

GRACE NOTES



Grace Bible Fellowship

Gunter, Texas

January 2015

2015...In Christ? Bring it!

By Roy Layman

I was thinking and praying about the coming of the new year and this verse came to mind:

...let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2

May 2015 be a year that has the GOD, by way of the Gospel at its center. May we leave behind any sins of the mind, heart, and hands, hindrances that “cling so closely”. These things hold us back from being the God-glorifying vessel God has called and privileged us to be. But 2015 can’t chiefly be about what we leave behind, but what we fully embrace. We must be “looking to Jesus”, the founder, author, perfecter, finisher and the object of our faith.

The greatest thing about 2015 will be the same as what was greatest about 2014, Christ “endured the cross”. We will receive no greater news in the coming year than message of our being reconciled unto God through the blood of Jesus Christ. He died the death that we deserved to die. He lives, that we may live. He’s given us His Spirit.

By faith in Christ, we are made children of God. Christian, if God is for us, who can be against us? Think about it! It’s going to be a GREAT year!

Christians, we are in a race. It’s a marathon. As we run with our eyes fixed on Jesus, our view of Him keeps growing larger as we draw closer. May our view of Christ be BIGGER, this time next year!

As we all know, runners train. One way that we can train, and keep our focus on Christ is to read and meditate on His Word, daily. Why not start each day reading God’s Word before you do anything else? I promise you all time in the Word will be time well spent.

Below are some links to a few reading plans that might aid you in making God’s Word a priority in your daily life in 2015.

[10 Bible reading plans from Crossway](#)

[Bible app](#)

[Reading plans from Ligonier Ministries](#)

[A daily devotional](#)

Start the new year by following Pastor Roy’s blog

<http://roylayman.wordpress.com>

where he shares resources, Grace Bible church life, and pastoral insights from a small church pastor in a mega-church world.

You can also access the blog by going to the church website

www.thegbf.com

It's A FAMILY THING

THE TURNERS



Addie, Mandy, Gabe, Todd and Zander

Todd and Mandy Turner have been invested in Grace Bible Fellowship since day one, as they were one of five families that help established GBF.

Todd is a former Provisional Leadership Team member and elder of GBF and is currently the Executive Vice President of Communications at Insight for Living Ministries in Plano.

Mandy is currently transitioning from her recent position as the Children's Director at GBF to a stay at home mom. She has ministered at GBF since the church was founded, but has been employed as the Children's Director for 6 1/2 years. Mandy is also a part time CrossFit Level 1 Coach at CrossFit Solus in Sherman.

Todd and Mandy have three active children: Addison - 15, Zander -13, and Gabe -11.

Their family loves spending time together. Their favorite things to do include traveling; California, Ski Trips, and even Israel trips. They also enjoy being outdoors. They are excited about upcoming camping trips together in the Spring.

What do the Turners love most about GBF? This was easy for Mandy to answer, "The children of our church and our awesome leadership from youth students and adult volunteers!! Amazing crew!!"

Addie: "I enjoy the the feeling of "closeness" I have with the members of our church"

Zander: "I enjoy youth and especially listening and learning from Price."

Gabe: "I love Sports Camp!"

Todd's favorite memory of GBF is the first tent meeting and official church service of Grace Bible Fellowship, while Mandy's favorite memories include every Camp KidJam event. "Nothing like doing camp with our kids and our leaders!"

The GBF family is grateful for the service and dedication that the Turners have given towards spreading the Gospel from our church and especially for the children.



Meet the new Children's Ministry Director: *Nikki Mize*

Nikki was born in Pennsylvania but grew up here in North Texas. Nikki graduated from Howe High School in '99 and then went to the University of North Texas where she earned a degree in Elementary Education. She taught 4th grade for 2 years and 2nd grade for 5 years, all in Frisco ISD.

Nikki and her husband Devon had their son, Grayson, in December of 2011 and after much prayer, decided that she would stay home with him. For the first 2 years, Nikki worked part time as a Title I teacher in Frisco.



In the summer of 2013, the Mize family were building a house in Gunter and God brought them to GBF. They immediately felt right at home. Nikki started serving in the nursery and then went on to serve in GraceKids.

