

## EMAIL UPDATE

From: Pastor Scott Distler  
Date: 06/12/08

### A MESSAGE YOU MUST HEAR

**PLEASE...PLEASE...PLEASE** take just 33 minutes before this week is over to click on this link (<http://www.fellowshipchurch.com/currentseries>) from Fellowship Church in Grapevine, Texas and watch Ed Young's message from this past Sunday. The message is called "**Help us Engage.**" My heart was beating out of my chest as I watched and listened! I need **EVERYONE** who is part of Grace Church to watch this...**PLEASE!**

### A PEARL OF A STORY

Remember our series last March on heaven (**The WOW Factor...World of Wonder**)? On the Sunday morning of that series that we talked about the 12 gates around the wall of the New Jerusalem each being each made of one gigantic pearl, we gave out a white bead to everyone in attendance that resembled a pearl. We asked everyone that week to carry the bead in their pocket wherever they went as a reminder that the best is yet to come.

The wife of one of the newer young couples that attends our church works at a retirement village out in Mt Joy. Her name is Jamie. She came to know one of the residents there who was failing in health. His name was Barry. He had trusted Christ but was really struggling with being scared to die. Jamie took him into her office and had him watch all 3 messages of the WOW series online. God greatly used these messages in his life to give him peace and help prepare him for eternity. In fact, Barry shared with Jamie that he was disappointed that he did not get one of those pearls we handed out in church that morning.

Barry wanted to come to our church so every Sunday since then Jamie and her husband would drive a good distance out of their way to pick up Barry and bring him to church. He loved attending Grace. During the week he would get on the computer in Jamie's office, put on her earphones, and listen to all the archive sermons on our website. In fact, Barry was in church again this past Sunday for the start of our **Super Men** series. Jamie told me that the message on forgiveness really connected with him.

Sunday night, Barry took a turn for the worst. Jamie called me Monday morning to ask me if I would come out to the retirement facility. Pastor Tim went with me and we arrived at Barry's room and met his family that was all around his bed. I chatted with them for a few minutes about how Barry started coming to our church. I then bent down and read parts of John 14 and Revelation 21 to Barry as he clutched my hand.

After I prayed for Barry, Jamie (who was also in the room) and I began to talk about the **WOW** series that God used in Barry's life. Jamie reminded me that Barry was always disappointed that he never received one of those pearls that we gave out. I then shared with the family what the

Bible taught about the pearly gates of heaven and why we gave out the beads. To my amazement, as I talked about those pearls Barry sat straight up in bed with a huge smile on his face. His family was astounded. Barry had shown very little responsiveness all day. But when we talked about those pearly gates – he really got excited!

Handing out beads representing pearls that Sunday morning of our **WOW FACTOR** series may have seemed like just a man-made gimmick to some, but to Barry it was a teaching tool that God used to help calm his fear of death. It also became a bridge for me to lay the foundation for the Gospel to his family. Before I left his room, I said good-bye to Barry and told him that the next time I saw him it would probably be at those pearly gates! He smiled.

The next day they had adjusted Barry's medication. Though he was not making any progress, he was more alert. I was able to visit with him again and to take him a white bead that one of our office ladies found for me and to use to remind him once again of those pearly gates he would soon be seeing. Barry clutched the "pearl" and then tried to put it in his pocket...of course his hospital type gown did not have a pocket so Jamie was going to rig something up so he could keep his "pearl" close to him. Yes, for the Christian, the best is yet to come! Barry also asked Jamie to get him one of our *Be Magnified* CD's. That's what he is listening to in his room as the final days and hours of his life on earth count down to glory.

## **STAFF PICS YOU HAVE TO SEE TO BELIEVE**

Recently our staff and their families enjoyed a Phillies game down at Citizen's Bank Park. The pictures of them at the ballpark are amazing. You have to see them to believe them. I have included 9 of them in my blog this Thursday. On Friday I preview the second message in our **SUPER MEN** series that we will look at from the book of Philemon this Sunday. You can access my blog directly at [www.folkslisten.blogspot.com](http://www.folkslisten.blogspot.com) or through [www.lgbc.org](http://www.lgbc.org)

