



GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

January 2015

Deprivation

Deprivation is an epidemic illness affecting children throughout our nation. It has devastating effects that are only seen years later. Through the early years of life the symptoms are barely perceptible. One of the earliest signs is a persistent selfishness. Later one can see a moral confusion and a kind of "lostness." At its height the soul has become hollow and the person is either completely self-absorbed or angry and despondent. If the antidote is given too late it is most often ineffectual.

So what in the world am I talking about? You haven't heard of the disease of 'deprivation'? To put it simply, I am talking about depriving children of the Word of God.

Countless children are neither brought to Sunday School nor are they taught at home the Bible stories and the vital Gospel message that would vaccinate them against deprivation. There is a whole generation who know nothing of Abraham, Moses, David, Peter, Mary and especially Jesus Christ. They are left vulnerable to all kinds of terrible infections that can ruin their life and the lives of others. What's worse is that they can't even recognize these virulent infections or know the source of them.

We so take for granted the Word of God. Many homes have Bibles but they are untouched. Maybe the Lord will discipline us collectively for this neglect. I am referring to the words in the book of Amos:

The days are coming declares the Sovereign Lord, when I will send a famine through the land - not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord. Men will stagger from sea to sea and

wander from north to east, searching for the word of the Lord but they will not find it. (Amos 8:11-12)

We must act quickly. Children are growing up. If they have not been fed any spiritual substance by age 10-11, then they will be in danger of soul atrophy. One thing on our side is that most children want to hear and know about God. They are curious and open minded and open hearted. They don't have all the virus induced disbeliefs and prejudices. They have a natural capacity to absorb Biblical truth which grows the soul and structures their future. As Jesus said, you must become like a little child if you are to enter His Kingdom. He meant that uncritical faith that simply accepts and believes the Word of God that children display.

The disease of deprivation is everyone's concern. First, parents must feed their children the Word of God. Have devotions, buy the Children's Bible, enroll them in Sunday School, show them Biblical videos and most of all answer their questions. To deprive your children is really a form of spiritual abuse.

Grandparents also have an important role. They can reinforce what the parents are teaching. Sadly they may have to step in to see to it that these little ones are being fed. It is just too important to ignore even if it risks family discord.

The church too has a role. We have to major in children's ministries! This is especially so because of the times in which we live. Let us find all kinds of ways to bring the Word of God into the hearts and souls of these little ones.

Please join with me to help stamp out deprivation!

~ Pastor Rich

The Legend of the Sand Dollar

*There's a pretty little legend that I would like to tell
Of the birth and death of Jesus found in this lowly shell.*

*If you examine closely, you'll see that you find here
Four nail holes and a fifth hole, made by a Roman's spear.*

*On one side the Easter lily, its center is the star
That appeared unto the shepherds and led them from afar.*

*The Christmas poinsettia etched on the other side
Reminds us of his birthday, our happy Christmastide.*

*Now break the center open, and here you will release
The five white doves awaiting to spread good will and peace.*

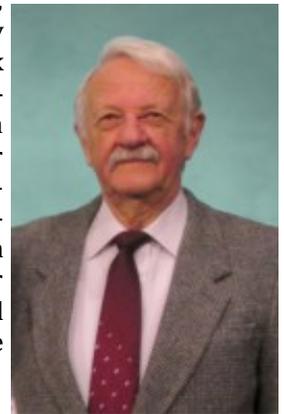
*This simple little symbol, Christ left for you and me
To help us spread his Gospel through all eternity.*

~ Author Unknown



Our Grace Family Meet Eric Horlbeck

Eric Horlbeck has the distinct privilege of being from Hoboken, New Jersey, a privilege shared with Frank Sinatra (if memory serves me well!). And he and Helen have shared 53 years of "togetherness." He has two children four grandchildren and one brother. Eric had the distinct privilege of providing engineering support to the Lunar Module Program at Cape Kennedy, which put astronauts on the moon and returned them to orbit for the trip home. What an awesome responsibility! So might we be bold enough to ask what he means about stating that he has "a house full of Teddy Bears"? On a more practical note, Eric shares that he just plain enjoys food so refrains from numbering all of them. His hobbies include studies of philosophy, psychology and physics, and, oh yes, he also loves traveling and volunteering. What would his aspirations involve? (And I quote!) "becoming more fit, less senile, using more self control, less procrastination, more relaxed, less tongue tied, etc." Such honesty! His most memorable moment occurred with the first lunar landing known as Apollo 11. Asked about "what ifs" concerning time and money, Eric confesses that he never had much for himself so he would direct these benefits toward his wife and family. Not to mention that God's will in the world be done! Along with his work for at least 21 years in nuclear power plants, Eric also includes his work on Navy missile tracking radars, and his work with the space program. Add on having been a boy scout, an Army PFC, a brown belt in martial arts, a volunteer Deputy Sheriff and a Red Cross volunteer, and you come up with one involved individual. Eric views life as an adventure and tries to make life better through loving consideration and providing a needed helping hand. We are rightfully impressed!



