

# TROPHIES OF GRACE



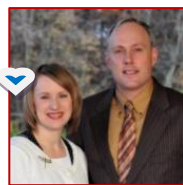
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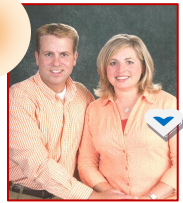
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## Ladies of Grace Cookbook

The Ladies of Grace Cookbook will be available to purchase today at the Girlfriends Luncheon. Makes a GREAT GIFT!

## Just Friends

Book review by Carmen Bane

Just Friends was written as a joint effort by Cary Schmidt and Mike Ray. Bro. Schmidt is the Student Ministries Director of Lancaster Baptist Church in Lancaster, California. Dr. Ray is pastor of the Hopewell Baptist Church in Napa, California. The combination of Bro. Ray's years of ministry experience and Bro. Schmidt's wit, creativity, and experience as an author produced an excellent book on the topic of "dating" for teens and young adults.

I put dating in quotation marks because Just Friends is not a typical book about dating. The key point the authors expressed over and over is to not waste your life looking for the "right person" but, rather, to become the right person for the one God has planned for you to eventually marry. Key principles are outlined in practical ways for a young person to prepare himself/herself for God's will in his/her future. Though some points are made specifically about the dating process, most of the book's aim is to help a teenager understand Biblical philosophies on the topic and set some boundaries for themselves before they ever start dating.

The format of Just Friends is very readable with main points being clearly emphasized. Nearly every point made is followed by a practical application to help a young adult practice that in his life right then. After every three chapters there is a page provided for journaling personal application. Bro. Schmidt particularly is very skilled in the area of connecting with teenagers. This reason makes the read enjoyable for the teen and enlightening for the adult. I do encourage any parent or youth worker to read Just Friends and then pass it on to a teenager. Christian teens will feel encouraged and motivated to prepare for their future of God's will for their mate by reading Just Friends.

## Focus on Missions

Nick and Katie Maulucci, along with their eight children, are missionaries to Bulgaria and Turkey. Their family is sent out of Grace Baptist Church in Beaver Dams, New York.

The Maulucci Family is based in Bulgaria, the sixteenth-largest country in Europe. Turkey lies just to the south of Bulgaria. Most Bulgarians (84 percent) belong to the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, with less than one percent of the population following any type of Protestant religion. Turkey, on the other hand, is about 98 percent Muslim.

The Mauluccis welcomed their eighth child, their only daughter, this past December. They have seen much progress in their work and celebrated their sixth church anniversary at the end of January.

Please pray for Bro. Maulucci's Turkish language study. He has finished his first course and has begun reading in Turkish. He is excited about the opening of doors in Turkey and the changes for freedom in the government there. He is asking for prayers for wisdom in ministering in this new area.

Bro. Maulucci's email address is [maulucciboys@hotmail.com](mailto:maulucciboys@hotmail.com).

# Ministering Grace - May 2011 - Special Edition

## "Girlfriends"

a monthly newsletter for the  
Ladies of Grace Baptist Church  
Delaware, Ohio  
[www.galaatgrace.com](http://www.galaatgrace.com)



## Inside Ministering Grace this month:

- \*Feature articles on theme: "Girlfriends" – submitted by Mrs. Amanda Robb, Mrs. Christy Fryman, and Mrs. Kacie Jamison
- \*Today @ LOG – Mrs. Caryn Bane
- \*Book Review – Carmen Bane
- \*Ladies of Grace Cookbook available today
- \*Trophies of Grace contact information
- \*Focus on Missions: Nick and Katie Maulucci, Missionaries to Bulgaria and Turkey
- \*Scripture Challenges – News & updates



A friend is someone  
who knows the song  
in your heart and  
can sing it back to  
you when you have  
forgotten the words.

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

## Welcome to the "Girlfriends" Luncheon

I am so pleased that you have joined me today to celebrate all the girlfriends in our lives. Girlfriends are very special people – and regardless of age, fellow girlfriends know just how extraordinary these relationships are! Girlfriends come in a variety of sources – from childhood classmate to college roommate, from sister to mother, from fellow-employee to serving the Lord together. . . and everything else I didn't list. Fortunately, there are no rules when it comes to choosing friends! It seems that some friendships come and go over the years, but it is a great idea to hold on to the good ones! I hope today will encourage each of us to cherish and nurture the girlfriends we already have as well as remind us to be ever ready with a smile and a kind word to those we do not know well. Every friendship starts somewhere, and you simply cannot have too many girlfriends. Who knows? Maybe a simple smile will be the start of one of the best friendships you have ever had – your new BFF!

