

2011
THE

GRACE BIBLE COLLEGE
JOURNEY



Update
/ P8

ALSO:

Reflections on Fifty Years / P4

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



GRACE – It really IS amazing, isn't it? No, I'm not talking about our fine college which bears the name Grace. I'm referring to that wonder of God's unmerited favor -- or the divine enablement of God to those who do not deserve it. By the way, the Scriptures are clear (Romans 3:10, 11, 23) that NO ONE deserves God's favor, so all of us are recipients of God's grace! God displays His wondrous grace to everyone regardless of their spiritual persuasion or dedication to Him -- how incredible is that?

In fact, the truly amazing attributes of grace are evidenced much more clearly when we behold the abundant flow of grace from God to those whom we judge to be most unworthy of it! In other words, when you and I see others worthy of a just punishment and condemnation for their heinous lifestyles or crimes we naturally say, "They'll get what they deserve in the end." We are awestruck that God, by His grace, continues to love such individuals with an everlasting love, which in spite of their wrongs, seeks to dispense forgiveness and life. Our sense of justice and human perspective screams, "No don't save him, he's a very evil person and totally undeserving of your grace, Lord!" And that is absolutely true -- no one is ever deserving of GRACE! That's what makes it GRACE! (Remember how Jesus dealt with the woman being accused who was caught in adultery -- John 8:1-11?) You see, I know: I too have lived the delusion that my good behavior, or following and

servicing God somehow makes grace mine by default, but it's actually my human pride and totally opposite of true biblical grace. (Romans 4:4-5: Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.)

In this new academic year at Grace we will explore "the Grace of God" as our theme in chapels and other campus-wide activities. We will see how the wonder of this truth impacts not only our eternal state, but our daily lives as we grow to understand grace and how we might be more godlike and show grace to others. As president of the college named Grace, I am excited about how much deeper my understanding, appreciation, and practice of grace will grow during this year!

In the pages of this Journey Magazine, you will see how God is mightily working here at Grace and how thankful we are that His grace is changing lives and impacting more people than we could ever imagine. Enjoy the reading and wonder at God's grace with us!

