandarin) language and helps pastoral interns and licentiate preparing for the ministry. Lili provides important language support for Mike, as well as providing assistance and friendship to the many foreigners in Yanji.





March Birthdays

Paul Damkot	1st		Bill Wilke	23rd
Marge Halbach	4th			
Lynn Baatz	5th			
Margaret Adam	10th			
Mary Buyze	10th			
William Lorenz	23rd			

Faith

(from Spurgeon's Morning & Evening- Morning, March 7)

“Have faith in God.” Mark 11:22

Faith is the foot of the soul by which it can march along the road of the commandments. Love can make the feet move more swiftly; but faith is the foot which carries the soul. Faith is the oil enabling the wheels of holy devotion and of earnest piety to move well; and without faith the wheels are taken from the chariot, and we drag heavily. With faith I can do all things; without faith I shall neither have the inclination nor the power to do anything in the service of God. If you would find the men who serve God the best, you must look for the men of the most faith. Little faith will save a man, but little faith cannot do great things for God. Poor Little-faith could not have fought “Apollyon;” it needed “Christian” to do that. Poor Little-faith could not have slain “Giant Despair;” it required “Great-heart’s” arm to knock that monster down. Little faith will go to heaven most certainly, but it often has to

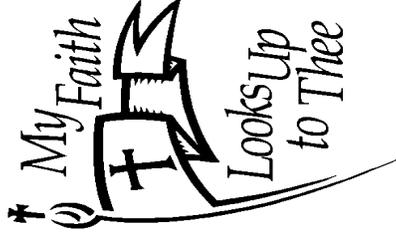
hide itself in a nut-shell, and it frequently loses all but its jewels. Little-faith says, “It is a rough road, beset with sharp thorns, and full of dangers; I am afraid to go;” but Great-faith remembers the promise, “Thy shoes shall be iron and brass; as thy days, so shall thy strength be:” and so she boldly ventures. Little-faith stands desponding, mingling her tears with the flood; but Great-faith sings, “When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee:” and she fords the stream at once. Would you be comfortable and happy? Would you enjoy religion? Would you have the religion of cheerfulness and not that of gloom? Then “have faith in God.” If you love darkness, and are satisfied to dwell in gloom and misery, then be content with little faith; but if you love the sunshine, and would sing songs of rejoicing, covet earnestly this best gift, “great faith.”



Grace OPC

March 2010

Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	2	3 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	4	5	6 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study, 7:30 a.m.
7	8 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.</i>	9	10 Rev. Mike McCabe Visit 7:00 p.m.	11	12	13
14 Missions Sunday <i>Family Fellowship Lunch</i>	15 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Theology, 3:30 p.m.</i>	16 Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	17 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	18	19 Presbyter y Meeting, Momence, IL	20 Presbyter y Meeting, Momence, IL
21	22 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.</i>	23	24 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	25	26	27
28 Lord's Supper, (a.m.)	29 Theology, 3:30 p.m.	30	31			

My Trip to Haiti:

January 3-11, 2010

by Daniel Himebook (Rev. Ivan & Carla De Master's grandson)

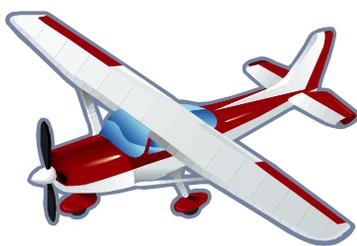
There were twelve of us that went; three of us: Pastor Igo, John Igo and me, from Cedar OPC and nine from Redeemer OPC. We were all supposed to leave on the third of January. However, the Lord had other plans. Pastor Hausler's younger brother passed away the week before so he and his sons, Daniel and Joey, stayed home for the funeral and joined us on Wednesday afternoon.

So, at about One O'clock Sunday, the rest of us left Redeemer OPC for the Detroit airport. We pulled up to the Detroit airport close to four thirty that afternoon. From Detroit flew to Fort Lauderdale. We arrived there around ten thirty and spent the night at a near-by hotel. The next morning we flew to Port-au-Prince. Port-au-Prince is the complete opposite of West Michigan, it's hot and humid and extremely crowded. when we stepped out of the airport we stepped into a completely different world than the one we left four hours earlier. we rode in a bus from the International terminal to the local terminal, that was the strangest car ride I've ever been in, Our driver was very good at weaving in and out of oncoming traffic etc.. After a fifteen minute drive we arrived at the local terminal. From there, we took off for the city Peong on a 15 passenger plane. from Peong we drove to the compound in Bohoc. We stayed at the Haitian American Friendship Foundation which is located in the town of Bohoc, which is about halfway between Port-Au-Prince and Cap-Haitien on National Highway 3.