Nikki loves Jesus and has a passion for kids. Her hope is to make disciples by sharing God's unfailing love, grace and mercy with them and other leaders. She wants to IMPACT their lives in a way that leads them to draw nearer to Jesus and that God's truth might pour out from them. Nikki is humbled, blessed and overjoyed to be the new Children's Ministry Leader!

JOY TO THE WORLD!

The children of GBF performed songs of the season at the Christmas Eve service. The choir was directed by Jennifer Gray and Mandy Turner.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
Beginning Tuesday, January 20

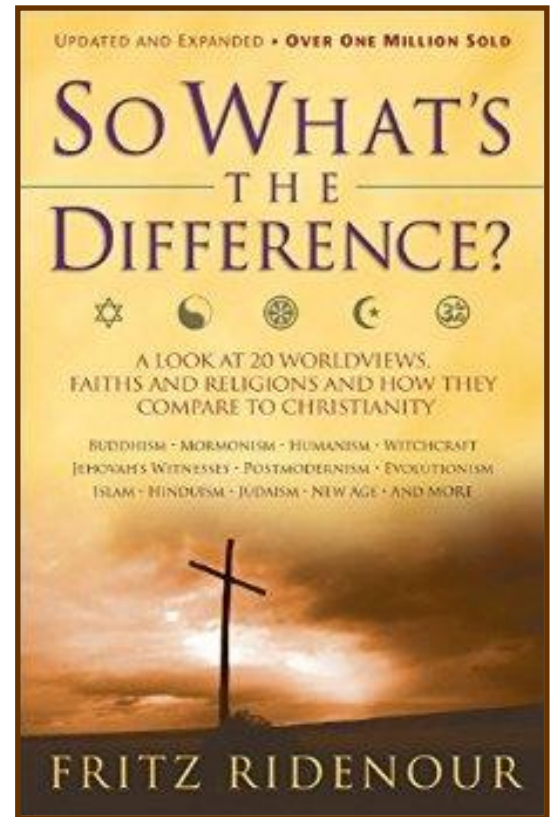
6:30 pm
704 N. 8th Street
(Tinna Hood's home)

SO WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

By Fritz Ridenour

How does orthodox biblical Christianity differ from other faiths?

This revised edition takes a current look at the answer to that question. In a straightforward, objective comparison, Fritz Ridenour explores and explains the basic tenets of 20 worldviews, religions and faiths, including Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Science, New Age and Mormonism.



GBF F.A.M.

(foster and adoption ministry)

Have you ever thought about fostering/adopting, but you're just not in a place where you're ready to make that commitment?

There is still an opportunity for you to serve in this ministry! For more information, contact Jason and Nikki Waligura at 214-287-1427 or nrw_2000@hotmail.com.



**Volunteers are still needed
to make coffee before
Sunday worship!**

**You can sign up for just one
Sunday a month or
as it fits your schedule!**

**Contact Kris Freeny
903 - 815 - 8859**



"TRAINING THE BODY HAS
SOME VALUE. BUT BEING
GODLY HAS VALUE
IN EVERY WAY."
1 TIMOTHY 4:8a

Children's Ministry

JANUARY THEME: COMMITMENT

Commitment is making a plan and putting it into practice. If we want to know God better, we need to practice our faith. But practicing isn't something that comes naturally to any of us. That's why we need a plan. And the best place to start is with spiritual disciplines; or what we call in the Orange world, "faith skills."

We're taking this month of commitment to dig deeper into these faith skills to help kids get a handle on what it means to practice their faith. We use four simple words to help us remember these skills: **HEAR. PRAY. TALK. LIVE.**

Each week this month, we'll focus on one of the faith skills as we talk about making a plan and putting it into practice.

Week 1:	Matthew 7:24-27	Practice hearing what God says.
Week 2:	Luke 11:1-4	Practice praying to God.
Week 3:	Matthew 16:13-20	Practice talking about God.
Week 4:	Mark 12:41-44	Practice living for God.

During the month, we'll memorize a great verse that reminds us about the importance of making a commitment to practice our faith. **1 Timothy 4:8a** says: "Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way." When we commit to practicing our faith and follow through on our plan, we'll grow in such a way that will impact our entire lives. We can't wait to see what God will do in the lives of kids and families this month as we commit to practice our faith and grow in our relationship with God.

