



WIN... BUILD... SEND!!!

Several months ago, the Session of Grace Community Church adopted as our purpose statement the following word:

**With PASSION for Christ and
COMPASSION for people**

Grace Community Church is called to:

**WIN, BUILD, and SEND disciples
for the Glory of God.**

Like a compass reading, those twenty-four words set the direction for everything that we do here at Grace Community.

The first section of the statement speaks to our attitude or spirit with which we carry out our life together.

“With passion for Christ” is drawn from the greatest commandment where Jesus said we are to *“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”* (Mark 28:30) It is with a totality of our whole being that we are to love the Lord.

“With compassion for people” comes from the second greatest commandment according to Jesus, *“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* (Mark 28:31). We look at each other through the eyes of Christ. And our actions reflect His heart.

The middle section **“Grace Community Church is called”** defines the conviction that our purpose is wrapped up in more than a wish, opinion, or dream. Instead, we believe that it is none other than God Himself who has directed us to represent Him with a certain spirit and task in mind. We understand the

“spirit” and “task” to be inseparably intertwined.

The task to which we are called is outlined in the third section with three key points. Each of these points represents an aspect of the Great Commission found in Matthew 28 where Christ begins by saying, *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”*

He follows that statement in verse 19 by saying, *“Go therefore and make disciples.”* This is what we are referring to when in the first point we say, **“Win”** people over. This means that everyone of us is to use daily opportunities to encourage others to accept God’s gracious gift of salvation in Jesus Christ. In other words, to be “born again.”

Christ then commands us to baptize those who have been won over as disciples as members of the body of Christ, the church. In verse 20, our Lord follows that up by saying, *“teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”* And so, the second point underscores our call as a church to constantly **“Build”** people up in the knowledge, faith and practice taught in Scripture.

Finally, we are to **“Send”** people out for Jesus Christ. This continues the cycle of winning people over that we find the first point. Just as others won us over to Christ, so we are sent out to win others to Christ. Thus, fulfilling the Great Commission of our Lord.

In other words, we are His ambassadors. We represent Him wherever we go and with whomever we speak. Whether it is across the street or across the ocean. We represent Him at the grocery store, on cruises,

continued →

when we fly north as snowbirds... with our kids, our grandkids, friends or enemies.

Just twenty-four words very purposeful words in our statement, rooted in Scripture, help to define our purpose as a people... as a church. I want to encourage you to memorize those words. To always keep them foremost in your mind. And to look at everything that we think, say and do with these priorities in our hearts.

Ultimately, everything we do points to God as the one

deserving the glory. We worship & serve & learn & witness all to honor Him and magnify his Holy name.

With Love in Christ,

Pastor Cliff

P.S. It's been said that "*The Great Commandment plus the Great Commission make a great church!*"



MISSIONARY CRISIS RELIEF FUND*

Over the past ten years Hindus in India have become more and more hostile toward Christians and Muslims. The Hindu Nationalist Party under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi has been the prime motivator for ethnic cleansing/genocide throughout the country.

Tens of thousands of Christians in India have been run out of their homes, tortured and in some cases murdered. You may have heard of the Christian woman who was gang-raped and marched naked through the streets of Manipur.

Pastors, missionaries, evangelists and teachers have all become targets. Hundreds of pastors have been executed. Thousands of churches have been burned. And ancient Christian Cemeteries have been bulldozed under.

We, as a church, have been very supportive of one particular missionary who is currently one of India's leading theologians and Bible teachers. In fact, Pastor Cliff has worked with this friend for more than forty years and is currently the Chairman of the Board for the U.S.

Prior to the rise in persecution our mission had established more than 800 study centers throughout India. The purpose of these centers was to offer mature Biblical instruction to tens of thousands of house church pastors, missionaries, Bible translators

and evangelists who could not afford it otherwise.

Currently, this friend and his wife are under threat both from the government and Hindu neighbors. While they have dual citizenship, their exit from India is complicated for a variety of reasons. A few of them include the questions of whether they would ever be able to return to India, will the Indian government target other staff and faculty of the mission and what funds will be available for them to survive on here in the United States as they did not require as much to live in India.

At the moment, our Elders have voted to establish a MISSIONARY CRISIS RELIEF FUND with the goal of raising a minimum of \$10,000 by August 28th to simply relocate our missionary friends. Our hope is that our friends will be able to continue their missionary efforts here in America as well as online to India until it is safe for them to return.

