

ASKING FOR A FRIEND

SEEKING ANSWERS TO CONTROVERSIAL
QUESTIONS THAT WE ALL WANT TO ASK



PRAYING

FOR

OTHERS

- Pray silently for the prayer request printed in your worship guide.
- Our Fifth Grade students
- Our small group led by Bob & Adrienne Howard
- The Bible Seminary
- Neighboring church service this morning at New Life Church
- The Ban*jar of Indonesia
- Conflicts in the Middle East, Africa and Eastern Europe

We ask all this for the glory of Your name.

10hr BURN on Saturday, September 12 from 8AM-6PM: Join us in the Vista (2nd floor Ministry Center) with a diverse group of leaders from our community. Families, Small groups, and individuals are all welcome to participate and celebrate the Global Church

Need Prayer? Prayer opportunities in the Community Prayer Center:

- **Prophetic Prayer** – 2nd Sundays, 10:30AM
- **Healing Prayer** – 4th Sundays, 10:30AM
- **Submit a Prayer Request** – WhatIsGrace.org/prayer-wall

Scan the QR code for the full schedule of prayer opportunities.



Asking for a Friend

“Intolerance?” – Romans 1:18-25

September 6, 2026

Back to School Sermon Series

ASKING FOR A FRIEND	
<i>Seeking Answers to Questions That We All Want to Ask</i>	
Date	Message Title
Aug 16	PROBLEM OF EVIL: If God is Good and All-Powerful, Then Why is There So Much Suffering, Disease, and Tragedy in the World?
Aug 23	OUT-DATED BOOK: Doesn't the Bible's Views About Slavery and Women Make It Unreliable and Not Relevant for Today?
Aug 30	HYPOCRITES: Why Should I Come to Church When It's Made Up of a Bunch of Hypocrites?
Sept 6	INTOLERANCE: Isn't It Intolerant and Unfair to Claim That Jesus is the Only Way to Heaven? What About Other Religions? What About Good People Who Have Never Heard of Jesus?
Sept 13	SCIENCE: How Do You Reconcile Scientific Evidence Like Evolution with the Creation Story? Don't Science and the Bible Contradict Each Other?
Sept 20	PURPOSE: What on Earth Am I Here For? What is My Purpose?

Today's Question – Isn't it intolerant and unfair to claim that Jesus is the only way to Heaven? What about other religions? What about good people who have never heard of Jesus?

Six Insights That Have Helped Me with Today's Question

1. Insights about _____.

- **Narrowness does not make something wrong.** There are plenty of things that are narrow but true like: (a) don't put water in your gasoline tank; (b) the human body cannot survive a core temperature above 108 F; (c) you cannot divide a number by zero.
- **Matthew 7:13** – *Enter through the narrow gate.*
- **Sincerity does not make something true.** A person can be passionately sincere but sincerely wrong.
- **Different religions** are not just different paths up the same mountain. They are entirely different mountains containing mutually exclusive propositions. The trilemma: Liar? Lunatic? Or Lord?

	Hinduism	Buddhism	Islam	Judaism	Christianity
Authority	Vedas; B-Gita	Tripitaka	Koran	Old Test.	Bible
God	Everything	No god	Allah	Jehovah	One God in 3 Persons
Jesus	Good teacher	Enlightened man	Prophet	Rabbi	God the Son
Problem	Bad karma	Desires	Bad deeds	Sin	Sin
Salvation	Reincarnation	Eliminate desires	Five Pillars	Animal atonement	Atonement of God's Son
Heaven	Absorption	Self is eliminated	Delight	With God	With God

2. Insights about _____.

- **Genesis 18:25** – *Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?*
- **Psalms 9:7-8** (NLT) – *But the Lord reigns forever, executing judgment from His throne. He will judge the world with justice and rule the nations with fairness.*
- **Psalms 75:2** – *At the set time that I appoint I will judge with equity.*
- **Challenge:** Don't try to be God. We don't determine the destinations of people – God does. Our job is not to figure out all the answers to this difficult question, but rather to obey and do all the things God wants us to do. Can you believe without having all the answers?
- Faith is not the absence of doubts and questions. Faith is believing in spite of doubts and questions. If you had all the answers, it wouldn't be faith; it would be certainty.

3. Insights about our _____.

- **Question:** What will happen to the innocent people on the Island of Borneo who have never heard about Jesus Christ?
- **Answer:** They will go to Heaven.
- **Reality:** There are no innocent people on the Island of Borneo or anywhere on planet Earth.
- **Romans 3:23** – *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*
- **Romans 3:10-12** – *None is righteous; no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.*
- We are all guilty before a holy God!!! There are no innocent people in the world!! If everyone were to spend an eternity in hell eternally separated from God, God would be fully just. As a matter of fact, if God doesn't judge all sin, then He is NOT just.