By His Grace,

Ken B. Kemper
President



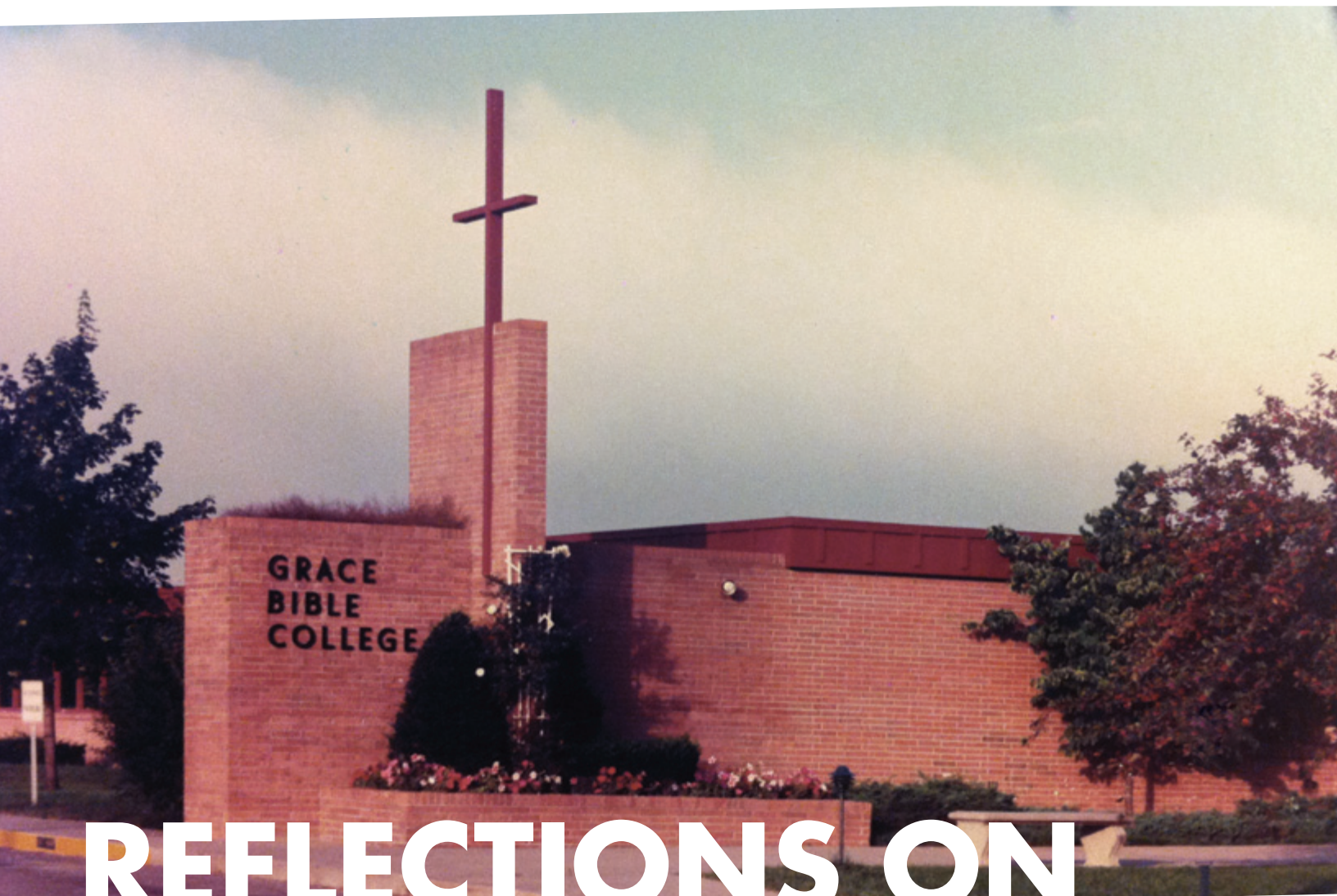
1911
GRACE BIBLE
COLLEGE

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REFLECTIONS ON FIFTY YEARS IN WEST MICHIGAN

Joyce Storms

Administrative Assistant to the President



Fifty years = Half a century. 1961- 2011 = Fifty years. What happened fifty years ago? Are you even old enough to remember? In 1961, JFK becomes thirty-fifth President of the United States of America. The First American orbits in space. The Peace Corps is established. A loaf of bread costs 20 cents and a gallon of milk is 52 cents. The IBM “Selectric” typewriter is introduced as is Kodachrome II color film. Fritos, Total Cereal, Sprite, Coffee-mate, and Pampers first appear on supermarket shelves. A gallon of gas goes for 27 cents. A ten acre plot of land in Wyoming, Michigan, is selected and cleared; bricks, cement, wood, glass, nails, paint, and other materials are combined to construct a new campus for Grace Bible College, formerly Milwaukee Bible College. In the fall, students arrive on the GBC Campus for the first time.

Fast forward to 2011: Barack Obama serves as the forty-fourth President of the United States. The Space Shuttle Atlantis embarks on its final journey into space. That loaf of bread now costs \$2.00, and a gallon of milk sells for \$2.50. Instead of a typewriter, we have hand held devices we “text” and “instant message” with.... and most cameras do not even use film – photos are “digital” – and can be sent to anyone around the world with a touch of a button! (We won’t even mention the cost of a gallon of gas!) That plot of land in Wyoming, Michigan remains the campus of Grace Bible College, and once again, bricks, cement, glass, nails, paint, and other materials are combined to revitalize and give a beautiful “facelift” to GBC.

As we reflect upon the history of Milwaukee Bible College and Grace Bible College, we are continually reminded of God’s faithfulness and provision. The College had been located in Milwaukee since its inception in 1939 as a Bible training school. In the 1945-46 Catalog for Milwaukee Bible Institute, the “history” of the College is written this way:

The Milwaukee Bible Institute is related historically to three different movements. In 1921, largely through the instrumentality of Mr. T.R. Huston, a Christian businessman of Milwaukee, the Wisconsin Fundamental Bible Conference Association was organized for the purpose of bringing, fundamental, pre-millennial Bible instruction to the Christians of Milwaukee. Some years later, Pastor J.C. O’Hair of Chicago – already greatly used of God in bringing dispensational truth to the foreground in this country – was brought to Milwaukee to teach the weekly Bible class. In 1932, Charles F. Baker was called to direct the work. In 1939, it was agreed that there was a need for an evening school where local Christians might receive a more systematic type of training, so the Milwaukee Bible Institute was organized. In the same year, in Chicago, a missionary organization, The Worldwide Grace Testimony (WGT), came into being. An increasing number of pastors had seen the effects of denominationalism at home and on the mission field. Believing that the cure for



these ills was to be found only in the Pauline revelation of the grace of God, they formed a society for the support of missionaries who had taken an uncompromising stand for this message. By 1944 the movement had become so widespread that a national convention was called in Evansville, Indiana, at which the Grace Gospel Fellowship (GGF) was formed – a ministerial fellowship with lay associates, dedicated to the furtherance of Pauline truth. One of the first projects which this new organization undertook was to found a training school for pastors, missionaries, and Christian workers which would be free from denominational prejudice and which would be unfettered in teaching the gospel of the grace of God, and the truth for the Body of Christ. Since the Milwaukee Bible Institute was already standing for these truths, the GGF and WGT jointly agreed to recognize it as their official training school. This wider support made possible the addition of new faculty members and the opening of a full day school in the fall of 1945.

REFLECTIONS OF FIFTY YEARS IN WEST MICHIGAN

CONTINUED...

In the midst of the changes constantly occurring in our world – it is a great blessing to compare what the founders desired this College to be with the current mission statement of Grace Bible College:

- The aim of the Milwaukee Bible Institute is to produce Christian workmen who need not to be ashamed – who can rise to meet the present emergency in the church and in the world. (1945)
- Graduating godly individuals prepared to serve Christ in church and society.

Even though the objective to train young men and women to impact their world for Jesus Christ remains unchanged, the need for updated facilities has been evident through the years. When the decision was made to move the campus from Milwaukee to Grand Rapids, there was a need for more space and a “central location” for the College. Several places were considered for the move – including a YMCA building in Racine, Wisconsin, building a new campus in Milwaukee, or updating an existing building. The original Milwaukee campus was sold to Concordia College for \$400,000. After prayerful consideration, the decision

was made to make ten rolling acres of land in Wyoming, Michigan the new home of Milwaukee Bible College. In the early 1960’s Grand Rapids became a main “hub” of the Grace Gospel Fellowship; and with Berean Bible Church in the same Wyoming neighborhood, plans began to make 1011 Aldon Street SW the location for Grace Bible College. When looking back on the original building plans, the initial cost was around \$400,000 for the new campus. The original buildings on campus were the residence halls, classrooms, dining room and public lounge, kitchen, and the administration building. Throughout the years as the need for additional and updated facilities continued, a recreation room, library, athletic center, apartments, chapel, and academic building have been added.

For fifty years, students walked through the glass breezeway (or, as some called it in winter “the freezeway”) which connected the O’Hair Administration Building with Huston Hall. The breezeway was home to many a prank throughout those years... whether it involved a certain Volkswagen Beetle or tons of crunchy brown leaves.

Now, students are able to walk through a beautiful foyer with stately columns into an area designed for them! Students desire a place to gather which is open, comfortable, and geared towards their needs. The Student Commons houses a new coffee shop, where students, faculty, and staff can enjoy a smoothie or coffee drink, along with delicious snacks. There is also a “Quiet Room,” where student government meetings or study groups can gather away from the noise. Another section has tables and booths for gathering in small groups. Completing the area is a beautiful stone fireplace and lush greenery to enjoy year-round, along with a small retail shop for GBC apparel.