Please pray for our friends. Many of you know them by name. Pray for their safety and God's provision for them. Also, be sure to ask the Lord to guide you in how you might be of help. The situation is urgent. Anything that you can do to be of assistance would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions/concerns, please speak with Pastor Cliff, Tim Tunnell, or Patti French.

(*Names have been intentionally obscured)



FINANCE TEAM CORNER

	2023 YTD Actual	2023 YTD Budget	Difference	%
Unrestricted Contributions	201,221.40	182,527.00	18,694.40	10.24%
Total Operating Expenses	184,383.58	185,379.56	(995.98)	-0.54%
Capital Improvement Expenditures	16,482.07	0.00	16,482.07	
Total Expenditures	200,865.65	185,379.56	15,486.09	8.35%

Actual Unrestricted Contributions are higher than the budget. The above numbers are as of 6/30/2023.

We wish to thank you for your continued generosity.

Expenses are on target to the budget!

We have spent almost \$16,500 on Capital Improvements. These items are not included in our Operating Expenses. They are also not included in the Joash Chest funding.

We have purchased the following Capital Improvements that are not included in the Operations Budget:

Rock for the Front Landscape Bed on Mountain View Blvd. (with the Sign (approx 1/3 acre)	2,114.16
Shelves for Storage	867.91
1 New Air Conditioner	13,500.00
	<hr/>
	16,482.07

Look for our next update in the next newsletter.

- The Finance Team

WATCH OUT FOR SCAMS

There is a scam going around that has affected many churches and charities, including ours.

PLEASE KNOW THIS...

1. Your pastor will never ask you to purchase gift cards for any reason.
The church will never contact you and request gift cards (or other purchases) of any kind, especially not through email or text messages.
2. If you have any doubts about an email or text message you receive please contact Pastor Cliff or the church office (623-975-9038). Never call a phone number provided in a potentially phony email or text message.

GREAT NEWS...

JOASH CHEST FUND VICTORY!!!



Praise the Lord!!! Thank you friends for being so supportive of the Joash Chest Fund.

Because of your generosity, by God's grace, we were able to complete our first major project from the fund known as "Raise the Roof!"

That's right, Grace Community Church now has a new roof! And the solar panels are being repositioned as this article is being written.

A point of clarification... we have a new roof on the front half of the building where the solar panels are located. Previously, our solar panels required hundreds of holes to be drilled into the tiles. This created leaks and places where refuse would collect causing water to back up.

For the time being, the Building and Grounds Team along with the Elders sensed that the crisis to be averted was with the front half of our building. Using a local, family owned, roofing company and solar service we replaced the paper and tiles, cleaned out the debris, cleaned and repositioned the solar panels (without drilling any large holes), and installed new inverters (which will improve our savings by 20-30%).

The total cost of our project comes to \$45,178.

We're working hard at raising funds for our next project which is the replacement of much of our lighting and sound system in the sanctuary. It will not be long before we will be unable to use our current lighting system. The change of lighting over to LED will then create all kinds of complications when it comes to sound interference.



Your ongoing support of the Joash Chest Fund is greatly appreciated and will make a huge difference in our ability to maintain and upgrade our facilities. Thank you!!!



TUESDAY MORNING

— PRAYER GROUP —

MEET US IN THE PRAYER ROOM, EVERY TUESDAY AT 9:45 AM



Continuing through the Summer

G₂ C₃ C₃

GAME DAYS

Join us for fun and games on the **2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the Month @ 1PM**

Bring along your favorite games and snacks to share.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Richi's Diner



AUGUST 7TH - 8 AM

WHY READ THE BIBLE?

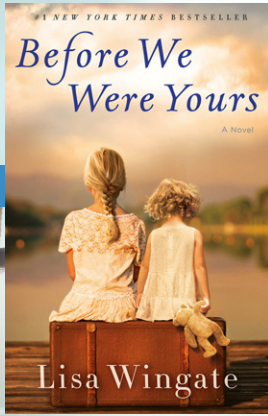
It Explains the Gospel

God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.
(John 3:16, NIV)

The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23, NIV)

The gospel is the story of how God, after being rejected by the people He created and loved, has been working to restore the world and our relationships with Him. The essence of the gospel is the story of Jesus. Knowing the gospel is critical to having a relationship with God. The gospel is all about Jesus, and the whole Bible points to this crucial time in history.





