



Real Life News & Notes

church of Christ of Grand Junction

A Relevant, Serving, Growing Family of Jesus followers

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Thank God for Open Doors!

Paul most likely wrote these words from prison in Rome, "Pray for us too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ..." (Colossians 4:3). Over the past three weeks I was privileged to be able to share the "mystery of Christ" with the wonderful people of Guam. And your prayers and mine were answered in so many ways. During this season of "Thanksgiving" we truly do have much to be thankful for.

Before I left for Guam many prayers were said on my behalf and while there I know many more prayers were uttered. Thank you! God blessed me in so many ways. First, He granted me safe travels, good health and a great place to stay. Second, He granted my desires for open doors into several exciting and productive areas of service. You may recall I listed 10 areas of service that I hoped to involve myself in during this trip. I won't go into great detail now but God blessed me in each area. I did not accomplish everything in every area but did the best I could with His help.

Some of the highlights were: spending time with the local preacher, Alex Coloma and his wife Brenda and their two boys. We went to the beach together the first Saturday I was there and later had lunch together one day and had supper together the last Sunday night of my stay. This was especially needed as Brenda had recently had a miscarriage and then was informed that she should not try again for the girl she so much wanted. Pray for them as they deal with this loss and disappointment. Alex and I went to Bible studies together as well as other appointments with the Lt. Governor and Police officials. One of the Bible studies was with a man from Red China who considered himself an atheist. I shared my power point presentation on the Existence of God and he seemed very interested.

Navy Captain Doug King and I met with the Naval Base lead Chaplain and he is very excited about my doing a marriage seminar for Navy couples in March. My desire to help the youth was also realized as we had one youth snorkeling and picnic trip to the beach. In addition Alex asked me to teach the youth class the last two Sundays of my stay. It went well and I value the time spent with them. I was also able to do several "ride alongs" with the Guam Police Department. The officers were most appreciative and accepting. I was the first "chaplain" most of them had met and they were great fun to be with. Several shared personal matters with me which I found amazing as we had just met. God really opened some doors into their lives.

I could say more, but space here is limited. Ask me and I will gladly share more! Thank you for your support and prayers. May we all continue to share the mystery of Christ every time God opens a door for us.

In gratitude for God's goodness, John Cooper

Memory Verse For November—I Thess. 5:18

"Give thanks in all circumstances."

Our Gathering Today

Sermon: This morning we will conclude our spiritual Warfare series: **Battle Ready, the Armor of God** from Ephesians 6. May we daily apply God's armor as we see the world, the enemy, and the battleground through the eyes of Jesus. **I hope you brought your Sword today!**

Guests: We hope you feel welcome and comfortable and will be encouraged on your spiritual journey because you are here. Please let us know how we might serve you. Help yourselves to donuts, coffee and juice!

Wireless: We have an unsecured network "gjchurchofchrist_guest" for your use in the building. No password necessary.

New to our Family Class: Saturday December 14th (8:30 -noon) Sandy Harris and Doug Clayton will facilitate a class for those new to our church family. This 3 hour class is also for those who may be visiting regularly and looking for a church home and want to know more about us. We will introduce and briefly cover basic topics (God, Jesus, baptism, "church," the Bible, growing in Christ, getting invested and involved, etc). **Please indicate your plans to attend by signing the sheet in the foyer and Kitchen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Over 60's Dinner

The annual Over 60's Dinner will be on December 14. Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 5 PM with dinner at 5:30 PM. After dinner, a play (Twas the Real Night Before Christmas) will be presented for those who wish to stay.

Communion Preparation

We are in need of someone to prepare communion for the month of December. If you can help, see Bryan Crowe or Jimmie.

Help Wanted

Cindy King is chair person of the decorating committee for the Over 60's Dinner on December 14. She is asking for help to decorate the fellowship hall for this event. See Cindy if you can help.

Guam Mission Support

If anyone wants to keep up with our mission effort on Guam they can view photos on Facebook. Go to "church of Christ Guam" or "Asan church of Christ" or "Guam church of Christ." One of those should get to the photos.

