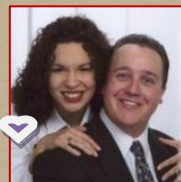


TROPHIES OF GRACE



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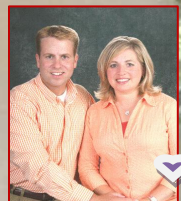
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Focus on Missions

Rob and Grace Robideau are missionaries to Nepal. The Robideaus are currently making preparations to leave for their mission field, including getting a passport for their infant son, Timmy. Bro. Robideau is a graduate of Providence Baptist College. The Robideaus will work in a church and Bible institute established by another independent Baptist missionary while they pursue language study. They then hope to start a church in the Kathmandu Valley and use it to reach outlying areas through an aviation ministry (Bro. Robideau has a pilot's license).

Nepal is a largely Hindu nation. Most Nepalis have never heard the gospel, and it has only recently become legal for them to leave the Hindu religion. Nepal has nearly 29 million people in an area the size of Arkansas. The culture is similar to the cultures of Tibet and India. A typical Nepali meal is boiled dal (lentils, peas, or beans) served with rice, vegetables, and a spicy relish. Beaten rice is a regular snack between meals. Meat, eggs, and fish are considered treats.

Please pray for the Robideaus as they start this new phase of their ministry. The Robideaus may be emailed at robrobideau@gmail.com. They also have a website at www.nepalforchrist.com.



Ministering Grace - December 2010

a monthly newsletter for the Ladies of Grace Baptist Church

Delaware, Ohio

www.galaatgrace.com



"For they have refreshed my spirit and yours..." I Corinthians 16:18

Inside *Ministering Grace* this month:
Feature articles on December theme: **"Personal Devotions"**

Tonight @ LOG – Mrs. Caryn Bane

"How to Walk with God" – Mrs. Nancy Ali-Dib

"Get Serious" – Mrs. Tanita Dobbins

"Personal Devotions – a Relationship not a Ritual" – Mrs. Beulah Rao

Devotional Books – Book Reviews by Mrs. Tammy Sapp

Mrs. Robin Fraker

Mrs. Amanda Robb

Mrs. Caryn Bane

Trophies of Grace contact information

Focus on Missions: Rob & Grace Robideau, missionaries to Nepal

Scripture Challenges – News & updates

Next month at LOG

Welcome to Ladies of Grace!

Welcome to the Ladies of Grace Christmas Banquet! This is going to be a very special evening as we enjoy a time together to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. I hope you were able to come a few minutes early to enjoy some Holiday Punch, as well as place your order at the Premier Jewelry fundraiser table. A special thank you to Christy Fryman for her generous offer to give Ladies of Grace 100% of her profit! On behalf of our Trophies of Grace ladies, I thank you for your participation in this fundraiser to provide Christmas gifts for these "premier" ladies!



The theme for tonight is "Personal Devotions." I am convinced beyond a shadow of doubt that God has a deep desire for each of His children to spend time with Him daily, to know Him, and to feel His constant presence each day. I am equally convinced that Satan will throw everything he can at us to hinder us from pursuing God. Making changes in the area of personal devotions is like any other needing change – we must have a plan if we are going to succeed. This month's *Ministering Grace* is full of tools and options to help us successfully develop a quiet time each day or to enhance what is already a part of our time with God.

There are three articles with helpful information about Personal Devotions, one by Mrs. Nancy Ali-Dib, one by Mrs. Tanita Dobbins, and one by Mrs. Beulah Rao. There are also reviews of four devotional books that many will find quite helpful as each book presents a different approach to Bible study. The devotional books are for sale this evening at Ladies of Grace. January is the perfect time to begin a Bible study program with one of these great tools! My goal was to offer multiple methods and study systems so that each of us can find something that works for us. I hope you will give it a try; it is never too late to get into God's Word!

A special THANK YOU to Bro. Sapp and the other men who are providing us with a wonderful Christmas Banquet this evening. Grace Baptist Church is blessed with an abundance of thoughtful people who desire to be a blessing to others; tonight we are the recipients of their kindness. The delectable menu provided for this evening is:

Spinach salad with apples and toasted pecans
Chicken breast, with spinach, mushroom, and ricotta stuffing
Roasted broccoli florets with toasted garlic and ginger
Croissant
Cheesecake
Coffee, water

Have a lovely evening and a very, very, very Merry Christmas!

Mrs. Bane



How to Walk with God

By Mrs. Nancy Ali-Dib

Col. 2:6 "As ye have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." God's pattern is clear. To become a child of God you had to exercise faith in Jesus Christ. A daily walk is developed by getting to know Him and trusting Him by faith. Here are some tips that you can adapt to your own life.