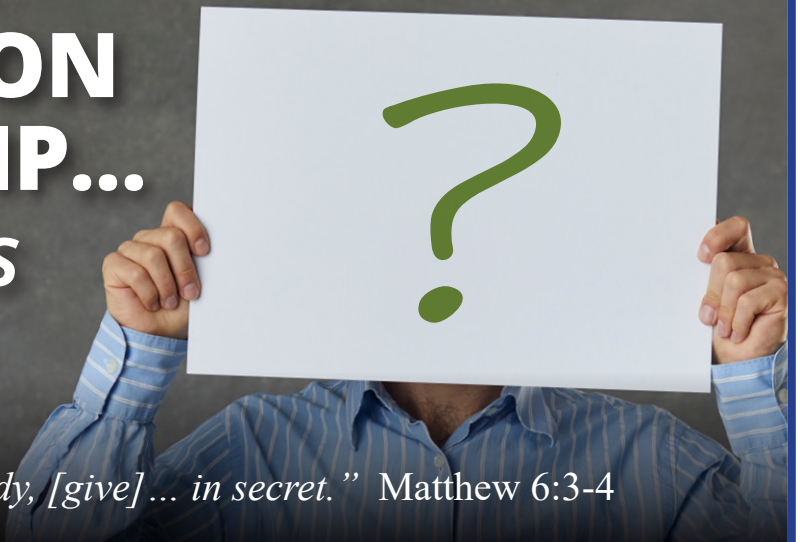
Women's

BOOK CLUB

The next Women's Book Club meeting will be held Thursday, August 10th, at 10:30 a.m.

They will be discussing *Before We Were Yours: A Novel* by Lisa Wingate.

THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP... *Anonymous Donors*



“When you give to the needy, [give] ... in secret.” Matthew 6:3-4

It's possible to do all the right things for all the wrong reasons. We can read our Bibles, go to church, put money in the collection plate, live an exemplary life—all as a means of serving ourselves. We may be doing these things to ease a guilty conscience, to impress others, or to try to earn God's approval or secure blessings from God.

Jesus calls all that hypocrisy. In those days, some people went to great lengths to do all the right

things for all the wrong reasons. They made public displays of giving money to the poor. They made a great fuss as they brought money to the temple. They did all they could to draw attention to themselves. But their giving was not pleasing to God, because they gave to serve their own purposes.

Jesus wants our generosity to be motivated by love and gratitude. When our hearts are awash in the richness of God's

kindness to us, our natural response should be generous giving in all areas of life—time, talents, and treasure. We should give without regard for any recognition or reward. Jesus, who was infinitely wealthy, became poor for our sake. Through his poverty, we gain riches beyond compare!

Are you generous in giving to people in need? What motivates your giving? May gratitude to our Lord always be our guide.

Jesus, soak our hearts in the beauty of your generosity and kindness so that we can overflow with grateful giving. For your sake, Amen.

