



Grace Bible Fellowship

APRIL 2023

A Witness to His Resurrection

A few moments before His ascension, Christ commissions His disciples with these words, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Empowered by the Spirit, the disciples were to spread the good news of Jesus Christ everywhere they went. It was no small task for a band of 11 men. How could they go to the end of the earth with this great message? They had no modern transportation or digital communication devices at their disposal. With no television, no social media, and not even a radio to help them, it was a tall order for such ordinary, uneducated men (see Acts 4:13). Yet, as unimpressive as they were and as inadequate as they might have been, they were to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit who would help them in the face of this daunting assignment. Jesus knew they needed divine, supernatural power to be faithful witnesses. There was just one other little problem that needed fixing.

They required twelve men, but they only had eleven. Judas Iscariot, one of the original twelve, betrayed Jesus and became a guide to those who arrested Him (Acts 1:16). Subsequently, Judas killed himself and so fulfilled Psalm 69:25. Now, the disciples needed to find a replacement for him, "Let another take his office" (Acts 1:20; Psalm 109:8). Weren't eleven men enough? What difference would one more make? Twelve apostles were necessary because Jesus had chosen twelve men in His ministry to reconstitute Israel, the people of God. Just as there were twelve sons of Jacob and twelve tribes of Israel, Jesus appointed twelve apostles to signal a new era in redemptive history so the people of God would be complete.

The replacement for Judas, however, needed to meet one vital qualification. He had to have been present with Jesus from the time of Jesus' baptism to His ascension. Specifically, it says he must have witnessed Christ's resurrection (Acts 1:22). The apostles were Spirit-empowered witnesses who testified that Jesus had risen from the dead. The center of the apostolic witness, which was to reach the end of the earth, was the resurrection of Christ. Not only was it a message of the forgiveness of sin and salvation, but it presented people with the hope of living in a resurrection reality. Now because of salvation *in Christ*, people no longer have to live a life leading to death. Instead, they can walk in the newness of life, leading to resurrection. Matthias was chosen, according to God's divine providence, to bear witness to the resurrection of Christ with the eleven.

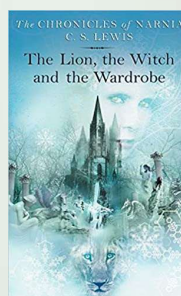
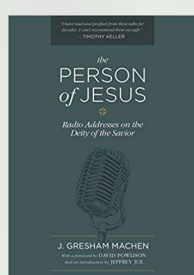
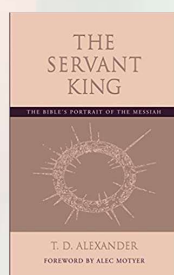
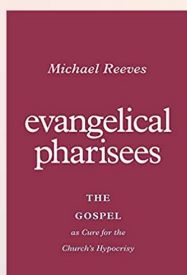


The apostolic witness to the resurrection of Jesus does not stop with the twelve apostles. It does not mean there are "apostles" today, but the teaching and the witness of the apostles continue through faithful gospel proclamation in the church. The Apostle Paul says the church is "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone" (Eph. 2:20). We are still to bear witness to the resurrection and hold fast to the testimony of Jesus (Rev. 12:17; 19:10). We are still to take the good news of a resurrection reality to the end of the earth. It makes a difference in a world where people live a life leading to death to hear, "He is risen, He is risen indeed!" We must live in this reality as Christians who possess the joy and hope of a future resurrection when Christ returns. Like the necessary qualification for the twelfth disciple, may we see the necessity of bearing witness to Christ's resurrection each and every day.

*In Christ,
Pastor Tyler*

Pastor's Suggested Reading

- Evangelical Pharisees - Michael Reeves
- The Servant King - T.D. Alexander
- The Person of Jesus - J. Gresham Machen
- Comfort for Christians - Arthur W. Pink (Library)
- The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe - C.S. Lewis (Library)



Upcoming at Grace...

April 1st

Spring Clean-Up 9am-Noon

April 2nd

Palm Sunday
(Stack Chairs After Service)

April 3rd

Full Church Carpet Cleaning @8:30am

April 5th

No Bible Study

April 7th

Good Friday Service @ 6:30pm

April 8th

Sanctuary Chair Set-Up @9am

April 9th

Resurrection Sunday – Worship @10am
No Sunday School

April 16th

Prayer Service @5pm

April 12, 19, 26

Bible Study @6:30pm (All Ages)

April 30th

Fellowship Meal (Spring Picnic)

May 6th

Men's Breakfast & Book Discussion
8-10am (Chapters 3&4)

Prayers & Petitions

Our Ministry Volunteers

Elders/Deacons

Pastor Tyler, Eric, Jason, and Jeff

Ministry Volunteers

Pastor Tyler & Alyssa, Eric & Andi, Judy, Paul & Renée, Dennis & Lori, John & Mary, Valerie, Dan & Christine, Aaron, Christian, Graeham, Matt & Rebekah, Lenny, Jason & Amanda, Jeff & Jill, Yessie, Patty, Kris, Kailee, Evangeline, Caleb, Lydia, & Marcos.

