

### "It All Started with A Seed..."



Four years ago the Mission Team had the dream to sponsor a young woman at the ISP school in Kamina, Democratic Republic of the Congo. The cost would be \$500 for tuition, books, room and board. Upon completion of their education this young woman would return to her home village and teach the children of that village. This seemed like such a commendable and achievable goal. When the need was presented to Grace church the response was overwhelming, and over \$2,000 was raised. The first response of the Mission Team was joy that the complete education of one person had been achieved.

However, following prayer and consideration, it was decided that God was moving us in a different direction, and that was to sponsor four young women through the first year, with subsequent offerings to continue sponsorship.

Last month the Mission Team asked Grace to again sponsor the education of our four young women in the Congo, this time for their final year. The response was overwhelming, with more than \$2,400 raised. This will allow the original four to finish their education while helping 3 other young women to finish their education as well. And it all started with a seed...the thought of being the hands and feet of Jesus, not just around the corner, but around the world.

Five years ago when Bishop Ntambo addressed the Arkansas Annual Conference, he stated that most pastors and congregations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo did not have a Bible to read or study as a result of the fighting and warfare in this region. He shared that many of the pastors would have to travel as much as 20 miles on foot to find a Bible to read to prepare sermons for the next several weeks. This struck a chord in the hearts of many people who heard this word, including many people from Grace Church, and an effort was launched to begin providing the means for these pastors to have a Bible of their own.

It was discovered that the best way to accomplish this was to send money to the Congo to have Bibles printed there.

### Growing Grace



This not only provided jobs for people there, but saved tremendously on the freight cost of shipping the Bibles from the United States.

As it turned out the Arkansas Conference was not the only ones to be moved by the Spirit. A person in a church in another state was so moved by the need that he challenged his church to give money for this cause by stating that he would match every dollar given. The pastor and mission team agreed that as a church they would try to raise \$60,000. This would be matched by the donor creating a fund of \$120,000 which would purchase 1,000 Bibles.

The response has been overwhelming as Sunday School classes raised funds, children broke open their piggy banks, and special projects flourished. One little girl baked cookies over a period of 6 weeks, specifically to raise money for Bibles. She raised a total of \$200!

Many of you here at Grace church were aware of this goal and have contributed accordingly.

When all the totals came in a total of \$272,000.00 had been raised for Swahili Bibles. What that means is that this year at their Annual Conference (which will meet in Kamina in July) EVERY pastor in attendance will receive a CASE of Bibles. This will provide one for him and 15 Bibles to distribute to his village!

When I think of all that God has done in this matter I am reminded of Ephesians 3:20,

**"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."**

When it all started with a seed, who would have dreamed or imagined to what extent God would work in the hearts and minds of committed people to accomplish God's purpose?

We rejoice with the people of the Congo and we truly thank God for that seed, which has grown and flourished, and we thank those who have heard the call of Christ and have responded in such a generous way.

Grace and Peace,

*Bro. Greg*



July 2011

Like Us On Follow Us On



### Who is Grace Church?

We exist to help you develop into a spiritually mature follower of Jesus Christ. As He calls you and grows in your understanding of the Christian faith, dependence on the presence of God through worship and small groups, and become the hands and feet of Jesus as God-breathed people in our community and around the world through you.

### Reaching People

### Growing Faith



**"Our mission is to develop spiritually mature disciples of Jesus Christ (around the corner and around the world)."**

### Changing Lives



### Changing Lives



Over the past 5 summers I have attended a week long mission camp called Ozark Mission Project(OMP). The youth group and I have worked in the areas surrounding Jonesboro and Marianna. Every year I look forward to making new friends and impacting lives around me.

Before going to my first year of OMP I had no idea how much helping a complete stranger would help me in life... I have come to a better understanding of helping a person out not only in a physical manner but also in a spiritual manner just by listening to them. My absolute favorite bible verse is **"Be doers of the word not just**

**hearers only."** James 1:22.

This past month I went to Marianna where I helped build a wheelchair ramp for a man who became paraplegic after a drunk driver hit him at 4 years old. This wheelchair ramp gave the man a safe fire exit out of his house. It also gave him a sense of independence and hope in life. But the most inspirational neighbor (someone we helped) I had in the past 5 years was a young girl who was paralyzed from the waist down and in need of a wheelchair ramp. A few weeks after we finished the ramp we received word that she was up walking, with braces, down her ramp. This showed me that building her a wheelchair ramp gave her hope to walk again.

OMP will always be apart of my life for many years to come! I encourage every young person to experience OMP at least once! It is something that is different from any other mission. Thanks to all the church members for their prayers, notes, and support to make this mission possible every year. Also thank you to the Curry family for letting us borrow their truck for a week.

With God's Love,  
*Lindsey Annable*



**Coming in the Fall.....**

**Kingdom People**

leave the common life behind.

Take the journey from Casual to Complete Christian.