AUGUST 2023

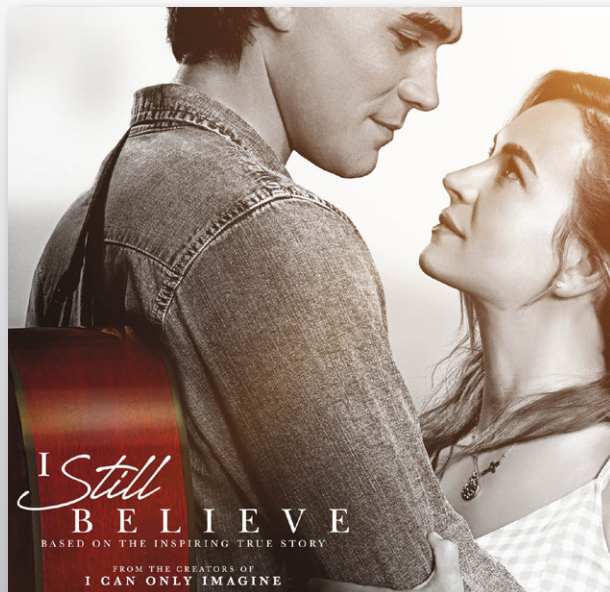
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM	2 Parkinson Support Group 3:00-4:30 PM	3	4 TOPS Meeting 8:00 - 10:00 AM	5
6 Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion	7 Men's Breakfast at Richi's Diner 8:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	8 Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM Trail Life Leadership Meeting 6:00 PM	9 Game Day 1:00 PM	10 Women's Book Club 10:30 AM	11 TOPS Meeting 8:00 - 10:00 AM	12
13 Worship Service 10:00 AM	14 Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship Meeting 11:00 AM	15 Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM Trail Life Open House 6:00 PM	16 Session Meeting 1:30 PM	17 Deacon's Meeting 2:00 PM Trail Life Planning Meeting 6:00 PM	18 TOPS Meeting 8:00 - 10:00 AM Finance Team 10:00 AM	19
20 Worship Service 10:00 AM	21 Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship Meeting 11:00 AM	22 Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM Trail Life 6:00 PM	23 Game Day 1:00 PM	24 Movie Matinee <i>I Still Believe</i> 1:00 PM	25 TOPS Meeting 8:00 - 10:00 AM	26
27 Worship Service 10:00 AM	28 Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship Meeting 11:00 AM	29 Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM	30	31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>LEGEND</p> <p>Worship & Study</p> <p>GCC Rehearsals</p> <p>Group Meetings</p> <p>Other Groups</p> <p>SPECIAL ACTIVITIES</p> </div>	



JOIN US FOR A
**MOVIE
MATINEE**

THURS., 8/24 AT 1 PM

**JOIN US FOR A FREE MOVIE WITH
POPCORN, SNACKS & BEVERAGES.**



Sharing & Caring



SUPPORT GROUP

The Sharing and Caring support has no meetings planned for August. The group will start meeting again in September on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month at 10:30 a.m.

THE GOSPEL IN GENESIS

FINDING FAITH & HOPE
IN A FALLEN WORLD

Pastor's Bible Study
Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m.

**STUDY RESUMES ON
TUESDAY, AUGUST 15TH**

IS YOUR PICTURE IN OUR PHOTO DIRECTORY?

If your photo is not currently featured in our GCC Photo Directory, please send us a photo that we can include. The directory is a great tool for new members and guests to get to know who's who.

Email photos to grace@gcc-epc.com.

APOLLO VILLAGE MINISTRY COORDINATOR



Tom & Connie Merritt

This past year, the Church at Apollo Village held its final worship service. The church had been active for many years for people within the Village area. Sadly, it ceased to be viable when management would not allow those from outside the Village to join in the church's worship services which were held in the club house.

As a result, many people from Apollo Village began attending Grace Community Church thanks, in part, to the strong connection of Tom and Connie Merritt who live in the Village. Tom, who has served as a deacon at Grace Community, also served as the Interim Pastor of The Church at Apollo Village.

As the Church at Apollo Village closed their doors, they made a request that Grace Community Church continue to minister to the people in the Village. To assist with that request, they have made a financial gift to Grace Community asking that Tom Merritt become the Apollo Village Ministry Coordinator with a small monthly stipend.

The Elders of Grace Community Church deliberated over the question and concluded that this would be a beneficial arrangement for everyone involved.

And so, the Elders of Grace Community Church are pleased to announce that Tom Merritt will serve as our Apollo Village Ministry Coordinator. Tom will work closely with Pastor Cliff and the Elders to ensure that a strong ministry presence exists in the Village. This position will be evaluated on an annual basis.



SAVE THE DATE:

New Members/Inquirers Classes
will begin in October.

Grace Community Church is a great place to call home!
Everyone needs to be part of a spiritual family.