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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.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Surprise! The Twelve Days of Christmas are the twelve days after Christmas, not before Christmas. You may be aware of the Shakespeare play *Twelfth Night*. Its subject is entertainments at the end of the Christmas season just before Epiphany (January 6). You can confirm this use of the word "of" by looking up "Twelfth Night" in a good English dictionary. Also, when Easter next comes pay attention to the designation of the Sunday after Easter. It is The Second Sunday of Easter, Easter being the First.

People seeking to make a profit from pre-Christmas purchases do not understand the Christian Calendar or the holidays marked on it. So, we see numerous multi-day promotions before Christmas billed as Twelve Days of Christmas sales. Some decided to be extra cute and make these promotions 25 Days of Christmas, and they begin on December 1.

We do not know when Jesus was born. There was a pagan festival dedicated to the Roman sun god on December 25. Early Christians often sought to blunt pagan celebrations by appropriating them and changing them into Christian festivals.

Whereas Jesus is The Sun of Righteousness (Malachi 4:2), it seemed a

fitting to make the celebration of the Roman sun god a Christian celebration of Jesus' birth. That also kept Chris-

tians in church on those days and away from the pagan revelries.

Likewise, we do not know when the Magi arrived to worship the baby Jesus. The assumption is they came a bit after the actual birth. The Romans celebrated the winter solstice on January 6 with more ceremonies to the sun god. As with Christmas, Christians planted a Christian celebration on it to commemorate the arrival of the Magi whom we often call The Wise Men. Because they were from a land far to the East, the assumption has been that they were not Jews, but Gentiles. Epiphany means "the manifestation" of Jesus as Savior of Gentiles, too. That is good news for all of us who have no Jewish blood in our ancestry. In many cultures Epiphany is called "Three Holy Kings," even though we do not know there were three of Magi, nor that they were kings. (Three different expensive gifts are mentioned: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.)

The time between December 25 and January 6 came to be known as The Twelve Days of Christmas. Those twelve days give us an opportunity to slow down the hectic stress associated with trying to meet too many deadlines on or before December 25, which can cause us to be so busy that we miss the real meaning. We can feel free to celebrate after December 25 with more thought and reflection. A common German greeting around Christmas is "*Ihnen ein besinnliches Fest!*" It means, "I wish you a contemplative celebration (of Jesus' birth)." Those twelve days also give us a reason to leave our decorations in place until January 6 has come and gone.

~ Rev. Phil Bohlken



It's a Girl!

Charlotte Mae Holden

Born:
December 16, 2014

Proud Parents:
Larry and Diana Holden

New Library Materials for a New Year

Several new books and DVDs have been added to the library's collection to assist you in kicking off a new year of reading and viewing.

New Adult Fiction

Keepers of the Covenant by Lynn Austin (Fic Aus): Book 2 in the **Restoration Chronicles**. Austin, an accomplished author of biblical historical fiction, adds to her powerful series that brings the Old Testament books of Ezra and Nehemiah to life. The Israelites exiled in Babylon are fearful when the king issues an edict for the death of every Jewish man, woman, and child. Ezra, a scholar of the Torah, is forced to rally an army. When hopes of a future, a family, and love seem impossible, God's loves for His people proves unwavering. **Return to Me** is Book 1 in the series.

The Patmos Deception by Davis Bunn (Fic Bun): An aspiring young journalist yearning for a big break, a forensic archeologist who has just accepted a prestigious position at the Athens Institute for Antiquities, and a struggling businessman on the Greek Isles cross paths on the ancient island of Patmos where the Apostle John received his vision of the Apocalypse. The ancient secret they uncover would change their lives forever.

Hawk by Ronie Kendig (Fic Ken): Book 2 in **The Quiet Professionals** series. The Raptor team continues to struggle with a terrorist playing chess with their lives. Staff Sergeant "Hawk" Bledsoe is a man of his word, but when he promises to protect an Afghan woman, he never suspected he would be faced with the impossible choice between keeping his promise or saving his brothers-in-arms on the Raptor team.

Picture Books

Tipper Tells a Lie and **Diggit Saves the Day** by Andy Holmes (J Hol): Two books in **Building God's Kingdom** series are available for our youngest readers to enjoy.

