

August 2019



EUREKA BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

THEN I HEARD THE VOICE
OF THE LORD SAYING,
"WHOM SHALL I SEND?
AND WHO WILL GO FOR US?"
AND I SAID,
"HERE AM I. SEND ME!"

ISAIAH 6:8



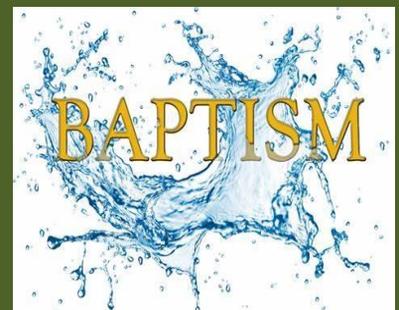
**5K Run/Walk
For Life**

Saturday
August 3

**Prayer
Meeting**

August 4
6:30pm

**PRAYER
MEETING**



**Church Picnic
& Baptisms**

Sunday
August 18
Skonewood
Christian Retreat



A Note from Pastor Seth

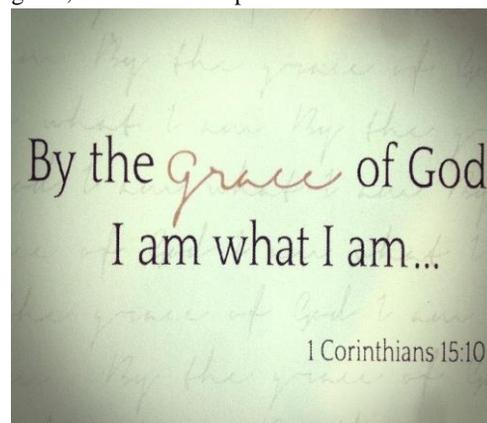
You may notice when I send emails to you or sign the end of a pastor's page I always write the words, "grace and peace" before my name. You may have wondered why do I do this, and what is the meaning of it? In this pastor's page I am going to explain to you why. The short answer is I get it from the Bible. The first place I get it from is Numbers 6:24-26. Every time I close one of our services with the benediction I close with these words of blessing. In these verses the High Priest Aaron is telling the people of Israel that all who belong to the Lord have His grace and peace over them. In the New Testament, you will also notice the apostle Paul in his letters repeatedly tells the churches and individuals grace and peace. He is following the model of the Aaronic blessing that God's people need to be reminded of the reality of His grace and peace toward them. Paul believes this is so important that he writes this phrase in all thirteen of his letters. So what is so significant about the words grace and peace that Aaron and Paul shower the people of God with them? Let us take a look at these two terms. We will first begin by looking at the meaning of the biblical term grace.

*"The LORD BLESS you and KEEP you;
the LORD make his face SHINE on you
and be GRACIOUS to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you PEACE."
NUMBERS 6:24-26*

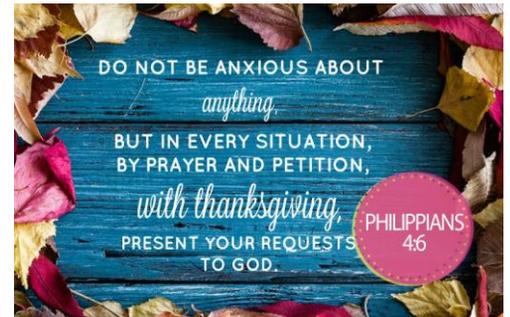
A common definition given by theologians is that God's grace is his goodness toward sinners when he is not obligated to do good to them. When one believes in Jesus he must be continually reminded of the grace God has shown him in Christ when he or she deserves only punishment. Through Christ dying on the cross for sinners and being raised to life victoriously, anyone who believes in him is brought into eternal fellowship with God. The apostle Paul wrote that it is, "by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Ephesians 2:8).

As Christians we freely receive the gift of God's grace toward us through Christ's finished work. When we hear the word grace we should have this precious truth on our minds. But if we stop here we do not fully understand the meaning of this important biblical term. My old pastor used to say, "Grace is not just pardon, but power." The apostle uses grace in this way in his first letter to the church in Corinth. Paul wrote, "by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me" (1 Corinthians 15:10). What Paul says here is he was able to be faithful in ministry because of God's work in his life. He knew that God's power was over him as the Spirit enabled him to live out the life of faith. He called this God's grace (or goodness) toward him.