We praise God for His continued direction and provision for GBC! Stop in to see us and celebrate God’s goodness and supply for Grace Bible College!



NEW WORSHIP ARTS DEGREE

Apply Today!

www.gbcol.edu/worship

Grace Bible College's NEW Worship Degree offers a unique program that can't be found anywhere else in the country. Blending media with a heart for ministry, it covers areas of worship songwriting, arranging, ear training, music theory, running rehearsals, leading a band, leading a congregation, recording albums, touring and traveling, preparing sets, presentations, editing videos, and all other elements which can add to today's next generation worship experience! Whether your calling is to hit the road with the band, or to settle into a home church, GBC will provide the tools for a powerful and worshipful experience.

- Worship Theology
- Songwriting / Arranging
- Musicianship / Ear Training
- Tour / Travel Opportunities
- Live Sound / Media Tech
- Recording Labs (ProTools 8, Reason 4)
- Audio / Video Production
- Small / Personal Campus
- Affordable Price!



Ken B. Kemper
President

Rick Velting
Chairman, Grace Bible College
Board of Directors

We praise the Lord and give Him glory for the way He has worked mightily through the first year of our three year capital campaign. The Board of Directors of Grace Bible College voted to break ground at the end of April just as spring semester classes ended. The Board put into motion the intention of completing Phase I - the Student Commons Building. The construction, overseen by the Executive Committee of the Board, dug right in (literally) with the expertise

of First Companies, the general contractor, overseeing the work and Velting Contractors doing the excavating work. As the old breezeway came down and the building took shape throughout the summer, it was apparent that God was doing something extremely exciting here on our campus and in and through the friends of Grace Bible College.

BEYOND THE BRICKS

A Campaign To Revitalize Our Campus – EXCITING UPDATE

About a month into the construction project, Rick Velting, the Board Chairman, reports that an “amazing thing happened.” He was approached by one of the major donors who had assessed the project and essentially said it was good, but could be “much better” if we constructed the centerpiece of Phase II of the campaign, which was the new boulevard entrance and pedestrian walkway that connects Aldon Street and our Academic Center to the front door of the new student commons. He encouraged us to go forward by stating he and his wife were willing to increase their pledge to pay the greater portion of the improvement!! The Board readily agreed to increase the scope of work to include this beautiful boulevard and walkway. As a result, the GBC campus has taken on a much improved appearance which will positively impact new and returning students as well as visitors and alumni.

The Campaign Cabinet has met and prayerfully pushed forward the means to raise funds to complete important additional parts of this campaign, such as walkways and lighting, as well as furnishings. All of these items can add substantial expense to the cost of a project. We praise God for these individuals who have personally invested in this exciting project and sought to bring others to be a part of what God is doing here on campus.

Pledges to the \$1.7 million campaign have exceeded \$1.3 million and at this point with a bit more than a third of the campaign over, \$550,000 has already been received. Praise God who supplied each donor with a heart to see God’s work go forward and for the blessing of giving! Now as we continue into our second year, it is the fervent prayer of the College leadership that more pledges will be made and gifts given by those who have not yet participated to increase the scope of

the project to complete Phase II and provide for Phase III. With the continued growth of our student body (about 19% this year), the need to expand the parking areas and add capacity to accommodate more students will become necessary. Praise the Lord for this problem because He is blessing us with more students! Our vision and goal would be to finish the parking areas next summer during summer break if the Lord supplies the needed additional \$300,000 in pledges through our alumni and friends of the College. Phase III will focus on the updating of the fascia around existing buildings, updating lighting and signage campus wide, new ceilings in the dorms and academic buildings, as well as updated bathrooms in the academic building. The cost estimates are not complete, but those improvements would certainly complement the tremendous upgrades done this summer to bring the GBC campus more up to date and beautiful. We will proceed with both of these phases as God supplies the pledges and funds for the Beyond the Bricks Campaign. Please pray for the strong commitment to continue into this second year and gain momentum rather than diminish so that the entire project can be completed during the three year campaign 2010-2012.

As you now drive onto campus and see the dramatic entrance and walkways it is beautiful. As you park and enter the new Student Commons you can’t help but give glory to God for the transformation of the former musty breezeway to a warm inviting place that begs you to stop and talk a while. The new coffee shop and seating around the stone fireplace with windows overlooking the quad is pleasing to the eye. Even those of us who witnessed the construction all summer still stand in awe and give praise to God for the transformation which has taken place!

The goals of the campaign are being addressed dramatically:

Rebuild – revitalize and upgrade a tired, cold campus with life and vitality to welcome people. It feels almost like the degenerate sinner who miraculously became a saint!

Relate – give students, faculty, staff, alumni and visitors an inviting area to build relationships where people want to gather. The excitement shown by our returning students is amazing as they gather and point out highlights of the area to each other!

Grow – purposefully make quality space for students and create attractive surroundings which will attract more students to attend Grace for their education and life training. Even the new students on campus are thrilled with what they see and state how much they will enjoy being in the new student commons.

A special dedication ceremony of the Student Commons took place Thursday evening during this year’s Homecoming celebration. If you were not able to attend, we invite you to come visit us if you are in the area. Whether you are able to come or not, please take a moment and give glory to God for His work through His people and the obvious results. Also, please prayerfully consider being a part of this monumental campaign in some way through a pledge and gift to the Beyond the Bricks Campaign. Your gift or pledge, no matter the size, is very important and very much appreciated by the College and by the students who are making use of these new facilities and upgrades, even as you are reading this! God bless you!





“THE ONLINE PROGRAM HAS GIVEN ME THE FLEXIBILITY TO BALANCE THE NEEDS OF MY FAMILY WHILE MOVING MY MINISTRY GOALS FORWARD.”