Mission To Honduras Planned

The Missions ministry is planning on taking a group back to Honduras during July of 2014. The date of the trip is July 4th. through July 12th. We will be joining with the University Church of Christ from Denver in this outreach effort. If someone would like to be a part of this trip have them please contact Mike Hughes, Dean Blanck, or Chuck Tourney.

Special Devotional

We are planning on having a Special Devotional in the auditorium at 7 p.m. on Wednesday November 27th the night before Thanksgiving. We would like for everyone in all the classes to come to the auditorium that night.

Attention Carolers

Needed. Carolers to sing on Main Street Friday, December 13 from 6 p.m. till 7 p.m. We would like to have all parts represented. This is part of a Music happening for area music students and musicians. It would be special if our Church could be represented as acappella singers/carolers. We will practice Sunday after services for about 45 minutes (11:45 - 12:30) in Room 103. Everyone is welcome to be part of this fun time of singing and sharing good tidings and a merry heart. Our first meeting will be December 1st. We will have only 2 rehearsals so please plan to be there if you can commit. See Lane or Brenda for further information. "Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord". Eph. 5:19 P.S. This is open to all ages.

Please remember the following in your daily prayers.

Prayers of Praise and thanksgiving...RICH AND MARY MENDENHALL are both doing well, after their surgeries. AMBER'S breast cancer surgery went well, Sheila's neice, C. Peel is doing much better and CAMRIE GEHRETT is now home!Continue to pray for those with ongoing illnesses, and their families...GARY WALLACE extensive brain cancer, EARL DUBOSE, has PSP, under hospice care, and for MELISSA RICHARDSON, relief from pain, and strength to deal with her MS.

Also pray for continued recovery for ROSE BRANSON, PAUL DELANCEY, DONNA DELANCEY, CHESTER AULT, & MARY LOU (S. Gabriels daughter)JOHN AKERS.....Pray for John Akers as he prepares for surgery in Denver, Dec 9.

LARRY LUCERO... has back problems, fell and injured it more, pray he will not have to be confined to a wheel chair.

Pray for travel safety for the many that are and will be traveling during the upcoming Holidays.

Prayers of thanksgiving to our God for His continual blessings...above and beyond even what we need. God is Love!

Pray for the MISSIONARIES , to be kept safe and given wisdom guidance from above. For many to come to the Lord through their efforts.

Pray for the MILITARY...they need our prayers perhaps more than ever at this time...for physical and emotional safety, for protection from the evil one and those who would take away their religious freedoms. For encouragement for them and their families....both those on active duty and those who our home but trying to adjust to so many things.

Continue to pray for OUR NATION and all those who are in leadership positions...that they will lead in a godly way, whether their intentions are to or not...pray their hearts be turned to God so they will knowingly lead within His will.

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."
James 5:16 NKJV

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, WITH THANKSGIVING, let your requests be know to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6,7

Enemy

The "Father of liars," tirelessly works to undermine our perception of truth by misrepresenting God. That last thing the Enemy wants is for us to see the world through the eyes of our Creator. It is absolutely counter to Satan's divisive agenda for us to view trials, and each other, through the lenses of love, hope and truth.

Jesus faithfully guides us through the fog of suspicion identifying the true Adversary. Remember when Peter verbally took issue with Jesus predicting his own death? **"Jesus turns and says to Peter, 'Get behind me Satan, you are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.'" (Matthew 16:23)**

It seems Jesus is rebuking Peter. After all, Jesus directs his words at Peter and is responding to what Peter was thinking and had said. A casual reading might leaves us with the impression that Jesus considers Peter "Satan," and is scolding him for not caring about the things of God. **It is in this exchange between disciple and Lord that we glimpse the subtle arena of spiritual warfare and how the forces of light and darkness clash with you and I caught in the crossfire.**

Is Jesus really fingering Peter as his nemesis, the one trying to foil Heaven's plan for Christ to go to the cross and die for the world? Satan would have us think so. Why? Because Satan knows if we wrongly believe **people** to be the enemy, we blame people, we then attack and hurt each other. If we assume nature is the enemy we then blame God as the giver of life and sustainer of a planet filled with pain. Satan cackles at every encounter in which we fail to identify him as the true antagonist. As long as Satan lurks behind the disguise of our spiritual nearsightedness he is able to accomplish his sinister work, covertly avoiding the focus and fault as the source of suffering and darkness.

