



# GRACE

# HAPPENINGS

## **A WORD FROM PASTOR STEVE –**

This month we will look at the last three themes of Thom Rainer's book, "I Am A Church Member." Again, it is my prayer to encourage us to be the church members God desires us to be.

We will look at the summary of each week's theme and then list a few action points.

Week four's theme was "I Will Pray For My Church Leaders."



- Summary - We saw that Scripture calls church members to be vigilant to pray for the pastor and other church leaders on a consistent basis. Pastors and church leaders have a difficult job and yet shepherding souls is a huge responsibility. Satan knows that if he takes out the pastor, the sheep will scatter. Your pastor and church leaders need your prayers more than you could ever know.
- Action Items
  - Pray For The Pastor And His Family - It has often been said that pastors and their families are a lot like fish living in a glass fish bowl. Everyone pays attention to see if the pastor and his wife ever have an argument and whether or not their kids are well behaved. This is understandable when we consider the biblical responsibility pastors have to manage their household well (1 Timothy 3:5). But, this is immense pressure and pastors and their families feel the weight of this pressure constantly. Rainer wrote: "I have heard countless pastors worry about and struggle over their families. They worry that they neglect their families because of the demands of the church. They worry about their families living in a glass house. They anguish when critics direct barbs at family members. You get the picture. We are church members. We must be the prayer intercessors for pastors and their families. Few families face the kinds of pressures and expectations as the families of pastors."
  - Pray For The Pastor's Protection - To say that pastors have a target on their back is an understatement. We have all heard stories of pastors who have failed morally. This is usually followed by great distress in the church and discord in the community. Pastors are called to be "above reproach" in their life and ministry. When we consider what is meant by these words, we recognize just how important it is to lift our pastors up in prayer. Rainer wrote: "Just to get past 'the above reproach' part is an accomplishment! The word reproach means 'to find fault.' So to be 'above reproach' means to be above finding fault. While the pastor is certainly not expected to be perfect, he is to have a reputation above most everyone else. When people in the community speak or think about the pastor, the thoughts and words should be positive and encouraging."
  - Pray For Your Pastor's Physical And Mental Health - If you have ever had responsibility to care for someone else, maybe a child or elderly parent, you know how much of a burden that can be. Pastors experience this same burden in the care for the souls of those under his ministry. In fact, James warns that not many should become pastors/teachers because they are held to greater accountability for those under their care and teaching (James 3:1). Rainer wrote: "Serving and leading a church well expends all of a pastor's energy. He is on call every day and every hour. Because the demands are so great on him, the pastor often neglects his own health and well-being. While no one is invulnerable to sickness and accidents, we can pray for the protection of our pastor's health. We should also pray for our pastor's mental health. In this regard I'm

June 2017

**Here am I. Send me!**

Isaiah 6:8 – Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?"  
Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

not referring to the opposite of mental sickness as I am to wisdom. The pastor has to make dozens of decisions each week that require discernment and wisdom. He needs wisdom to know what to preach and teach and how to present God's Word. He needs wisdom dealing with us church members each week so he can best discern how to respond to the plethora of demands upon him." Pastoral ministry is a burden and it is also a great joy. Pray for your pastor's physical and mental health as he seeks to care for your soul and the souls of other church members!

Week five's theme was "I Will Lead My Family To Be Healthy Church Members"

- Summary - We saw that Scripture emphasizes the need for families to instill healthy church membership into the fabric of their family's DNA. We have already seen, as we have worked through this study, our responsibility to serve within the church, check our preferences and desires at the door, and pray for its leaders. This week's theme lead us to examine what it means to lead our families to worship, love, pray for, and serve in the church together.
- Action Items
  - Pray Together As A Family For The Church – There is an urgent need to pray for church leaders. They are under physical, spiritual, and mental strain all the time and church members have a responsibility to pray for them regularly. But, have you ever considered praying for your church and its leaders together as a family? There are fewer things that will cultivate a love for the church and its leaders within your family than praying for them on a regular basis. While this may seem awkward at first, it can often prove to be one of the most beneficial ways to keep your family involved in the church. Rainer wrote: "Part of the opportunity and honor of being a church member is the teaching of our family to love the church. And that teaching often begins by praying together as a family for the church where God placed us."
  - Worship Together As A Family - Another way to lead our families to be healthy church members is to worship together as a family. Rainer wrote: "As a church member, I am responsible for encouraging and leading my entire family to worship together in the church. If I am married, I seek to include my spouse. If I am a parent, I seek to include my children. My family must see my love for the church. Many church members are single. They have no immediate family with whom they can worship in the church. Regardless, there are still people watching them and how they love the church. They are to be an example to others."
  - Love The Church And Encourage Your Family To Do The Same - Have you ever heard someone say, "I love Jesus but I don't like the church." That would be the same thing as someone coming to you and telling you they love you but hate your spouse! The Bible does not give us the option of loving Jesus and not loving the church. If we love Jesus we will love His church! Rainer wrote: "As a church member, I am not merely to like my church or serve my church well. I am to fall deeply in love with my church. Christ is the bridegroom, and the church is the bride. My commitment is to love that bride with an unwavering and unconditional love. Unconditional love is not always easy. If someone is perfect and meets our every perceived need, it's easy to think we love that person. But such love is one-way. It's all about me and my needs. Unconditional love means I will continue to fall more deeply in love regardless of the response. It means my love for the church will grow even as I may disagree with something or encounter disagreeable people. "

Week six's theme was "I Will Treasure Church Membership As A Gift."