Some gals have about a bazillion girlfriends (bazillion just means there are too many to count), while others have a few close friends. Regardless of your friend count, may I remind you of the World's Forever BFF? You guessed it – He must be your Friend, too! It is Jesus! The Bible says in John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down His life for His friends." What a Friend! He is such a great Friend not only did He give His life on Calvary to pay for our sins so we can spend eternity with Him in Heaven, He promises we never need to feel alone – because he will never leave us! (Hebrews 13:5). He also promises to meet all of our needs (Matthew 6:33), to give us joy (Philippians 4:4), to hear our prayers (Hebrews 4:16)! In short, He will never ever fail us! Wow! *What a Friend We Have in Jesus!*

I am thankful for every Girlfriend at Grace! There is a saying that says, "Sisters make the best friends." Let's make that saying even better . . . "Sisters in Christ make the best girlfriends!" We've got the same Father and a bond that will last for eternity! Isn't that a wonderful thought?

I hope you will have a wonderful time today at our **Girlfriends Luncheon**. Enjoy some special time with your girlfriends – keep the old and make some new and remember you are loved by a Perfect Friend, God Himself!

Love,

Mrs. Bane



### Not Your Average Fair-Weather Friend

Kacie Jamison

Proverbs 17:17a "A friend loveth at all times." At...all...times. Anyone can share laughter, but true friends aren't ashamed to shed tears together. Anyone can celebrate a victory or a mountaintop, but true friends are the ones who encourage you after you have been defeated or when you are facing a valley. Anyone can easily fall into the trap of gossip, but true friends

speak the truth in love...even when you don't want to hear it. Anyone can tear down, but it takes a true friend to build up. Anyone can be there for you when it is convenient, but a true friend is there even when it is not. Anyone can say they will pray for you, but a true friend actually does. Anyone can share the good things that God is doing in their life with another, but a true friend can listen to the good things that God is doing in the life of their friend and rejoice with them...even in the midst of their own trial or heartbreak. And last but not least, anyone can compliment you on your hair or the way you are dressed, but true friends let you know when your slip is showing, you have something in between your teeth or your makeup is messed up. ☺

One of my best friends recently moved to Hawaii. She was a friend from our old church. We didn't get to see each other very often, even when she lived in Ohio and we only lived an hour away from each other, however, she has always been there for me. She was even there for me when I thought I didn't need her. A few years ago, when I was backslidden and out of church, she kept trying to contact me. She wouldn't take no for an answer and I decided to go visit with her. She wasn't the typical "friend" who would side with you just to make you feel better about yourself. In fact, she was just the opposite, but I could tell she cared for me. She questioned my actions and reminded me of what I had always said that I believed. She told me what it was like to grow up in a home with divorced parents and the lasting effect it had on her. She told me everything that I didn't want to hear, but what I needed to hear. A few months ago, I was looking for a quote that described our friendship and came across this quote: "A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words." This describes her perfectly. I'm so thankful to have a friend like her!

Almost all of my other close friends can be found in Grace Baptist Church. We may not sit in the same pew all of the time. We may not call each other on the phone often. We may not even spend much time together outside of church, but what time we spend together, we make it count. Most of the time spent with my friends is spent working together in the ministry. Reformers Unanimous is where I have been able to get to know some of my dearest friends. Reformers Unanimous is where someone can come and be real. We love each other at all times, as the Bible says we should. If you are new to Grace Baptist Church or maybe you have been coming for some time and haven't quite found your place yet, I want to encourage you to start working in a ministry! It will bind your hearts together with the ones you are serving with and the ones to whom you are serving. You will find no better friendship than the one you can find through Christ and his church!