Also for our youngest patrons is the latest DVD from Veggie Tales, **Beauty and the Beet: A Lesson in Unconditional Love** (DVD J Veg)

On DVD for Adults

Not a Fan: Completely Committed Follower: A Follower's Story (DVD FIC Not): The book and pastor resource kit has now been made into a feature film. When Eric Nelson's compartmentalized triple life as a pleasure seeker, cut-throat executive, and nominal Christian is confronted with a near death experience, he embarks on a transformational spiritual journey.

The Road to Emmaus, PA: An Unexpected Pilgrimage (DVD Fic Roa): A threesome plans a reenactment of the biblical pilgrimage to Emmaus recorded in Luke. As the

three travel from Jerusalem, Ohio, to Emmaus, Pennsylvania, looking for Jesus, they too experience a poignant spiritual awaken.

On compact disc is **The Word of Promise New Testament** (CD 225, Wor), an audio of the New King James version of the Bible read in its entirety (20 CDs) by such Hollywood names as Richard Dreyfuss, Louis Gossett Jr., Luke Perry, Michael W. Smith, Marisa Tomei, and Jim Caviezel as Jesus.

Non-Fiction

Jesus, Continued . . . Why the Spirit Inside You Is Better Than Jesus Beside You by J. D. Greear (231. Gre): Craig Groeshel says of this book, "If you are wanting a clear understanding of the Holy Spirit, (this book) will open your eyes to the personal and powerful Spirit that dwells within followers of Jesus. Experiencing the presence of God through His Spirit will empower you to live in freedom, worship with intimacy, and tap into God's supernatural strength."

You and Me Forever: Marriage in Light of Eternity by Francis and Lisa Chan (248.4 Cha): The Chans present a counter-cultural approach to marriage. Their view, simply stated is, "The way to have a great marriage is by not focusing on marriage." (cover) When they began living their lives with an eternal focus, it caused them to enjoy the here and now more. They discovered that focusing on God's mission for their lives made their marriage amazing. Read about this unique perspective on the connection between marriage and eternity.

Vanishing Grace: What Ever Happened to the Good News? by Philip Yancey (261.8 Yan): Yancey has been searching for the answer to the question, "Why does the church stir up such negative feelings?" Favorable opinions of Christians has plummeted drastically in the past years. However, interest in spirituality is on the rise. Yancey explores why the disconnect and how the Good News of God's grace can be kept alive and shared with a world in need of that grace.

From This Day Forward: Five Commitments to Fail-Proof Your Marriage by Craig and Amy Groeschel (306.81 Gro): The Groeschels offer and expound on five steps to a happy and life-log marriage: (1) Seek God, (2) Fight Fair, (3) Have Fun, (4) Stay Pure, and (5) Never Give Up. It's never too late to start.

Find these and other materials new to the library on display on the cart in the library throughout the month. Blessed New Year to all!!!



From Pastor Justin: The following article ran in the Associated Press on November 18, 2014

New Report: Child Homelessness on the Rise in U.S.

by David Crary and Lisa Leff

The number of homeless children in the U.S. has surged in recent years to an all-time high, amounting to one child in every 30, according to a comprehensive state-by-state report that blames the nation's high poverty rate, the lack of affordable housing and the impacts of pervasive domestic violence.

Titled "America's Youngest Outcasts," the report being recently issued by the National Center on Family Homelessness calculates that nearly 2.5 million American children were homeless at some point in 2013. The number is based on the Department of Education's latest count of 1.3 million homeless children in public schools, supplemented by estimates of homeless pre-school children not counted by the DOE.

The problem is particularly severe in California, which has one-eighth of the U.S. population but accounts for more than one-fifth of the homeless children with a tally of nearly 527,000.

Carmela DeCandia, director of the national center and a co-author of the report, noted that the federal government has made progress in reducing homelessness among veterans and chronically homeless adults.

"The same level of attention and resources has not been targeted to help families and children," she said. "As a society, we're going to pay a high price, in human and economic terms."

Child homelessness increased by 8 percent nationally from 2012 to 2013, according to the report, which warned of potentially devastating effects on children's educational, emotional and social development, as well as on their parents' health, employment prospects and parenting abilities.

The report included a composite index ranking the states on the extent of child homelessness, efforts to combat it, and the overall level of child well-being. States with the best scores were Minnesota, Nebraska and Massachusetts. At the bottom were Alabama, Mississippi and California.

California's poor ranking did not surprise Shahera Hyatt, director of the California Homeless Youth Project.

The crux of the problem, she said, is the state's high cost of living, coupled with insufficient affordable housing.

"People think, 'Of course we are not letting children and families be homeless,' so there's a lot of disbelief," Hyatt said. "California has not invested in this issue."