- MELISSA MORAN

Ask our Adult and Online Education (A & O Education) students about their experience with Grace Bible College and they will tell you they have been stretched intellectually and have developed professionally. They will also tell you they have made lifelong friendships, progressed toward their goals, and most importantly, grown in their relationship with God.

GBC currently offers Associate and Bachelor degrees in Leadership and Ministry. Our students range in age from twenty to sixty, and come from a wide variety of vocations. Students may choose to attend classes onsite at the Jack T. Dean Academic Center on Monday or Tuesday evening, or take classes online. Our online students live in eighteen different states!

LIFE-LONG FRIENDSHIPS

Whether students meet for class onsite or take classes online, they become part of

a close-knit family. Onsite students share a meal and devotions at the beginning of class and work together in groups. Online students also work in groups and participate in discussion boards where they share what they learn through God’s Word, their textbook reading, and research. Students share prayer requests and support each other in reaching their goals. Melissa Moran, a student from the inaugural onsite cohort reports, “Our class group has grown very close.”

PROGRESS TOWARD GOALS

Adult students have a variety of goals as they pursue their calling at GBC. Some students are already involved in ministry and recognize the need for developing strong leadership skills. Other students realize the importance of having a firm foundation in Christ while working in the secular workplace. Daniel Schmidt, a student from the inaugural online cohort says, “The

PURSUE YOUR

Dawn Rodgers

Academic Advisor for Adult & Online Education

CALLING

IN ADULT & ONLINE EDUCATION



online program has given me the flexibility to balance the needs of my family while moving my ministry goals forward.” Melissa Moran reports, “I have been able to apply the things I have learned directly toward my ministry in youth.”

Several students have broadened their initial goals. After beginning in the associate’s degree program, experiencing success in the first semester of classes, and receiving encouragement from dedicated faculty, these students have become motivated to pursue their bachelor’s degrees as well.

GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

You are probably familiar with the mission statement of Grace Bible College: Graduating Godly Individuals Prepared To Serve Christ In Church And Society. This begins with a strong relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Here are some

comments made by students in their course evaluations:

- I like the way the professor was able to open the Scriptures to us.
- It has been a joy to be here and learning God’s Word with help and understanding.
- I have been really happy with the focus being on Christ as well as learning.

Guy Rickert reports, “My pastors have noticed my continued spiritual growth.”

Melissa Moran acknowledges, “My relationship with Jesus has grown exponentially.”

Has not having a college degree kept you from pursuing the calling God has placed on your heart?

Do you wish you could complete the degree that “life” interrupted?

Do you long for a deeper relationship with God that comes from knowing how to read and discuss His Holy Word?

Grace Bible College is prepared to help you reach your goals and pursue your calling through our Adult and Online Education Program! In addition to our undergraduate degrees in Leadership and Ministry, Mike Stowell, Vice President of Adult and Online Education, is working with the Higher Learning Commission to seek accreditation for an Associate of Arts in Business Management and a Bachelor of Science in Business Management degree to be offered in January 2012. According to Mike, “These degrees will be for people seeking to serve Christ in the secular workplace with a top notch education in business, taught from a Christian worldview. And, our tuition rates stay the lowest in West Michigan!” For more information, contact Zak Sorensen at 616.530.7755 or zsorensen@gbcol.edu. For further information, visit our website: www.gbcol.edu/onlinestudies.

READING THE BIBLE IN ISRAEL



Phil Long
Associate Professor of Bible
& Biblical Languages

I have had the pleasure of leading four student trips to Israel since 2005. I personally enjoy traveling in Israel and Jordan and I have found the trips to be both educational and a spiritual blessing. There is something about reading a Bible story in the place it actually occurred that stirs the imagination. You find yourself reading the Bible with new eyes after a trip to Israel.

I feel that my tours are a bit different from the typical “pilgrim” tour because we visit sites of interest for biblical studies as well as important archaeological sites. The goal of our trip was to give our students some

familiarity with the sites and locations in which biblical events occurred. On our last trip we spent two days at Tamar, a site deep in the Negev. We were able to participate in the ongoing archaeological investigation of this site for the greater portion of a day. While we did not uncover anything spectacular, we found an impressive assortment of pottery while learning how archaeologists uncover the past.

TRAVELING THE LAND OF PROMISE

Starting in the southern part of the country, a GBC student tour typically visits places

like En Gedi and the Dead Sea, Masada, and Qumran. Arad is a personal favorite of mine because the citadel has been reconstructed, including the gates of the city which date to the Solomonic period. At the top of the city there was a fully excavated “high place” which had been used for worship until the reforms of King Hezekiah in 2 Kings 18. I gathered the students inside a real Israelite temple and read from the biblical story while looking to the holy of holies. We can see the very place where the incense stands had been buried after Hezekiah stopped worship at high places.

One of the highlights for most people is the visit to Galilee. We are able to see most of the major sites in the life of Jesus, such as Capernaum. Archaeologists have excavated this village to the level of the first century, so it is easy to imagine Jesus walking from Peter’s house to the nearby synagogue to teach. The students usually enjoy Beth-Shan, a Roman city just south of Galilee, known as Scythopolis in the New Testament period. The site is incredibly well-excavated and preserved. We had a lot of free time to wander around the streets and see how the Romans lived. On every visit to Galilee I have stayed in a former kibbutz right on the Sea of Galilee near the Jordan River, a truly beautiful place to live.

WALKING IN JERUSALEM

Each trip finishes in Jerusalem. Walking through the Old City to the Western Wall is a remarkable experience. We are able to touch the stones that made up the wall of Herod’s Temple. In the six years I have been going to Israel, archaeologists have continued to work around the Western Wall plaza and the southern end of the Temple Mount. They have exposed the steps which lead up to the entrance to the Temple, the very steps Jesus and his disciples would have used when they “went up to the Temple.”

