



# REFLECTIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Looking back on God's goodness and praying ahead for greater blessings

Dr. Rick Bickelhaupt | founding pastor

**T**his month of June marks thirty-eight years of ministry for Grace Baptist Church in Oak Harbor. Reflecting back, I am astonished by how quickly that time has passed! I am reminded of the friends that we have made and the friends that have gone on to glory. I am reminded of the labor in building Sunday school classes, bus routes, youth programs, and music programs as well as conducting vacation bible schools and soul winning and visitation programs. Spaced between all this, our church has undergone physical expansion through four major building projects. I also look back over the years and think of all those who have trusted Christ as their personal Savior and of those who have followed the Lord in believer's baptism. Certainly, God has blessed. He has been good!

My personal family has also changed a lot since 1986, when we came to Oak

Harbor to start Grace. We came as a home mission project of the Fostoria Baptist Temple. I was only twenty-eight years old then. My children were all under eight years old. Now, nearly four decades later, my children are all married, and my

wife and I have thirteen grandchildren and one grandson-in-law. Two of our grandchildren have graduated from Bible college, and three more are enrolled.

So much has been accomplished over the years, yet there is so much more to be done. I remind myself of what the Savior told His disciples in

Matthew 9:38, *"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."* When I

“...THE MINISTRY OF GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH SHOULD FOLLOW CHRIST’S EXAMPLE AND BE ONE FULL OF COMPASSION TOWARD THE FAINT AND HURTING, TOWARD THOSE AWAY FROM THE FOLD, AND TOWARD THOSE SCATTERED AND AWAY FROM GOD.”

See “Reflections” pg. 5



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# OUT WITH THE OLD IN WITH THE NEW

Over the last few months, we have been introducing our new logo and have been integrating it into all of our digital and print publications! It is our goal that this new look will be something that our community begins to recognize. We want to flood our communities with it so that they connect it to our church.

## WHY WE CHOSE IT...

After several concepts were presented to us, we settled on one. The one we chose incorporates our church's interior color scheme, and its fonts are consistent with the lettering on our auditorium walls. The new font also aligns more with the traditional, colonial style found throughout our building's interior décor. *Symbolically, the cross in the center of the 'G' represents our central aim or focus. Like how cross hairs on a target hone in on a focal point, we want people to know that the central focus at Grace Baptist Church is the message of the cross!* You will also begin seeing our motto displayed with our new look. That motto has not changed... *Discover Grace! Come. Hear. Share.*

## WHY DITCH THE OLD LOOK?

The lamppost does symbolize light in a dark environment, and it did tie us to Oak Harbor where the lamppost is iconic; but it failed to represent the other communities that we reach like Elmore, Genoa, Port Clinton, Graytown, Rocky Ridge, etc. The lamppost was also a vague and ambiguous representation of Grace Baptist Church. In fact, the lamppost logo is now being used by other churches in Oak Harbor, so continuing to use it may confuse people who associate logos with churches.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Disseminating it! Get it out there! In the next several weeks, we will be promoting our message. *AZEE Branding Solutions* out of Owosso, MI, who designed our new logo, has been collaborating with us and is currently in the process of overhauling our website. They are also creating several professional promotional videos for us to share on social media. Our goal also is to offer promotional items and clothing for our members to showcase to the communities where they reside. When someone sees our logo on a shirt or car decal, it will spark a conversation that can be used to point others to Christ!

So when the opportunities arise to help us spread the word about Grace Baptist Church, we hope you'll do your part!



 **THE EARNEST  
CONTENDER**

*The Earnest Contender* is printed quarterly as a ministry of Grace Baptist Church. All articles for *The Earnest Contender* should be submitted no later than the 20th of every odd month. All articles are subject to change and approval. Submissions should be sent to [graceohh@gmail.com](mailto:graceohh@gmail.com) in MS Word format. Donations are accepted to minimize printing and publishing costs. Please submit donations to Grace Baptist Church:

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**VBS 2024**

**GO FOR GOLD**

**JULY 22-25**  
6-8 PM

SCAN TO PRE-REGISTER → 



*Ladies*  
**TEA**

"Soak Up the Son!"

