

2013
THE

GRACE BIBLE COLLEGE
JOURNEY



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Many organizations (even colleges) make the claim that the result of their effort is “change,” “transformation,” or “service done.” I have often thought about this and do agree that those are admirable outcomes and goals. However, while meeting with a foundation which gives financial grants to different organizations, it came up in our discussion that Grace Bible College has one significant difference from those organizations. Our very purpose is not to simply transform or serve, but rather, through an educational process of vigorous study and extra-curricular activities, prepare and train the transformer—the minister. To put it differently, while many seek to do a service, at Grace we prepare the server, who, day after day and year after year continues to effectively serve!

From the day a student arrives on the GBC campus or begins online classes, that student is required to study God’s Word and to study the perfect example of God’s Son, the supreme Servant. In addition to this academic study, students engage in active service! When it comes to long term preparation to be an effective minister, there is a great deal which can only be learned by serving. Regular, active service gives a heightened sense of relevancy to the everyday classroom experience. In fact, we believe that serious reflection on the activity and the cooperative effort of ministry is

important in the academic maturation of an effective minister. Grace Bible College dedicates a weekly chapel period for servants to come before our students and expose them to exciting ministries happening here in West Michigan and all around the world. The calling and passion of these effective servants is often caught by our students and leads them to jump into a ministry and exercise their God-given gifts and abilities. The modeling of ministry and the mentoring which occurs with the deployment of energy and abilities is a dynamic influence in the lives of students preparing for service. In all of this, there is a sense of intentionality in which faculty, staff, and students together respond to God’s Word in a deliberate way to serve others and essentially change the world -- one life at a time, in one instance and day at a time -- as part of the faith community known as Grace Bible College. It is this concerted effort which takes the beauty of the knowledge of Christ and moves it into grace, which is felt and communicated to a desperate, needy, world -- both inside and outside the church.

It is not difficult to understand why I love being a part of Grace Bible College! We exist to move God’s people -- based upon the power of God and the knowledge of His Word -- to action, which communicates God’s grace and love and dynamically changes everything around them. God

renews lives, and His people--indwelt by His Spirit--heal broken relationships, change attitudes, and share His salvation with people needing a witness of a life of significance and value. Jesus Christ told His followers, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)

God is blessing Grace Bible College. We are growing as never before in the history of the College, and therefore, we speak of our core values which make Grace Bible College what it is more than ever, so as to keep true to our mission. One of the four identified values is this: We are a ministry focused institution and each and every student is in preparation for a lifetime of service, either in full-time vocational ministry or other ministry. This is who we are.

By His Grace,

Ken B. Kemper
President



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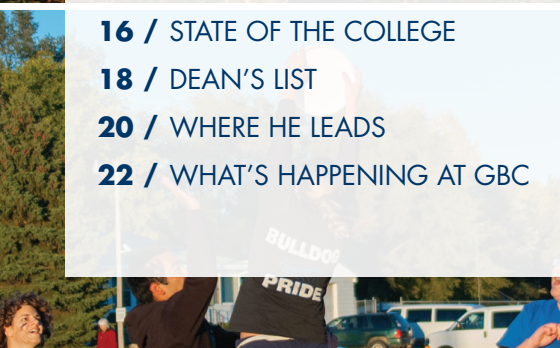
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Connect in a deeper way with Grace Bible College. Look at the back page to learn how to find GBC on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Flickr.

INEVITABLE GROWTH



Dr. Paul Sweet
Academic Dean

You may have heard it said, “Change is inevitable.” That is indeed true even at Grace Bible College as we live in an ever-changing world that requires us to adapt to keep up with the times. Perhaps it would be even better to say, “Change is inevitable, but growth is intentional.” We adapt not simply for the sake of change, but because it is strategically driven by a sense of our mission and vision for the future of Grace Bible College. Like the men of Issachar who understood the times and knew what Israel should do, the leaders of Grace Bible College—board, administration, faculty, and staff—desire to be led by the Spirit of God to an even brighter future. It is my privilege as the Academic Dean of our traditional program to share with you some of these changes and ask for your prayerful support as we see the Lord at work.

MINISTRY DEGREES

Preparing men and women for ministry as pastors, missionaries, and youth workers has long been and continues to be a staple of the mission of Grace Bible College. It is our lifeblood; a vital reason for our existence as a College. Despite our successes of the past, however, we realize that we need to adapt to our changing times. In the past year, we introduced our new Bachelor of Science in Biblical Studies degree which has a number of different emphases including pastoral, intercultural, youth, and general ministry. This degree shares a common core of Bible and Theology courses that are even stronger than those completed as part of our Bachelor of Theology degree. In addition, the ministry courses provide a solid foundation with a strong practical application. For example, our pastoral ministry emphasis includes courses in pastoral leadership, pastoral care, preaching and teaching, ministry of the local church, and family life and ministry. This degree is structured in such a way that new ministry emphases can be added with little difficulty. Each emphasis requires



a significant internship experience for practical learning from mature ministers. Think of the possibilities ... urban ministry, women's ministry, sports ministry, and the list goes on. The only restraints we have are the limits to our own imaginations! I am often asked about the status of our graduate degree in ministry we hope to develop. I would love to report that we are beginning graduate offerings tomorrow; however, I can only tell you that it is still a work in progress as such an expansion of degree programs requires approvals from a number of agencies outside of the College. I would ask that you pray for the leaders of these state and accrediting agencies as we continue to work toward that end. We are excited about these possibilities as we wait to see where the Lord will take us in the coming years!