Let's pay attention to the obvious in this text. Jesus is not accusing Peter, but doing battle. Jesus is addressing Satan who is hiding behind Peter's fear. The Prince of Peace blows Lucifer's cover and calls him out by name exposing his desire to hinder God's plan. Satan is the one to blame, he is the opponent of truth and light attempting to cast doubt and ruthlessly using Peter and us as pawns for his own dark scheme.

Jesus knows there is some Peter in all of us. Our doubts, confusion and poor choices can provide a voice and venue for Satan's devious work. Jesus also knows that if we fully entrust ourselves to **Truth** we will see the world as God sees it and in our moments of uncertainty, anger, frustration and suffering we will recognize who the enemy truly is and then boldly, daily, echo Jesus' revealing and liberating words, **"Get behind me Satan.!"**



Church of Christ of Grand Junction

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For the Record

Nov. 17, 2013

Attendance	224
Average Attendance, 3rd. qtr.	265
Contributions	\$7,224.00
Budget	\$6,208.96

Communion Preparation—November

Jan Nelson, Amey Collazo

Communion Table 11/24/13

Mike Hurd

Honored to Serve the Lord's Table in November

Larry Ball
Doug Barnett
Bill Barslund
Mark Brassette
Mike Bricker
Lynn Briggs
Dave Bussert
Bo Camp

Announcements: Curtis Fleming

Sunday Morning Adult Classes—9:00 AM—9:45 AM

Bill Wade—Auditorium
Young Adult (Under 30)—Room 207
Sign Language Class—Room 103

Wednesday Evening Adult Classes—7– 8 PM

Bob Heath—Jesus Miracles & Parables—Auditorium
Shirlene Caraway—(Starts Sept. 18)—103

Sunday Morning Children's Classes

Cradle Roll—Birth to 2—Nursery
2 & 3 yr. old—104
Pre KK, Kindergarten—205
1st & 2nd Grade—209
3rd thru 5th Grade—208
Middle School—213
High School—203

Wednesday Evening Children's Bible Study

2 & 4 yr. old—104
Kindergarten 1st & 2nd—205
3rd thru 5th Grade—208
All teens meet in—203

Sunday morning worship begins at 10:15 AM

Mesa View Retirement Service Schedule

Meets Sundays at 10 AM

Nov 24	Paul Delancy, Scott Delancy	Mark 7:6-23
Dec 1	Hunt Zumwalt, Steve Bagga	Mark 7:24-30
Dec 8	Bill Barslund, Sandy Harris	Mark 7:31-37
Dec 15	Scott Ferguson, Dave Scheurman	Mark 8:1-13
Dec 22	Bobby Heath, Matt King	Mark 8:22-26
Dec 29	Jerry Austin, Craig Austin	Mark 8:31-9:1
Jan 5	Chuck Tourney, Bud Treu	Mark 9:2-13
Jan 12	Bill Tidwell, Wes Yeager	Mark 9:14-32
Jan 19	Bob Heath, Darren Mahoney	Mark 9:33-36
Jan 26	Paul Delancy, Scott Delancy	Mark 9:42-50
Feb 2	Hunt Zumwalt, Steve Bagga	Mark 10:1-12
Feb 9	Bill Barslund, Sandy Harris	Mark 10:13-16
Feb 16	Scott Ferguson, Dave Scheurman	Mark 10:17-31
Feb 23	Bobby Heath, Matt King	Mark 10:32-45