**JUNE 22**  
2-4 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER, **KATTI LEVESQUE** 

1986-2024

 **GRACE  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

*Anniversary*  
**REVIVAL WEEK**

June 23-26, 2024



**THE MARK ROGERS FAMILY**  
SUN ~ 10 & 11 A.M. & 6 P.M.  
M-W ~ 7 P.M.

**COME. HEAR. SHARE.**



# SOUL-WINNING OPPORTUNITIES

- Visit Guests of our services
- Handout tracks/event flyers
- Place door-hangers
- Canvas communities & witness to the lost

Thursdays @ 6 p.m. ~ (Nursery provided at church)  
Saturdays @ 10:30 a.m.

*Groups will meet at the church for a short spiritual challenge and a time of prayer before going out.*



## OBEYING CHRIST'S COMMAND: GO!

No exemptions exist for true believers to go and share the gospel

Joe Henderson | associate pastor

Christ's last command is the church's first command. It is not optional for the New Testament Church. It should be the main focus of every church. In Mark 16:15, Christ gives us His simple, two-letter command – "GO."

First, we see the person that should be going – "Go ye." If you have trusted Christ as your Savior, then you are responsible to take the Gospel to others. You have the privilege to share Christ with someone, which could change their life. Reaching our world for Christ is going to take the involvement of every believer.

Secondly, Christ directs us where to go – "into all the world." Reaching the whole world seems like an insurmountable task. Where do we start with such a great task? We start within our own communities. Reach people wherever you are. Start with your neighbors and co-workers. Reach the parents on your

kids' sports teams. Every person with whom we have contact is a possible network of people that can be reached for Christ.

Next, we see the purpose of our going – "and preach the gospel." The word *gospel* means *good news*. We have the good news that Jesus came and died for our sins, was buried, and rose from the dead. He paid the penalty for all of mankind. This world needs some good news.

Finally, Christ reveals the prospect of our going – "to every creature." Christ is interested in the souls of men. Our focus ought to be on getting every living person to hear what Christ has done for them. Some will accept Christ, and some will reject Christ, but every person should at least have the opportunity to hear.

Christ has given the command. The responsibility is ours to obey. It is as simple as a two-letter word – "GO." □

from “Reflections” pg. 1

read Matthew 9:35-38, the Lord speaks to my heart about Oak Harbor and its surrounding communities. Verse thirty-five reads, “*Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.*” Jesus saw the physical and the spiritual needs of the people, and He met them both. As He went, He preached the gospel of the kingdom—undoubtedly the most important aspect of ministry! If we help people physically, and never bring them to Christ spiritually, then we have failed. Every ministry at Grace Baptist Church must point people to Jesus Christ and His completed work on the cross! Mark 8:36 states, “*For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*”

Jesus was compelled to reach the physically and spiritually weak because of the compassion He had for them. Matthew 9:36 states, “*But when he saw*

*the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.*” Our Savior saw the multitudes, and acted out of His deep love for them. Christ’s earthly ministry was one full of compassion because He saw the needs of the people. They were faint—weary and tired. They were scattered abroad—lost, alone, and vulnerable. They were without a Shepherd—someone to protect them, watch over them, comfort them...No one to lead them. I believe that the ministry of Grace Baptist Church should follow Christ’s example and be one full of compassion toward the faint and hurting, toward those away from the fold, and toward those scattered and away from God.

Lastly, Christ tells His disciples to pray. “*Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers*

*into his harvest.*(v. 38)” God has been unquestionably good to us over the past thirty-eight years. He has blessed us in number and outreach. Our congregation has grown from just a few people to one of the largest churches in the county. Our outreach ministries, through missions and online services, reach around the world. Oh, God has been ever so good to Grace Baptist Church, but He is not done. There is so much more to be done. Thousands more need to be reached right here in Ottawa County. We have plenty of weary, hurting people who need someone to reach out with a hand of compassion and bring them to Christ. The Lord has commanded us to pray for laborers. There is a great need for more laborers at Grace. Together, let’s obey Christ’s command and pray for laborers so that we would be able to reach more souls for Him.□

## PRESSING ON: IT’S TIME TO BUILD

Grace Teens’ director plans for department growth through outreach

Brandon Weber | youth pastor

The Bible tells us six times in both Deuteronomy and Joshua that we are to “*be strong and of a good courage.*” This has been a challenge to me to continue in the work of the Lord even when it gets tough, or when I just don’t feel like continuing on. We can be strong in His might; we can have boldness and courage through His love to keep pressing on and sharing the Gospel.