Of all of the things we do on the trip, perhaps the most spiritually challenging is communion at the Garden Tomb. As the guide at the Garden explains, it is not at all certain that the burial cave was Jesus’ tomb, nor is it certain that the “place of the skull” is the hill just outside the Garden. What is for certain is that Jesus is not in the tomb; he



READING THE BIBLE IN ISRAEL

CONTINUED...



who did in fact stand up to a large enemy force by themselves, super-human feats which can only be credited to the power of God. In 23:11, for example, Shammah defends a field against the Philistines single-handed.

Likewise, to “leap over a wall” is a feat of incredible strength which goes beyond a human’s ability. But this is not a fence or wall between two properties. David has in mind a major city wall, perhaps twenty feet tall and heavily guarded. You can see the reconstructed walls of Arad, a citadel in a hill in the southern part of Judah’s territory. I show it as an example of the kind of wall David is referring to in this Psalm. This citadel sits atop a hill and would have been heavily defended in a war. Yet David says he is able to leap the wall! He is not leaping a short fence or jumping something which is humanly possible.

David entered Jerusalem through the water system, a series of narrow and dark caves. When we visit the City of David Archaeological Park in Jerusalem we are able to walk through these narrow caves. It is very easy to imagine David and Joab creeping through these tunnels in the dark (without the lighting and hand rails installed for tourists!) But in 2 Samuel 22:30, David says he is able to hurdle the defenses of the enemy as if they are nothing at all. To leap over the wall of the enemy’s city is impossible physically—only by the power of God can David do “all things.”

Grace Bible College is hosting a trip to Israel in January 2012 for adults. Our next student tour is tentatively scheduled for the first week of May, 2013. If you would like more information about these trips, feel free to contact Phil Long (plong@gbc.edu).

rose from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father! Taking a few moments to quietly reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus in a beautiful garden near where he was crucified is an amazing experience.



WHAT IS THE VALUE OF TRAVELING IN ISRAEL FOR READING THE BIBLE?

I recently preached through the life of David and ran across a particularly vivid metaphor which has become a popular verse to memorize. “For by you I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall” (2 Samuel 22:30, ESV). This verse might be the Hebrew Bible’s version of “I can do all things through Christ” since David expresses the idea that for the one who is rescued and vindicated by God and walking in the light which God provides (verse 29), he can do remarkable things indeed! To “run against a troop” means that in the strength of the Lord, David is able to stand up to an entire army himself. This is not far from his own experience with Goliath. In 2 Samuel 23:8-39 there are several stories of David’s soldiers



DEVELOPING CHAMPIONS

Gary Bailey

Men's Basketball Coach / Director of Sports Operations

I am really excited about the athletic programs here at Grace. We continue to add athletic teams and watch our student athlete numbers grow. Our players know the importance of working hard on the field and in the classroom. They also represent our school with outstanding character and integrity.

Altogether, Grace now offers eleven men's and women's teams. Our men's soccer team has continued to make great strides in recruiting and is being recognized as one of the top teams in the very tough NCCAA Midwest region. Our women's soccer

team is beginning its second season in the NCCAA and it has been exciting to see their progress. Women's volleyball is growing, and reaching new levels: the team competes against some of the top teams in the area as well as the NCCAA. Our men's basketball team has won three consecutive national championship titles, and is considered one of the top programs in Michigan. Our cross-country squads compete in some of the top invitationals in and around West Michigan. While our golf and tennis teams are just getting started at Grace we expect both of these sports to compete at a high level very soon. Of course, our fans are unbelievable!

A few seasons ago, someone labeled our fans as the "Grace Nation." We have a great following and support for our athletic teams at Grace. We plan on plenty of excitement for the upcoming sports seasons and invite you to drop by for a game or meet when you are in town.





ONAMIS

I was part of a mission trip to Tanzania, East Africa in May of this year. The trip was an amazing experience! I was part of a team from Grace Bible College, including President and Mrs. Kemper, Zach and Naomi Kemper, Deanna Bronsink, John Rachoy, Erin Benton, and Shad Spooner. We spent a semester (or two) studying and learning Swahili, and at the end of the spring semester, we traveled to Tanzania to put our studies to good use.

We were able to participate in many ministries while in Tanzania. Our two main ministry locations were Mbeya and Kapenta. Mbeya is a city in the mountains, and Kapenta is a rural village in the Rukwa Valley, about six hours away from Mbeya. Since the locations were so very different, the ministries we were a part of were also very different.

In Mbeya, we stayed with Cory and Kim Hodgson, missionaries serving through GMI. We presented dramas and gave our testimonies in multiple church services throughout the week. We also swept floors at a bus station, conducted street evangelism, completed a work project at a church, and did a chapel service and work project at the Grace College of Mbeya. I also had the opportunity to help Kim with homeschooling several times, which was a neat experience for me.

“ I LEARNED TO DEPEND ON HIM IN A WHOLE NEW WAY. THERE WERE TIMES I DIDN'T THINK I COULD KEEP GOING, BUT GOD WAS SO FAITHFUL. WHEN I WAS READY TO GIVE UP, SOMEONE WOULD ENCOURAGE ME. ”



SION



Lizz Niles / 2011 Grace Bible College Graduate

In Kapenta, we stayed with the Benton family, and worked with them along with the Rabenolds and Guilzons, two other missionary families in Kapenta. While most of our ministries in Mbeya were done in one large group, we were able to divide up into smaller groups in Kapenta. We had opportunities to help Dr. Mark Guilzon at his medical clinic, as well as assist Ted Rabenold with evangelism in other villages, beekeeping, and pulling teeth.

The guys on our team hosted several soccer clubs for the local boys while the ladies held a two day health and purity seminar for the local girls. We did crafts with them, shared our testimonies, did a lesson on purity and hygiene, and also shared the Gospel. I had the opportunity to share the Gospel with these girls in story form (I told it in English while one of my friends translated it into Swahili), which was special. As a team, we presented dramas and gave our testimonies in several church and chapel services and also visited a kindergarten. Our largest outreach in Kapenta was a kid's carnival. This was my favorite ministry! Over eighty children came! We had stations for the kids to go to, including games, face painting, and a Bible story. It was so awesome to see the excitement on their faces as they got to play the games and receive love and attention!

