



GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

June 2023

Three Brief Topics

Poison Ivy and Prayer

It seems like every other year I forget that we have poison ivy in the front yard of my home. It is cleverly mixed in with other non-poisonous ivy and other plants. This year I had a wicked case. The intense itching can drive you absolutely crazy. Of course, I blame Adam and Eve. If they hadn't fallen into sin there would be no such thing as poison ivy. But they did and we would have, too, and now we live in a sin broken world that needs redeeming as much as we do.

Something good has come from this torment. When the itching became intense it was a reminder that I needed to pray. Yes, I sought medication and I prayed for relief. But the reminder was not so much to pray for myself but rather for people dealing with far greater pains or troubles. The Bible talks about praying without ceasing. Our true help comes from the Lord but sometimes we need some adversity to remember that.

Do I give thanks for poison ivy? Well, yes and no. Yes, because it reminded me how much I need the Lord. And no, because poison ivy is a bad thing and we will be eternally free of it in Heaven. Hallelujah!

The Growth of Christianity

There is talk in our country about the decline of Christianity and statistics unfortunately show this to be true. But Christianity throughout the world is growing. 2.56 billion people identify as Christians (a 2022 number) and the growth rate is 1.17%. It is expected by the year 2050 there will be 3.3 billion Christians. It is growing fastest in Africa and Asia which account for 1.1 billion Christians. Growth in typically non-Christian nations has also been

encouraging. In 2022, 93 million Bibles were produced which is expected to rise to 100 million in 2025. Significantly it is being translated into more and more languages.

Why is all of this important? It is important because of that verse in Matthew 24 where Jesus speaks of the end of the world. It is verse 14 where Jesus proclaims: *"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached to the whole world as a testimony to the nations, and then the end will come."*

As believers in Christ Jesus we want all to hear His Gospel. Let the people hear the good news in Saudi Arabia, in Sudan, in Suriname and Sweden...in Israel, Iraq, India and Indonesia...in Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, and Azerbaijan....everywhere! Then Jesus will return and our salvation will be complete.



Our Next Generation of Americans

Here is a positive stat from Barna Research: 70% of parents are concerned about the spiritual development or faith formation of their children. But being concerned and actually doing something to help our children grow in spiritual knowledge and faith are two different things. Sunday schools across our land have shrunk. Children are not exposed to the stories and doctrines of the faith.

Churches and Christian schools do much to shape the next generation, but there is no substitute for parental involvement. I always think of Moses' instructions to the Israelites. *"Impress them (God's commandments) on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, and when you lie down and when you get up."*

(Continued on page 2)

Three Brief Topics *(Continued)*

You should want nothing more greatly for your children than they become wholehearted believers in Jesus Christ. At their infant baptism you promised before God to bring them to worship services, to teach them the Word of God and how to pray, and to expose them continually to our glorious Gospel and all its implications to our lives. Let's keep that promise and raise up a new generation of Christians.

~ Pastor Rich

Save the Dates!!!

Sunday, July 9, 4:00 p.m.

**Ordination and Installation for
Associate Pastor Jake Childers**

**Sunday, October 29, 10:00 a.m.
ONE SERVICE ONLY**

**Pastor Rich's final sermon followed by a
celebratory retirement luncheon**

Teen Quilters

The Teen Quilters at Grace have finished 6 quilts this year for Lutheran World Relief. They have gathered on Sat. mornings and have learned to thread needles, tie square knots, and pin the binding. The girls especially enjoy working on quilts that have children's prints, so that they know another child will know of their love and concern. These quilts will get shipped along with many others to locations around the world where people experience disasters and need the love of Jesus.



Grace Prayer Team Welcomes Requests

The Grace Prayer Team is constantly at work! If you have a prayer request that you would like prayed over by the Grace Prayer Team, we welcome your requests. Please contact **Kristin McGee** at kdmcgee08@gmail.com (865-384-9834) or **Ev Brown** (evbrown3@gmail.com) (757-870-5603). The request will then be passed on to the team. We continue to welcome Prayer Team members as well. If you are interested in praying for the needs submitted by our church family, please contact Kristin or Ev with your interest.