WORSHIP ARTS

It has been said that music is the language of the soul. For the believer, however, we know that music is truly the language of the spirit. All you have to do is read through the Psalms, and you will find your heart lifted up in a panoply of praise! One of the fastest growing areas on our campus is the Worship Arts program. Under the capable leadership of Dr. Jason Werkema, this degree program has undergone a tremendous transformation in the past two years, with new courses and opportunities rolling out each semester. There are 59 students currently enrolled in our Worship Arts program, with many others participating in ensembles and lessons. You can hear the sounds of worship around the clock in the Dean Academic Center and

wafting through the air near Baker Chapel. It is exciting to see how God is moving in the hearts of these students as they learn how to use music and worship to glorify God. Be sure to check out the Worship Arts website, www.gbcboworship.com, to learn more about this program.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

With the rising popularity of community colleges and college offerings available to high school students, it was important for Grace Bible College to ease its transfer policies to become even more attractive for these potential students. Grace Bible College now participates in the MACRAO Transfer Agreement, an arrangement between Michigan community colleges and four-year colleges like GBC, which allows for the block transfer of credit. This means that students graduating from community college will have fulfilled our core arts and science requirements en total. We have also chosen to exceed the terms of this agreement by allowing students coming to us from community colleges in Michigan as well as from other states to transfer up to 60 credits, which will make it possible for them to graduate from Grace Bible College in two years. This is a significant departure from our transfer policies of the past that we believe better serves the needs of today's students.

OUR CONSORTIUM PROGRAMS

Grace Bible College has long enjoyed rich partnerships with Davenport and Cornerstone Universities, which have allowed us to expand our degree programs without the added expense. This cost-saving plan has allowed us then to focus our resources in those programs we consider critical to the mission of Grace Bible College. Our partnership with Davenport University has focused on business and health-related fields, while our agreement with Cornerstone University has trained many students for employment as professional educators. In recent years, we have expanded our partnership with Cornerstone University to include a variety of new fields such as history, family studies, exercise science, and even pre-professional studies. This latter degree prepares advanced students for further studies in the medical field. One possible consortium program we



would love to add in the future would be in nursing. Pray that the Lord will continue to open these doors with our educational partners and thus expand our programs.

FUTURE PLANS

You have already read of some of our plans. Our greatest limitations, however, come when we fail to dream. That's why we are constantly asking ourselves how we can expand the ministry of Grace Bible College. As I already mentioned, considerable effort has been given by many to the development of our graduate degree in ministry. A concentration in Criminal Justice has been added to our Human Services degree program. We are also looking to add a Business Division that will be a collaborative effort with our adult and online program to offer traditional and non-traditional business degrees. We are excited about all of these possibilities and look forward to the Lord's continued blessings in the future. Stay tuned for further information!

It is indeed true, "Change is inevitable ... but growth is intentional!" Grace Bible College remains committed to our historic mission and to the realization of our boundless future. Like Moses, we cry out, "If your presence does not go with us, do not send us up from this place!" Thank you so much for your support and encouragement. We ask for your continued prayers on our behalf, as we seek to have greater impact in this world for the glory of God.

TEAMWORK

An Update From Two Student Ministry Teams

PASTORAL MINISTRY TEAM

Grace Bible College is thrilled to be training and equipping the pastors of tomorrow. The Pastoral Ministry Team (Chris Anderson, Josh Befus, John Caprari, Joe Johnson, Jared Kusz, and Adam Renberg) recently ministered to several Grace Gospel Fellowship churches in the southwest. Under the guidance of Pastor Gary and Sue Spykerman, they had a wide variety of experiences including preaching, teaching, evangelism, work projects, and passing out food to the homeless. The team was able to interview several people involved in various ministries -- including present pastors, retired

pastors, a camp director, a children's pastor, a businessman, and even management from Disney! This was a significant opportunity for the team to learn from those who have served the Lord in a variety of areas and gain valuable insight into potential pastoral experiences. Grace Bible College continues to be committed to providing both academic learning in the classroom, and hands-on opportunities for learning outside of the classroom. Here are comments from some of the men on the trip:

The Pastoral Ministry Team had the privilege of ministering (and being ministered to) on a whirlwind trip that took us from Phoenix, Arizona, all the way to Salinas, California, and back again. We were encouraged and blessed everywhere we stopped, and we were able to conduct church services, feed the homeless, and meet with pastors and congregations. Ours will be memories that will last a long time, and I pray the same can be said of those with whom we came into contact.

- Chris Anderson

This tour was absolutely one of the most worthwhile weeks I have spent in my life. Not only did all of our experiences grow me and challenge me in my walk with God, but this trip confirmed my calling into full-time ministry. It excites me to see what God is going to do through me as long as I make myself available. I learned we need to live through the filter of the gospel. Every aspect of our lives needs to be seen and lived through the lens of the cross. It's extraordinary how this truth can impact our daily lives!

- John Caprari

Our tour was packed with advice, interviews, life lessons, and practical experiences. Yet, I will never forget the kindness and love that we received from each and every congregation we visited. There was a common theme as we met with each new congregation – that of sincere gratitude! The people were genuinely glad to see our ministry team – even before we said or preached a word. I had some of my best conversations with people I barely knew. I talked with, laughed with, and prayed with people who just wanted to be spiritually fed. There are literally not enough words to express how much of an impact this tour has already had on my life. We received such a wealth of knowledge for our current and future ministries that it was hard to take it all in!

- Adam Renberg

This trip was a seemingly unceasing connection to the intricate and immeasurable will of God in the lives of His people. We experienced in a very real physical and spiritual way how the Lord's mighty hand is spurring on His people and His creation to a sanctified and glorious existence. I was deeply encouraged and inspired – not only by the brilliant minds and rich lives of experience that we were able to “mine” for wisdom and truth related to ministry – but also in the level of preaching, teaching, and fellowship that we as a group were able to achieve through the Holy Spirit's guidance. God is blessing Grace Bible College with and through the students, faculty, staff, and leadership!

- Jared Kusz

As you can see, the team was deeply impacted by this trip. GBC thanks the churches (Phoenix, Riverside, South Gate, Anaheim, and Prunedale) for opening their arms and hearts to invest in and prepare these men for what God has in store for them. It is a blessing for the

College to be able to partner with our churches in this important task of “passing the baton” of pastoral leadership to the next generation. We are so thankful to God for His grace of protection and provision in making this trip a reality. We give Him all the thanks and praise!



URUGUAY MINISTRY TEAM

Over the recent semester break, a team of students (Courtney Glinka, April Lorenz, Calvin Nettleton, Lisse Schuerman, Mike Terpstra, and Denise VanBeek) was able to serve in Uruguay under the leadership of Community Life Intern, Brent Befus.