Starts Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup> AT 5PM IN RM 112

Information is abundant. Transformation

is rare. This study is about spiritual

transformation. Here and now.

This study is 12 weeks long plus the orientation on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Led by

Bro. Greg Comer and Charles Yarbro.

Interested? Contact Bro. Greg at greg.comer@graceconway.org.

We must have a least six sign up and can accept no more than 18.

Cost will be \$28.00 for primary and work books.



**Invitation to John**

**11-week Bible Study**

**Starts Sept. 11 at 5:00 pm in Room 112**

The invitation from Christ is: "Come and see, Follow

me". Experience the magnificent passages in John

including the **I am** statements (I am the truth, the life

and the way, I am the living water and more). Revisit stories only

told in John's gospel including Nicodemus, Mary Magdalene and the

raising of Lazarus. Join and discover the life altering stories that will

invite you to follow Christ as true disciple.

Led by Bro. David. Sign up now in the lobby.



**JULY 3<sup>rd</sup>** - "What Burden Do We Bear?" Matthew 11:28-30.

Bro. Greg Comer.

**JULY 10<sup>th</sup>** - "The Question of Fruitfulness" Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.

Bro. John Palmer.

**JULY 17<sup>th</sup>** - "Know My Heart" Psalm 139.

**JULY 24<sup>th</sup>** - "The Inner Life" Rom. 8:26-27.

**JULY 31<sup>st</sup>** - "Providence and Predestination" Rom. 8:28-30.

**Stewardship** our prayers presence gifts witness service

**June Giving and Attendance**

Date	Attendance	Giving
06/05/11	261	\$ 10,846.75
06/12/11	239	\$ 6,085.15
06/19/11	234	\$ 72,907.37
06/26/11	240	\$ 5,950.00
<b>June Avg.</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>\$ 23,947.32</b>
<b>YTD Funds Received</b>	<b>\$ 335,693.17</b>	
<b>Needed Weekly Giving</b>	<b>\$11,065.00</b>	
<b>Budget Needs for 2011</b>	<b>\$ 575,357.00</b>	

**Grace United Methodist Church Service Times**

Worship Services . . . . . Sunday: 8:30 AM (Traditional), 9:45 (Contemporary), & 11:00 AM (Blended)  
 Sunday School . . . . . 9:45 AM & 11:00 AM

Childcare provided.

**The Youth Corner!**



**A Challenge from Mr. David:**

Start a chain reaction. See how God loves you and let it flow from you to everyone else in your life. This message from God is intended for all people! Good Luck!

**"For everything we know about**

**God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself."**

**- Galatians 5:14 [Message]**

**Something is in the Works!**

Be looking for Sunday night worship times for Youth. Something new is coming!

**Upcoming Events:**

\* July 7 - 8: Club 56 Family Canoe Trip to Buffalo River.

\* July 10 -14: VBS Helpers All week! Come and Serve.

\* August 5: Wild River Country Lock-in / See Mr. David for details.

Be looking for Summer Hours @ GraceYouth! We are going to have a terrific summer full of mission, studies, fun, and fellowship! Look forward to spending a lot of time with all of you!

Mr. David



Melody Smith, Parker Matthews, Kyle Maple, David Sutton (Youth Minister)  
 Eva Ross, Lindsey Annable and Emily Hurd.

**Ozark Mission Project 2011**  
 June 12-18 at Bear Creek Camp, Marianna.

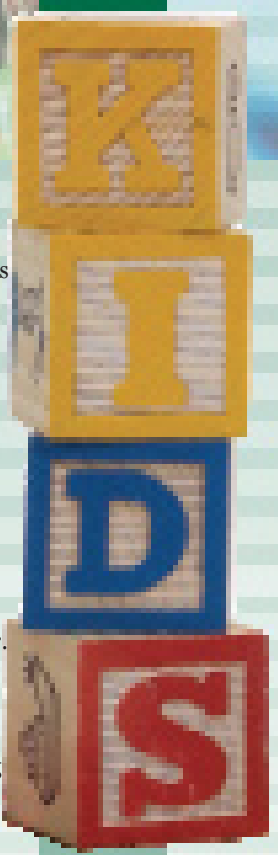
**ANNOUNCEMENT**

The person money was raised for to help purchase a heating and air unit last winter was unable to accept the gift. If you or your group contributed to this mission and would like to redirect your gift, please, contact Jennifer. If we do not hear from you, the Administrative Council has authorized the money to be used for Vacation Bible School. Please, let us know by the 15<sup>th</sup> of July at 329-6056, ext. 303.

**"Old Fashioned" 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration**  
 6:30 pm at Simon Park

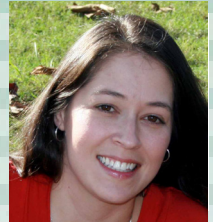


Contest for "Best Little Patriot" costume  
 For free registration call 327-3545. Contest open to children ages 4-9.  
 Reading of the Declaration of Independence by Curtis Coleman.  
 Drawing for prizes/FREE Ice Cream.