- Summary - We saw that Scripture emphasizes that church membership is also a precious gift that should be treasured. When we treasure this gift, it will greatly affect the way we love, serve, give, and pray for our local church.
- Action Items
  - Church Membership Is A Gift - Scripture is clear that salvation (the prerequisite for church membership) is a gift. Even though we were dead in our sins, we were made alive in Jesus Christ. He paid our sin debt and made it possible for us to have a right relationship with God. This is a priceless gift! It is important for us to recognize that our salvation means that we are part of the body of Christ. The free gift of salvation affords us another gift – being part of the body of Christ. Rainer explained: "Do you see what's taking place? You received a gift, the free gift of eternal salvation. It includes forgiveness of sins by Christ's death on the cross. It includes adoption by God the Father. It includes the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. And it includes becoming a part of the body of Christ. That's right: membership in the body of Christ, the church, is a gift from God. It's not a legalistic obligation. It's not country club perks. It's not a license for entitlement. It's a gift. A gift from God. A gift that we should treasure with great joy and anticipation."
  - The Universal Church vs. The Local Church - Throughout the New Testament, the term "church" is used in two ways. One way the term is used is to describe the universal church – that is "all believers everywhere for all ages." It is important to recognize that the New Testament knows nothing of a person who is in the universal church and not a local church. Local church membership is vital to the growth of believers. It is the place where they are able to serve and use their gifts as well as the place they are held accountable. Some believers have attempted to say that their inclusion in the universal church is sufficient but this is problematic. Rainer stressed this when he wrote: "It's a lame and invalid excuse to say you will limit your involvement to the universal church. The Bible is clear that we are to be connected to a specific church in a specific context."

- o Understanding & Cherishing The Gift Of Church Membership - How do you usually respond when you receive a gift that you absolutely love? You likely respond with sincere gratitude to the giver. Rainer wrote: "Church membership is a gift. A gift must be treasured. It should not be taken for granted or considered lightly. Because it is a gift, we must always be thankful for it. And when we are thankful for something, we have less time and energy to be negative. When we receive a gift with true appreciation, we naturally want to respond to the Giver. We, therefore, see service to God as a natural outflow of the joy of our salvation and the consequent joy of our church membership. We consider it a privilege to serve the King, so we look for those opportunities at the church where we serve." When we receive the gift of salvation and church membership with a grateful heart, we will naturally desire to serve within the body of Christ. We will recognize that our local church is composed of people just like us – sinners who have been redeemed by the blood of Christ. They were once enemies of God but have now become His sons and daughters. When we have this mindset, we will seek to love, serve, and pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

## Be All You Can Be for Jesus!

### **REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS**

Pray for our shut-ins, send a card, make a phone call, pay a visit (call first), make a meal and deliver it or stay and eat with them, pick up groceries / medicines. Addresses and phone numbers are in the directory or put cards of encouragement in the box above the mailboxes in the library and they will be delivered on a regular basis.

Wilma Davidson  
Julie Lindsey  
Gerry Kline  
Russ Hearton  
Jack Goeke

Carol Sarver  
John Gay  
Nina Johnson  
Gerry Gladfelter  
Wanda Buttrey

### **GBC MISSIONARY VISITS SUNDAY, JUNE 11**

Kevin Hofer, Christian School of York Headmaster, will be sharing during both morning services

Kevin and Maria Noyes with Disciplemakers serving at Penn State will be sharing their ministry update during the 6:30 p.m. service.

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Sunday:	8:15 9:30 10:45 6:30 6:30	Contemporary Worship Sunday School Traditional Worship Against the Flow Youth Evening Worship Service
Wednesday:	7:00	Bible Study & Prayer for Adults / Pioneer Clubs / Against the Flow Youth

Rev. Steve Warner  
Senior Pastor

Rev. Jon Barrett  
Assistant Pastor



### **GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY DURING BOTH MORNING SERVICES JUNE 4**

Jacob Isiminger graduated on May 25, 2017, from York Suburban Senior High School. Throughout his high school career Jacob enjoyed singing in the school concert and auditioned choirs, musicals, and with his peers. He was involved in the varsity cross country team in his Sophomore through Senior years and may perhaps run for Spring Arbor University in the Fall of 2017. Jacob also found interest in the study of the German language and culture, taking a total of six years of German classes. Currently, he holds a job at the Country Club of York as a part-time dishwasher and sous chef. Previously, Jacob worked at Handel's Homemade Ice Cream. Although he has a large passion for cooking and baking, Jacob plans to major in International Business with a concentration in Finance and German and a minor in Psychology. His declared school, Spring Arbor University, is located in Spring Arbor, Michigan, a small town in the midst of the state's largest southern tier cities. While studying, Jacob hopes to travel abroad at least one time to Austria, Germany, Sweden, or New Zealand. He also plans to continue singing in the university choirs, avoid the freshman 15, find a wife and get married before the age of 21. Jacob would like to thank GBC's faithful congregation for supporting him throughout his childhood and high school years.