Brent reports: Our trip to Uruguay was fantastic! As a team, we had many wonderful opportunities to serve God as well as learn more about Him and grow in our Christian character. While there, our work project consisted of digging a foundation for the new church bathroom. The church is expanding their sanctuary and the existing bathroom is in the way of doing so. We had to dig six monstrous holes which were more than four feet wide and over six feet deep! We had a lot of digging to do! In addition to our digging, we helped recover and refinish a wall in the church, which will allow the construction of an inter-floor for more classrooms and a temporary place for the Sunday service as the expansion is taking place.

We also ministered within the church service through singing and preaching. We held a couple of workshops (guitar, photography) for the Uruguayans, and there was good interest among the attendees.

Along with our service projects, we took some time to enjoy the country! We played soccer against the Uruguayans! We scored first! But then they really put on the heat and ended up beating us 5-2. We were also able to go to Punta del Este, which is a very nice beach with a sculpture of a giant hand coming out of the sand (quite interesting). The highlight for some of us was feeding some sea lions swimming under a dock near some fishermen. That was quite an adventure, as some of the team members held out the gutted fish for the sea lions to grab. Here are some excerpts about the trip from the students:

As I prepared for this mission trip, I prayed that God would teach me patience: patience with my teammates and with the Uruguayans because of the language barrier. When I arrived, I was not ready for what God had planned for me. He did give me patience in my actions with others, but I realized I needed to work on patience within my own thoughts. God is looking at my heart! I found that my actions indicated that I was working hard to be patient, but my mind was thinking something sinful and unpleasing to God. Now that I am back home, I will continue to work on patience within my thoughts too.
- Courtney Glinka

My goal for the trip was to keep my heart open to whatever God desired to teach me. God showed me how to have not only an extraordinary amount of patience, but also showed me what it meant to let go of my "rights" and serve Him -- wherever that may be -- with a sincere, loving heart. He taught me through simple things -- like being willing to paint inside even though it was beautiful outside, which led to fellowship and developing friendships with some of the local workers.
- Lisse Schuerman

The people of Uruguay were the highlight of my trip. The girls were able to talk and joke with me -- just like my friends. I was touched by their hospitality and the way they displayed the love of Christ in their actions. We went to serve and they ended up serving us. I had a hard time leaving the one place that I felt most comfortable to come back to the snow of Grand Rapids. I know that God has called me to missions and that no matter where I am, my joy comes from serving the Lord. Whether I am a "world away" or on the GBC campus, I can serve God as long as I am willing to listen to what He is saying to my heart and always wait on Him.
- April Lorenz

We thank God for the opportunity we had to serve and to learn in Uruguay. Each one of us was changed and challenged through this experience. We learned a lot about who God is, how to live in unity

with each other, and how to grow in many areas of our walk with God. We are thankful for the support of our prayer partners -- we could not have accomplished all the work without their prayers.



A NON-TRADITIONAL PATH

Michael Stowell

Vice President / Adult & Online Education

Many exciting things are happening at Grace Bible College! One of them is our Adult and Online Education Program. We are growing exponentially and currently have over 300 students. This is not a surprise, as we hear over and over from students how much this non-traditional program has helped them. The word is spreading, and I want to share with each of you what is being said. Here are just a few testimonies from current students finishing their college degrees:

For years I thought about going back and finishing my degree, but with the responsibilities of home and family, as well as our involvements in lay ministry, that dream seemed out of reach. But back in 1998, our family was called into the ministry of serving our new faith community as pastor/teacher. It was then that the passion to pursue a ministry degree was born... but how and when? While serving on the national council of the Grace Gospel Fellowship and on the board of Grace Bible College, I was more than a little excited when the leadership of GBC decided to venture into the venue of adult and online education. Having researched many options to earn my degree online, I knew it was a viable option for me, and yet, I really wanted to pursue a degree from the school to which I was loyal: Grace

Bible College! When the decision was made by GBC in early 2010 to expand their educational reach into the adult and online market, both Heidi and I decided to jump in with both feet... and it has been one of the best decisions we have ever made. And the best part about this journey is that we did it together as a couple! Next spring, my wife and I will each graduate from Grace Bible College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Ministry and Leadership. From there, we both decided to pursue our masters degrees, eventually desiring to teach in this forum. We have loved our time with our newfound friends and professors, and we thank the Lord for the vision of the leadership at GBC to make this available for those seeking to "finish what we started" so long ago.



SCOTT & HEIDI MYERS
Enumclaw, Washington

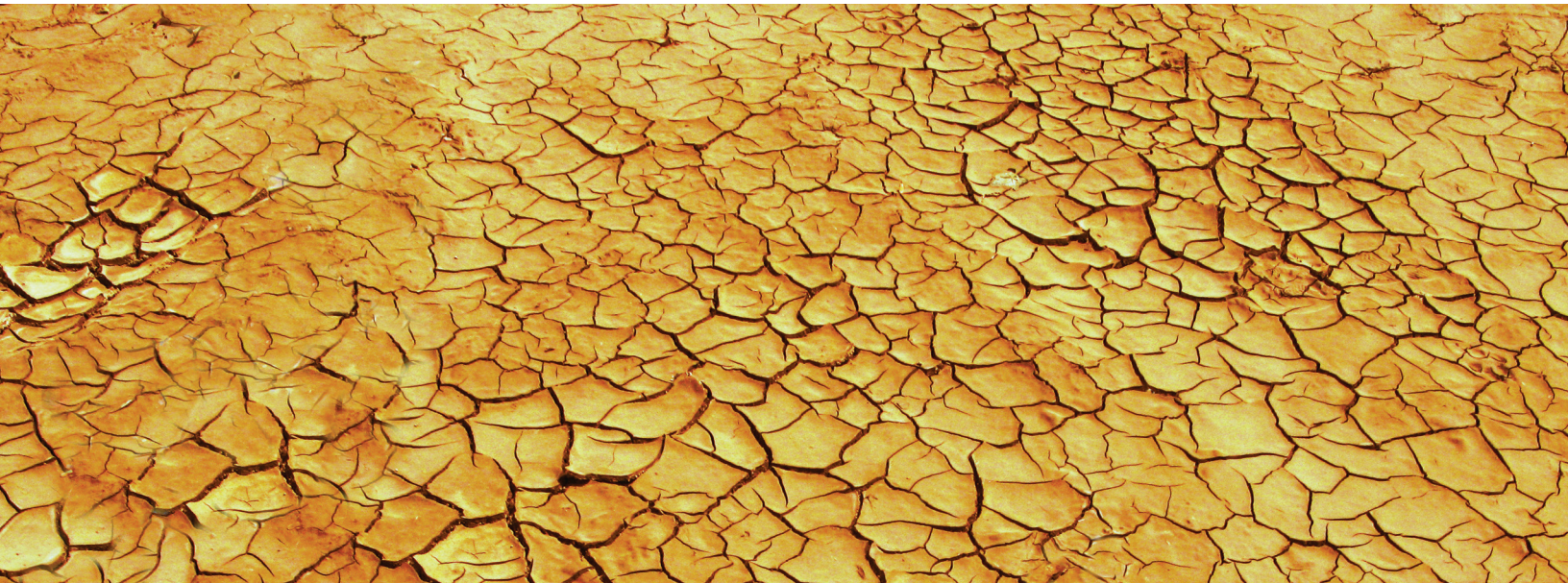
At forty years of age, I decided to return to school. As a husband and father with a fulltime career, I wasn't sure how I was going to accomplish this. Add in the fact that I wanted to get a degree in ministry, and my options were very limited. Online education made the most sense to me, so I began the search for an online Christian school. I attend a Grace church and had the pleasure of meeting President Kemper there. He gave our congregation exciting news about Grace Bible College's new online program. I began the application process, and am now enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Leadership and

Ministry degree program. I am almost done with my degree, and have had a wonderful journey along the way. The staff and instructors of the program have done an exceptional job of making distance learning possible. The online format has proven to be flexible, allowing me to continue with my normal routine. I believe the education I have received is as good, or better than any I received as a traditional student. I would say it is even more challenging, which in turn, makes it much more rewarding.



DEVON SINSLEY
Post Falls, Idaho

It is exciting to be a part of GBC's mission of graduating godly individuals prepared to serve Christ in church and society. We do this through offering degree programs taught from a Biblical worldview. We believe this enables students who are called to serve in vocational ministry or a ministry in the marketplace to be used by God to make a difference. If you are interested in information concerning our degree completion programs or how you (or someone you know) can complete their college degree, contact us either through our website www.gbcol.edu/onlinestudies or call us at (888) 79-GRACE.



REMOVING THE DROUGHT

Pastor Gary Spykerman





Shaun and Lyndsey Winters

Last summer, Michigan witnessed a very dry season when it comes to rainfall. The lack of rain has many ramifications and effects people in so many ways. The West Nile Virus and the spread of it is believed to be connected to the drought-like symptoms across the country. The lack of rain is never a welcome condition.

The Old Testament prophet Amos spoke of a time when Israel went through a spiritual drought. The land lacked the hearing and the living out of God's Word. The Word of God was vacant from the people's lives and the Word was not heard from the spiritual leaders of Amos' day, the prophets. The drought of God's Word is never a welcome condition.

Grace Bible College is committed to bringing spiritual water (God's Word) to today's dry and thirsty culture. In the midst of a barren society where God's Word is rare, the College is excited to see young men who are called to be proclaimers of God's truth. Four men graduated last spring with their Bachelor of Theology Degree in Pastoral Studies. They are now serving in significant ministries, providing spiritual water in a desert culture.



Zach and Erin Kemper

Shaun Winters and his family are serving at Grace Gospel Church in Linton, Indiana. The Winters began traveling from Grand Rapids to Linton, (approximately 350 miles) on weekends to minister to this local church while they were still studying at GBC. The church was without a pastor, and the Winters committed to help fill the pulpit and to get to know the congregation, providing a transition. This resulted in Shaun being asked to become their pastor before he even graduated from Grace. Shaun and his family are providing cool water as they minister in Linton. The College is excited to see this young family using their gifts to live and share God's Word in Linton, Indiana. No drought there!

Zach Kemper married Erin Benton last summer in a beautiful ceremony in Post Falls, Idaho. Zach and Erin are now living in the Grand Rapids area as Erin completes her education at GBC in the spring of 2013. The Kempers are a young couple with a deep love for God's Word and God's people. They are a refreshing, dedicated, faithful couple, committed to serving the Lord together, providing an oasis of hope wherever they go. God has called Zach and Erin to serve at Valley Bible Church in Stephens City, Virginia. No drought will follow this couple!



Caleb and Maria Befus

Caleb Befus came to Grace Bible College from Costa Rica. Following graduation, he married Maria Esther Quesada Zamora who is also from Costa Rica. Caleb and Maria are now serving at Grace Bible Fellowship in Jenison, Michigan. Caleb is the Associate Pastor and has responsibilities in the pulpit as well as other areas of ministry within the church. This young and talented couple has a love for Jesus Christ and His people that is evident in all they do. Caleb is a thorough communicator of God's Word in both word and action. No drought in Jenison, Michigan!

Our fourth graduate, Brent Befus, is currently serving as a Community Life Intern at Grace Bible College. He is attending Celebration Bible Church in Jenison, Michigan. At the close of Brent's one year internship, he will transition into a ministry of God's calling which will use his strong ministry gifts.



Brent Befus



GROWING IN SIZE & VISION

In addition to welcoming the largest incoming class in GBC history, we are excited to announce the launch of the Grace Bible College Center for Empowerment Coaching. GBC has contracted with Empowerment Coaching Network (ECN) to develop and deliver training, academic courses, and other programs which will help us learn how to coach, ultimately creating a culture of coaching on our campus. If you visit the Jack T Dean Academic Center, you will see the Center offices as you walk in the door. If you are curious about the role the Center will play on campus, stop by and meet Tim Cosby, Mike McGervey, and Wayne Schaaf, the coaching staff.

ECN was formed in 2010 by Tim Cosby and Mike McGervey with the mission of “taking Christ-centered peer coaching to the Christian community.” It began with the design of Empowerment Coaching Training – a two day training session to equip participants to coach. Coaching is the single most effective process for guiding spiritual

transformation, personal growth, and leader development. Unlike athletic coaching, this approach empowers people to change without telling them what they should do.



**CENTER FOR
EMPOWERMENT
COACHING**

In the fall of 2011, President Kemper and GBC Community Life staff attended Empowerment Coaching training. Their experience of learning the process and practicing coaching skills led to dialogue between ECN and GBC about how coaching could impact the lives and culture of students, faculty, and staff at Grace. Several more senior staff members completed training in early 2012, and after making a formal presentation to the board in April, ECN and GBC signed an agreement enabling Grace to open their Center for Empowerment Coaching in July. Wayne Schaaf, a member of the coaching staff, is developing an online learning platform for the Center as well.

Several exciting things are planned for the coming year:

Certified Professional Empowerment Coach (CPEC) Program

CPEC is a 6-month online coaching certification program that will provide the combination of knowledge building, skill development, supervised practice coaching, and actual coaching experience assuring each graduate has demonstrated competency to coach at a professional level.

JobsConnect

This is a three day training program which will equip participants to coach students and adults in their efforts to find meaningful employment.

Coaching Based Ministry Elective Courses

A three-credit elective course is being prepared for both traditional and adult studies.

Professional Coaching Services

This service is provided by coaching staff for people in education, business, and ministry.

Coach Approach to Group Facilitation

This training program is being developed for facilitation of groups.

GRACE BIBLE COLLEGE ALUMNI

a-lum-ni [uh-luhm-nahy] a graduate or former student of a specific school, college, or university.

Do you fall into the category of being an alumnus of Grace Bible College? If so, please read on...

Grace Bible College is pleased to announce our renewed interest to our alumni by establishing an Alumni Relations office! Plans are in the works and action is being taken to better serve you -- our graduates and former students!

Our commitment is to institute best practices in the field of college alumni relations that will enhance Grace Bible College's ability to serve its alumni and result in mutually beneficial relationships between alumni and the College. Why take these steps? Because taking these steps is the right thing to do. Over the next several months we look to develop an Alumni Association Board.

Your Alumni Association Board will be responsible for two primary objectives. They will serve as:

- Ambassadors for Grace Bible College and tell the story to other alumni
- Representatives to Grace Bible College and let us hear the voice of alumni

This is the beginning of a new journey together. As we begin this process, we need your input! Would you consider taking a moment to submit your class news and include a photo to alumni@gbc.edu.

Homecoming 2013 – Save the Date - October 11-12, 2013!

Plans are already underway for this exciting weekend. Last year we began a brand new tradition as we held our First Annual Ultimate Mud Frisbee Tournament. You won't want to miss year two of this new tradition! There are still a few inaugural T-shirts available. Join our group on Facebook (Grace Bible College Alumni Association) and send a follow up email to alumni@gbc.edu with your mailing address, phone number and shirt size and we will get one in the mail for you! Limited availability, so do it now!

We are your Alumni Relations office, and we want to help you stay connected with Grace Bible College and with each other. If you have questions or suggestions for how we can serve you better, let us know at alumni@gbc.edu. We're listening!



Greg Heath
VP for Institutional Advancement



CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK!



Greg Heath
Vice President for
Institutional Advancement





A GROWING NATION

Gary Bailey

Men's Basketball Coach / Director of Sports Operations

The upcoming athletic season should prove to be another exciting and enjoyable time for both fans and players. Our coaching staff has worked very hard to not only recruit the best student athletes for their squads but also to put together challenging and entertaining schedules.

At Grace, our student athletes work very hard on the field, in the classroom, and in the community. They do all of this while exemplifying great character and sportsmanship. Much is asked of our student athletes as they represent Grace in all that they do.

The men's and women's soccer season should once again make for an exciting start to the new sports year. Both teams will have a great returning core with some exciting incoming freshmen and transfers.

Our women's volleyball team will have a lot of new faces for the fall and we have introduced a new style of play which brings much enthusiasm with it. The cross country team continues to grow in numbers and competes not only against other colleges and universities, but also participates in many "fun runs" and other interesting competitions. The men's basketball team is considered one of the top collegiate programs in Michigan and has dominated the NCCAA national scene over the last seven years, winning six regional titles and five national championships. The women's basketball team put together a great season this past year with a team made up of almost entirely freshmen. With the addition of another great recruiting class this year, the women could set a new standard for basketball at Grace.

This year Grace has worked hard on its intramural programs and will offer students a wide variety and excitement filled year of sports such as soccer, volleyball, flag football, dodgeball, kickball, wallyball, basketball, wiffleball, frisbee golf, and much more.

What sets GBC's athletic program apart and makes it so special is our fans. The "*Grace Nation*" (as our fans are known) will fill up the gymnasium or stands whether at home or on the road. We have a great following and fan base around the country.

Athletics at Grace continue to grow in number of student athletes and sports programs. We invite you to come out, become part of the "*Grace Nation*," and enjoy some of the finest in small college athletics!



STATE OF THE COLLEGE



Ken B. Kemper
President

Have you ever noticed that greater blessing adds greater responsibility? I remember when God blessed us with our third child that we quickly discovered one person can easily reach out and grab two kids, but one is still left to be corralled! We now had more stewardship than before. When we moved into our present home, we worked to finish a family room in the basement...which then also needed to be heated, picked up, dusted, and vacuumed as well.

We have seen tremendous blessings at Grace Bible College in the last four years. The traditional student count has grown by 50% and our non-traditional program has added another 230 students. This year's 122 incoming new students made Freshmen Orientation an exciting and challenging time. Kevin Gilliam who directs our traditional enrollment team works hard with his staff (Lizz Niles, Kurt Classen, and Abby Haverdink) to enroll students who desire GBC's program of study to prepare them for effective service. Our facilities are being revitalized with the addition of the Student Commons and the expansion of parking areas to accommodate our growing student community. Yes, the incredible blessings for which we prayed have brought many new responsibilities to our College. Each

blessing we have seen is part of our greater strategic planning and our prayerful seeking of God's direction to strengthen our College in every way.

When our dormitories behind the quad filled, we converted the apartment buildings near Velting Soccer Field into men's and women's dorms. In addition we filled four houses adjacent to campus with students. Lastly, we leased a four-unit apartment building directly across 26th Street from the Dean Academic Center to house the remainder of the students. These changes and additions have made ample space for our 160 or so resident students. The Community Life Staff works hard to train and oversee the Residence Assistants and the Community Life Interns. This year Brian Sherstad assumed the new position of Vice President of Community Life and Operations. He was able to hire Kyle Bohl (a 2004 graduate) as Dean of Students. Kyle brings vision and energy as well as a love for the Lord to this position. Nathan Johnson oversees facilities, and two assistants have been added to help in this area. Curtis Storms was added as a facilities technical specialist, and Ryan Heller oversees housekeeping and facilities rental coordination, a position which was in

place in a prior administration. The facilities -- whether it is snow removal, lawn care, classroom cleaning, or maintenance -- are always taken care of with excellence in order to teach our many student workers proper God-honoring service in everything.

The Dean Academic Center was remodeled over the summer to bring into operation two additional classrooms which were used as a storage room and lounge in previous years. Adding these classrooms gives us more than ten classrooms of good size and a couple smaller ones all of which can be simultaneously in use -- giving us a capacity in excess of 300 at one time if necessary. In addition, the old "multi-purpose room" has been converted into a student study area, four additional offices for full-time faculty, adjunct faculty, coaching services, and a conference room. The halls were refreshed with paint, and beautiful photographs of ministry and study trips taken by students decorate the walls for all to enjoy.

Dr. Paul Sweet (who recently finished the defense of his dissertation) added several adjunct faculty this year to accommodate all the extra sections of freshmen classes. These adjunct faculty include some of our local pastors and recent graduates who are

learning to teach under the supervision of our long time faculty. Patrick McGillicuddy, who pastors Grace Bible Fellowship in nearby Jenison, is $\frac{3}{4}$ time in Bible and Theology and is a great addition to our quality staff. Creative class scheduling is important as having an increase in student numbers requires more flexibility in the weekly schedule to allow for their divergent needs. Dr. Sweet works with Linda Siler, our long time faithful Registrar, to register all the traditional students and an assistant will soon be hired to help carry this daunting load.

More students also means more billing and financial aid processing, and GBC has addressed the need in both of these areas. Kurt Postma our Director of Financial Aid, and his assistant, Ashley Huisman process the over 500 financial aid applications from students and future students. Doug Vriesman is our new Business Manager who the Lord brought to Grace after many years of serving in business and finance in different West Michigan organizations. His testimony of God's direction to serve the Lord at GBC is a wonderful story of God's preparation. We are thankful for Doug's talents and his heart to guide our business and finance operations. Dan Bryska who has a strong accounting background and truly loves the Lord was recently hired to serve in the Business Office with Doug, and Beverly Wallace, who has served faithfully at GBC for thirty years.

The Dean Academic Center houses the staff of our Adult and Online Education (AOE) Program. AOE has 300 students who study one night per week on campus or online. This program of study, led by Vice President Mike Stowell, has two Academic Advisors: Lizette Lopez-Velez (who is bi-lingual in Spanish), and Monica Perry. Director of AOE Enrollment, Zak Sorensen has four dedicated enrollment specialists (Rachele Slotman, Brittany Mallo, Nick Noble, and Erin Murphy) who seek students desiring to "Pursue Their Calling" at Grace through our adult studies program. I recently walked through the Dean Academic Center one evening, and stopped in four different classes of adult students who come to class after work to increase their education and ready themselves for ministry! More than



two-thirds of our adult students take all their classes online. Our April 27, 2013 Commencement will, for the first time, include a possible number of 20 non-traditional students in addition to our 35 traditional students. This is a significant milestone in the history of our College!

Grace continues to pursue expanding our academic program of study in ways which further emphasize our core values as a Bible-centered and ministry preparation/training institution. We are presently taking steps to add degrees in business administration to both our traditional and non-traditional programs. These programs will be taught by godly leaders who know how to integrate the Word of God into the marketplace for effective ministry. Paul Sweet and Mike Stowell work together with faculty members to collect research data, evaluate it, and propose a solid course of study. Another important area is the task of assessment of our entire institution and student learning. Assessment is part of every discussion as Dr. Mat Loverin assists Paul Sweet and others to lead this effort

of constant improvement in all we do as a College.

We are nearing the end of a three-year capital campaign known as Beyond the Bricks in which God has supplied over \$1.6 million in gifts and pledges. The Board of Directors has moved forward with construction of the Student Commons, the driveway entry, student walkways, and a portion of the parking area. The campaign is to come to an end on June 30th of this year. Greg Heath, our Vice-President for Institutional Advancement, along with his staff, Steve Hilbrands and Cristel Oetman, lead the efforts to present the need for the final \$250,000 to finish the campaign and celebrate what God has done, while continuing to seek God's provision for the additional \$225,000 needed by that same date to complete our Annual Fund operational expenses. The Beyond the Bricks campaign includes the rest of the parking area, the building facades, and improvements to the Aldrich Athletic Center. Please pray for this dedicated team and encourage them with your gifts and words of support!

As you can see from all that has been mentioned, we are blessed, and as a result of these blessings, many challenges have been prayerfully responded to with appropriate actions of change, or additional staff. I am amazed at the quality of people who fervently serve at GBC as an offering to the Lord. The purpose of all our service is the effective ministry preparation of God's people to impact this world for Jesus Christ. As we look around at our world we see there has never been a more vital time to invest in the preparation of Bible-centered ministers! We are graduating more ministers this year than ever before, but the need is enormous! We must not rest where we are, but by God's strength, battle for the hearts of mankind around the world. It is our duty, it is our honor to partner together with each of you as alumni, donors, or prayer warriors to see God glorified in this world through this work. Please give Him the praise and thanks for the dynamic and exciting work He is doing at Grace Bible College!

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2012 COMMENCEMENT WHERE HE LEADS



On April 27, thirty six of the GBC graduates, along with their friends and family attended a lovely banquet at Sunnybrook Country Club in Jenison, Michigan, to celebrate their achievements at Grace Bible College.

GBC's jazz ensemble provided spectacular dinner music, and our own Financial Aid Director, Kurt Postma, emceed the event which included a delicious meal, musical entertainment, recognition of graduates and their families, testimonies, tributes, and special awards.

The theme for the evening was "Where He Leads," and one of the many highlights of the evening was the word poem delivered by graduate Anna Spencer. She captured the thoughts of many of the graduates with the pointed words – "I fear not, because God leads..." and encouraged the hearts of all present with the knowledge, that we are "still works in progress..." but "in this breath we boldly commit to follow!" You can read it in its entirety to the right.

The festivities continued on Saturday with family, friends, board members, and guests arriving at Frontline Bible Church to watch and participate in the Sixty-Seventh Annual Commencement ceremony and congratulate the Class of 2012. Forty-four graduates were awarded degrees by President Ken B. Kemper. Four special awards named in honor of outstanding men of God were awarded to the following graduates: Mr. Caleb Befus and Mr. Zechariah Kemper (H. B. Prince Preaching Award); Mr. Caleb Befus and Mr. Jacob Rodgers (C. F. Baker Biblical Studies Award); Mr. Curtis Storms (T. R. Huston Christian Service Award); and Miss Emily Renberg (Vernon H. Stromberg Worship Arts Award).

Two graduate addresses follow, first from Miss Rachel Joy Kieda, BS in Intercultural Studies, followed by Zechariah Bruce Kemper, BTh in Pastoral Ministry.

Close in my heart these words rise to the surface as if buoyant with meaning, as if we were there from the very start:

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Fear not, for I am with you; this is the voice of God ushering us into the present moment. For in every moment... God leads. In every breath... God leads. In the day and in the night, in the mundane and in the extraordinary... God leads.

I fear not because God leads. I don't understand it completely, nor will I pretend to, but in this moment I have peace.

For I have a lifetime to learn the dance and romance that is the leading of God.

When I am confused... and when I am confident... when I cry out like a young child searching for the reassurance that is Your presence... and when I am frustrated... and when I am fed-up...

God, You are there. Your voice echoes this plea to fear not, for this was your call when You met with those of the Biblical narrative: with Abraham, Hagar, Moses, Peter, Paul, and Mary, and it is Your call to us as well.

Fear not, for I am with you. I have decided to trust in this, and so I wait upon the Lord, for all that is in me to expose something of God, for all that is in me to call to all that is in God.

I embrace the divine in the daily, for I know that God leads at every step. Oh that God would lead as we graduate, that we would be in step with this leading. God leads, God leads, God leads. Might we just heed that leading. God's way... of going... of being... of becoming.

God leads, do you know that my heart? God's voice is this quiet, still, ushering of the heart... when we light a candle... sit in the silence... when we feel the rush of wind across our bare skin... or hear the chorus of the birds at sunrise.

Oh, that peace that overwhelms! That gut level peace reminds me that You are as close as our very breath in each moment... God leads, and I don't know if I have to know much more than that. All that we are... all that we have yet to realize... all that we are becoming is because of God's leading... through community... through dreams... through ideas that keep us up at night... through stories... questions... and doubts...

God leads. These are the moments with which we tap into Your presence... for You are in the process... for You are right here with us, and so we've journeyed thus far, sometimes aware and sometimes unaware of your leading, yet, You have brought us here, and of this we can be certain: that while we are still a work in progress, God, You continue to lead, and in this breath we boldly commit to follow.

- Anna Spencer, April 2012

WHERE HE LEADS

I would like to bring up the subject of dandelions. To some, they are obnoxious weeds that seem to be outgrowing even the grass, but to me, a dandelion is a beautiful little flower that can brighten someone's day. My family's been going through some difficult times concerning my grandparents. My grandpa was put in a nursing home this January and we just discovered that my grandma has Alzheimer's. Overall, this has been really hard, but overall is not what I cling to. I cling to the small moments that bring joy to my heart. And yes, one has to do with a dandelion! A few weeks ago, I was walking to my grandpa's nursing home and I decided to pick a dandelion for him. I gave it to him and he kind of reacted like, "Oh, well isn't that nice." He offered it to a nurse who smiled and placed it behind his ear. After that, nurse after nurse commented on the flower – "that looks nice, Frank!" Everyone who looked at him smiled or commented. It was like a chain reaction.

Life is made up of memorable moments like that. You may not remember everything that happens, but there are certain defining moments – be they big or small. Today, we are here to honor and bring recognition to a huge accomplishment in the lives of these students – their graduation. This accomplishment is worth celebrating. But we are not here to honor just this one moment, but the years of hard work - each homework assignment, project, every hour of sleep lost, every study session, the prayers and support of our family and friends, and the daily persistence and perseverance - of each student here. We should celebrate all the small things that led up to graduation. We will not remember everything about our time at Grace, but there were small, defining moments that we will cling to: that one conversation with a teacher, a project that caused us to get out of our comfort zone, the amazing testimony we heard during chapel, the small group we were a part of, and the friendships that helped shape us into who we are today.



Rachel Kieda

2012 Commencement Speech

I am so thankful for all I learned while at Grace. I will remember my first real accountability partner and the long conversations we had; my one semester of dorm life; and the missions conferences that spurred on my love for missions. Plus, I love the fact that Grace is probably one of the only colleges that allows you to have the same teachers every year! Some might not consider that much of a positive, but I do. The teachers and staff at Grace are dynamic people who truly love the Lord, and I want to model my life after the example they've set before me. What a privilege to have these godly individuals as teachers, mentors, and friends! Through Grace, I also had the amazing opportunity to go to Peru and Bolivia for a missions internship. Those nine months spent in South America were life changing. I will fondly think of the "dandelion moments" I had at Grace as I go forward, ready to serve the Lord.

I am excited to see where God leads me in the future. God has taught me that we must make the most of each moment we are given. It is truly a gift to be able to treasure what we have here and now.

I've always been drawn to Proverbs – longed for the wisdom I sometimes lacked as I made daily decisions. A scripture in Proverbs has been on my heart lately – Proverbs 4:25-26. It says, "Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure. Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil." In order to make the most of every moment, this passage tells us to ponder the path of our feet; I see this as telling us to turn to the Lord for guidance in all decisions – be they big or small. When we realize that each moment has been given to us from the Lord, and that His Spirit is in us, guiding us every step of the way, it will change how we live from day to day, moment to moment.