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

GraceNet Staff

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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.

Our 2023 High School Graduates

Mia Avril Borchardt

Graduating from Hardin Valley Academy
Attending UT-Knoxville, Nursing/Spanish

Laci Brill

Graduating from Berean Christian School
Attending Roane State Community College,
Physical Therapy Assistant

Andrew Brill

Graduating from West High School
Attending Tennessee College of Applied
Technology, Welding Program

Emily Jane Cole

Graduating from Homeschool
Attending Pellissippi State Community College,
Psychology

Davis Emery Masters

Graduating from Bearden High School
Attending UT-Knoxville, Finance

Elizabeth Leigh DeTrana

Graduating from Concord Christian School
Attending Middle Tennessee State University,
Psychology/Music

McKenzie (Kenzie) McIlwain

Graduating from Bearden High School
Attending UT-Knoxville, Engineering

Morgan Schmidt

Graduating from West High School
Attending Tennessee College of Applied Technology,
Nursing LPN Program

Caleb M. Shipwash

Graduating from William Blount High School
Attending Pellissippi State Community College,
Computer Information

Samuel Grant Smith

Graduating from Homeschool with Classical Conversations
Attending UT-Knoxville, Supply Chain Management

Marcie Strickland

Graduating from Bearden High School
Attending Pellissippi State Community College, Marketing

Robert "Tripp" Keeton III

Graduating from Homeschool
Attending Hillsdale College, Theology, Philosophy and
Political Science

Cate Turner

Graduating from Bearden High School
Attending Lincoln Memorial University, Biology

* * * * *
 * Please keep these young peo- *
 * ple in your prayers as they *
 * begin the next phase of their *
 * education and life journey. *
 * Pray that they will remain *
 * steadfast in their faith. *
 * * * * *





6/1	Taylor Martin	6/18	Kelly Dodson
6/1	Michael Newport	6/18	Scott Pafford
6/3	Isabelle Meade	6/19	Alex Brown
6/6	Whitney Kaul	6/19	Steve Crum
6/6	Benjamin McCay	6/20	Dan Kleckley
6/6	Paul Pankow	6/20	Kelly Masters
6/7	Zachary Calcutt	6/20	Kim Zimmerman
6/7	Gwen Elseroad	6/21	John Cleland
6/7	Carol Haase	6/21	Mitch List
6/7	Nancy Thaemert	6/22	Stanton Oster
6/8	Ryan Harter	6/22	Jenny Payne
6/8	Jonathan Wooden	6/22	Erin Strickland
6/9	Larry Belt	6/23	Bev Knipp
6/9	Melinda Borchardt	6/23	Rhonda Smith
6/11	William Dreke	6/24	Landon Cleland
6/11	Barbara Frizzell	6/25	Becky Daenzer
6/11	Ella Roettger	6/25	Tom Glisson
6/11	George Roettger	6/26	Todd Duenckel
6/12	Stanton Elseroad	6/27	Heather Hatfield
6/12	Stephanie Elseroad	6/27	Heidi Hicks
6/14	Linda Schmid	6/27	Quentin Smith
6/15	Arlene Fisk	6/27	Luke Smithey
6/16	Stuart Elseroad	6/28	Kellye Glisson
6/16	Derek Wilson	6/28	Joan Scraggs
6/17	Jason Bangert	6/29	Ethan Hoppe
6/17	Mary Holden	6/30	David Williams