To understand this leads us into even more insight about what grace is according to God's Word. At the end of the letter of Colossians Paul writes, "Grace be with you" (Colossians 4:18). Why would Paul write this at the end of his letter? He does this to tell his readers that everything written in this letter is God's grace toward them. God has told us everything we need to know to be equipped to live the life of faith (2 Peter 1:3). This means that not only are Paul's letters grace toward the believer, but also the whole Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The Christian is empowered to live the life of faith as he or she carries out what is written in the pages of Holy Scripture. As we live out the Bible the love of Christ controls our actions as the Spirit leads us to do God's will (2 Corinthians 5:14; Galatians 5:16). The Bible is the driving force in our lives. This is God's grace for his people. This is the meaning of grace, but what about peace?



Peace is a word often misunderstood by our culture. Eastern religions falsely say that peace is ridding your mind of thoughts. When you do this you will experience nirvana and they call this peace. But that is not anywhere close to what the Bible teaches. When the Bible uses the word meditate it always means thinking the Word of God. The Psalmist describes the godly man as one who meditates on his Word day and night (Psalm 1:2). This meditation not only leads to a holy life and intimacy with God, but also peace of mind. Before Jesus crucifixion he was preparing his disciples for what was to come. Jesus knew that he was going die, be raised from the dead, and then after forty days ascend into heaven. He told them the Spirit would come and be with them as a Helper and lead them in the truth (John 16:13).



He said these words to them so they would be comforted and have peace. They were going to face many trials ahead, but Jesus told them, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace" (John 16:33). This is a promise that Jesus not only made to his disciple, but this belongs to all of his followers. In him we have peace in the heart as we go through this difficult life. This is not a peace that can be attained by human effort, but rather it is a peace that only God gives as he dwells with his people (Philippians 4:7). As a believer is tempted to be anxious, he gives this peace as his people ask him for it (Philippians 4:6). So when Paul says "grace and peace" in his letters he is reminding God's people they have all of this in Christ. So when you hear these words, this is not a comforting phrase thrown together to make you feel good. On the contrary, these are beautiful realities in your life as a child of God. Next time you see the words grace and peace, think over how blessed you are that these are yours in Christ.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Seth

Eureka Baptist Church

2393 210th Avenue

St. Croix Falls, WI 54024

715-483-9464

www.eurekabapchurch.com

Sunday Morning Service: 10:00am

*Kid's Church during Service

Adult Sunday School: 9:00am

MissionReach

Stout Family: Macedonia

Crazy that we have been in Macedonia for 2 weeks! Here's a prayer update...

1. We have a Royal Servants Mission trip team of 21 serving our Word of Hope Church with work projects, ESL, sports ministry and drama. Pray for fruit!
2. Pray for our Word of Hope Church camp where all our SEND church plants come together for fellowship and the Word from July 31-Aug 3
3. Pray for the Integrity sports camp with Igor from Aug 4-10 as kids from the orphanage and others come for sports and to hear the Gospel
4. Pray for our 2025 Vision Planning Retreat as a SEND MK team as we seek the Lord for His vision for Macedonia on Aug 22-23
5. Pray for a healthy balance of rest and risk/ministry - healthy rhythms
6. Praise GOD that we bought a 7 seater Dacia Lodgy van for our family/ministry. We put a down-payment on it and are still needing around \$3500 to pay it off.

Penney Family: Senegal

After our normal year of Home Assignment (which will end June 2020), Dan has been asked to take on a temporary assignment in the home office of WorldVenture in Englewood, CO. This temporary assignment—between 12 and 18 months—will be to serve as a liaison between WorldVenture's global workers and its Finance Department. The reasons for this are threefold:

The mission's leaders have recognized a need for someone with both significant field experience and an aptitude for finances to liaison between field missionaries and WorldVenture's Finance office. In addition, as with our transition into field leadership many years ago, we see this as an opportunity for Dan to broaden his impact once again, this time beyond just a single country or field.

Dan's lack of fit for his Field Leader role has led to some burnout after 15 years. In discussing this with the Africa Ministries Director, it was recommended that he move out of that position.

Our ongoing struggle to regulate Esther's hypothyroidism may require additional time in the US to find a permanent solution.

The Full Explanation

If you've been following our journey this last year or two, you know that Dan has been feeling some burnout in his role as Field Leader. His intensive week of coaching last summer at Quiet Waters helped, but it also revealed the need for a new direction. The truth is, field leadership has never been a perfect fit for him, but we felt God called us to it back in 2004, and through divine enablement it has worked surprisingly well for 15 years. Fortunately, all those around Dan, including his "boss" (the Africa Ministries Director), feel that he's done an excellent job. But over the last year or two it's become increasingly clear that the time has come for Dan to step away from field leadership, and our boss has endorsed this conclusion.