Our home base was located on 40 acres of land. There was a dorm we stayed in, a guardhouse, about nine school buildings, a workshop, and homes for the staff. There were two mission families there, the VanSkoiks from the PCA and the Wilsons who I think were Baptists. Our main food staple was rice and beans. Added to that was any type of vegetable on hand, with a side of grapefruit or oranges, or

other available fruit. I thoroughly enjoyed it. It wasn't spicy, but very flavorful.

Our schedule was basically wake up around 6:30, have devotions, breakfast at 7. After that we would get ready to go on home visitations around the community. We aimed to get back from those around 12 for lunch, but that didn't always happen because additional homes were added or we were stopped by people on the way and talked to them. In the afternoons we either worked on building chalkboards, cutting the wood and painting the masonite



sheets. Or we played basketball. Thursday we had English club and played basketball with the Haitian teens. Two afternoons we repaired lawn chairs, received as a donation to the mission. Using machetes as seam rippers was fun. Wednesday morning we went to help a widow weed her cabbage garden. The tool of choice for the Haitians for weeding is the machete—the all purpose tool. Our first night there we went to watch a soccer game, which is quite different than an American game. There were two instances when there was a dispute about a call, and all the spectators flooded the field expressing their opinions quite loudly. The second time this happened there was a guy riding a bike in circles on the field.

Tuesday was our movie night. We watched a Hallmark movie projected on the wall of the front porch of our dorm. Wednesday we showed the Jesus film at a local church (a grass field). Saturday we went to the Peong market. The market was extremely crowded and finding anything in that market was trying to find a needle in a haystack., as one of the Haitian boys demonstrated when he tried to find a pair of shoes. There were two massive piles of shoes and the pairs were not in neat little boxes. You find one shoe and continue to dig to find the next one, while everyone else is doing the same with only two inches of personal space. Sunday after morning service and eating lunch we climbed a mountain and

My Trip Concluded...

went spelunking, exploring a natural cave. After we got out of the cave, half the group wanted to climb to the top of the mountain and half wanted to go back to base. I was in the group that climbed up. It was an amazing view. We could see the compound about a mile and a half away. On our way to the mountain we stopped to see a sugar cane press. The process of milling the sugar cane hasn't changed at all since French control of Haiti. They still have the same mechanisms and still process it the same. Oxen go in a circle yoked to the mill while the cane is fed into the machinery. The juice is squeezed out and boiled for a long time.

The Haitian people are very friendly and very open. They live as one big community. As we walked to visitation they would stop and talk to us. When I went with Pastor Hausler in visitation, who has been going to Haiti since he was in high school, everyone knew him. It was interesting to see how they interacted with someone they knew quite well. They are all ready to laugh and make a joke. Easy-going, laid back. English club was suppose to last from about 1-3. They were late arriving, but stayed longer, playing games, just hanging out and talking.

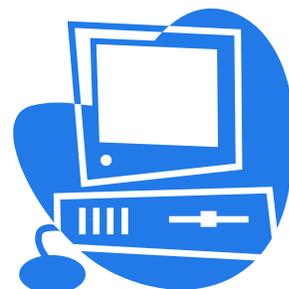
They don't have a tight schedule like we do. Walking was the main mode of transportation. The pastors held a pastor's conference on Saturday. It started at 8 and some of the people lived over 5 hours away by foot and walked to the conference.

When we were flying over the Haitian countryside the one thing that stuck out was how brown everything looked. It just looked like an Island of dirt with a little vegetation here and there but as we approached the central plateau things began to become greener and when we landed in Peong it was all green except for the roads.

The church where I attended met out in a field with tarps overhead for shade. They had a sound system and a drum set and a couple guitars. Even though all the hymns we sang were either in Creole or French, it was amazing to stand there and sing and worship with other people from a totally different culture and know we were worshipping the same Lord and Savior.

I would love to go back especially now after the earthquake to help. Also because I learned so much from the people in Haiti Thank you to all of you who supported me with prayer and finances.

New E-mail Address



A Night for the Visual Arts

by Pastor Brian De Jong

On Friday evening, April 16th we are trying a new type of Social Fellowship event – a night to celebrate and enjoy the visual arts. Since I suggested this idea, it is only fair that I should explain.

