

Grace Notes

Grace Bible Fellowship

Gunter, TX

April 2014

Roy's Ramblings: Elder Retreat Recap

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Hebrews 13:17 says that local church leaders (elders) are to keep watch over the souls of those in the church. It also says that church leaders will one day give an account before God for how well we fulfill this responsibility. Church leadership is serious business. It's serious because it's God's business.

My 6 year old daughter recently asked me "Daddy are you the boss of the church?" I quickly replied "No, God is the boss of the church" and He is. He better be. The church is not ours to do with whatever we want. The Holy Spirit assigns the leaders, and Jesus paid for the church with his blood (Acts 20:28). Church leadership, as well as church membership, is a responsibility, privilege, and a stewardship.

Our elder team: Brent Wilkens, Jeff Crelia, Theron Whitley, and myself recently went on a weekend elder retreat. We meet as a team every other Friday morning for prayer and discussion, talk face to face regularly, and stay in almost daily contact via email. But this retreat gave us an extended time to pray, discuss, and assess in detail the overall health of our church family.

Leading up to the retreat we had all read a very helpful book Nine Marks of a Healthy Church by Mark Dever. Church health is not something you hear talked about much. It seems we get preoccupied with the "Three B's of church: Buildings, Budgets, and Behinds in seats." Not to say that these things have no significance, but Scripture teaches that there's much more. As Dever points out, "Biblically, we must realize that the size of what our eyes see is rarely a good way to estimate the greatness of something in the eyes of God." We can't be content to merely "do church" when Christ has called us to "BE THE CHURCH."

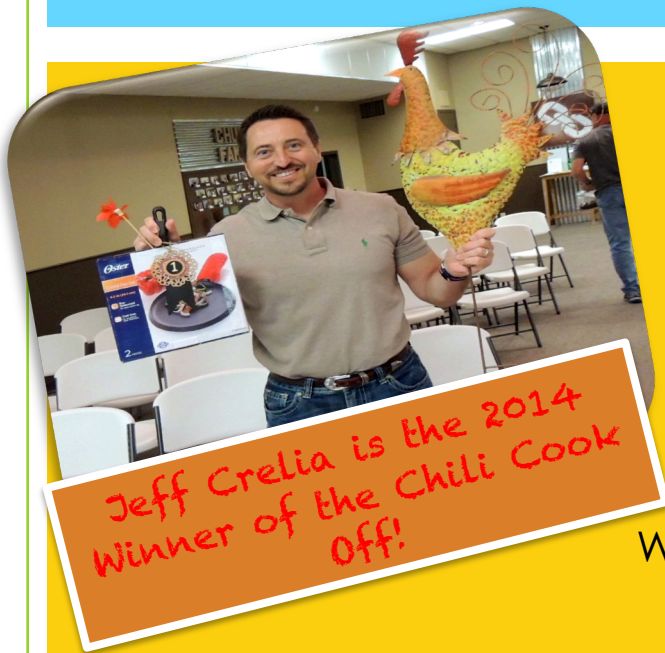
I told our elders last Sunday evening following our elder retreat that I can't recall a time when I have ever been more encouraged in ministry. God has a great plan to use our church for his glory and our joy. As we remain faithful to Him and His Word, He is making that plan more and more evident and clear. Do we as your church leaders have everything figured out? No. We're not the perfect church, nor will we be. We're human. We're sinful. We've made mistakes and we'll make more. We desperately need Grace, just like you and everyone else. But we are striving, by God's Grace, to make our church

the most faithful, loving, healthy reflection of his Word that we can, this side of Heaven. The rest of our church leadership and I are committed to the mission of making disciples. We envision a committed body of believers deeply CONNECTED to Christ and to one another, GROWING into a dynamic, mature relationship with Him, and SERVING God and our communities with all that has been entrusted to us. We are committed to this mission and vision. We are committed to YOU as our church family. I hope that brings you great encouragement as a member of this church.

Church, I love you and I'm honored to serve as your pastor. I can't wait to see what God will do next.

In Christ,

Roy



The Women's Ministry Annual Chili Cook Off & Auction was a great success! Thank you to all who came out to support this ministry.

Women's Ministry Recap Video of 2013
<https://vimeo.com/89812312>

You are invited to a Wedding Shower
honoring

Kendra Hood & Corey Armstrong

April 6th. 2-4p at Grace Bible Fellowship

The couple is registered at Target

Kendra is the daughter of Benny and Tinna Hood

2014

G B F STUDENT MINISTRY



BREAK AWAY 2014

APRIL 26 - 27
CAMP COPASS
DENTON

Cost: \$45
(This covers food, lodging,
ropes course & t-shirt)

CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO FOR A RECAP OF LAST YEAR:

<https://vimeo.com/88215066>



EASTER CELEBRATION &
POT LUCK LUNCHEON!

Join us on Palm Sunday, April 13, immediately following Family Worship for our Annual Easter Celebration and Pot Luck Luncheon. We ask that all attendees please provide side dishes, a dessert or BOTH for the luncheon. The church will provide fried chicken and dinner rolls. We will have bounce houses and an Egg Hunt for the children.

Easter is the following Sunday
GBF's Easter Service will be
Sunday April 20 at 10:45am

Second payments of \$75 per camper are due by this week. If you have not paid your deposit the price for camp will increase by \$25 per child. You can register online at thegbf.com until April 2, 2014. All payments must be turned into Mandy Turner Email: mandy@thegbf.com or 903.818.7722.

Camp KIDJAM INFO:

For incoming 3rd-7th graders.

\$300 (late fee of \$25 if not paid by April 2)

July 22-25. TWU in Denton



**CAMP
KIDJAM**

Joseph's Storehouse

Looking for a way to serve but just haven't found a place that is flexible enough for your schedule? God knows your needs and your heart's desires and has provided just what you need! Joseph's Storehouse needs to stock the food pantry with specific items and you are just the person who can help with these items. ☺

Joseph's Storehouse meets the needs of our church body and those of the community. We are asking the church body, as a whole, to bring personal hygiene products, such as bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, and deodorant. If you are in a LifeLine group, please check with your leader for requested donations. Donations should be placed into the appropriate plastic tub in the kitchen by April 27.

We have been blessed with such an amazing body of believers and I am so excited to partner with you all in this mission God has given us! The generosity, selflessness, and love shown from this church family have blessed my face off and I just know it has, and will, bless many others as well. Thank you all for your example and Kingdom focus. Sylvia Martin, Becky McDonald, or I can be reached anytime, for any questions and/or needs at the contact information below. The deacons are available to contact as well.

Your sister,

Robin Speed

Robin: 903-818-3046

Sylvia: 903-271-7049

Becky: 972-333-7928