God taught me so much during the three and a half weeks I was in Tanzania.

I learned to depend on Him in a whole new way. There were times I didn't think I could keep going, but God was so faithful. When I was ready to give up, someone would always encourage me.

It was also refreshing to see the hunger the Tanzanians have for God. They listen to what you're saying with rapt attention. We realized they didn't care if we messed up on our Swahili; they were just thrilled we were there. They were so hospitable. They didn't have much, but they gave us the best of everything they had. It was humbling to be the recipient of their generosity.

Another thing that struck me about them was their joy. They live in conditions we would categorize as extremely poor, yet you can see the joy of the Lord on their faces. Sometimes I think we focus so much on material possessions that we forget how to be joyful. Being joyful no matter what the situation is something that the Lord really challenged me to embrace.

I hope to someday return to Tanzania, but even if I never do, this trip made a huge impact in my life. I know I will never forget this experience!

GRACE BIBLE COLLEGE DEAN'S LIST

HIGH HONORS

Sara D. Amidon,
Grand Rapids, MI
Keira J. Anderson,
Burnsville, MN
Zachary M. Anderson,
Hudsonville, MI
Lauren R. Asmussen,
Lakebay, WA
Angie M. Becerra,
Holland, MI
Brent T. Befus,
Beloit, WI
Caleb P. Befus,
San Antonio de Belen,
Costa Rica
Joshua A. Befus,
Beloit, WI
Whitney L. Bunch,
Jenison, MI
Emily A. Callahan,
Oshkosh, WI
Joseph A. Cappon,
Grandville, MI
Shelby M. Caraway,
Sumbawanga, Tanzania
Mitchell T. Connelly,
Westhampton, NY
Tyler R. Cook,
Grandville, MI
Jessica L. Daugherty,
West Alexandria, OH

Tammy J. Dykstra,
Ada, MI
Kayleigh V. Holton,
Carter Lake, IA
Cory M. Jamieson,
Dorr, MI
Trent A. Karnemaat,
Fremont, MI
Zechariah B. Kemper,
Hudsonville, MI
Rachel J. Kieda,
Cedar Springs, MI
John E. Mattias,
Jenison, MI
Justine E. Miller,
Kent City, MI
Scott A. Miller,
Byron Center, MI
Elizabeth M. Niles,
Lake City, MI
Hope E. Nobel,
Wyoming, MI
Elizabeth L. Pedersen,
Fremont, MI
Emily M. Renberg,
Holland, MI
Jacob S. Rodgers,
Hudsonville, MI
Gregory A. Salmon,
Dorr, MI

Heidi L. Salmon,
Dorr, MI
Margaret E. Segalla,
Spokane Valley, WA
Britalia E. Slater,
Kent City, MI
Tatianna M. Spencer,
Kentwood, MI
Curtis R. Storms,
Jenison, MI
Bree A. Stowers,
Wyoming, MI
Hananiah R. Tacoma,
Grand Rapids, MI
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Joshua S. VanderLeest,
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Wyoming, MI
Ashley M. Rector,
Jenison, MI
Caleb C. Rudd,
Battle Creek, MI
Joshua A. Rumenapp,
Richmond, MI
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Joshua M. Segalla,
Spokane Valley, WA
Jonathan R. Tuttle,
Eastport, NY
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David Daugherty,
West Alexandria, OH
Demetrio Dockery,
Muskegon Heights, MI

Karen Drenth,
Hart, MI
Charlotte Gooden,
Ada, OH
Dartanyan Jamerson,
Swartz Creek, MI
Martha Kohns,
Gladwin, MI

Matthew LaMaire,
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Byron Center, MI
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Enumclaw, WA
Scott Myers,
Enumclaw, WA
Daniel Schmidt,
Kentwood, MI
Devon Sinsley,
Post Falls, ID

Matthew Walker,
Grand Rapids, MI
Craig Washington,
Brick, NJ

2011 COMMENCEMENT STEPPING OUT IN FAITH

The sixty-sixth commencement ceremony of Grace Bible College was held on Saturday, April 30, 2011. "Stepping Out In Faith" was the theme of the weekend's festivities, which began with a Graduation Banquet on Friday evening at Sunnybrook Country Club. Coach Gary Bailey was host for the evening, which included fabulous food, great music from the GBC Jazz Ensemble, and heartwarming testimonies from several graduate candidates. We were touched by the words of Tanya Beckwith, Hannah Hodgson, Matt Elgersma, and Joshua Rumenapp as they shared about their time at GBC, and the impact it had on their lives. The Commencement on Saturday was held at Frontline Bible Church, and the faculty, staff, and board members of GBC as well as family and friends of the thirty-three graduates gathered to honor the completion of their studies. We were honored to have Dr. Leroy Green as our guest speaker. Dr. Green is a graduate of Milwaukee Bible College, and one of our oldest alumni. We were delighted to hear his challenge and encouragement to the group of young men and women "stepping out in faith." On the following pages you will be able to read the commencement addresses of Ashley Rector Skillman and Casey Duke – which also addressed moving forward in faith. Hope Noebel shared a beautiful vocal solo with us, and she was also awarded the first Vernon H. Stromberg Worship Arts Award. Other special awards included the C.F. Baker Biblical Studies Award, given to Casey Duke, and the T.R. Huston Christian Service Award, which was received by Ashley Rector Skillman. These three awards are named after outstanding men of God who were connected with Milwaukee Bible College and Grace Bible College throughout the years. Following the ceremony, a reception was held in honor of the graduates.