Lizzy Bitts graduated from Classical Conversations, the homeschool group that meets at GBC.

Anna Kowalski and Selah Brent are also among our graduates.



Samantha Gehly graduated from Elizabethtown College on May 20th with her Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. Samantha shares "I participated in cross country and track and field all 4 years, I was a member of CRU (Christian group on campus), and an active participant in CEC (Council for Exceptional Children) where we interacted with children from the community who have special needs and spread awareness about those who have disabilities. After graduation, I will be continuing at Elizabethtown for a 5th year to obtain my Master's Degree in Special Education. Thank you for all of your love, support, and prayers!"

Hannah Stayer earned a Master's Degree in Choral Conducting from Messiah College in July 2016. Hannah states "Currently, I am teaching middle school general music classes, high school level music theory courses, and directing the middle school and high school choirs for the York Suburban School District. I also serve as the school district piano accompanist for the elementary choirs as well as for our Tri-M Music Honor Society recitals. My schedule also includes instructing elementary violin lessons and directing vocals for the high school musical production. Beyond teaching music in the school setting, I stay active as a substitute pianist and organist for Grace Baptist Church and volunteer at the York County Prison on the first Sunday of each month, playing the piano for church services that the inmates attend."



### **HONDURAS 2017 MISSION TRIP INFORMATION**

Not going on the Honduras trip this year but still want to help? The GBC missionary committee is collecting money to purchase small giveaway items (toys, stickers, etc.) for the Honduran school children our team will be serving with a VBS program. To help, please place your cash or check written to Grace Baptist Church in an envelope (clearly marked GBC Mission Trip Kid Goodie Bags) and place it in the offering. Direct questions to Melissa Henise or Michelle Noll. The deadline to donate is July 2. Another option is to ask your dentist if he/she would donate toothpaste or toothbrushes that can be sent to the children.

On July 6 at 6:00 p.m. enjoy dinner with the missionaries at the Honduras Missionary Send-off Potluck. Bring a side and dessert to share. Sign-up sheets are at both church entrances.



**Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6**

### **Celebrate Father's Day**

Sunday, June 18

No Evening Service/Activities

**Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him.**

**Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth.**

**Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.**

**Psalms 127:3-5**

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**



June 19 – 23

6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Age 3 to Grade 8

Registration Sheets are available in the Library and on Table in the Sanctuary or Register Online: [gracebaptistyork.com](http://gracebaptistyork.com)

Contact: Helen Etner (246-5072) or Pastor Jon

Are you ready to take the plunge to donate some of the necessary food items to help feed our hungry "explorers" as they travel through their Bible lessons at Vacation Bible School? They will need these food supplies to keep their energy levels high as they rotate through stations learning about the coolest book on Earth – The Bible. Please see the displayed needs in the back of the sanctuary in front of the sound system area. Take one or more needed items and then bring your item(s) in before Sunday, June 18. All donations should be placed in the kitchen near Pastor Steve's office. Cold stuff should be placed in the refrigerator and non-perishable items should go in the plastic Rubbermaid box marked for VBS donations. See Michelle Noll if you have any questions. Thank you!

**EVERYONE—HELP DISTRIBUTE DOOR HANGERS**

At the Downstairs Entrance are VBS Door Hangers (and GBC door hangers) for you to hand out in your neighborhood or visit another neighborhood. Please take as many as you can hand out. Remember to write down where you will be distributing them.

**CRITICAL STAFF NEEDS:**

Decorating  
4 Year Old Coordinator  
5 Year Old Assistant  
Clean-up  
Sign-up today on the sheets provided located on the door downstairs

**CRAFT NEEDS**

Chop Sticks  
Large rectangle Kleenex boxes  
Place in CE Office or contact Kathy Wagaman

**MANDATORY STAFF MEETING**

Sunday, June 4, at 5:00 p.m.

**DECORATING PARTIES**

Saturday, June 3 (1:00 – 6:00 p.m.)  
Saturday, June 17 (10:00 till finished)  
Lots more help is needed—sign up now or just come

**TEAR DOWN**

Monday, June 26 at 6:00 p.m.

**PRAYER WARRIORS NEEDED FOR VBS**

Start Praying Now!!  
Continue Praying throughout VBS Week!

**OPERATION ARCTIC**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—OWLS STYLE**

Tuesday, June 20 12:00 noon  
Meet in the Church Pavilion Bring your Bible  
Bring a Snack or Dessert or Drink to Share  
Enjoy snack time, craft, VBS songs and a scavenger hunt

VBS Joke Time:  
What is the Arctic Hare’s motto?

Answer to  
Joke:  
Don't worry.  
Be hoppy!



Thank you GBC Ladies for your Gifts to Human Life Services during the Baby Shower Tea!!