Hyatt, 29, was homeless on and off throughout adoles-

cence, starting when her parents were evicted when she was in 7th grade. At 15, she and her older brother took off and survived by sleeping in the tool sheds, backyards and basements of acquaintances.

"These terms like 'couch surfing' and 'doubled-up' sound a lot more polite than they are in practice," she said. "For teenagers, it might be exchanging sex for a place to stay or staying someplace that does not feel safe because they are so mired in their day-to-day survival needs."

Near San Francisco, Gina Cooper and her son, then 12, had to vacate their home in 2012 when her wages of under \$10 an hour became insufficient to pay the rent. After a few months as nomads, they found shelter and support with Home & Hope, an interfaith program in Burlingame, California, and stayed there five months before Cooper, 44, saved enough to be able to afford housing on her own.

"It was a painful time for my son," Cooper said. "On the way to school, he would be crying, 'I hate this.'"

In mostly affluent Santa Barbara, the Transition House homeless shelter is kept busy with families unable to afford housing of their own. Executive director Kathleen Baushke said that even after her staff gives clients money for security deposits and rent, they go months without finding a place to live.

"Landlords aren't desperate," she said. "They won't put a family of four in a two-bedroom place because they can find a single professional who will take it."

She said neither federal nor state housing assistance nor incentives for developers to create low-income housing have kept pace with demand.

"We need more affordable housing or we need to pay people \$25 an hour," she said. "The minimum wage isn't cutting it."

Among the current residents at Transition House are Anthony Flippen, Savannah Austin and their 2-year-old son, Anthony Jr.

Flippen, 28, said he lost his job and turned to Transition House as his unemployment insurance ran out. The couple has been on a list to qualify for subsidized housing since 2008, but they aren't counting on that option and hope to save enough to rent on their own now that Flippen is back at work as an electrician.

(continued on page 7)

Child Homelessness *(continued from page 6)*

Austin, due to have a second child in December, is grateful for the shelter's support but said its rules had been challenging. With her son in tow, she was expected to vacate the premises each morning by 8 a.m. and not return before 5 p.m.

"I'd go to the park, or drive around," she said. "It was kind of hard."

The new report by the National Center on Family Homelessness — a part of the private, nonprofit American Institutes for Research — says remedies for child homelessness should include an expansion of affordable housing, education and employment opportunities for homeless parents, and specialized services for the many mothers rendered homeless due to domestic violence.

Efforts to obtain more resources to combat child homelessness are complicated by debate over how to quantify it.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development conducts an annual one-day count of homeless people that encompasses shelters, as well as parks, underpasses, vacant lots and other locales. Its latest count, for a single night in January 2013, tallied 610,042 homeless people, including 130,515 children.

Defenders of HUD's method say it's useful in identifying the homeless people most in need of urgent assis-

tance. Critics contend that HUD's method grossly underestimates the extent of child homelessness and results in inadequate resources for local governments to combat it. They prefer the Education Department method that includes homeless families who are staying in cheap motels or doubling up temporarily in the homes of friends or relatives.

"Fixing the problem starts with adopting an honest definition," said Bruce Lesley, president of the nonprofit First Focus Campaign for Children. "Right now, these kids are sort of left out there by themselves."

Lesley's group and some allies have endorsed a bill introduced in Congress, with bipartisan sponsorship, that would expand HUD's definition to correlate more closely with that used by the Education Department. However, the bill doesn't propose any new spending for the hundreds of thousands of children who would be added to the HUD tally.

Shahera Hyatt, of the California Homeless Youth Project, says most of the homeless schoolchildren in her state aren't living in shelters.

"It's often one family living in extreme poverty going to live with another family that was already in extreme poverty," she said. "Kids have slept in closets and kitchens and bathrooms and other parts of the house that have not been meant for sleeping."

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. **Note: Beginning Sunday, January 11, the Healthline air time will change to 6:00 p.m.**

STATIONS:

CTV COMCAST Cable Channel 12 (Knoxville)

CTV CHARTER + WOW Channel 6 (Farragut)

AT&T U-Verse Channel 99

Direct TV and Others: You can stream HealthLine on your computers, but it must be done at the time it is aired. Go to CTVKnox.org, click the CTV icon and watch.



JANUARY 2015 SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND GUESTS

04 - Complex Hernia Repair - Dr. Joel (Trey) Bradley (6:30 p.m.)

11 - Esophageal Cancer - Dr. Paul Dudrick (6:00 p.m.)

18 - Laparoscopic Colon Resection - Dr. Kristopher B. Williams (6:00 p.m.)

25 - Minimally Invasive Treatment for Hemorrhoids - Dr. C. Stone Mitchell (6:00 p.m.)



The star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

Matthew 2: 9-11

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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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TO:

