

TROPHIES OF GRACE



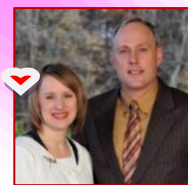
Mrs. Holly Williams
justins.wife@hotmail.com



Mrs. Julie Frost
mrsfrost@solidrockbaptistchurch.info



Mrs. Beulah Rao
Bujji239@yahoo.com



Mrs. Virginia Harris
vharris74@yahoo.com



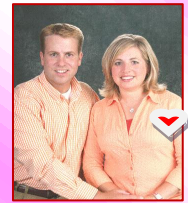
Mrs. Sherry Lester
sherbearlester@gmail.com
Mrs. Sherry Lester



Mrs. Megan Burns
mburnsroa@gmail.com



Mrs. Lacey MacRae
lmacsgirl08@gmail.com

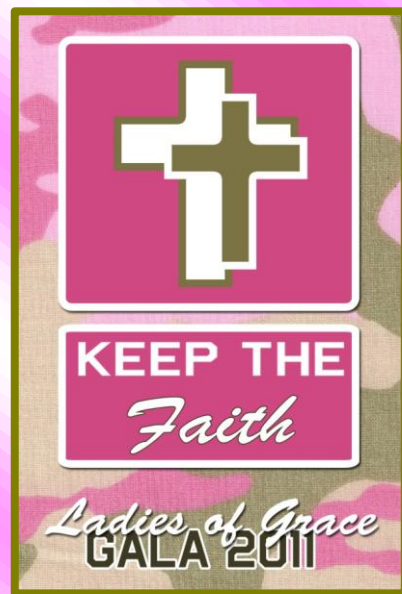


Mrs. Michelle Shields
shellyrae2502@aol.com

New! Ladies of Grace Cookbook

Ladies, we need your recipes!

Each lady is asked to contribute 6 to 10 recipes to be included in our new cookbook. We have phenomenal cooks at GBC, and would like for you to share! There is no need to write or type out your recipes. Just bring them in – we will make photo copies of your recipes and return the originals to you. Please provide your contact information at the Welcome Center. Recipes may be emailed to garlingers@yahoo.com. See Mrs. Patsy Garlinger with questions.



Focus on Missions

Wes and Cynthia Palla are missionaries to Brazil. They recently returned to the United States for the birth of their daughter, Mia, and they are awaiting her passport so that they may return to the field as soon as possible. The Pallas helped with a church plant in Buenos Aires, Argentina, just before returning to the United States. They have also been working in Mexico while they continue to travel to finish raising support. As of October, they still needed to double their support. Six churches have added them for support in the past two months.

Brazil is located in South America and has a population of over 191,900,000. It is the world's fifth largest country by both geographical area and population. Portuguese is the main language spoken. Most of the country is tropical, with an average temperature of 77 degrees Fahrenheit. Brazilian cuisine varies greatly by region, but feijoada is the national dish. It is a typical Portuguese dish of a stew of beans with beef and pork. The national beverage is coffee.

Please pray specifically for their converts in Mexico, for the families wishing to be founding members of the Buenos Aires church plant, for safety in travel to and from Mexico, and for their support level.

Bro. Palla may be emailed at wesleypalla@fbmi.org.

Ministering Grace - January & February 2011

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:
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Ladies of Grace Calendar

Winter – Spring Ladies of Grace 2011 Schedule

- February 2 – Clothing & Housewares Exchange
- February 13 – Final day for recipe submission
- March 8 – Ladies of Grace Meeting
*Split Sessions on a variety of "how-to" topics
- April 1 – 2 – Annual Ladies of Grace Gala
- May 14 – Mother – Daughter Banquet
*cost \$10 per person
*\$6 children age 3 – 6th grade

Book Review - Praise Journal

By Mrs. Nancy Ali-Dib

Cindy Schaap wrote the short introduction to this journal that encourages us to look for ways God shows us His love everyday. Each page includes the verse, "For the Father himself loveth you..." (John 16:27). I remember a few years back when she spoke at our Gala and in her testimony she mentioned looking for specific ways that she knew God was showing his love to her. That stuck in my mind and I do thank the Lord when I see a rainbow, a beautiful display of clouds in the sky, small birds singing just outside my window, a lovely flower and other special signs that He provides throughout the day. The *Praise Journal* was not at all what I expected when asked to write a book review. Instead of getting tips from other Christian ladies that I thought would bring encouraging notes to me, I found four blank journal entries per page with a place for the Date then the title: How God Showed Me He Loved Me Today. The rest was up to me to write down during a time with the Lord, morning or evening as I meditated on His goodness. The entries that I've filled in will bring memories for years to come when I read back over those special days.

September 3, 2010 was my first entry. God's Word first showed me his love in Isaiah 61:1-3 when he said Jesus was sent to bind up the broken hearted and give me the oil of joy for mourning. I needed those words that day. Later, God allowed me to get out of work in time to eat a bite and get on the bus to High Street so I could hear Steve Curington speak to us. Little did I know this was the last time I would talk to him and shake his hand.

When finances were tight and I was on deadline for an oil change, I thanked the Lord for a great deal. A slow leak in one tire was due to a nail which they removed and patched for free. Later that day I saw such awesome sunrises it reminded me God was there shining down the whole time.

Emails from missionaries came at times when I was waiting for an answer and their words lifted my spirits. A phone call from a family member or a Christian sister with an answer to prayer gave me several occasions of joy. One day I was looking for a specific piece of music and the Lord just said to start by cleaning out and sorting sheet music one at a time. I found exactly what I needed.

When sick I tend to get down and complain so the Lord gave me encouragement even from my co-worker. She finally told me to call the doctor and I'm glad the timing worked out to start treating my sinus infection and get back on the mend. One day that I wasn't feeling really great the mother of one of my bus children sent over some homemade chicken soup. It was really God's way of saying He cared.

This book will continue to fill up with little things God does for me each day. I'm sure you can reflect upon his love and care if you start looking in simple daily events. Begin with His Word and the Lord will meet you and teach you his love.

Welcome to Ladies of Grace!

Well, we've finally made it to Ladies of Grace! After two cancellations, at last we are together for a great night at Ladies of Grace. As this has ended up being a combined meeting for January and February, [Ministering Grace](#) is absolutely loaded! The themes for this evening are "The Greatest Gift" and, of course, "Love." As always, the articles our ladies have written are inspirational and practical. Please be sure to read the newsletter in its entirety.



Tonight is the night for the Clothing & Housewares Exchange. Thank you for your participation. This is the first time we have tried something like this, but when it was suggested to me last summer, I knew right away that we should give it a whirl and see how it goes. Who knows? Maybe you will go home with a treasure tonight!

4 items of interest in tonight's newsletter

1. Gala dates are April 1 & 2
2. Updated LOG calendar/schedule is on the front cover
3. Recipe contribution deadline – February 13th
4. Updated Scripture Memory Challenge information

I hope you have a great evening! Make a new friend! Enjoy some fellowship! Happy shopping!

Love,
Mrs. Bane



Salvation - the Greatest Gift of All

By Mrs. Sherrie Banfe

There is no greater gift that one can receive than that of salvation. Jesus Christ offers the gift and invitation of salvation to all who willingly accept it. *"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."* John 3:16. *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."* Romans 3:23. Also Romans 6:23, *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

I am glad to know that my sins have been covered by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and that His Grace keeps me saved day in and day out. What a wonderful gift to have received: the gift of salvation.

So, what is the source of my salvation? Salvation has a three-fold source:

1. First of all God's Grace. Eph 2:8-9 says, *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."* This "Grace" **originates** from God the Father who planned my salvation.
2. Secondly, God's Love. Rom 5:8 says, *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* This "Love" **radiates** from God the Son who provided my salvation through His sacrifice at Calvary.
3. Thirdly, God's Mercy. Tit 3:5 states, *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost."* This "Mercy" **emanates** from God the Holy Spirit who presented to me my salvation.

Redemption is planned by the Father; provided by the Son: and presented by the Holy Spirit. The gift that Jesus Christ gave me of salvation was the greatest gift I have ever received, more precious than silver and gold.



God's Greatest Gift

By Mrs. Jan Shade

I know that Salvation is God's Greatest Gift and I thank God for my Salvation--but I also know He gave me the Greatest Gift a Mother can receive--my children. He entrusted me with two very special boys and a beautiful daughter. Michael and Tracy were two of God's Special children--all children are special gifts from God but if you have a Special needs

child--then count your Blessings and thank God for them because they are truly God's Greatest Gift.

When Tracy was 7 yrs old and Michael was 2 years of age I found out they had Muscular Dystrophy--a muscle deteriorating disease that had no cure. As a mother, I was crushed--because as an unsaved mother--you don't understand why your children have such a disease--I found out I had a defective gene that caused the boys to have this terrible disease so naturally the first thing you do is blame yourself--I did for years--until I got saved and realized God had a plan for all of our lives and this was His plan for Tracy and Michael---they could walk for awhile and then had to wear leg braces--Tracy was 16 when he fell and broke his femur bone and had to be in a wheelchair after that--Michael was in the 4th grade when he went into the wheelchair. Neither one of the boys were bitter or questioned God as why they had the debilitating disease--they went on to Graduate from High School and then to work at the Vocational Workshop--Tracy and Michael both worked there 12 years. Tracy was always sickly and seemed to get all the illnesses going around--he had pneumonia a couple times and had to be hospitalized--Michael, on the other hand, didn't get sick much at all. Tracy got gallstones and had to have a procedure done--they couldn't put him to sleep but could do a local--he came through the procedure fine but passed away later that evening--not from the procedure but because of respiratory failure. He was 31 yrs old and that was in 2001. As hard as that was, we knew he was in Heaven and we would see him again one day.

Michael continued to work at the workshop until we moved up here in 2007. He missed everyone down there in NC but came to adjust to Ohio somewhat--of course, he said it snowed and rained too much. When he was in school, he led his best friend to the Lord and he will tell you to this day that had it not been for Michael, he would not be serving the Lord today. Michael was more outgoing than Tracy--he was shy--Michael witnessed to many people including his girlfriend, Kim, her dad brought her up 3 times a year to see Michael which made them both very happy. I truly believe God sent Kim into Michael's life to keep him motivated. Michael was a good Christian and he had a site on Facebook and he told me many times that he has a reputation to uphold and could not have anything on his face book that would not honor God. He was very smart on the computer and would help Gary and me find something, as we are both computer illiterate. He looked up Independent Baptist churches and found Grace--Gary and I attended a service and we knew that is where God wanted us--Michael didn't get to attend but a few times but he knew that was the church he wanted to join. Michael was very smart, funny and a wonderful son--we really miss him and Tracy also.

Michael passed away on Memorial Day at the age of 35--I consider myself truly Blessed by God as he gave me His Greatest Gift.



What A Gift!

By Mrs. Tanita Dobbins

I was 10 years old and so excited. I was dancing around the room with joyful expectations. I waited and waited for this day to come. It was Christmas, and my three brothers and I were always excited at Christmas time.

There was a particular gift that would make me the happiest girl in the whole world. I had asked my parents over and over for a horse, but they always said I needed to wait until I was a little older. I was 10 years old, and I was certain that I was old enough for my very own horse.

One by one we all opened our gifts and they were all nice (even though I wasn't sure what I would do with another pair of ugly socks from Aunt Helen). I was thrilled with all my gifts. I liked everything--even Aunt Helen's socks with dancing kittens on the ruffle--but it wasn't at all what I was waiting for. I put a smile on my face and reminded myself--it's the thought that counts, right? My Father saw the look on my face and quickly headed outside saying, excuse me I have forgotten one more gift for Tanita. He asked me to go outside with him, and there stood the most beautiful horse I had ever seen! I was so excited and happy. After all the waiting and anticipating, I had finally received the "greatest gift"--I had received "the perfect gift"--my very own horse!

What was the best gift you have ever received? All of us have memories and thoughts of what we remember as our greatest gift. I'm sure we all have many different ideas about what makes a great gift. A gift, by definition, is something that we did not earn, but which we receive from someone else's generosity. A

gift is appreciated either because of the giver that you have received it from, or because of the value attached to the gift.

I once read that someone actually tried to calculate how much it would cost to give the gifts named in the classic Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas." The grand total came to about \$87,000. Some items were affordable, like a partridge in a pear tree for \$35.00. Two turtledoves will run you somewhere around \$56.00. Six geese-a-laying will cost around \$150.00. But, the price takes off when you add 11 pipers piping. That is \$2,300 right there. Then there are the 12 drummers drumming. With current union scale for musicians, they will run you another \$2,500 (per performance). The price really soars when you get 10 lords-a-leaping. We are talking \$4,500 for them. Granted, I don't know where you would find them, but they are very expensive. Is there such a thing as "the perfect gift"? At Christmas time, shoppers go in search of it. Everyone wants his or her gift to be just what that receiver has always wanted. The things that people really want to make their lives better, can't be bought from a store. I'm talking about peace, joy, security, happiness, hope, eternal life and the list goes on and on.

I have found the most exquisite, the most unique, the most valuable, the most universal, but also the most personal gift ever given--without question--the greatest gift ever given. What is that Gift? God gave us the gift of His own Son, Jesus Christ, so that through faith in Him, we could be forgiven of our sins and have eternal life!

It begins with the GREATEST GIVER, God! God presented this perfect gift to the world over 2,000 years ago. Jesus Christ was God's Gift, and God never gives anything but the best! The Bible says in James 1:17, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

Thinking of this wonderful Gift, the Apostle Paul said, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (II Corinthians 9:15). Jesus Christ is God's unspeakable Gift! He is indescribable! He is overwhelming!

The very fact that salvation is a gift indicates that it is undeserved. If it is earned or deserved, it is no longer a gift. "For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

My greatest gift was not the horse I received on that very special Christmas day, or any other package wrapped in pretty, colored paper. At 10 years old I thought I truly had received the "greatest gift", and in my eyes it was perfect. But, all of those types of gifts go away sooner or later. As a young adult I received a gift that will not become obsolete, never change or go away. I received the most valuable, perfect gift. God's Gift to all, I received Jesus Christ--the "greatest gift" of all. Eternal life--what a gift!!

Scripture Memory Challenges

Due to the irregularity of meetings, we want to do what we can to make it possible for those participating in the Challenge to have opportunities to say verses and passages. Recitation of any verses/passage may be at the meetings or at a time that you coordinate with Mrs. Robin Fraker. Listed below is a complete list of the verses for both Challenges. Recitation must be completed by Sunday, April 17th to be eligible for awards and recognition.

	Challenge #1	Challenge #2
September	Titus 2:3-4	I Corinthians 16:1-4
October	Jonah 3:1-2	I Corinthians 16:5-7
November	II Chronicles 5:13	I Corinthians 16:8-10
December	Daniel 6:10	I Corinthians 16:11-13
January	Ephesians 2:7-9	I Corinthians 16:14-16
February	Jeremiah 31:3	I Corinthians 16:17-19
March	I Timothy 2:9-12	I Corinthians 16:20-24

Love-the One Word Everyone Wants to Hear

By: Mrs. Linda Fraker

Well it is February; to some it is the "love" month with Valentine's Day, candy, and flowers for the women. I remember my Dad sending me and my daughter Valentine's Day cards stating it was the holiday for girls and woman. Webster 1828 dictionary meaning of "love" is defined from the Hebrew as meaning: to honor, reverence or glorify; to adorn; to magnify. The love of God is the first duty of man. Of course, there are over 500 verses in the Bible that the word

love is found. John 3:16 which we all know by heart, reminds us that God loves us so much He gave His all for us. God is love. There are many more forms of the word love that also appear in the Bible. To me it is the most powerful word. When you love someone, and they love you back; it is so wonderful. Preacher says he 'loves us.' This is so important to me. That he really wants to help us, and pray for us, and let us know he is there for us when we need him is a blessing.

Loving one another is equivalent to walking according to God's commandments. To pray to God and read your Bible daily; to go soul winning (what a joy to lead someone to Christ) . . .

Jesus "loves" us so much, He died for us. How many other people would lay down their lives for people they don't even know? Jesus knew us before we were even born, knew who would "love" Him and follow Him and who would not, yet He gave it all for us anyway. Those of us who love Jesus and follow His laws and teachings in the Bible are so blessed. I know since I have been getting closer and closer to the Lord with daily devotions and pray I have seen and felt the blessings God gives us. It really hurts to see an accident and someone has died and the loved ones state "I forgot to tell them I love them."

So tell Jesus you love Him daily, and "I love you," to the loved ones in your family daily.



Love Who?

Mrs. Kacie Jamison

In one of the coldest months of the year, we have a day to warm our hearts. Valentine's Day: the day of love and affection. It's a day that we try to express to our loved ones how much we love them and how much they mean to us. It's fun to think of new ways to show my husband that I love him. I'm normally not a "lovey dovey" kind of gal, so he appreciates it when I step out of my comfort zone and tell him how I feel about him or even better, to show it with my actions. Our children are always so easy to buy for...candy is always a good thing (and they are kind enough to share with me)! Valentine's Day can be such a fun day!

However, during February, I normally try to focus on the Lord's love for me, as well. I have often read about the crucifixion to let it sink into my heart how much Jesus loves me and how much he did to prove it. It reminds me that love often causes us to do things that are good for others, even if they don't deserve it. Sometimes loving others hurts. Jesus didn't just shed his blood on the cross for family and friends. He also died for the mob who cried, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" He looked at the soldiers who nailed him to the cross with the same eyes of love that he had for his mother, John and Mary Magdalene, who stood at the foot of the cross. The love of Jesus knew no boundaries.

Here comes the hard part...take a deep breath...God expects us to love as Christ loved. **John 15:12 "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."** Some may assume that this scripture is only talking about loving our brothers and sisters in Christ as Christ loved us. It surely would be easier to love the people who love us in return! It's nice to do nice things for nice people! ☺ Jesus states in the Bible that that kind of love is of the world and continues to tell us how to love as he loved.

Luke 6:27-36 "But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not to take thy coat also. Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again. And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful."Children of the King of kings should stand out in the crowd. We have been given a high calling. **Philippians 3:13-14 "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ."** This February, may we leave behind the love that this world offers, and instead, reach forth to the world with the love that Christ offers.