Sunday School Teachers

Pastor Tyler Sultze, Jason Lafferty: Adult

Amanda Lafferty: 3rd – 8th grade

Elder Eric Bjerkaas: Pre-K – 2nd grade

- † Pray for our church leadership (Pastor Tyler, Eric, Jason, and Jeff) as they continue to shepherd us. Pray the Lord would grant them wisdom, discernment, boldness, and patience. Pray for Deacon nominees as they pray about and contemplate this calling. Pray the Lord would make clear who is fit to hold this office within the church here at Grace Bible Fellowship and that He would raise up these men to serve.
- † Pray for our Sunday school teachers as they continue to teach. Pray the Lord would sustain them as they prepare, pray, and teach each week. Prepare their students hearts to receive the Word.
- † Pray for our church. Pray we would be a place where the gospel is proclaimed with boldness and love. Pray that we would remain faithful to reading, studying, and sharing the gospel. Pray we would be a place that encourages meaningful discipleship and spiritual growth among our brothers and sisters.
- † Praise the Lord Denice Lafferty is back to work and continues daily to trust the Lord for her strength. Thank you for all of your prayers during her surgery and recovery.
- † Pray for John Lindenmeyer's health and strength in his daily walk with the Lord.
- † Pray for Doris Forgy as she recovers from her second knee surgery on March 29th. Pray the Lord would sustain her while she heals and goes through this process again.

- † Pray for Amanda Lafferty's recovery from wrist surgery on Friday, March 31. Pray the Lord would grant her patience and endurance while she heals and strengthens her hand and wrist in the coming month.
- † Continue to pray for Judy's health and strength. May the Lord's love and grace toward her give her the daily mercy she needs.
- † Pray for Hank and Lollie VandeWerken as they are having a hard time walking and are trusting the Lord to provide for their physical and spiritual needs daily.
- † Pray for the single men and women in our church. Pray they would see the sufficiency of Christ and would earnestly seek His face in their times of loneliness or waiting.
- † Pray for our youth and young adults. Pray that they would see the Lord is always worthy of their time and study. Pray that we as a church would guide them and encourage them in their walk.
- † Continue praying for Yessie/Jose/Marcos' Uncle Max as he is still on the transplant list.
- † Pray for our missionaries Karl & Glynn Peterson, Destin & Jennifer Detwiler, and Sillas & Wanger Campos. Pray the Lord would sustain and guide them while He softens the hearts of those who hear the Word shared by them. Pray the Lord would open doors for them that have been closed before and that as they travel, the Lord would provide safety and rest.

DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST,

Warm Christian greetings!

The highlight of this month is our annual Women's Bible Conference! This year's subject was the book of Esther. God used several Brazilian speakers and Jen Oshman, a pastor's wife, mom, and author of **Enough About Me** (Crossway); we recommend her weekly podcast called **All Things**. More than 1,700 women from all over Brazil were blessed by this investment.



Now, about the two annual pastor's conference in Mozambique, we covet your prayers. Dr. Woodrow and missionary Karl Peterson, through **Grace Mission**, are responsible for the promotion and fundraising for the conference in Nampula, the interior of the country; while **Fiel Ministry** is responsible for the conference in Maputo, capital of Mozambique.

Unfortunately, this year, Fiel's budget does not allow us to practice this investment. We estimate that to have a conference for 250 people we will need \$25,000 dollars to cover the expenses with the venue, meal plans, visas, and air travel for the speakers, local expenses, and subsidize the costs for all Mozambican pastors. Please, pray about it!

And if you wish to contribute, please send your deposit to **Christian Literature Advance**

Account number: 000772249762

Routing number: 053904483

Memo: Mozambique Conference 2023

-Please, inform us via email at sillas@ibcentral.org.br with the date of the deposit and its designation.

Folks, thank you for your prayers and faithful support!

Love you in Christ!

Sillas & Wanger Campos

PRAYING FRIENDS AT GRACE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP,

March 30 – April 10

- I'll be in Mozambique teaching a seminar and preaching on Palm Sunday in the city of Chimoio and then preaching a few times at a church conference on Easter weekend in the capital city, Maputo where our former colleagues Patrick and Grace Mulenga serve.

April 10 – April 14

- Back in Cape Town teaching a missiology class at BISA using this great book as the course text.

April 14 – May 1 in Zambia

- Teaching a week-long class on "Proverbs for Pastors" (how to understand, teach, and use the book of Proverbs in ministry) at the Mongu Ministerial College in a small town on the Zambezi River.
- Teaching another "Proverbs for Pastors" week-long module in the capital city at the Lusaka Ministerial College. These two colleges are run by the Reformed Baptist churches in Zambia.
- Teaching at Lusaka Baptist Church's mission conference on African Urban Missions working through the letter of 1 Thessalonians.
- Preaching in churches and giving a seminar for Zambian church planters. I'll teach on nurturing your own soul as you nurture the souls of others.
- I always love the numerous one-on-one conversations I have with church leaders in the off hours.

Pray for

- God's blessing on these lectures, seminars, sermons, and conversations.
- Safety in travel and all the logistics of the journey.
- For me as I'll miss my dear wife, Glynn, during these weeks away.

As always, thank you dear saints for your faithful support of us and our work through your prayers and last month's generous gift.

"Put into action the generosity that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ" (Philemon 1:6).

Karl Peterson

APRIL 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
The administrative office will be closed from April 3-April 14 due to Amanda's surgery.						Spring Clean-up 9am-12
2 Palm Sunday	3	4	5	6	7 Good Friday	8
Sunday School @9am Worship @10am			NO BIBLE STUDY		Good Friday Service @ 6:30pm	Replace Chairs in Sanctuary @ 9am
9 Resurrection Sunday	10	11	12	13	14	15
Worship @10am			Bible Study @ 6:30pm			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Sunday School @9am Worship @10am Prayer Service @5pm		Board Meeting @ 6:30pm	Bible Study @ 6:30pm			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Sunday School @9am Worship @10am			Bible Study @ 6:30pm			
30						
Sunday School @9am Worship @10am Picnic Fellowship Meal						

Happy Birthday

3rd – Bonnie Claudnic

10th – Linda Ridley

12th – Lydia Bjerkaas