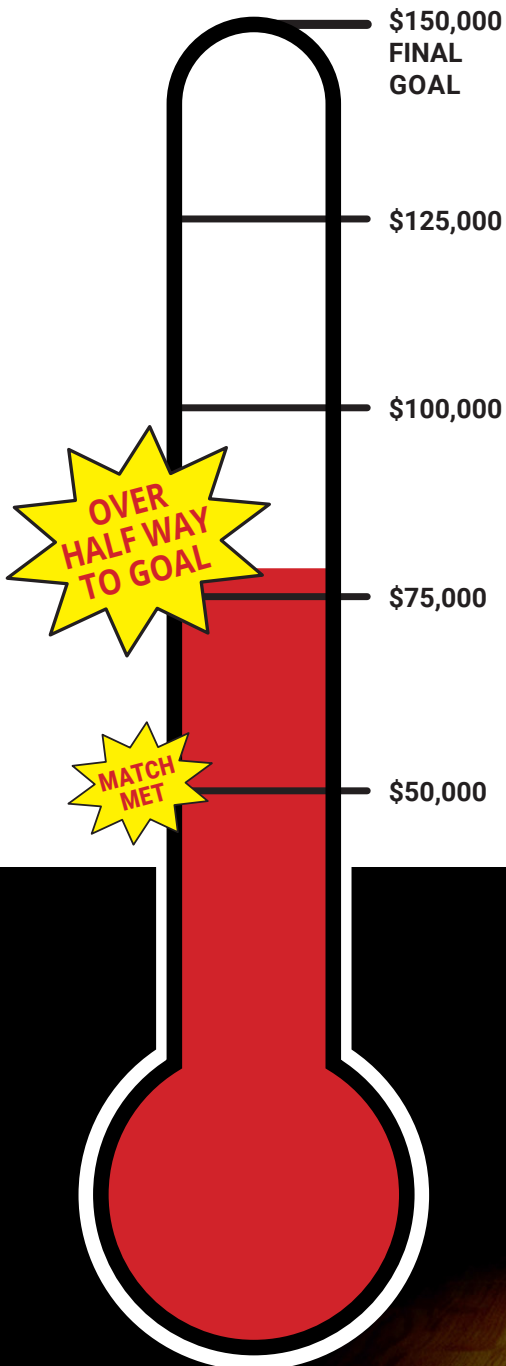
**IF INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR CHURCH
SIGN UP IN THE LOBBY TODAY!**



GCC'S 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION



THE JOASH CHEST UPDATE



Donations to the Joash Chest Funds are just past the halfway point at \$77,810.06. As you remember, the goal is \$75,000 for Sight & Sound, and \$75,000 for the Roof.

Thank you for the generous support that you have given to this fund so far.

We have just completed some needed roof repairs. Approximately 40% of the roof has been replaced, and 4 new Inverters for the Solar System have been installed. The remaining funds will help us to begin upgrades on our deteriorating lighting and sound system. Hopefully, we will be able to finish the rest of the project in the near future.

JOASH CHEST FUNDS AS OF 07/31/2023

Total Funds Received	\$77,810.06
YTD Expenditures	
Sound Board	(5,289.00)
Roofing Project	(39,578.00)
New Inverters	(5,600.00)
Available Funds	\$27,343.06





SPARE TOOLS NEEDED

Do you have any spare tools, nails, screws, or other handy items that might be useful around the church? We would be delighted to receive any tools which you may no longer need.

Please see Steve Paetz or Pastor Cliff about any donations you may like to make.



PRAYER CHAIN

Prayer requests can be submitted on our website at gcc-epc.com/prayer-warriors

If you prefer, you can also directly contact Pastor Cliff (pastorcliff@gcc-epc.com), the church office (grace@gcc-epc.com), or your assigned deacon.

You can also sign up to be included in the prayer chain at the webpage listed above.

AUGUST

BIRTHDAYS

Tim Tunnell..... 8/1	Bob Adams..... 8/22
Angela Mangin..... 8/5	Wanda Dziuk..... 8/22
Maureen Tunnell 8/6	Sherry Bennett 8/23
Doug Bennett 8/10	Steve Jones..... 8/23
Bud Merkel 8/12	Lee Becker 8/24
Dave Gordon..... 8/17	Darlene Coulson..... 8/27
Bill Bohm..... 8/18	Michele Southerland.. 8/28
Pat Engstrom..... 8/20	Rose Chapman 8/29
	Beth Terry 8/31

ANNIVERSARIES

Tim & Angela Mangin 8/12
Art & Carla Biermann..... 8/17
Mark & Barbara Brown 8/17
Marvin & Marilyn Koop..... 8/18
Rob & Jan Bundy 8/24
Bud & Pat Engstrom 8/26




GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH
*Passion for Christ
Compassion for People*

Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Rev. Cliff Mansley
Pastor

16165 W. Mountain View Blvd.
Surprise, AZ 85374

Worship Service Time:
10:00 a.m.

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Contact Information:
Phone: 623-975-9038
Fax: 623-537-5565

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grace@gcc-epc.com