

# **GRACE BIBLE CHURCH CONNECTION**

*NOVEMBER 2009*

## ***THE FAMILY...***

Repeatedly, we often say that the church is a family. It's an interesting image if you think about it, and one that we ought to do a little thinking about.

See, oftentimes when we talk about the church being like a "family," we only think of the good parts of family: get-togethers, people who love us, good times, and strengthening one another through fellowship. All of these are and should be true of the church. But we would also completely miss the point if we didn't realize some of the harder parts as well: every family has an Uncle Ted who tells jokes that just aren't funny; every family has an Aunt Martha who is never on the same page as everybody else. The point is this: the church is a family, but we've got to remember that families are diverse: it isn't always a walk in the park. Sometimes life is great...other times it is hard. And just like any family I know of, they don't always get along or agree about everything. And you know what? That's ok. We don't have to all agree on every little detail of life to be able to love one another in our families. The same is often true in the church.

When I was in seminary, one of our profs used to repeat the phrase: "Major on what is essential. Don't major on the minors." This was his way of saying that we need to focus our best efforts on what was truly crucial and important in life and not fret about the other parts. Now just because something is minor doesn't mean that it has no importance, but it does mean that it isn't the main thing in life. The temptation is often to chase after things in life that are personal preferences or to stand for what we personally think is best. But we always have to remember that everybody else has opinions and preferences as well, and more often than not they probably don't line up with our own thoughts!

This is where commitment comes in. Life in the church isn't about you and it isn't about me...it's about God: praising Him and showing His glory to the world. When the going gets tough, it has become a common trend in our culture to move on. This is seen in the business world with a lack of company loyalty (and, on the flip side, companies who aren't loyal to their employees), in the family with the rise of so-called "no fault" divorces, and even in the church, where it is easy to sit back and not engage with the body of Christ by becoming involved. While in Dallas, I knew people who would go to a different church each Sunday, just because they could - they purposely chose to never get involved; spiritually and socially they paid a great cost for that lack of commitment. The truth is that we are called to be committed to a local church - both when times are good and when times are hard. We see this great truth in Hebrews 10:25 when we are called to hold fast to our fellowship and to continue to meet with - and be committed to - one another.

Over the course of November, I am going to be spending a lot of time thinking about, praying for, and being with "The Family" - I encourage you to join me so that together as a church we can be a good picture to the world of what God's commitment to us in Christ looks like.

(P.S. For a little further thought, check out 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 where Paul writes about the practice of communion. Pay special attention to what he says about the purpose of the church and about loving one another through this practice and you'll see that it's not just about how to do communion, but how to do life together as a church.)

Pastor Kevin

**Operation Christmas Child!**

This Year we will again be participating in Operation Christmas Child!

Start Collecting Now!

Help a deserving child meet their physical and spiritual needs!

- ◆ Remember to get involved through your small group.
- ◆ If you aren't in a small group, remember that you can always participate on your own or donate money to help cover the cost of shipping.



Shoeboxes due November 16, 2009

See Bonnie Baker for details.

**ENGAGE TO KEEP GROWING**

*...RETHINKING WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE IN A  
COMMUNITY THAT IS PASSIONATE FOR GOD.*

*WEDNESDAY'S: 6:00PM DINNER*

*6:30-7:45PM GROWTH GROUPS*

***WE'VE HAD A GREAT COUPLE OF MONTHS.  
DON'T MISS OUT, JOIN US!***



**Ministering to the Lord, the Church, and Others**

*Worship Coordinator: Annette Miller*

<b>Week Date</b>	<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Ushers/Greeters</b>	<b>Treats</b>	<b>Cleaning</b>
11-01-09	Anita & Jan	Wade & Annette	Bakers	Joan & Bakers
11-08-09	Karen & Lindsey	Ed C. & Dave A.	Annette	Beckers
11-15-09	Michelle & Rachael	Tom W. & Cal D.	Holck	Cindy & Annette
11-22-09	Bonnie & Susan	R. Trent & Joseph B.	Fincham	Lorntsons

## Mosaic...what is it? How can I get involved?

*Mosaic*(n.) 1. A picture or decorative design made by setting small colored pieces, as of stone or tile, into a surface. Also includes the process or art of making such designs. 2. The people of Grace Bible Church engaging their communities with God-given skills for the sake of the Gospel.

**“...FOR WHAT GOOD IS IT MY FRIENDS IF SOMEONE SAYS THEY HAVE FAITH, BUT DO NOT HAVE WORKS?”**

Mosaic is how we are reaching out...it is how we are putting our faith into action. Not just so that we can say at the end of the day that we were good people, but so that all may know of the God we serve. Each person in the church can participate – helping hands, a loving embrace, a bowl of soup, or a caring mentor, are just some of the ways. Wherever God has equipped you, we want to

enable you. Gather others who are like-minded, contact those who need help, and get ready to serve. Will you join us? Will you be a part of the mosaic that God is creating in the world around us?

{Psst...now it's your turn! Get together with like-minded friends in the church who want to serve in the same way as you and get out there into the world. Need help finding others to serve with? Need funding to get started? Ideas of where to serve? Contact a pastor or elder to get the ball rolling – we are here to equip you!}

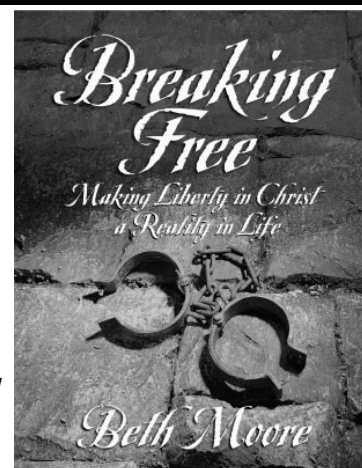
### **Women of Grace**

### **"Breaking Free"**

*with Beth Moore*

Monday 7:00pm

*All ladies are welcome - invite your friends !*



**CHANGING LIVES  
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST**

***Grace Bible Church***  
308 Mathews Drive  
P.O., Box 189  
Gilbert, IA 50105

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**Parsonage: 515-232-2821**  
**E-mail: [gilbertefc@msn.com](mailto:gilbertefc@msn.com)**  
**Website: [gracebible50105.org](http://gracebible50105.org)**

**CONNECTING TO THE GILBERT AREA  
WITH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST**



*Larry Rupp - Lead Pastor*

*Kevin Miller - Discipleship & Community*

*Engagement Pastor*

*Amanda Jennings - Worship Director*

*Service Times:*

*Sunday morning prayer: 8:30am*

*Sunday School : 9:00 a.m.*

*Church Service: 10:30 a.m.*

*Wednesday Prayer Gathering: 7:00pm*

## **WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

### **SUNDAY**

PRAYER GATHERING: 8:30AM

GRACE INSTITUTE & CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00AM

WORSHIP SERVICE: 10:30AM

### **MONDAY**

WOMEN OF GRACE: 7:00PM

### **WEDNESDAY**

E.K.G.: 6:00PM - MEAL AND COMMUNITY FOR ALL AGES.

***ALL ARE WELCOME!***