GRACE KIDS

SMALL GROUP LEADERS FOR JANUARY

PreK/Kinder:	Sidney and Caroline Rowell
First/Second:	Rebecca M. and Lacy D.
Third/Fourth Girls:	Ashlynn and Emerson E.
Third/Fourth Boys:	Cade and Quinten

IMPACT 252 SPIRIT NIGHT



HUMAN GIFTS

GRACEKIDS

THE JOY OF A MONDAY NIGHT LEADER MEETING

Source: <http://roylayman.wordpress.com/2014/12/09/the-joy-of-a-monday-night-elder-meeting/>

I met with our elders on December 8, a Monday night. We typically meet every other Friday at 5:45 am to avoid conflicting with evenings and time away from our families. But from time to time we have scheduling conflicts, so Monday night (or whatever time) it is!



You might think that our elders might be at least a little bit put out by having to come up to the church office in the middle of an evening for a meeting, but they weren't. They never are. Not only do I get to lead, feed, and protect God's flock with these men, we actually ENJOY our time together.



In addition to discussing the stewardship of the Lord's work, I nearly always belly laugh at least once or twice during our meetings. These men love the Lord. They love the church. And while we don't say it for fear someone might lose their "man card" because of the bond we share in Christ Jesus, we love each other.

"So I exhort the elders among you.....shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock." 1 Peter 5:1-3



Grace Bible, our current serving elders, other than myself, are Theron Whitley, Jeff Crelia, and Brent Wilkens. I thank God for these men. I hope y'all do too!

GOD IS ENOUGH

Source: <http://roylayman.wordpress.com/2014/12/11/god-is-enough/>

Recently, after a Cowboys loss to the Redskins, I saw a video of a guy completely destroying his whole house in anger over the outcome of the game. It was nuts! Dude was crazy. Broke his big giant TV, dining room table, and a bunch of other stuff!! Clearly, he felt like his whole world had crashed around him when America's Team (Yes, I still call them America's Team) lost.

This guy's actions made me think of what sometimes goes on in my heart when things don't go the way I think they should. No, I don't tear up my house, but my mind and emotions can be given over to deep frustration and anger. For me it's not the Cowboys, I've had to get use to them losing over the years:)

For me, it might be something with my family, my work, even just frustration with myself. Anybody else struggle with letting circumstances rule your emotions and rob you of your joy?

The Christian life shouldn't be a roller coaster of anger and frustration. Our hearts should be ruled by Jesus Christ, not out circumstances. That's why we call Jesus "Lord", because he's OVER ALL.

So if Jesus, The Prince of Peace, is King of my heart, why am I at times given over to frustration and anger??? Because I'm sinful and forgetful of greatness and satisfaction that comes from God alone. I let important things become ultimate things. I, and maybe you too, need to be reminded that my ultimate value and identity rests not in my circumstances, but rather in my relationship with God.

This doesn't mean that throws of life are not important, they are! It just means that circumstances of life can't leg-sweep us like Johnny did Daniel Larusso in Karate Kid.

Eric Mason said "When God isn't enough, nothing will be." That is the TRUTH! Without God in His rightful place in our life, we can't truly enjoy anything, because whatever occupies the rightful place of God, can crush us at anytime when we lose it. You can't enjoy something so fragile. CS Lewis put it like this: "Don't let your happiness depend on something you may lose." **(Continued on pg 8)**



Reagan Reed



December 14, 2014

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV

<https://vimeo.com/115142998>



Johnny Neufield



Abigail Rowell

God is Enough

Continued from page 7

The truth is, all that we see with our eyes today, \$\$, possessions, power, could be gone tomorrow, and these things won't go with us into eternity. But the love of God in Christ Jesus can not/will not be taken away from those who are His. Jesus' final payment on the cross for sin is just that, final. If your faith is in Christ, you have been bought with a price, never to be returned.

Nothing can take God away from us. Nothing can snatch us from his hand. And when all we have is God, we have all that we need. We should enjoy the comforts of this life (even Cowboys wins), they're gifts from God, but they're not meant to be the ultimate source of our happiness, God is.

Check out the words of the Psalmist, in Psalm 73:25-28:

"Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works."

How would our lives look different if we believed in and walked in the truth of this Psalm?

Thanks for reading. Hope to see y'all Sunday, if not before.

