

Some Good News



National Day of Prayer



Strength in Wisdom: Honoring Godly Fathers

A note from the desk of Pastor Bert Woodburn for Father's Day:

Proverbs 24:5 "A wise man is full of strength, and a man of knowledge enhances his might."

God asks us to love Him with everything we've got—with our heart, our mind, our soul, and our physical strength. In the same way God wants us as fathers to love our family. This means using our bodies and abilities in thoughtful and intelligent ways.

It was Jesus who designed every single detail of Solomon's temple. The very same Jesus who worked as a carpenter in Nazareth was the divine architect behind that amazing place built to honor God. All inspiration and progress come from Him. Whether it's a physician who knows exactly how to help someone's body heal, or a carpenter swinging a hammer with skill, those talents are gifts from God. He gives us skills and expects us to ask

Him for help in using them wisely.

Our faith isn't just for church on the weekends, but as fathers it should be a part of everything we do. Whether we are helping our children with school, taking them to events or sports, or leading the family in a devotional, we should set the example like Paul did for us. Paul dedicated his life no matter what diversity he came up against. He always sought to honor God and to bring others to Christ. Paul ultimately gave his life for his family of believers and Christ. He is proof that when we dedicate our mind, body, and life to God, we can do amazing things.

This week, as fathers, ask God to show us ways that we can lead our families in a way that will honor God through integrity, excellence, and love in a way like Christ did. As we celebrate Father's Day, let us give thanks to our Heavenly Father for His unconditional love and grace.

This year's National Day of Prayer held in Wake Forest, NC was led by our Wake Forest Christian Leaders Prayer Fellowship team in conjunction with Southeastern Baptist Seminary. We started with a prayer walk that met in front of town hall. We prayed for our federal and local government, our first responders, military, and our local churches. We then moved to the seminary for a time of worship, prayer, and reflection. A big thank you for the team that was instrumental in making this event a huge success, and those of you who participated. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Due to unexpected circumstances beyond our control, the Sporting Clays event originally scheduled for June has been postponed to a later date this year. We appreciate your understanding and enthusiasm, and we look forward to sharing updated details with you as the new date approaches.



Ryan and his wife, Erin



Ryan's baptism in July 2022

Volunteer Spotlight

This month's volunteer is Ryan Carr. He is currently serving as a board member for Grace Ministries USA, serves on the writing team, and does our Grace Ministries' YouTube channel. Ryan also attends two of our online bible studies each week.

Ryan has quite a powerful testimony. Born and raised in Northern California, Ryan was split between his two parents until the age of 15 when he then became a ward of the state until the age of 18. "No one came for me; I had done nothing wrong, broke no laws, and simply had nowhere to go. No one would take me. On my 18th birthday, they found an uncle I had never met in Florida who bought me a plane ticket to go down there," Ryan stated. "From that point, I met my now wife, Erin. Throughout this period of time I was deeply troubled and emotionally wounded, yearning for a relationship with my parents. I attempted to fill this void through substance abuse. I made the conscious decision to seek help and voluntarily entered a rehabilitation facility. Upon completing my rehabilitation, I experienced a transformative event. I was working through the twelve steps of Alcoholics Anonymous and was progressing through step 3. During this step I was asked to kneel down and pray in front of a group of people. As I began to pray, I witnessed a remarkable phenomenon. The sky parted and rain began to fall on one side of the street, but the sun was shining where we were. It was as if God was smiling down upon me." Ryan met Bert Woodburn in 2020 while he was working at Publix. Bert began discipling Ryan and he gave his life to Christ and followed with believers baptism in July 2022. "My whole life changed. My location, my job, and even deciding to go to school to pursue a degree in Computer Science. While I was in school, I was hit with a series of events that only God could get me through. I had Lyme's disease and Rocky Mountain fever, two blood clots, and got hit by a drunk driver totaling my car. However, I overcame all of that and got my degree. I was even awarded the Student Perseverance Award for all I had endured while in college. I couldn't have done any of that on my own, it was all God."

You can feel Ryan's passion for the Lord upon meeting him. This shines through on the YouTube channel he does for Grace Ministries USA. Ryan posts devotionals and shorts on the YouTube channel to share the love of Christ with as many people as he can. "God loves you in the mess. Our shame makes us feel like we're not worthy. That's a lie from the enemy. God came so that we may have life to the fullest through the death and resurrection of Jesus," said Ryan. You can check out Grace Ministries USA YouTube channel by visiting this link: https://www.youtube.com/@GRACEMINISTRIES_USA