6/2	Simon & April Calcutt
6/3	Lynette & John Duncan
6/3	Sarah & Josh Hunter
6/6	Chris & Dina Augustus
6/6	Byron & Becky Strickland
6/7	Bob & Patricia Strickland
6/8	Jason & Caroline Bangert
6/10	Tim & Shirley Wolfram
6/12	Stanton & Aubrey Elseroad
6/12	John & Deborah Rowlands
6/13	Cory & Michelle Mollenhour
6/14	Rev. Phil & Kathy Bohlken
6/14	Melinda & Jacob Curtis
6/14	Linda & Jeff Jaekel
6/14	John & Christine McCay
6/14	Eugene & Arlene Stern
6/15	Larry & Carolee Granquist
6/15	Bill & Mary Johnson
6/16	Lee & Pam Baker
6/16	David & Leslie Poker
6/21	Joe & Bev Knipp
6/22	Larry & Cydne Albers
6/22	Casey & Tyler Bailey
6/22	John & Carrie Cleland
6/22	Andrew & Alana Harter
6/24	David & Sandi Larson
6/25	Taylor & Dylan Martin
6/26	Troy & Cai Shafer
6/27	Keith & Cheryl Denton
6/27	Brett & Caitlin Kothe
6/30	Stuart & Annie Elseroad

Bible Quiz

Which of the following is an accurate husband-wife match from Scripture?

- A. Abram and Ruth
- B. Boaz and Ruth
- C. Hosea and Ruth
- D. Ananias and Ruth



Answer: B (see Ruth 4:13)

June Scripture of the Month

As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

~ Psalm 103:13-14, NIV

June Children's Curriculum Themes

In an attempt to connect the adults and children of Grace just a bit more, I will be letting people know the theme and verse of the week in our children's Sunday school classes. I would love it if the adults would join in memorizing or at least talking about it to the children as they see each other in the halls. Listed below are the themes and scripture for June.

~ Frieda Guthrie

<i>DATE</i>	<i>THEME</i>	<i>VERSE</i>
June 4	God cares for needy people.	<i>He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing. (Deuteronomy 10:18)</i>
June 11	God wants us to be humble.	<i>Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. (1 Peter 5:6)</i>
June 18	Following God is always the right choice	<i>The ways of the Lord are right, the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them. (Hosea 14:9)</i>
June 25	God wants us to love everyone.	<i>The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)</i>



Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a year-round opportunity to share the spirit of Christmas with children around the world who would not otherwise receive gifts. Please consider filling a shoebox to bless a child. If you don't want to fill the box yourself, you can contribute funds for a box and we'll fill it for you. If you don't know what to put in a box, there's information in the Children's wing on suggestions for items. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact Frieda Guthrie at childrensmin@visitgrace.org or Paul Guthrie at pgvint3@gmail.com. Thank you for supporting this important ministry!



Mission for Christ Network (MCN)

Dr. Haragewen Kinde (pictured below), born and raised in Ethiopia, attended a Christian High School where she had great missionary teachers from Norway, Germany, Sweden, Finland, and the United States. She relished the quality education she received and hoped someday that she could be a missionary like them. However, due to a change in the Ethiopian government and political unrest, in 1980 she left Ethiopia for the U.S.

In the U.S. Haragewen discovered her calling to teach and pursued a career in education. Haragewen holds a bachelor's and master's degree in mathematics and a doctorate in Educational Leadership. She has been committed to education for over 30 years serving at all levels from elementary through to university.

Now retired, she has embarked on her childhood dream to be a worldwide missionary utilizing her experience in education. Haragewen serves with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY), the largest Lutheran church body in the world. Her assignment is to strengthen and build the current Mekane Yesus Management Leadership College (MY-MLC) to move towards the formation of the first Mekane Yesus (*the house of Jesus*) University (MYU) in Ethiopia. Her efforts include building seminar partnerships between US universities and the Management Leadership College and

supporting technological development at the college – all with the goal of strengthening and equipping Christian leaders for the Ethiopian church.

Haragewen is sent and supported by Mission of Christ Network, a Lutheran missionary sending organization with overseas partners in 20 countries around the world. Our international partners – Lutheran churches, schools, and community organizations committed to Gospel proclamation in their communities – are requesting more missionaries to join them. Each year we receive more requests than we are able to fill. Most of these mission positions do not require a specific degree or church work background; they are simply looking for English-speaking, committed Christians who want to build relationships and share the Gospel in a place where few people know Jesus. Could you be one of these future missionaries or do you know someone who could be? Go to missionofchrist.org or email recruiting@missionofchrist.org and join us in praying for God to send out laborers into His harvest field!