2011 Grace Bible College Commencement
Frontline Bible Church





Ashley Rector

2011 Commencement Speech

STEPPING OUT IN FAITH

Family and friends, it is my privilege to be standing before you at this moment, participating in the celebration and excitement that comes along with graduating and moving confidently into the next steps that God has planned out for us.

Life is short; we've caught glimpses of this throughout our many experiences so far. Just the fact that we are already sitting here graduating from college encompasses the brevity life has to offer. We've all heard the many descriptions that come along with this: Life is fleeting; Life is but a breath, a mist; Life is fast, gone before we realize it even began. Right now, each student here stands on the edge of making some new decisions. With these new opportunities that arise before us, thoughts and questions about our future inevitably swirl around in our heads: What's next? Do I pursue more schooling? Do I settle into a career? Do I stay around here? Do I go to the mission field?

In the midst of all of the questions and options laying at our feet, ready for us to embark upon, we must not disregard or forget the fact that our **Life is His**.

From before the Creator of the Universe began to form us, He had that special, perfect plan for our lives. It was God Himself who instilled dreams and passions inside of us. Each person here has something deep inside of them that drives them, that moves them with an exciting, overwhelming

force which nothing else can. So now, as we graduate from college and decide where to go next, what to do next, we can choose those things that excite us, those things that - when we participate in them - we know we were created to do just that; we can choose to fight for those dreams that God instilled in us, or we can settle with the safe, the stable, the 'guarantee' in life. Sometimes it's easy to just settle, sometimes it's easy to come up with a Plan B. The danger in that is that too often, Plan B becomes more appealing because it's easy. Don't settle for anything less than where God has already begun to call you. If in fact you believe He is your Heavenly Father, the One who knows you unlike any other, then you also know that He gave you dreams and passions for a reason. If you believe God gave you such desires and this calling on your life, will He not follow through on the good work that He has already started?

In the midst of the many questions and uncertainties about our futures, we must boldly and confidently rest in the fact that this life, is not our life to live, but it is a life given to us by God. And the least we can do is live it for Him - pursuing God first and foremost; and pursuing the calling, the passions, the dreams that He has placed in our lives. And knowing this life is ultimately His, we can also know we have the strength, power, and the courage from our Father, to step out in faith toward what He is guiding us to pursue. First we pursue Him, then as He guides, we can pursue His leading and His calling.

I didn't start my schooling at Grace Bible College. Upon graduating high school, I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life quite yet. I was living selfishly and pursuing what made sense - not what I was passionate about. Rather than invite God to direct me at that point in time, I made a lot of decisions on my own, the first being to go to Grand Valley State University. It was safe, it was secure. Finals week after my first semester of college, I was walking in the freezing cold from one class to the next, holding my backpack and coffee mug,

when it hit me: I'm not supposed to be here. I finished that final and went immediately to the computer lab. Excitement, anxiety, confusion, and peace all welled up inside of me. I logged on to my student account not really knowing what I was going to do. As I went onto the page that listed my already registered classes for the winter semester I found myself clicking on the withdrawal button for each of them. Upon finishing, I clicked submit and stared at the blank screen before me. At the top of the page was my name, Ashley M. Rector, then it said "Winter 2008 Classes," and nothing. The shock slowly overwhelmed me. What had I done? I didn't have a place to go once the winter semester began. What was I going to do? I couldn't believe I had just done that and yet peace filled the depths of my heart and soul. I knew that whatever I had just done, it was right. The next few weeks of Christmas vacation flew by in a blur as I still had no idea what was going on or whether I was going to even be a student somewhere in the coming semester. Within a matter of three days before the winter semester at Grace began in 2008, I had applied, gotten my transcripts and letters of recommendation in, been accepted, registered for classes, took a tour, completed orientation and became a student of the GBC Class of 2011. It was nothing short of God's hand working to bring me here, all because he guided me to do the unthinkable; to do the one thing that didn't make sense on paper, the thing that people thought I was crazy for doing at the time. Yet, it wasn't me making that decision it was God. I didn't know what I was doing, but He knew exactly what He was doing.

Our lives are short, and we have so many options and opportunities ahead of us, only inches from our grasp. This life we are living isn't ours but His and as we move forward into the future, we can have confidence and reassurance that the same God who guided us through these past two, or four, or ... more years at Grace Bible College and the years that preceded our time here, is the same God, the One and Only God who is going guide and direct the years ahead of us.

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESSES

2011 Grace Bible College Commencement Addresses

by Ashley Rector and Casey Duke

God does know exactly what He is doing, and looking back it is crazy to recognize how many significant transitions we have already encountered. I cannot believe that I have already been out here in Grand Rapids for five years. Time certainly does fly. Each transition has come about through our decisions. Sometimes we seek God's desire for our lives and sometimes we choose our own steps, frequently adding extra stress, but at each new transition, there has been a measure of faith. At this point in our lives, we are stepping away from the nurturing of our home, school, and families. We are stepping out, prepared for a life that is fully our own, and yet it is essential to recognize why we have this freedom. God needs to be our guide as we enter this new phase of life.

To illustrate this concept, I would like to share an example of true faith from the Bible. There once was a man named Peter. He was a close follower of Jesus. He and the other disciples went ahead of Jesus across the lake. Shortly before dawn, Peter looked out and saw Jesus walking on the water. The disciples were afraid Jesus was a ghost, so Peter put out a challenge: "Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you on the water." And Jesus did. So Peter prepared to step out of the boat. We find ourselves today at this same critical juncture. Our past is our boat, the world is our sea, and Jesus is calling us out into the waves. Some of us may be called to live, work and minister in the same town we grew up in. Others of us may be moving across the state, the country, and some maybe even around the world.