I recall another "dandelion moment" I shared with my grandpa when he was in the hospital this January. Getting old and losing physical and mental abilities is really depressing (as we'll all find out in a few years), so he was struggling. On one particular visit, I brought along a song book. It wasn't planned, but my mom read some Scriptures and then we started singing hymns with him and my grandma. We sang his favorite, "In the Garden:"

*And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own;
and the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.*

The nurses complimented our singing and asked us to make a recording and invited us to stay all night if we wanted. The comments were nice and flattering, but what was most important to me was that we had taken grandpa's mind off everything that had been going wrong, and redirected it to God – the God who walks with us, talks with us, and He tells each and every one of us that we are His own. As His children, He calls us to follow His lead. So as you go forward, do not take each moment lightly. Seek the Lord's guidance one step at a time and He will help you make every moment a "dandelion moment."

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESSES

2012 Grace Bible College Commencement Addresses

by Rachel Kieda and Zechariah Kemper

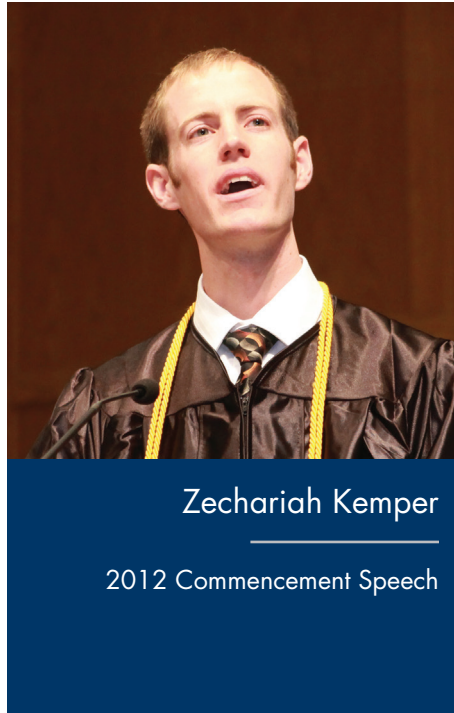
Thank you, Rachel, for reminding us to make every moment (big or small) a dandelion moment. I know that I (and others in this room) need to be reminded often to not take any moment lightly. I know often miss those dandelion moments because my heart isn't in the right place.

ME

When I first came to Grace, I thought I was going to "take down" our freshman theology class, Theology 151. That turned out to be a humbling experience for me. After graduating from high school, I thought I knew more than I did. I had a lot to learn, but my heart wasn't responsive. I'm pretty sure that now as I graduate from college, I still have a lot to learn. I'm also pretty sure that in ten years, I will still have a lot to learn. In thirty years, I will still have a lot to learn. The day that I die, I will still have a lot to learn. I take comfort in knowing that wherever God leads... I am still a work in progress. It is so important that I have a responsive heart.

Last fall, I had the privilege of interning at Mountain View Bible Church under Pastor Dave Rachoy. I learned so much from Dave and Joy Rachoy as I observed their lives and their heart for people. Coming back from that internship I still treasure those memories. Actually, as I recall those memories, I continue to learn more from his example. There are things that I needed to learn that my heart wasn't ready to hear. However, as my heart becomes more receptive, I will continue to learn from those memories.

I think that this will be my experience after college as well. There have been things that I have needed to learn that my heart wasn't ready to hear. However, as my heart becomes more receptive, I will continue to learn from memories.



WE

Grace has prepared us for a life of learning. It has given us the tools and examples to be in the Bible every day -- for a lifetime of learning. But, if our hearts are not responsive, we will not continue to grow and our lives will be stagnant from this point on.

GOD

I am reminded of a story from Judah's history. At that time in history, the prosperity of a nation was credited to the gods that nation worshipped. God made a covenant agreement with the nation of Judah, where He used this nation to be a light to the world. (If the nation of Judah followed God, He would bless them to show the surrounding nations that He was the true God. If Judah turned away from God and started worshipping other gods, then God would allow the surrounding nations to suppress Judah, so that no one could credit the false gods with Judah's prosperity.)

In this particular story, Judah has gone so far as to not only turn away from God, but also to entirely forget their covenant agreement. However during the reign of King Josiah, the covenant is rediscovered and read aloud to the king. Josiah tears his clothes and turns back to God, so God sends Josiah this message:

2 Kings 22:19 *"Because your heart was responsive, and you humbled yourself..."*

What we see in this passage is that it is God's desire for Josiah's heart to be responsive.

YOU

Today, it is still God's desire that our hearts be responsive. We are still works in progress, and we have so much to learn every day of our lives.

Hopefully, we will have receptive hearts to what God will teach us wherever God leads. Graduates: let's use the tools we have been equipped with at GBC to keep learning. Faculty and Staff: don't be discouraged because we didn't learn that important lesson you tried to teach us while we were here. We are still works in progress, so there may come a day when our hearts are more responsive, and then, God will remind us of that lesson and your example. We will continue to learn from you, even after graduation.

Family and Friends: No matter where you are in life, there is always so much more God can teach us, if our hearts are responsive to God's leading. May we all be responsive to what God is teaching us!

As Rachel said, let us look for God's lessons in the big and the small moments, so that wherever God leads... we will still be works in progress.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GBC

UPCOMING EVENTS* ON THE GBC CAMPUS

- APRIL 27** **COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES**
Grace Bible College Commencement Ceremonies
Celebrating Traditional and Adult and Online Graduates
(Rush Creek Bible Church, Byron Center, MI)
- MAY 2** **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE**
(12:00 noon, Baker Chapel)
- JULY 11** **GBC AT THE BALLPARK**
GBC Fundraising Event at the Whitecaps
(Fifth-Third Ball Park)
- SEPTEMBER 13** **FOURTEENTH ANNUAL GBC GOLF CLASSIC**
(Pilgrim's Run Golf Course)
- OCTOBER 10-12** **GBC HOMECOMING EVENT**
(GBC Campus)

**as events approach, please check the GBC website for more information*

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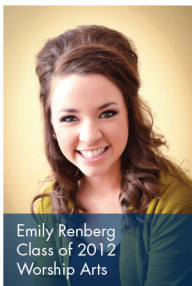


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Emily Renberg
Class of 2012
Worship Arts



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