## **OPERATION BARNABAS TEENS LEAVE FRIDAY**

Please be praying for the following students who will be on **Operation Barnabas** teams this summer. They will be flying to California for training this Friday and traveling across the U.S. to end up at Momentum in Ohio later in July...*Kaddie Brandt; Janelle Brooks; Alicia Heckman; Jessica McCracken; David Leisey; Alison Witmer; and Megan Walsh*

## **CALL DAD COLLECT THIS SUNDAY**

This Sunday is Father's Day...the biggest day of the year for collect phone calls. In honor of Father's Day, there will be complimentary *Dosie Dough* coffee available to all as you enter and exit the services. This Sunday we will also have the thrill of seeing several people follow the Lord in water baptism. This is a Sunday you simply don't want to miss as we continue to see that Biblical Super Men are men who choose to forgive. A highlight of the morning will be **Lisa McCoy** singing the Isaac's song, *Heroes*, which honors parents of special needs children, parents of adopted children, and single parents...these are truly heroes!

## **WE NEED YOU**

VBS volunteers are still needed for our week of VBS from **June 23-27th**. This will be an amazing week of reaching MANY kids! Even if you cannot come every evening, we would love to have you for any night that you can serve! Whether it's serving snacks, guiding the kids to their activities, helping with crafts or games, manning an inflatable or more, there's a spot for everyone! Go onto the church website ([www.lgbc.org](http://www.lgbc.org)) to sign up or register at the VBS table in the lobby on Sunday morning.

## **BUDGET APPROVAL**

The Elder Board here at Grace Church has approved the 2008/2009 fiscal year budget that runs July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. All that is left now is for our congregation to approve the budget as well. We will be handling this vote differently this year. Instead of an evening Business Meeting attended by just a few, we will be taking a ballot vote on the budget as part of the Sunday morning worship services on Sunday, June 29. A packet explaining the budget will be available beginning this Sunday, June 15, in the lobby and at the church office window. There will be no time given for discussion on the morning of June 29. Instead, our Business Manager, Andrew Norton, will be explaining the budget and taking time to answer questions during both ABF hours on Sunday, June 22 in Room 203. You may also contact Andrew anytime at the church with questions as well. Any member or regular attendee of Grace Church who is at least 16 years of age is welcome to vote on this budget.

## **OTHER SUMMER EVENTS**

**Patriotic Celebration:** This year's Patriotic Celebration will be held Sunday morning, **July 6**, with two identical hour long services here at the church at 9:30 and 11:00 (*please note the service time change for this Sunday only!*). Both services will include patriotic music as well as the opportunity to recognize and appreciate military veterans, active duty members of our armed forces, families of those with immediate relatives serving overseas, as well as our police, fire and other emergency heroes. Special recognition and gifts will be given to all World War II veterans in attendance. *WWII vets that will be present July 6 should contact the church office in advance letting us know that they will be present.* We will have our full nursery and children's programs both services but there will be no Youth or ABF classes. Beginning at 10:30 and running through the afternoon, we will also be having a free lunch on our soccer field where a free children's carnival will also be set up and where an army camp will also be set up including a mess tent and military vehicles present. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to invite unbelievers you know to attend so that we as a church can meet them where they are and begin moving them to where God wants them to be.

**Dr Young Returns:** On Sunday morning, **July 13**, *Dr Jerry Young* will be preaching in both morning worship services here at Grace Church. For those of you who are new to Grace, Dr

Young was the former Senior Pastor here at Grace who led this ministry for 33 years before his retirement back in 2004. It is a privilege for our church to have Dr Young back speaking.

**Leadership Summit:** Each summer we take many of our Staff and Elders to the Leadership Summit put on by Bill Hybels and the Willow Creek Association held via satellite at LCBC right here in our own backyard. This is absolutely the best conference on leadership you will ever attend. If you are a leader in any walk of life, you would greatly benefit by attending this 2-day conference. This summer the conference will be held on Thursday and Friday, **August 7-8**. If you were to attend this conference live in Chicago you would spend over \$1,500.00. If you register through our church to this live simulcast at LCBC, your cost is only \$145.00 plus your lunch for those two days. To register, contact **Sheri Sell** at the church office (626-2155 or [slsell@lgbc.org](mailto:slsell@lgbc.org)).

**Outdoor Communion:** My favorite communion service of the year is always our summer communion service which is led by our teenagers and held outside. This summer our Outdoor, Youth Led Communion Service will take place on Sunday night, **August 3**.

*Have a great weekend!*  
*Scott*