God is more than enough.



STUDENT MINISTRY

The wise (in his own way) Forrest Gump once said: "...you can tell a lot about a person by their shoes, where they go, where they've been." Well, for the Christian, and really anyone, we can tell a lot about us by looking at Genesis, things like, where we go, and where we've been:)

Beginning January 11, Sunday evenings, at the Layman's house, from 6-8pm, for High School and College students, Roy will be teaching through Genesis chapters 1-11. We'll learn among other things, creation, the fall of man, God's plan of redemption, The Flood and Noah's Ark and how it points us toward Jesus. Also, from these 11 chapters, students will learn how to biblically answer 4 major questions of life: Who am I? Why am I here? What's wrong with the world? What can be done about it?

As an added bonus :) we'll open our time each week in Proverbs, learning and applying God's practical wisdom to our lives.

- GBF Student Ministry will resume meeting on January 7! We are continuing our series on the book of Matthew. We'll be in chapter 4 and looking at "Temptation" when we get back!
- As mentioned previously, the Student Ministry was able to pack and send 21 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! Those shoeboxes were sent to children all way in Togo, Niger, and Ghana!
- Parents of teens/those who work with youth, please read this article: 'The Most Exhausted Generation' <http://www.churchleaders.com/youth/youth-leaders-how-tos/242858-youth-ministry-exhausted-generation.html>

What are your resolutions this year? Here are four ideas recommended by www.fevr.net

1. **Plan to get into God's word:** It could be a devotional, reading the bible in a year, listening to a sermon, dwelling on a verse. Be creative! (Colossians 3:16)
2. **Pray daily:** Set time aside for prayer, be structured in praying for people and issues in the world by using prayer lists, start a prayer journal, find a place to go each day to pray. (Philippians 4:6)
3. **Work on your problem areas:** Pray that God will reveal the sin in your life to work on this year. Acknowledge, confess and repent of this sin. Find someone to be accountable to and meet and pray with them this year - consider a prayer triplet!
4. **Develop a positive habit:** There may be other areas in your life that you may feel you should be working on. These may include eating better, sleeping better, exercising more, getting more organized etc. Remember we are physical beings as well as spiritual. We need to be working on both to be functional!

Lifeline group leaders prepare for the new year

Source: <http://roylayman.wordpress.com/2014/12/08/lifeline-meeting/>

Grace Bible Lifeline (small group) leaders had a VERY encouraging (1 1/2 hr) meeting on December 7. The meeting was led by Jarod Martin. Jarod called us back to the material that he had gone over with us back at the beginning of the semester.

One high compliment of the small group training material provided last semester was “a person who has never led a small group before could take that, follow it, and lead one”.

Also, group leaders shared how God was working in the lives of people in their group, some of the challenges that they've been facing, and what they are looking forward to in the coming semester. Lifeline groups continue to be a place of authentic community and spiritual growth.

For me as a pastor, I see Lifeline groups as a place where we can fulfill the command given to us in Hebrews 10:24, “let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.”

Lifeline groups - meeting in homes, sharing life, learning the Word, having the gospel laid bare on our souls. Good stuff.

BIG SHOUT OUT to all our Lifeline group leaders and Jarod Martin for stepping up to lead us in this way.



Lifeline leaders in attendance were Jarod & Lara Martin, Jason & Nikki Waligura, Jana Whitley, Jason Carney, Rick & Nancy Nevil, Justin Ferguson, Devon & Nikki Mize, Kris Roberts, Brian Ross, Jon & LeAnn Stovall, Tinna Hood, Brent Wilkens, and myself.

Please pray for the ministry of Lifeline. Pray that our groups continue to be effective and for more folks to step up to lead groups and invest into group life.



A Lifeline group is a small group of people, meeting in a home on a regular basis,
for the purpose of authentic community and spiritual growth.



Below is a list of Lifeline Groups, the leaders, meeting dates and topic of study.

Please contact any of the leaders for more information.

More groups are forming and information on those will be available as soon as possible.