1. Prepare a place to be alone with your Bible, notebook and reference material. A table next to a bookshelf is ideal. Read/study/meditate in God's Word as early in the morning as possible, before Satan has time to bring distractions your way. Jot down thoughts that God brings to mind. The RU Journal is very helpful! Let a daily devotional guide such as "Days of Praise"

establish a theme. Read a Psalm or Proverb each day. Be consistent in reading God's Word daily even when you don't feel like it.

2. Use a 3 X 5 card to write down a verse with special meaning. Refer to it throughout the day. God may intend for you to share it with someone else.

3. Praise the Lord often for who He is, my Savior, Protector, Provider, Guide, etc. If a song comes to mind, sing it aloud (unless it annoys someone else). Read through a hymn and let the words speak to your heart!

4. Talk to the Lord. He is waiting to hear from you. Put your missionary prayer cards in an album, a basket, or on a bulletin / poster board. Pray for one daily. Post maps nearby or on the wall in front of you to visualize where the missionaries live. Use a notebook with rings so you can add and regroup lists of prayer requests: family, friends, GBC ministries and needs, sick and hurting folks, etc. Write down dates when you see God answering your prayers.

5. Don't skip church unless truly sick in bed or for the death of a family member. The devil will use interruptions, headaches, tiredness and pain to keep you from God's house. Admit weakness and God will give you His strength.

6. Be ready to admit when you mess up. We all sin daily and need to confess it to the Lord. "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

I hope that these tips will help you walk with God so you can be an encouragement to others in need.



Scripture Memory Challenges

December Scripture Memory Challenge #1:

Daniel 6:10

December Scripture Memory Challenge #2:

1 Corinthians 16:11-13

January and February have been designated as "catch up" months for those participating in the Scripture Memory Challenge. If your schedule has not allowed you to stay current with the verses – or if you did not get to start in September – it is not too late! Scripture memorization does take some time and effort, but it is time and effort wisely invested! In addition, those who complete the challenges will receive awards and recognition at the Mother-Daughter Banquet in May. If you have any questions, please see Mrs. Robin Fraker.

Get Serious

By: Mrs. Tanita Dobbins

Years ago our Pastor made a comment that I thought was so great and practical. Pastor was telling us that every Christian should have a time and a place to spend time with the Lord. He also shared with us, in detail, his devotional time. I knew I needed a working plan that was practical to get serious about my personal devotions. I had, for the most part, what I thought was an okay devotional time; however, I felt like I needed more. Because I want God's love and His heart, I chose to work on my personal devotion time.

As Christians we have a personal relationship with God. It's not about how much doctrine you know, or how well you obey God's law (though it's all very important). It's all about how well you know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the essence of developing a devotional habit—it's all about a personal relationship with our living God.

In order for any relationship to grow, it must be cultivated and nurtured. Our relationship with God requires that we do the same if our love for Him is to grow. Of course, we need to talk with God which means we not only talk, but we also listen to what He has to say to us. We must learn more about God, and as we know more about Him, our love for Him will grow. Bible study is essential to this process of learning more about God and also to listening to what He has to say to us.

These are the steps I have incorporated to develop and maintain a devotional plan that's right for me. Many of these suggestions are not ideas. I have tried to follow our Pastor's teachings and those of other good Christian leaders.

-Set a time and place for personal devotions. Success does not happen by accident; it happens on purpose. I knew that in order to be successful with my devotions, I needed to set a time and stick to it daily. Since I'm a morning person, early morning is best for me and the least likely time of day for an interruption. Whatever time of day you choose; let it be the best time of day for you. Perhaps a lunch break fits better into your agenda.

-I begin my devotions with extended time of prayer. Pastor has taught us in-depth, excellent Biblical guidelines on our prayer life—I won't go over that again. I like to be specific when I write down requests so that I can see an answer! In addition to my prayer journal, I keep our church "Prayer List" in my journal so I can pray for weekly requests.

-Next, I read my Bible. There are many plans available to guide us in reading through the Bible. For me, it's easiest if I have a Bible reading plan as opposed to randomly start reading each day.

-It's so important to study the Bible and memorize Scripture. I'm so guilty of falling short in memorizing Scripture. I am constantly compelled to memorize more Scripture. I like it when Mrs. Bane encourages us to memorize Scripture through Ladies of Grace. It forces me to have a goal and time limit in memorizing verses. I need that!

- It's so good to underline special verses in your daily reading and return to them through the day. Sometimes I just need to read those words again.

- "Praise the Lord!" How many times have we heard or said that phrase? In Psalms, we see that David was the "King of Praise." Psalm 9: 1 says "I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will show forth all thy marvelous works." Psalm 148:13 – "Let them praise the name of the Lord: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven." He is deserving of all our praise. Of course praising God should not be confined to our personal devotions; however, it is a great time to express your praise. Also, I like to read a song from a hymnal. What great words and thoughts! Often one of the songs I have looked at that morning will stick with me all day long.