### Luncheon Schedule

11:30-1:00 Program in Chapel  
1:00-2:00 Luncheon in gym  
Door prizes



### How to Be a Friend

Christy Fryman

How would you describe an ideal friend? What characteristics would be found in that person? Do you, yourself, possess those same things? For everyone, the answers to these questions would be vastly different. We all have different views, ideas, and needs as individuals. I believe my friends possess the following characteristics: kindness, honesty, thoughtfulness, awareness, love, consideration, respect, loyalty, and politeness. While I am by no means a perfect friend, these are the qualities which I strive to achieve in my own relationships, and the qualities which I like to see in others.

Friendship takes much time and effort to build. The familiar Bible verse, Proverbs 18:24 "A man that hath friends must show himself friendly..." is a great starting point from which to begin the journey of friendship. Everyone has been given a measure of good characteristics such as kindness/friendliness and so on, but may be lacking in other areas such as common sense and/or awareness. For example, we all know someone who is as kind and thoughtful as can be, but is lacking in other important areas, which makes it difficult to be around her. We all know our own quirks in our personalities. We just need to be aware of when these characteristics come out and are overbearing to the point that we push friends away. Our friends typically know our shortcomings but love us anyway. The following are some of my personal thoughts regarding what I believe to be key characteristics in maintaining a working friendship:

**Kindness:** Someone who is genuine to her core. She will go out of her way for a friend even if it means she will be inconvenienced. Selflessness is always an indication of kindness.

**Honesty-** A dishonest person has no chance of having true friends. We need to keep our promises; do what we say we are going to do, and most importantly – NO lying! It is good to own up to our mistakes. Honesty goes hand-in-hand with dependability. Allowing our friends to be totally honest with us even when it hurts can better us as a friend. This is a good thing because all we see is our own perspective.

**Loyalty-** If our friend tells us something in confidence, we should NOT talk about it to anyone else. We need to stand up for our friends when it comes to defending from those who speak badly or critically of them. This is a great test of our loyalty; do we stand up for our friend or do we join in when someone talks about our friend's weaknesses, etc?

**Awareness-** We need to watch how people/friends respond to us. (I can tell you, I have learned what not to do and say, by watching how others responded to me.) Also, being aware of a friend's countenance helps us to see when something is bothering her. Does she need some space or does she need you there to listen? Proverbs 27:17 says "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." Be aware of your friends in order to be a blessing to them.

**Consideration-** We need to watch how we make our friends feel by the words we say. Considering how we make others feel in general is very important. Do our friends leave feeling better or feeling worse, for having been with us?

**Respect-** We need to respect our friends' privacy and business. We should not be "pries" having to know everything about our friends. If they want to tell us, they will.

**Politeness-** This goes along with respectfulness. Be polite, speak politely, and act mannerly. One without manners and politeness will never have friends for long. If you wonder about your manners, ask someone who will be honest with you and loving about it. We all can learn and grow. Not everyone was taught to use good manners.

**Love-** Every friendship needs much love. That is how we forgive and overlook shortcomings and downfalls. Love helps us get along when we don't see eye to eye. "Love is blind; friendship closes its eyes." –Unknown

"The only reward of virtue is virtue; the only way to have a friend is to be a friend." ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

### Scripture Memory Challenges

Special recognition will be given to ladies who completed one or both of the Scripture Challenges. Kudos for a job well done!!! We are very proud of you!



### Girlfriends & Family

Amanda Robb

There are a lot of blessings I enjoy in life – one of my greatest blessings is the ladies that God has allowed me to call my "girlfriends." There are a lot of relationships in my life that I love and hold close to my heart. God has blessed me with the best "girlfriends" and family that I could ever desire.

The great example of a friendship in I Samuel 18:1 which says. . . "the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul." That kind of a relationship comes from the Lord and many blessings come along with a spiritual relationship of that kind.

I would like to share a little about one very special "best girlfriend" that God gave me to call my mom. I believe God puts each and every person in our lives to learn from and grow together in Him. My mom was and still is, through the testimony she left, a great example of how to serve, trust, love, and worship God. The example she was for all that were blessed to be around her is priceless and something I will always remember for the rest of my life to draw me even closer to the Lord.

A verse that she claimed through her illness was Proverbs 3:5&6 "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." She lived this everyday in her testimony by saying "things God allowed in my life are not trials, they are God showing me how much He loves me." These are the things I believe God wanted me to learn from my "best girlfriend" (mom) and makes me want to be more attentive and aware to examples around me. Her testimony will continue to touch lives through those she loved. Girlfriends and Family are one of the most priceless gifts from God.