As this year progresses, I am excited to see what God will do in the lives of our young people. Through outreach, we are hoping to grow our teen group and see young people surrender their lives to the Lord. Some goals we have

are seeing a Bible club started in the Oak Harbor High School and establishing an outreach ministry in the schools of our surrounding communities.

This summer will be a busy one. At the end of June, our teenagers will enjoy a cookout with games. The plan going forward is to conduct monthly teen activities. In the first week of July, our teens will head to Commonground Baptist Camp in Butler, PA for a week of fun and encouragement. Please pray that God will work in the lives of our kids that week. July will end with our week of Vacation Bible School. This year’s theme is “Go for Gold.”

As youth director, I am striving this year and in years beyond to move forward with God and accomplish the work He has for us. Please pray with us as we continue to serve the Lord in our youth department.□



# up & coming EVENTS

**JUNE 22**

Annual Ladies' Tea  
2-4 p.m.

**JUNE 23**

Anniversary Sunday  
Carry-in Dinner  
after a.m. service

**JUNE 23-26**

Anniversary Revival  
w/The Mark Rogers Family  
Sunday Services &  
Weeknights @ 7p.m.

**JUNE 26**

Miss Fruchey's Farewell  
Fellowship  
after p.m. service  
(see details →)

**JUNE 30**

Teen Activity  
Cookout & Games  
after p.m. service

**JULY 1-5**

-Teen Camp-  
Commonground  
Baptist Camp  
(see details →)

**JULY 7**

National Ice Cream Sundae  
Celebration  
after p.m. service

**JULY 22-25**

Vacation Bible School  
"Go for Gold"  
6-8 p.m.

**AUGUST 18**

Church Picnic  
(see details →)

# MINISTRY NEWS

## FAREWELL FELLOWSHIP

Miss Rachel Fruchey is getting married and moving away! Rachel has been an integral member of our church, working in various ministries throughout the last ten years. To celebrate her time with us, there will be a Farewell Fellowship on Wednesday, June 26, following the service. That evening, help us shower her with gift cards or money to cover fuel, moving, and wedding expenses. Cake and cupcakes will be provided. Snacks and appetizers are requested. Let's send Miss Fruchey off by showing her just how much we love her!

## SUMMER PICNIC

On August 18, GBC will conduct an afternoon picnic following the morning services. We will grill hamburgers and hotdogs, and you will provide the sides. Then, in lieu of the regular evening service, we will have an afternoon service at 2:30 p.m. Anyone wanting to stick around after that will have the opportunity to participate in a church wiffle ball game. Be sure to mark this down and attend this day of summertime fellowship!

## TEEN CAMP

All teenagers between 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades are now registering for youth camp. This year, our teens will be attending camp at Commonground Baptist Camp in Butler, PA. Camp week is July 1-5. Please use the QR Code (→) to register online or see Brandon Weber for a hardcopy of the registration form.

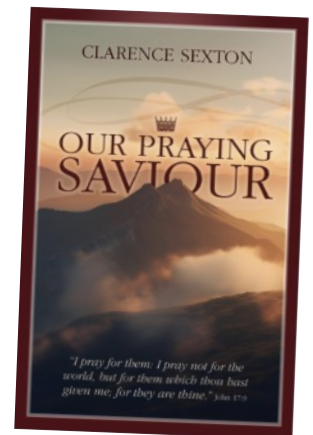


## PRAYER BREAKFAST

The *Men of Grace* conduct a prayer breakfast at 8:00 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month. This is a great time for our men to come together for a time of fellowship and prayer. If you plan to attend, please sign up at the Welcome Center in the main lobby. To donate breakfast items, please see Kevin McCartney. Don't miss out on this time of encouragement.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us for Adult Sunday School each week at 10 a.m. as Pastor Henderson continues our current series entitled, "Our Praying Saviour," from Clarence Sexton. The series highlights Christ's prayer as He was on His way to the cross. It shows us what was on His heart as He prayed in His final days before His crucifixion. Understanding the Savior's prayer for us is opportunity to grow closer to the Lord and His Word. We hope to see you Sunday!