Esther's health is another issue that we've been struggling with these last two years, as you also know from our frequent prayer requests about it. It took a year to properly diagnose her hypothyroidism, and it's now been an additional two years during which the medical professionals available to us have been largely unsuccessful in bringing it under control. As a result, we're wondering if a more extended time in the US might be necessary to find a good resolution for regulating her thyroid.

Since Dan's leadership of the Senegal field has been a fulltime role, we faced an obvious question: If not field leadership, what would we do? That is a question that we ourselves have been pondering and praying about for the last few months. And we're very excited that just within the last two weeks, God has confirmed what we believe to be a perfect answer. This new, temporary role in WorldVenture's home office seems to be a great fit for Dan's experience and gifting, and it's a huge need within the mission at this time.

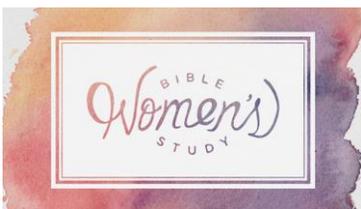
So exactly how will this happen? Because of our desire to remain accountable to our supporters, we will complete our normal year of Home Assignment first, which will give us a chance to visit our many supporting churches and individuals to report on what God has been doing in Senegal these last four years. Then, upon completion of our Home Assignment, instead of returning to Senegal immediately as we would normally do, we will move to Denver for a year or so for Dan to take up this new role as Finance Liaison. Our status will not change—that is, we will remain "global workers" (i.e., field missionaries) so we'll continue to be donor-supported rather than going on salary. And we are asking all of you, our supporters, to remain with us for this hiatus in our overseas service. The anticipation is that we will most likely return to overseas service in some capacity once this temporary assignment is over.

While our future beyond these next couple years is not entirely clear, we are confident that we are walking the path He desires—still on the trail to the peak via this switchback. In fact, we purposely left our house in Senegal just as if we were certain to return. We did that in part so that we'd still have "skin in the game" back in Senegal, so God will have to make it clear that he wants us elsewhere for us not to return. We will continue to communicate with you about our future ministry as God reveals it to us. In the meantime, we sincerely believe that this new temporary role is the best way that we can serve Him and advance His Kingdom for these next couple of years.

Obviously, one of our long-term prayer requests over the next year or so will be for clear direction regarding our ministry role after this temporary assignment, and so we ask you to pray with us about that.



Monthly Events



Please join us at the 5k Run/Walk for Life on August 3rd! More information included in this newsletter.



Men's Breakfast
Saturday, August 10
8:00am



Prayer Meeting
First Sunday of the Month
6:30pm



Weekly Events



Adult Sunday School
Sunday Mornings
9:00am



Morning Service
Sunday Mornings
10:00am



Kids Church
Sunday mornings during
Morning Service

2019 Board Members

Deacons

Shaun Anderson
Gordon Trombley

Elders

Mark Brooks
Rob Mickelson

Trustees

Randy Clark
Shaun Anderson

Deaconess

Barbara Trombley
Amber Lindo
Hansi Stridde
Abby Swanson

Secretary

Amber Lindo

Treasurers

Hansi Stridde
Abby Swanson

Thank
you!

It took many hands to make VBS such a success this year. Thank you to everyone that helped out that week. The kids (and staff) had such a wonderful time hearing about the treasure map that is in the Bible that leads us to the greatest treasure of all – JESUS! The important thing is that Eureka Baptist Church planted the seeds. We can continue to pray for all those children that those seeds bloom into a strong relationship with Jesus Christ.

Happy Birthday!!

Alvin Matson 8/6
Amber Lindo 8/10
Racheal Anderson 8/22
Abby Swanson 8/22
Jacob Lindo 8/24

Happy Anniversary!!

Mark & Lori Brooks 8/9
Rob & Karen Mickelson 8/30

Church Announcements

-**Women's Bible Study** – the bible study group will be participating in the 5K for Life on August 3rd instead of the regular meeting. More information can be found below.

-Interested in **becoming a member**? Talk with Pastor Seth!

-**Church Picnic/Baptisms** – Please join us on Sunday, August 18th at Skonewood Christian Retreat for the annual church picnic and baptisms.



A child dedication service was held for Caroline and Annabelle Hall on July 7th.



Jordan Braund was involved in a serious auto accident on July 22.

Eureka Baptist Church has provided the Braund Family with a gas card to help with the many trips to the cities that will need to be made in the future.

Caringbridge site:
www.caringbridge.org/visit/jordanbraund





Progress continues on the interior of the Matson Building. It is currently ready for paint. We are all so excited to put this building to good use. Thank you to those that have helped with this project. The building will be used for gatherings and youth group events.





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