For the last several years I've been significantly impressed with the artistic submissions from members of Grace Church at the Sheboygan County Fair. The judges have also been impressed – awarding ribbons and prizes to several of our folks.

With so much talent “in house,” I thought it might be good to sponsor a night where members of our congregation could show some of their work. This would give us a “creative outlet” as a congregation, and help us to enjoy one of God's good gifts.

By using the term “visual arts,” we are including any and all arts (and crafts) that have a visual aspect to them – painting, drawing, printing, photography, quilting, needlepoint, knitting, sculpture, carving, etc. It might also be helpful to think of “visual arts” as opposed to “performing arts” such as singing, playing a musical instrument, acting, etc. We have nothing against “performing arts,” but want to limit ourselves to media that are visually oriented.

So for anyone that would like to submit some of their art work for this event, here's what you should do. Pick out a limited number of your very best

pieces (no more than 10 submissions per person.) Choose how you would like to display them. We will have tables available for display, and perhaps some places to hang items too. You should put some sort of label on the back of your piece so there is no confusion about ownership. You can bring your work to the church on either Thursday, April 15 or Friday, April 16 for set up and display. You should also be prepared to say a few things about your own work. You can talk about technique, about what you were trying to convey in that piece, and how successful you thought it was. By talking about your art work, you give the group a better idea of what it is all about. They may have questions for you, so be ready for a little discussion.

On the night of the event, I'll begin with a short devotional talk about God's creativity and ours. We'll then enjoy refreshments and give each artist a chance to explain something about their work, and for the group to ask any questions, etc.

There is no age limit on this event – either for artists or for those who care to attend. Hopefully this will be an enjoyable evening for our whole congregation.

Do you have further questions? Please feel free to ask me and I'll try to answer as best I can. I hope to see you at our night for the visual arts!



Front Page Concluded...

...helping our boys!

The “kickoff event” for this new fellowship is being planned for Saturday, May 8th at the Hingham Hall. We'll have some games and activities during the morning and early afternoon, as well as lunch

around noon. Other activities are being considered, including both ministry and service activities. Please keep this matter in prayer, asking God to use it to bless our men and boys, and to build up His church!

Applesauce Chocolate-Chip Loaf Cake

- ★ 1 3/4 cup flour
- ★ 1 tsp. baking soda
- ★ 1/4 tsp. salt
- ★ 1 tsp. cinnamon
- ★ 1/2 cup shortening
- ★ 1 cup sugar
- ★ 2 eggs
- ★ 1 cup applesauce
- ★ 1/2 cup raisins
- ★ 1/2 cup chopped nuts
- ★ 1/2 cup chocolate chips

Sift together flour, soda, salt, & spices. Cream shortening, add sugar gradually until light & fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time beating well. Add flour mixture alternately with applesauce in small amounts, beating after each addition. Stir in raisins, nuts, and chocolate chips. Pour into a greased, floured loaf pan. Bake at 325° for 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Phyllis Nyhof



“The eyes
of all look
to You,
And You
give them
their food in
due time.
You open
Your hand
And satisfy
the desire of
every living
thing.”



Showing forth the
excellencies of Jesus
Christ

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CHECK OUT THE AUDIO:

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GRACESHEBOYGAN**

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE:

GRACEOPCSHEBOYGAN.COM



★ Did you know that John Brown was born in 1722 in Haddington, Scotland?
★ Did you know his father was a basket weaver who died along with Brown's mother when he was very young?
★ Did you know that young John Brown became a shepherd to support himself?

★ That although he was unable to secure formal education, he taught himself Hebrew, Greek, & Latin?
★ Did you know that eventually this led to his becoming "a tutor in systematic theology"?
★ Did you know that he labored for Christ in Scotland writing much and preaching?
★ Did you know that one of the last things he said before he died was, "Anything I know about religion is this: that I have found weakness and wickedness about myself; grace, mercy and loving kindness about Jesus."
★ Did you know that if there is a topic you would like to see in this Did You Know? Section, the church secretary would love to hear about it?
★ Did you know that you could e-mail your suggestion to her at graceopc@tds.net or speak with her in person?

*Taken from: http://www.banneroftruth.org/pages/articles/article_detail.php?1017
<http://spurgeon.wordpress.com/category/john-brown-of-haddington/>*

Family Fellowship Lunch

Sunday, March 14th will be the "Family Fellowship Lunch" following Sunday School at the church. Each family is asked to contribute 2 dishes. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the kitchen!