### WAYS TO GIVE

- 1 Scan the QR Code
- 2 Get the tithely app
- 3 Use the 'donate' button on our homepage  
[www.gracebaptisttoaharbor.org](http://www.gracebaptisttoaharbor.org)

## Give to Grace Baptist Church

Help offset the cost of this tool by checking the box to cover the fees when prompted!



Unable to attend church in person?



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LIVE

**Never miss another service!**



# OUR MISSIONARIES

## Field report

### THE FREYERS To New Zealand



Riding an outdoor train during a long weekend in Taupo, New Zealand.



We hope that you are off to a wonderful summer season. We often think back to those hot days and cool summer nights in Northwest Ohio: because here in New Zealand the trees are bare and the cold, blustery winds are bringing rain and even frost on some mornings. We wanted to give a quick update about how we are doing here.

Wednesday, March 27, I woke up early and began my day as I usually do, but when I came out of my office to get my second cup of coffee (it was a rough start to hump day), I noticed that something looked out of place on the sliding glass door that led to our backyard. So I walked over and found written in bright purple: “Baby #3 due Dec.” The excitement flooded my soul, along with some nerves, and I pretty much just stared at Bekah before walking into the kitchen and giving her a long hug. I won’t say grown men don’t cry because that would be a lie. Nonetheless, we are thrilled to welcome a new bundle of joy later this year.

The ministry here has brought a lot of excitement through the first half of the year. Seeing people saved never gets old, along with the joy of believers growing in the Lord. We have been asking you to pray with us as we seek God’s direction in where He would have us plant a church. We are excited to say that, after much prayer, counsel, and the leading of God’s Word, we believe God has led us to the city of Gisborne, New Zealand. It’s a city with a population of a little over 50,000 people, and there is no gospel-preaching work there. Many people have come across our paths and have mentioned how there really hasn’t ever been a work there and that we are going

into a clean canvas. We ask that you continue to pray as we will be making future plans for the move in the near future.

With that excitement, Satan will always try to bring something to discourage as well. We have faced some challenges that come with living in a foreign country when it comes to culture and understanding the way people think or even approach life. New Zealand is a place where there really isn’t a foundation or “history” of godly principles; and it’s amazing how that factor alone can alter the lifestyle of people. We know that we can’t change the past, but we pray that with the power of God, we can make an impact for God in the future.

As we close, Nola and Kade are growing and doing well adjusting to their “new” life. Nola has even begun saying “Kiwi lingo” as she picks it up from others at church and from just being out in the community. We also just booked our tickets for our first furlough next year. We will be back in Ohio in June of next year. We are looking forward to seeing everybody, both familiar and new faces. We are praying that God gives Grace Baptist Church a revival week that is impactful, but most importantly, long-lasting. Certainly God’s “...*grace is sufficient for thee...*” and we pray that you experience that in the coming days! We love you all and appreciate your prayers and support.

Never Quit,  
**The Freyer Family**

Drop the Freyers a line and let them know you are praying for them!



[Christ2kiwis@gmail.com](mailto:Christ2kiwis@gmail.com)

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# DISCOVER GRACE

## YOU CAN KNOW FOR SURE YOU ARE ON YOUR WAY TO HEAVEN!

### REALIZE THAT GOD LOVES YOU.

The Bible says in John 3:16, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

### UNDERSTAND EVERYONE IS A SINNER.

Romans 3:23 says, *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* No one is perfect. We have all broken God's commandments. This is called sin, and it separates us from God.

### SIN HAS A PRICE THAT MUST BE PAID.

Romans 6:23 tells us, *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord"*

### JESUS PAID THE PRICE FOR YOUR SIN.

Romans 5:8 says, *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* If we choose to accept Christ, we do not have to pay the price of death and Hell for our sins because Jesus paid for our sins when He died on the Cross. Three days later He rose again!

### FINALLY, PRAY. ASK JESUS TO BE YOUR SAVIOR, AND CLAIM HIS PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE.

Romans 10:9, 13 says, *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved...For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."* This is a promise directly from God that if you will confess that you are a sinner and trust Him to be your Savior, He will save you and give you the gift of eternal life.

  
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