I generally have one or two good Christian books I am reading and I will often finish my devotions with reading from them.

TIPS:

1. Keep working at your daily devotional plan for 21 days. By then it should become a habit.
2. Pray for God to give you the desire and the discipline to spend time with Him each day.
3. Don't give up. Eventually you will discover the joys and blessing of your obedience.

Oswald J. Smith said "Oh, how few find time for prayer! There is time for everything else, time to sleep and time to eat, time to read the newspaper and the novel, time to visit friends, time for everything else under the sun, but—no time for prayer, the most important of all things, the one great essential!"

I certainly do not claim that I am doing my personal devotions exactly the way I should be, or sometimes even the way I would like. Many times I find that I want to enter into personal devotions with God, but my flesh is weak. I will find myself allowing my mind to wander while I am reading Scripture, or I find there are so many things to distract me from spending quiet time with God. I have realized that it is my job to make my personal devotion time happen. I have found if I don't make it a priority, the world and my flesh will quickly squeeze it out. I want to keep striving to be vigorous in my commitment to follow through with my personal devotions because I feel my spiritual well being and growth is at stake, and I want to give God my love and my heart.

I'm so thankful for Pastor Bane for many reasons; however, I especially love how he always encourages us as believers and gives us tools and inspiration to strive for a better walk with the Lord. But, Pastor can only do so much. It is up to us to "get serious" about our personal devotions.

Personal Devotions - A Relationship not a Ritual!

Using God's Love Language – WORDS – His and Yours!!

Mrs. Beulah Rao

No matter where you are with your personal devotions, I do NOT want you to read this article and beat yourself up with criticism. The purpose of this article is to encourage you to do what God has clearly revealed in the Bible.

Last Sunday evening, Bro. Schaap said that God's love language is "words". He gave us a book full of words! He made a way for us to talk to him in prayer using

words!! ☺ I was very excited to hear that for many reasons: I like to talk, words don't cost money, whether rich or poor you can show God you love him by speaking "words" in prayer and listening to Him by reading His words in the Bible.

I LOVE to connect with a close friend, don't you? It seems so natural to pick up from where we left off, share our concerns, laugh and cry. It makes me feel loved, heard and cared for and my friend also feels the same way. Similarly, God must like to converse with us too because we are created in God's image! What an easy way to please Him!

Why pray and read the Bible daily?

1. Obedience. God wants us to read His words and pray.
2. Emotional stability – You can experience the peace of God when you take your worries to Him and leave them there until the next day when you can bring them up again. This can be one way to not obsess about something negative all day. This can help you get off the roller coaster of emotional mood swings.
3. To know God's mind and open your spirit to His leading when you are faced with decisions you have to make.
4. To get daily wisdom for your marriage, child-rearing, finances, ministry, job, current challenges, etc.
5. To get victory over the world, the flesh and the devil.
6. To be successful and prosper!! No kidding!! See Psalm 1:2, 3 and Joshua 1:8.
7. To prove to God that He is first and most important in your life.
8. To follow the example of Jesus when He was on earth.

When / How to pray and read the Bible daily?

1. Make prayer and Bible reading your first priority. Grab your first opportunity during your day.
2. Make an appointment with God. Have a specific time, place and a list of things to pray about. Add something you enjoy like coffee or hot chocolate ☺ If you have an unusual schedule because of babies or work, have an alternate "Plan B" ready for challenging days.
3. Have an attitude of prayer all the time. Talk to God as you would to a really close friend. I complain sometimes. Sometimes, I will tell Him how awesome He is for creating the sound of my children laughing. Sometimes, I say, "Lord, what do YOU think of this? I need to know." – just like I would ask a friend. If I feel like I am about to get offended, I urgently say, "Holy Spirit please let me have the mind of Christ, mine really stinks!" ☺
4. Pray out loud. God wants to hear your words.
5. Keep a note pad and pen to jot down distracting thoughts.
6. Follow a Bible-reading schedule. BUT...this is a big "but"...do NOT beat yourself up if you miss a day here and there. Do not try to "catch up" with your missed Bible reading. Simply move on and read what is scheduled for the day. Also, pick a verse to carry around all day.
7. Expect to hear from God. Ask God, "Please speak to me". God is a real person. Ask God to show himself to you every day. God has awed me again and again! ☺
8. Do NOT expect overnight success. If nothing happens for many days, just keep reading and praying. Remember this is a RELATIONSHIP not a RITUAL!!
9. Just start and then keep at it. If you miss a day for whatever reason, don't quit. Just start again the next day.
10. Keep a journal if you can...you will be amazed how much you remember that way! Also, if you can, share what you learned with your girlfriend, your sister or husband. It is also exciting to add memorization and a daily hymn to your routine.