**Ready for the Adventure of A Lifetime?**

PANDA MANIA is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Bible Point crafts, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the PandaMania activities that help faith flow into real life. (Be sure to send them in play clothes and safe shoes.)



At PandaMania, kids discover that **God is wild for them.** Kids will also participate in a hands-on mission project, through a program called Operation Kid-to-Kid, that will let the kids in our community show

God's love to children in Conway, Arkansas.

**So mark these dates on your calendar: JULY 10 to 14.** The fun starts at **6:00 pm** and will end at **8:15 pm** each night.

Register your children for this life-changing adventure! Preschool ages are 3 yrs - entering PreK, School Ages are entering Kindergarten - entering 4th grade. Register Now for VBS at [www.graceconway.org](http://www.graceconway.org).

**Grace Kid's Day Out**

**REGISTER NOW!**

**Monday/Wednesday of each week**

**From 9 am-2 pm**

**Program will begin August 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Serving children**

**ages 18 months to Pre/K (4-5 yrs)**

Our KDO program will be filled with a variety of activities for your little one. Children will participate in Bible Stories, letter recognition, Math Readiness, Socialization Skills, Music, Story Time, Art, and Fine & Large Motor Development. All age levels participate in each of the activities.

For more information contact the GKDO Director, Christy Lemmer at 501-329-6056 or [christy.lemmer@graceconway.org](mailto:christy.lemmer@graceconway.org).



**NOW HIRING**

Grace Kid's Day Out Teachers Working hours would be 8:45 am to 2:15 pm every Monday and Wednesday. For more information, contact the GKDO Director, Christy Lemmer.

*Grace Welcomes Our New Member!*



**William (Russ) Ganser**  
 Joined by Profession of Faith on May 15, 2011  
 212 Sunshine Farms  
 Bigelow, AR 72016  
 (501) 351-6580

**Mark Your Calendar! Coming in the Fall..**

**Blessing of the Backpacks**

**Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 8:30, 9:45 and 11 am**

**Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast**

**Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> @ 8 am**

**Welcome Home & Fall Kick-Off**

**Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sunday School @ 9:45am, Celebration Worship @ 11 am**  
**Lunch @ Noon**



**Around the Corner Around the World...**

**MISSION OPPORTUNITIES**

Are you interested in volunteer opportunities either locally, within the United States or around the World?

Check out the **Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church Website** at <http://gbgm-umc.org>.

This website has a plethora of information and you can spend hours browsing through all the interesting sites.



\* **Volunteers in Missions** lists in-state and out-of-state mission opportunities.

- The next trip to Russia is in July. If interested, contact **Charles Harrell** at [RussiaTrip@TrinityUMChurch.org](mailto:RussiaTrip@TrinityUMChurch.org).

- There are direct links to **UMCOR**, United Methodist Committee on Relief; **The Advance**, the official giving arm of the United Methodist Church; and **The United Methodist Women**, whose mission is fostering spiritual growth, developing leaders, and advocating for justice.

-Ubuntu Explorer Journeys through United Methodist Women has several trips planned for 2011.

- Russia: August 12-21, 2011 Cost \$3,000
- Brazil: Sept.18-30, 2011 Cost \$3,000
- Northern Ireland: Sept. 2011 Cost \$2,800
- Sierra Leone: Fall 2011 Cost \$3,500

For more info, contact [IMCWD@gbgm-umc.org](mailto:IMCWD@gbgm-umc.org) or call 212-870-3719. Please, include "Ubuntu Request" in the subject heading of your email.

\* **UMCOR Sager Brown**  
 Volunteers come to Baldwin Louisiana to assist the depot by processing tons of disaster relief supplies which are shipped to national and international destinations. To learn more about volunteering at Saeger Brown, call 1-337-923-2027 ext.202 or email at [volunteers@sagerbrown.org](mailto:volunteers@sagerbrown.org).



These are only a few of the ministries listed on the Global Ministries Website. Get on the site and browse for yourself.

\* **Disaster Response Training Programs**

In keeping with UMCOR's mission to provide response and recovery to people and communities when disaster strikes, they have designed training at every level.

For information on training opportunities, call 202-548-4002 or email [lknight@gbgm-umc.org](mailto:lknight@gbgm-umc.org)

The next opportunity will be on **Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8 am to 5 pm at First UMC Conway.** To register, contact **Gari Tisdale** at [garitisdale@gmail.com](mailto:garitisdale@gmail.com)

\* **Local Opportunities**

Don't forget Bethlehem House, Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army, Bigelow Schools, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, Your Sunday School Class, Mats for the Homeless, Heifer Project, Wells, Bibles, and Nets for the Congo, Sister's in Christ, Helping Hands, and the Children's and Youth Ministries can always use volunteers.

If you have questions, you may contact Bro. Greg Comer or other members of the Missions Team.

**Watch for updates in your Sunday Bulletins.**