4. Insights about what people actually know about _____.

- **Romans 1:18-25**
- The Bible makes it clear that God has made Himself evident to all people (Ecclesiastes 3:11) and therefore no one has an excuse.
- Michael Houdmann: "In reality, it is not that some people have not heard about God. Rather, the problem is that they have rejected what they have heard and what is readily seen in nature. Deut. 4:29 proclaims, 'But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find Him if you look with all your heart and with all your soul.' This verse teaches an important principle: Everyone who truly seeks after God will find Him. If a person truly desires to know God, God will make Himself known."

5. Insights about _____.

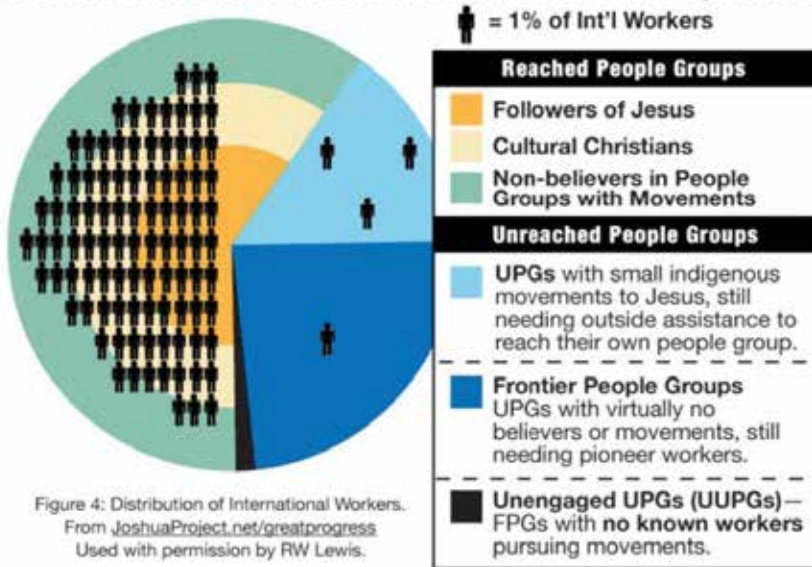
- The Gospel ("Good News") is:
 - GOD'S LOVE: God loves you and created you to know Him personally. He has a wonderful plan for your life! (John 3:16; 17:3)
 - OUR CONDITION: People are sinful and separated from God, so we cannot know Him personally or experience His love and plan. (Romans 3:23; 6:23)

- GOD'S RESPONSE: Jesus Christ is God's only provision for our sin. Through Him alone we can know God personally and experience God's love and plan. (Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3-6; John 14:6)
- OUR RESPONSE: We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know God personally and experience His love and plan. (John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; Revelation 3:20; 1 John 5:11-13)
- **The Answer to the Fairness Question:** To fully understand the answer to the fairness question, we must fully understand the holiness and justice and love of God and fully understand our sin problem. Holiness cannot be in the presence of sin – that is what is going to make heaven so amazing. Justice demands that sin be dealt with according to its true severity – rebellion against the God of the universe. There are no innocent persons on Earth. We have all rebelled against our holy God, and we all deserve eternal death and separation from God (which is hell). Love fulfills the demands of justice by placing the punishment of sin upon God's Son as our substitute. Jesus absorbed the punishment of all our sins. Jesus also lived a perfect life. He offers everyone the Great Exchange – He exchanges our sins for His righteousness. When we place our faith in Him, Jesus forgives all our sins, and Jesus deposits all of His righteousness into our spiritual bank account. In some ways, this is NOT FAIR – Jesus is being punished for our sins. But it IS FAIR in that justice is being fulfilled – the punishment of sin is being upheld. That is FAIR!!
- Jesus is the ONLY answer to the sin problem.
- **Galatians 2:21** (NLT) – *I do not treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die.*
- **John 14:6** – *I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.* (See also Acts 4:12).
- Bottom line: We don't get to decide who is saved; we get to tell them who can save.

6. Insights about the _____.

- God's solution to those who have never heard is us!!!! He has entrusted us (2 Cor 6:1) with the task of telling all people on planet Earth the Gospel of how they can be saved:
- **Matthew 28:18-20** – *All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*
- Hoarding food and hoarding the Gospel (2 Kings 6:24-7:20)
- **Romans 15:20** – *It has always been my ambition to preach the Gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.*
- The 6 unreached people groups (UPGs) that GF has adopted: Raj*put (India), A*far (Ethiopia), Azer*baijani (Azerbaijan), Ban*jar, Bug*is, and Makas*ar (Indonesia). Lord willing, Grace Fellowship will adopt its 7th UPG in November 2026.

Location of International Workers Relative to World Population



My Application – My response to what I've heard today is...