Want to learn more? Go to missionofchrist.org or follow @missionofchristnetwork on Facebook, Instagram, or YouTube.

Pastor Paul Muench is Grace's point of contact for more information.



Vacation BIBLE SCHOOL

July 17-20, 2023

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Registration forms are available at the info desk for children 3 years old—5th grade. We need volunteers for: arts & crafts, music, story time, games, group leaders, snacks, and decorations. This is a great opportunity for grandparents, parents, and middle/high school students to serve. Contact **Marlene Landon** (winland@aol.com) for more info.

The Joys of Adversity

We tend to think God will bless us as we expect because we belong to Him. Actually, God wants to refine us to make us more like Christ, and He often uses very difficult, painful adversities to do that. Although difficult to imagine, there are real blessings that come through adversity. We know we are to rejoice and give thanks to God in all things, but it is difficult to put that into actual practice.

A period of real adversity teaches you a lot about yourself. It shows you strengths and weaknesses, and reveals key values you will not compromise. These can help you learn where you are better fitted to serve.

In the midst of severe adversity you can easily feel everyone and everything have failed you. Reflection is always good. If you did anything that contributed to what you are experiencing, it is good to admit it. Ask others for forgiveness and grow from the experience. But, there will also be former friends who misconstrue your every action and pile undeserved blame on you. In adversity you also learn a lot about who other people really are.

A verse like, "*The LORD is my shepherd, I shall lack for nothing.*" (Psalm 23) helps a great deal. Repeat it to yourself over and over, especially in your most desperate moments. Let God speak to you through it to calm you and to assure you. You may have other similar favorite verses. When you feel all possibilities have been exhausted and you have no more reason to hope, God sends you small

encouragements. They may not become all that you hoped, but they keep you going and teach you to trust God more, especially when all other helps have failed. A deepening trust in God and His promises, especially His faithfulness, is a real blessing of adversity. You always heard God is your great hope. Suddenly, you learn in a much deeper way exactly what that means.

Adversity drives you to prayer and to reading God's Word. Suddenly, you have time for both although you thought before you were too busy for them. You will see things in God's Word you never saw before, and it will sustain you in ways you never thought possible. You will see answers to prayer that you will remember as encouragements later.

Think about the Lord's Prayer. When you envision yourself living out on the street with nothing remember, "Give us this day our daily bread." That refers back to the children of Israel wandering through the wilderness, yet God provided each day for a large band of people in miraculous ways. Never did they lack for anything. Do not worry about the distant future, but trust God for what is needed for the next day. "Once I was young, and now I am old. Yet I have never seen the godly abandoned or their children begging for bread." (Psalm 37:25)

~ Rev. Phil Bohlken

HealthLine

Please note that everything written in this column will be backed by research, various studies and facts. There will be no personal opinions.

~ Sheila Wittke



Supplements that Benefit Eye Health

For years health professionals have said that all of us should attempt to get all the vitamins and minerals we need from the foods we eat. However, that is not always possible because many of us are so busy, we don't take the time to prepare healthy meals every day. And, as we get older, our bodies go through major physiological changes. The National Eye Institute completed the Age-Related Eye Disease Study 2 (AREDS2), and showed that a supplemental formulation that contains vitamin C, zinc, vitamin E, lutein, and zeaxanthin may reduce the risk of Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD), and prevent cataracts from forming. A New Jersey-based Ophthalmologist, Cary Silverman, M.D., stated the following, "*I would recommend taking an AREDS2 supplement that also contains omega-3 fatty acids to prevent Age-related Macular Degeneration and dry eye in older individuals. There are several formulations available online and also at health food stores. Follow the recommendations on the label for proper dosage, but also consult with your eye doctor.*"

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Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (Traditional) and
9:30 a.m. (Blended)/11:00 a.m. (Contemporary)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:



Connect ~ Grow ~ Serve



**FOR FATHERS and
OTHER GOOD & FAITHFUL MEN**

in our lives,

we give you thanks!