



GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

November 2014

Will We Be Complicit?

What does it mean to be complicit? It means that we are associated with or participate in a questionable act or a crime. But there is another way to be complicit that is especially appealing to Christians. It is to be silent when you ought to speak up. It is to be passive when you ought to take action.

The prophet Jeremiah in pointing out the sins of the Israelites said of them: *“They have built the high places of Topheth in the Valley of Ben Hinnom to burn their sons and daughters in the fire – something I did not command, nor did it enter my mind.”*

Did you catch that... *“nor did it enter my mind.”* So against His will and so horrific that God uses anthropomorphic language to get across how terribly wicked and unlike God this act is.

The false god Molech and other Baals required such a sacrifice to appease them and bring favor on their worshippers. How could the Israelites be enticed by such a diabolic god? These religions come straight from

the pit of hell. Whether they knew it or not they were obeying Satan in murdering their children.

We would never go there would we? Unfortunately, many in our nation go exactly there. Instead of waiting for the child to be born, they simply take care of it in the womb so they don't have to see the child. We call it abortion, but we could just as well call it child sacrifice. The gods who now require this sacrifice are not blocks of wood or stones but the god of money, materialism, pleasure or even body image.

The people in Jeremiah's day heard God's verdict on all of this. Even today Jeremiah's words are crystal clear. But they wouldn't listen. In fact, they had prophets to tell them just the opposite. It is the same today. We have pastors and politicians and counselors who tell women (and men) that it is their choice; that the life of this little one is in their hands. They tell them such things as, *“If you are not ready to raise a child, it would be better to abort this fetus”* (it is a baby!!).

Jeremiah spoke these chilling words that directly relate to this issue. He proclaimed: *“A horrible and shocking thing has happened in the land: the prophets prophesy lies, the priest rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way. But what will you do in the end?”*

Yes, for those who call themselves Christians and support abortion and encourage others to obtain one – what are you going to do in the end! For God considers this a hideous thing and promises His wrath and judgment.

But you say: *“That's not me. I don't support abortion. I think it is clearly wrong.”* Good. But let me ask you this: when and if the subject comes up, do you go silent? Do you ever let your voice be heard in public standing against this vile practice? Do you vote for politicians who unabashedly support abortion? Then you are complicit. You are involved by your silence. You need to repent of this and do just the opposite.

This is not an issue that we can hedge on or compromise about. When I hear fellow pastors say there might be a case for allowing abortions (and we are not talking about the life of the mother or rape and incest but simply *“abortion on demand”*) I go livid.

This is a touchstone issue of whether or not we are going to obey God and trust Him or not. There is definitely forgiveness for all those who have aborted their children and have repented. Praise the Lord they are heaven bound people. But for those who cling to this sin and encourage others to do so, there is only one thing awaiting them: the wrath of God.

On Election Day this November, we in Tennessee can do a very small but important thing. We can vote YES on Amendment 1. Let's not be complicit in even the smallest of ways rather let us give glory to God and honor His commandments and Word.

~ Pastor Rich

Grace Youth Take the Love of Christ to Baltimore

This past summer, the High School youth of Grace spent a week in inner-city East Baltimore. They tirelessly served a thriving mission that makes it a goal to better the lives of the community children by teaching them to experience the love of Jesus Christ. Some of the students have been asked to recount their week, and their stories will be shared in future GraceNet articles. The following is an account from one of the Student Leaders on the trip, Alex Brown, a Junior at Hardin Valley Academy. ~ *Pastor Mark*

Baltimore was an amazing experience. The day that we arrived, everyone knew that this was going to be a new lens to look through. The people there were very friendly and everyone had a story that would mesmerize you. These stories were perfect insights to what happens in that community every day. Not all great stories were told by the residents though. The other churches and Grace were bound together far more strongly than anyone could have anticipated. We all created bonds that will now last for year, if not, forever. This mission has put the Youth at Grace into something much bigger than any of us. It will be our inspiration and guide for a long time to come.

~ *Alex Brown*



Our Grace Family Meet Gary Schneider

Gary Schneider can entertain you on a number of subjects, given his wide expanse of life experiences. Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he can advise you on where to dine and what to order in that hubbub of German influence. Married to Joretta, Gary also beams when his daughters enter the room. Gwen is a retired school teacher, and her husband Jim Erpenbach, a practicing dentist. His second daughter, Jenni, is employed by WIVK radio as a sales accountant, while her husband Randy, is a PGA golf teaching pro. Gary, himself, worked for over forty years of university teaching and administration and retired from UT after being the department head of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries, Associate Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Gary now relaxes to enjoy photography, golf, reading, and “the constant discovery of how powerful, useful and enjoyable computers are (as well as how frustrating!).” If he is invited to dinner and served any German food, such as bratwurst and sauerkraut, you will be rewarded with a happy smile and much gratitude. Visiting the Galapagos Islands reminded him of what a wonderful creation God has bestowed upon us, and how we all are an important part of a much larger universe. Continued travel to observe different people, and their environments would be treasured future memories. Most valued possessions are his family, friends and church, and no doubt these are so valued in light of Gary's attempts to maintain a sense of humor, in not only the best but also the worst times of life. And in closing, Gary regards each day as a gift from above (that is why they call it the present). Therefore, he advises us to “use it wisely and honor God who has given it.” As Luther once said: “This is most certainly true!”



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Articles for GraceNet are due by the **1st of each month** for the following month's edition.

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If you have a special event you would like to have publicized in GraceNet, please submit the information to

Debbie Booher by the 1st of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter.



LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Lutheran World Relief Care Van Arrives

“*Changing the lives of people around the world*” is the mission of the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) organization.

Each year, Grace’s L(utheran) W(omen’s) M(issionary) L(eague) participates in the LWR’s quilt and personal care kits campaign. During 2014, the LWML quilters tied 40 quilts to send on the care van on November 7. Personal care kits can be assembled and brought to the church through Sunday, November 2. A list of items to be included in the kits has been distributed and is also posted on the LWML bulletin board located next to the church mailboxes.

LWR’s mission focuses on people living in poverty overseas. In 2013, LWR distributed 451,656 quilts and 151,678 personal kits serving more than 841,000 people in 21 countries from Afghanistan to Yemen. (For a complete listing see the LWML bulletin board. Note—The materials Grace sends go through the Maryland location).

You can become a part of this vital ministry by helping tie quilts on the third Tuesday of each month at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall or by donating fabric or sheets that are used for the quilts. For additional information on how you can help, contact Pam Phillips or Linda Mahan.

Another very important way in which you can help is through dollar contributions for shipping—it cost approximately \$2.29 to ship one quilt and \$2.56 to ship one personal kit overseas. For every dollar given to the shipping fund, someone in need receives \$8.00 worth of essential personal items.

~ Mary Schultz

Got Mites?

Well, LWML will take care of them. When we say MITES, we are talking about any spare change you have at the end of the day. We have little small mite boxes (you can just use a dish) that will hold all your change and on the 1st of every month you can place them in our Noisy Can at any of the three worship services.

Of the money we collect at Grace, 75 percent goes to the Mid-South District, 25 percent goes to international, which is used for grants. These grants may be used to help rebuild a church, plant a new play ground, aid an educational program for special education, deaf ministry, the list goes on. This is posted on the LWML bulletin board.

All the donations for donuts from the coffee area on Sunday mornings and other fundraiser monies stay at Grace to help fund projects we do here, such as our Confirmation dinners, funeral dinners, Youth mission trips, just to name a few.

So those pennies add up and are put to good use. If you need any information on LWML, please feel free to ask. We would love to see some more ladies at our next meeting.

~ Pam Phillips



Gratitude gets us through the hard stuff. To reflect on your blessings is to rehearse God’s accomplishments. To rehearse God’s accomplishments is to discover his heart. To discover his heart is to discover not just good gifts but the Good Giver.

Gratitude always leaves us looking at God and away from dread. It does to anxiety what the morning sun does to valley mist. It burns it up.

—Max Lucado, *You’ll Get Through This*

Thanks from the Library

With November comes Thanksgiving, a time when we are reminded to give thanks for all the blessings in our lives. At this time, I would especially like to offer my personal thanks to Pam Phillips and Lois and Chuck Robinson for their assistance throughout the year with the “operation” of the library. Because of their diligence, my responsibilities are lessened, and I am able to do other things for the library.

I would also like to thank the many of you who have donated items to our collection’ some of you I know by name; others of you only anonymously. A special thank you to all.

New Non-Fiction

The Grave Robber: How Jesus Can Make Your Impossible Possible by Mark Batterson (231 Bat): Jesus performed miracles that are recorded throughout the Bible. Batterson reveals how they are not simply something Jesus did in the past, but something He continues to do today. As we become aware of the countless miracles big and small that we take for granted every day, we find ourselves being led to the One who performs them.

Simplify: Ten Practices to Unclutter Your Soul by Bill Hybels (248.4 Hyb): Based on his own hard-earned experience, Hybels presents simple, practical tools that helped him establish a focused, simplified, and rewarding life. Through these ten key practices, one can unclutter his life, his faith and his soul. Jesus told Martha that her only hope was to pull up a chair and unplug from all the busyness. We can join Martha.

Before Amen: The Power of a Simple Prayer by Max Lucado (248.3 Luc): Jesus’s first followers struggled with how to pray. And when they asked, Jesus said, “This then is how you should pray.” (Matthew 6:9 NIV). Jesus gave them a prayer, not a lecture on prayer, not the doctrine of prayer, but an actual prayer known to us as The Lord’s Prayer. In his new book, Lucado goes to the very heart of biblical prayer reminding us that prayer is not the privilege of the pious nor the art of a select few. It is simply a heart felt conversation between God and His child. So, let your conversation begin.

10 Issues That Divide Christians by Alex McFarland (230 McF): “Christians are constantly faced with questions that matter. Every single day we’re bombarded by the media, popular culture, and secular ideas that challenge our faith. What can we do...if we don’t have the time to dig into every issue?” (pg. 13) That is the aim of this book. McFarland tackles 10 social issues that are approached differently by Christians. He presents biblical solutions to these social, political and moral differences. Note: Reading the Forward and Introduction are essential to your understanding of this

book. Among the topics are government, social justice, abortion, pornography, war, and more.

Jesus on Trial: A Lawyer Affirms the Truth of the Gospel by David

Limbaugh (239 Lim): Lawyer and brother of radio and talk show host Rush, Limbaugh applies his lawyer’s eye to the evidence of history, science, and archeology to produce powerful arguments that demonstrate the truthfulness of the Bible. As one who knows the skeptic’s arguments, having been one himself, he describes his own faith journey and explains in understandable detail the arguments, evidence, and biblical passages that have brought him to embrace Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.

New Fiction

Somewhere Safe With Somebody Good by Jan Karon (Fic Kar): Readers of the Mitford stories about Father Tim, Cynthia, Dooley, Lacey and the other residents of Mitford will welcome the return of Father Tim to Lord’s Chapel after his five years of retirement. Those readers unfamiliar with Mitford will find themselves wanting to learn more about these lovable, big-hearted and engaging characters.

Angels Walking by Karen Kingsbury (Fic Kin): Kingsbury begins a new series about second chances. In this first novel in the series, a baseball star suffers a career-ending injury that leads him to a job at a retirement home where he befriends an Alzheimer’s patient who gives him the answers he needs to heal himself and redeem his life.

The River by Beverly Lewis (Fic Lew) Lewis continues her Amish-themed writings in this new book which has two former Amish sisters who were driven into the English world because of a series of tragedies returning to the community to celebrate their parent’s anniversary. Both sisters must face their futures acknowledging they cannot undo their pasts.

Other new fiction: **The Lady and the Officer** by Mary Ellis (Fic Ell); **A Change of Fortune** and **A Talent For Trouble** by Jen Turano (Fic Tur); and **The Desire** by Dan Walsh (Fic Wal).

As always, these and other titles new to the library will be displayed on the library cart during the month. All materials are ready for your use.

Blessed Thanksgiving to You!!!!!!

~Mary Schultz



From Pastor Justin: This is Part 2 and the conclusion of an article written by John Blake, CNN, and published on August 27, 2010.

More Teens Becoming “Fake” Christians

How ‘radical’ parents instill religious passion in their children

Churches, not just parents, share some of the blame for teens’ religious apathy as well, says Corrie, the Emory professor. She says pastors often preach a safe message that can bring in the largest number of congregants. The result: more people and yawning in the pews.

“If your church can’t survive without a certain number of members pledging, you might not want to preach a message that might make people mad,” Corrie says. “We can all agree that we should all be good and that God rewards those who are nice.”

Corrie, echoing the author of “Almost Christian,” says the gospel of niceness can’t teach teens how to confront tragedy.

“It can’t bear the weight of deeper questions: Why are my parents getting a divorce? Why did my best friend commit suicide? Why, in this economy, can’t I get the good job I was promised if I was a good kid?”

What can a parent do then?

Get “radical,” Dean says.

She says parents who perform one act of radical faith in front of their children convey more than a multitude of sermons and mission trips.

A parent’s radical act of faith could involve something as simple as spending a summer in Bolivia working on an agricultural renewal project or turning down a more lucrative job offer to stay at a struggling church, Dean says.

But it’s not enough to be radical -- parents must explain “this is how Christians live,” she says.

“If you don’t say you’re doing it because of your faith, kids are going to say my parents are really nice people,” Dean says. “It doesn’t register that faith is supposed to make you live differently unless parents help their kids connect the dots.”

‘They called when all the cards stopped’

Anne Havard, an Atlanta teenager, might be considered radical. She’s a teen whose faith appears to be on fire.

Havard, who participated in the Emory program, bubbles over with energy when she talks about possibly teaching theology in the future and quotes heavy-duty scholars such as theologian Karl Barth.

She’s so fired up about her faith that after one question, Havard goes on a five-minute tear before stopping and chuckling: “Sorry, I just talked a long time.”

Havard says her faith has been nurtured by what Dean, the “Almost Christian” author, would call a significant faith community.

In 2006, Havard lost her father to a rare form of cancer. Then she lost one of her best friends -- a young woman in the prime of life -- to cancer as well. Her church and her pastor stepped in, she says.

“They called when all the cards stopped,” she says.

When asked how her faith held up after losing her father and friend, Havard didn’t fumble for words like some of the teens in “Almost Christian.”

She says God spoke the most to her when she felt alone -- as Jesus must have felt on the cross.

“When Jesus was on the cross crying out, ‘My God, why have you forsaken me?’ Jesus was part of God,” she says. “Then God knows what it means to doubt.”

“It’s OK to be in a storm, to be in a doubt,” she says, “because God was there, too.”

Standing Before the Judge

The New Testament uses pictures from everyday life to teach important points: the branches and the vine, the whole armor of God, the Good Shepherd, grafted into Christ, covered in a garment of righteousness, the church as the bride of Christ. Lutherans regard justification by faith as the central teaching of the Christian faith. It is a picture from a courtroom.

We are familiar with the concept that God is the judge to Whom all will answer on the Last Day. When we appear before a judge we always hope the judge is not fully aware of certain details in our case that we prefer remain hidden. A former prosecutor told a story, real or fictional, about a speeder in a fast car on a quiet back road. The deputy caught him. Traffic court was to be held in the general store. The speeder was very upset at being caught and at waiting for his case to be heard. Two men in bib overalls were playing checkers on top of a barrel. The speeder began to express himself about the backward little town and the incompetent deputy. If the deputy were really worth his salt, he would have known the speeder was driving 25 mph faster than the ticket indicated. Just then the man behind the counter finished with a customer, took off his apron, and said to one of the men playing checkers, "Well, Judge, are you ready to start court?" Like this speeder, we will go before a Judge Who knows all we have done wrong.

Satan means "adversary." See Revelation 12:10. In Job 1:6f. Satan prosecutes a case against Job. The prosecutor knows we are guilty. In the interest of justice, the prosecutor will demand our condemnation.

But, Jesus stands beside us as our defense attorney. 1 John 2:1-2 calls Jesus our advocate. To this day, attorneys in the military are called advocates. As an illustration, Jesus sent "another comforter" for us when He ascended into heaven. Jesus was the first comforter or the consolation of Israel (Luke 2:25-26, 29-32). The word is "paraclete," which we find in some of our hymns. The word means someone who is called to stand next to us in our time of need. Jesus also knows we are guilty, but stands beside us and pleads our case before the Father. It goes something like this. "Father, all of the charges are true. But, this one believes in Me. I carried his sins to the cross and paid for them all. For my sake, declare him "not guilty," even though he is guilty and deserves only condemnation." And, the Judge declares us "not guilty." The Good News Bible says it this way, "But those who depend on faith, not on deeds, and who believe in the **God who declares the guilty to be innocent**, it is this faith that God takes into account in order to put them right ("justify them") with himself." (Romans 4:5)

~ Rev. Phil Bohlken

Healthline is a 30-minute Medical Education television show hosted by Grace's very own Sheila Wittke.

AIR TIME: Sunday afternoons at 6:30 p.m.

STATIONS:

CTV COMCAST Cable Channel 12 (Knoxville)

CTV CHARTER + WOW Channel 6 (Farragut)

AT&T U-Verse Channel 99



NOVEMBER 2014 SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND GUESTS

November 2 - TMR Laser Therapy for Angina - Dr. Thomas R. Pollard

November 9 - Urinary and Bowel Incontinence - Dr. C. Bryce Bowling

November 16 - Gamma Knife Radiosurgery for Brain Tumor - Dr. David H. Hauge

November 23 - Ischemic Strokes and TIAs - Dr. Keith Woodward

November 30 - Diagnosing Interstitial Cystitis - Dr. C. Bryce Bowling

*O give thanks
unto the LORD;
for he is good.*

PSALM 136:1, KJV



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Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (Traditional) and
9:30 a.m. (Blended)/11:00 a.m. (Contemporary)
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m. (Blended)
Sunday School & Bible Classes @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.

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