Peter as well, decides to step out of the boat. He first puts one leg out, then the other, leaving behind all common sense. He steps out of the vessel that experience has shown to be the only way of staying afloat, and with his eyes focused on Jesus, begins to walk on the water. Where are our eyes focused? I remember hearing in high school that I needed to know what I was going to do before I went to college. As the time grew near for me to graduate, it was easy for my lack of direction to dominate my focus. Eventually, I made the decision of what to

pursue. And so I came, along with you, to college. We went to classes, received our degrees, and once again, need to reevaluate our focus. As we step out of this boat, it is easy to be overwhelmed with where we are going next. It's easy to focus on the job we have gotten, or the interviews we have scheduled, or even though we have a degree, we still don't know what we want to do with it. Without even thinking about it, we begin to lose focus of who we need to keep our eyes on.

With his eyes on Jesus, Peter stepped out of the boat. But, he began to take notice of the turmoil around him and was so overwhelmed that he took his eyes off Jesus. He began to sink. My friends, looking forward into our lives, all of the big events and decisions we still have to make are waves that surround us. Worry, fear, anxiety, and the unknown are all things that will work together and seem to conspire to bring us down as we step out into the beginning of the rest of our lives. I know that seems like a cliché, but as many times as we have heard it, it is true now more than ever before. We are truly beginning the rest of our lives, stepping out of the boat, and we have to trust it is Jesus we are walking towards.

As soon as Peter cried out to Jesus, he was saved from sinking and they returned to the boat. He trusted that Jesus could save him. But before Jesus could save him, Peter had to sink. Before he could sink, he had to walk on water, and before he walked on water, he had to step out of the boat. But his journey began with a statement of faith. "Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you on the water." Is that how we are approaching the rest of our lives? Are we looking into the future and shouting a challenge for God to call us to Him—to do the unthinkable? As graduates, we are stepping into an area which we have never before encountered. We are stepping out into our future. There is no turning back, and as we step out of this building today, are we stepping out in confidence? Like Peter, are we stepping out in faith? If we step out in faith, if we trust we are being called by God, and follow His direction, we can walk on



Casey Duke

2011 Commencement Speech

water. The wind cannot tease us. The waves cannot topple us. And the sea cannot touch us. When we step out in faith, God can use us to do incredible things.

Audio Adrenaline wrote a song called 'Walk on Water,' and I would like to share with you the second verse and chorus as a challenge today:

*Just like Peter I want to go farther
Tread on the sea and walk on the water
Step where he steps and go where he goes
Side by side when the sea billows roll
I'll be all right when the wind comes
I'll be all right when the waves come crashing
I'm not afraid for this is my father's world*

If I keep my eyes on Jesus I can walk on water.

If I keep my eyes on him, I can walk on water.

So I challenge us today, Grace Bible College Graduates of 2011—step out in faith.



Joyce Storms
Director of Alumni Relations

As Alumni of Grace Bible College and Milwaukee Bible College we are connected.

- We are connected by our love for Jesus Christ and the message of Grace.
- We are connected by the friendships we discovered during our college years which have remained strong five, twenty, fifty, or more years later.
- We are connected by the athletic teams we played on, cheered for, and supported both as students and alumni.
- We are connected by the love for learning instilled by men and women of God who taught us faithfully.
- We are connected by the “gospel teams” we were part of – or, that visited our church when we were youngsters—making us want to be a “Grace Singer” when we grew up.
- We are connected by the pranks and playfulness we experienced in the dorms with our roommates and dormmates – the laughter, pillow fights, and times of joy.
- We are connected by the powerful times of prayer and Bible study we experienced with our small groups.
- We are connected by the Christian ministries we shared with others on campus and in the community.
- We are connected by the children and grandchildren we have sent to Grace Bible College to experience what we experienced.
- We are connected by all those things which drew us together to this place where we could live, learn, and become servants of Jesus Christ.

We can also connect using new media! Grace Bible College is connecting with alumni through a variety of social media channels and we want to connect with you. View videos, photos, updates and more by connecting with GBC on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Steve Hilbrands
Vice President of Fund Development



C.S Lewis once said, "Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you get neither." When it comes to our finances, the Bible has much to say to help us "aim at heaven:"

SEEK AND HEED WISE FINANCIAL COUNSEL.

Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed (Proverbs 15:22). Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise (Proverbs 19:20).

TRUST IN GOD BRINGS PEACE.

A righteous man will be remembered forever. He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD. His heart is secure, he will have no fear; in the end he will look in triumph on his foes. He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor, his righteousness endures forever; his horn will be lifted high in honor (Psalm 112:6-9).

FACE TRIALS WITH AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE.

When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do? The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord is on his heavenly throne. He observes the sons of men; his eyes examine them. The Lord examines the righteous, but the wicked and those who love violence his soul hates. On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur; a scorching wind will be their lot. For the Lord is righteous, he loves justice; upright men will see his face. (Psalm 11:3-7)

PRACTICE GENEROSITY AND INTERDEPENDENCE IN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.

Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality, as it is written: "He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little." (2 Corinthians 8:13-15)

LOOK FORWARD TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST.

According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17). All that is here on earth which is not eternal will be left behind and of no value. Invest in the eternal - lives changed by effect ministers and ministries!

This is general information and is not intended to be tax or legal advice. Please consult your own advisors.

www.gbcol.edu/giving

GRACE BIBLE COLLEGE LEGACY SOCIETY

Since establishing the Grace Bible College Legacy Society one year ago we have seen many individuals and couples share their plans with us and we invite you to become a member of the Legacy Society as well. As a member of the Legacy Society you indicate to us that you have made arrangements in your will or some other form of planned gift to remember Grace.

We would be pleased to have you share this information now as it allows us the opportunity to thank you while you are still living, and it helps us as we strive to plan for

future capital expansion to know there is a revenue stream that will come to Grace in the years ahead.



The Grace Bible College
LEGACY SOCIETY

When you notify us of this extraordinary decision you will receive a letter from President Kemper personally thanking you and we will send you a lovely recognition gift.

I welcome the opportunity to talk with you and discuss effective stewardship that allows you to maximize your giving that we may continue to educate and prepare young people to impact the world for Christ.



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