- ☐ I'm going to let God be God. I'm going to trust that His fairness & justice are beautiful and beyond my current full understanding (1 Corinth 13:12).
- ☐ I'm going to embrace the Gospel for my own life acknowledging that I am not innocent (I am sinful) and that I need a Savior. I embrace Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord and receive His full forgiveness and His gift of righteousness.
- ☐ I am going to share this Good News with everyone I know as a lifestyle and by praying for my Top Ten List daily.
- ☐ I am going to sign up for faith-share training through local outreach or FriendSpeak. WhatIsGrace.org/Faith-Sharing
- ☐ I am going to get informed about our 6 UPGs and pray for them regularly. WhatIsGrace.org/Global-Missions
- ☐ I am going to join in Global Week of Prayer Sept. 6-13 to cover our UPGs in prayer. WhatIsGrace.org/Prayer
- ☐ I am going to consider going long-term to a UPG myself. Meet the missions team and ask questions today at the front left after each service or contact Missions Pastor Kelley at KKerr@WhatIsGrace.org
- ☐ I am going to go on a cross-cultural mission trip some time in the next year: WhatIsGrace.org/Missions and click on "Mission Trips." Most 2027 trips will roll out dates in Nov 2026.
- ☐ I'm going to participate in Church Has Left the Building on Oct 18 and live out my faith in our community. WhatIsGrace.org/CHLB

Bottom Line: We don't get to decide who is saved; we get to tell them who can save.



You're Invited to **CONNECTING** at Grace

Two Sundays. One great experience.

Whether you're brand new to Grace Fellowship or ready to get more involved (ENGAGE, GROW, and SERVE), this experience will help you build relationships, find community and feel more at home.

You're invited to Two Sundays
Sunday, September 13 and 20 | 12:45-2:30PM

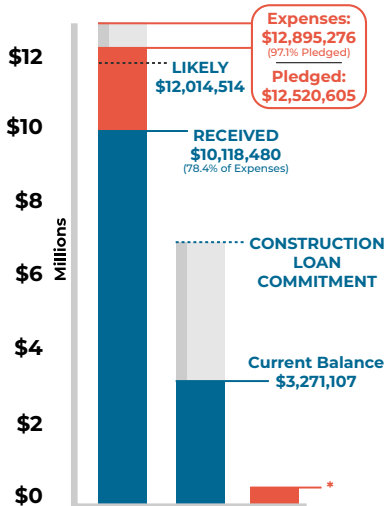
In the Chapel at The Gathering Place

Lunch and childcare are included both Sundays

Register today! Visit the Welcome Center or scan the QR Code. Our pastors and ministry leaders look forward to meeting you!



**MAKE
ROOM
FOR GRACE**

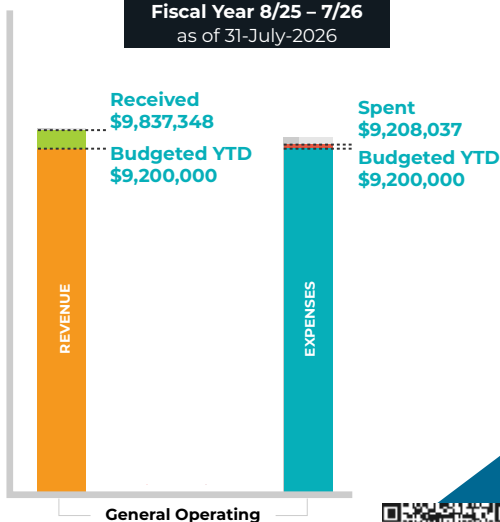


Expenses:
\$12,895,276
(97.1% Pledged)
Pledged:
\$12,520,605

Make Room For Grace

**MRFG Cash on Hand \$560,055*

General Operating
Fiscal Year 8/25 - 7/26
as of 31-July-2026



General Operating

Join us for a review of detailed financials and Q&A with our Board Finance Chair, Operations Pastor, and Finance Director.



GLOBAL WEEK OF *PRAYER*

At the Name of Jesus



**Kicks off today!
SEPTEMBER 6-13**

We're joining the Global Church that will be praying non-stop in every nation on Earth in the Global Week of Prayer. We sense God's invitation to unite together to lift up the name of Jesus at a Prayer Gathering each night from 7-8PM, Monday-Friday, and then a non-stop Prayer Gathering Burn on Saturday from 8AM-6PM.

More details at
WhatIsGrace.org/Prayer



CHURCH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON
MONDAY, SEPT 7 IN OBSERVANCE OF

LABOR DAY



BAPTISMS

Sunday • Sept 13

More info and registration at
WhatIsGrace.org/Baptism



Grace Fellowship MEN'S RETREAT

October 2-3 | Stoney Creek Ranch



**Register today!
Price increases
after Sept 15.**