Tinna Hood

903-815-4055
235 Green Meadow Ct.
Tues. @ 6:30 pm

Theron Whitley

903-815-7797
GBF
Wed. @ 6:30 pm

Rick & Nancy Nevil

469-401-2615
699 Wallace Road
Wed. @ 6:30 pm

Shelly Baird

903-819-2074
105 Forest Meadows Dr.
Thurs. @ 9-11 am

Jason & Nikki Waligura

214-587-1427
82 Forest Hills Circle
Sun. @ 5:30-7:30 pm

**Justin & Keelie Ferguson
and Theron & Jana Whitley**

903-818-4555
10434 St. Hwy. 289
Sun., 9/14 @ 4:30-6:30 pm

Roy Layman

roy@thegbf.com
GBF
Mon. @ 6 am

Jarod & Lara Martin

903-815-0562
366 Pecan Crossing Ct.
Sun. @ 6-7:30 pm

Jason Carney

903-819-8087
107 Arrowhead Dr.
Sun. @ 6 pm

Jon Stovall

469-323-2393
GBF
Mon. @ 7 pm

Devon & Nikki Mize

214-592-7291
101 Falls Creek Lane
Sun. @ 4:00-5:30 pm

**Brent & DeeDee Wilkins
and Gane & Kris Roberts**

903-815-1182
515 Kerfoot Drive
Sun. @ 6 pm



**Brian & Marci Ross and
Tom & Jane Mrozinski**

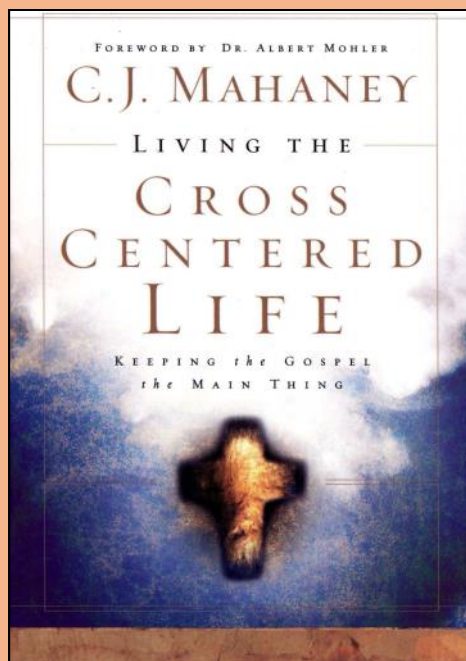
903-814-7799
3000 Bennett Rd., Howe
Sun. @ 6 pm



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

The following book is highly recommended by Roy, calling it a "short, easy, VERY powerful read!"

**LIVING THE CROSS CENTERED LIFE:
KEEPING THE GOSPEL THE MAIN THING**
BY CJ MAHAHNEY



Click here for more information!

http://www.amazon.com/Living-Cross-Centered-Life=Keeping/dp/1590525787/ref=sr_1_1_tw?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1419274478&sr=1-1&keywords=living+the+cross+centered+life+mahaney



Contact Us

www.thegbf.com

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Grace Bible Fellowship

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Gunter, Texas 75058

Senior Pastor: Roy Layman

Elders: Brent Wilkens, Jeff Crelia
Theron Whitley, Roy Layman

January 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 	2	3
4 FAMILY WORSHIP 10:45 am GraceKids resumes	5	6 GISD Back to School Men's Bible Study, 6 am	7 Student Ministry 6:30-7:45 pm Men's Bible Study, 6:30 pm	8	9	10
11 FAMILY WORSHIP 10:45 am HS & College Student Bible Study, 6 pm	12 Men's Bible Study, 7 pm	13 Men's Bible Study, 6 am	14 IMPACT 252 6:30 pm Student Ministry 6:30-7:45 pm Men's Bible Study, 6:30 pm	15	16	17
18 FAMILY WORSHIP 10:45 am HS & College Student Bible Study, 6 pm	19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day GISD School Holiday	20 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 pm "World Religions" Men's Bible Study, 6 am	21 IMPACT 252 6:30 pm Student Ministry 6:30-7:45 pm Men's Bible Study, 6:30 pm	22	23	24
25 FAMILY WORSHIP 10:45 am HS & College Student Bible Study, 6 pm	26 Men's Bible Study, 7 pm	27 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 pm "World Religions" Men's Bible Study, 6 am	28 IMPACT 252 6:30 pm Student Ministry 6:30-7:45 pm Men's Bible Study, 6:30 pm	29	30	31