Our Vision: Building Christ-centered family in *missional* community

Application HC Questions: seeking the “welfare” of our city –

- Have you considered moving away from the city? Why?

- What might occur if a majority of the Christians move away from the city when statistically a majority of people worldwide are moving into the city?

- According to Jeremiah 29:4-7, what is the most compelling reason for you to remain in the Seattle area? And how could we better seek after the welfare of the city? [Brainstorm...]

- With City Serve coming up again on August 18th, should we make plans to serve together that day? A “family of serving missionaries” serving together as a Home Community...

- What ways can we follow up related to City Serve (e.g., related to Abhor Heights Elementary, Sealth High School, Sanislo Elementary, or your child’s local school, their teachers, their friends)?

Reading of Jeremiah 29:1-14 –

**Reading of Jeremiah 29:1-14 – © 597 BC, the 2nd Exile**

Jeremiah 29:1  *These are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.*  

2 This was after King Jeconiah and the queen mother, the eunuchs, the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the metal workers had departed from Jerusalem.  

3 The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.

The Purpose of the Letter:

1. Rebuke the false prophets (see Jeremiah 8:11; 29:8-9).

2. Reassure the Jews; the LORD is with them (see Jeremiah 29:11).

3. Give the Jews instructions about what to do while in exile...

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1 Note: beginning the week of August 12 –September 9, the focus of our HC questions will guide us in how to be a “family of serving missionaries”.

**BI:** Seek the “Welfare” of the city: Live, Serve, Pray.
• **LIVE** in the city, settle down & engage, don’t withdraw & separate:

> Jeremiah 29:3b  
> 
> “Thus says the **LORD** of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:
> 
> 4 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce.  
> 5 Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease.”

• **SERVE** the city, don’t assimilate their values, but seek their “welfare”:

> Jeremiah 29:7  
> 
> “But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the **LORD** on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.”

  - The **LORD** God sent them into exile (see v. 4 & 7)
  - Christians live in **exile** (see James 1:1; 1 Peter 1:1; 2:11)
  - Seek the “welfare” of the city = **shalom**

  ▪ This is a major reason the **LORD** sent them in exile.

  ▪ This is a major reason the **NT** speaks of us as exiles.

• **PRAY** for the city, seek the **LORD** for “shalom”:

> Jeremiah 29:7b  
> 
> “...and pray to the **LORD** on its behalf...”

10 “For thus says the **LORD**: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.  
11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the **LORD**, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.  
12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.  
13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.  
14 I will be found by you, declares the **LORD**, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the **LORD**, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.”

  - “Shalom” for the Jews depended on seeking the **LORD**:

    “In seeking God we must search for him, accomplish a diligent search, search for directions in seeking him and encouragements to our faith and hope. We must continue seeking, and take pains in seeking, as those that search; and this we must do with our heart (that is, in sincerity and uprightness), and with our whole heart (that is, with vigour and fervency, putting forth all that is within us in prayer), and those who thus seek God shall find him, and shall find him their bountiful rewar...” – Matthew Henry

  - Restoration was a promise, yet the Jews had a role in their own restoration:

    “When Daniel understood that the 70 years were near expiring, then he set his face with more fervency than ever to seek the Lord.” – Matthew Henry

  - Only in **Christ** do we find the power of restoration to shalom:

    ▪ Jesus as “Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6)
    ▪ Jesus as “King of Peace” (Zechariah 9:9-10)
    ▪ Through the cross we have peace (Colossian 1:19-20)
    ▪ We are ambassadors of this message (2 Cor. 5:17-21)
Consider inviting Joel & Betsy to share with your Home Community group in July. For info. contact Carolyn Watson (206) 225-3753
CONNECT
Welcome to Grace! Thanks for joining us today. Feel free to bring your coffee into worship and make yourself comfortable. Take a deep breath, clear your head, and prepare your heart and mind to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Grace Church is committed to living authentically in relationship with God and others. Together we strive to meet the needs here and around the world. To learn more, grab a booklet from the desk in the foyer.

If you would like us to follow up with you, feel free to fill out this form, tear it out and drop it at the Welcome Center or in the offering plate.

today’s date 
name 
I am a guest of 
address 
phone 
phone (cell) 
email

☐ How to begin a relationship with Jesus
☐ Want to know more about Grace
☐ Interested in joining a Home Community
☐ Interested in serving at Grace if so where?
☐ Address/info change
☐ Add me to the church email list
☐ Interested in baptism
☐ Interested in membership

THIS WEEK AT GRACE
SUNDAY, JULY 29
7:00 am  Prayer in the Upper Room
10:30 am  WORSHIP CELEBRATION
Classes provided downstairs for nursery-3rd grade.
Kids activity sheets at the Welcome Center desk.
12:00 pm  City Serve at Arbor Heights Elementary
7:00 pm  MS & HS Youth Group - Grace foyer

MONDAY, JULY 30
Church Office open 9 am to 4 pm

TUESDAY, JULY 31
Church Office open 9 am to 4 pm

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1
Church Office open 9 am to 4 pm
8:30 am  Hands on Ministry - various

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2
Church Office open 9 am to 4 pm

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3
Church Office closed

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4
Church Office closed

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5
7:00 am  Prayer in the Upper Room
10:30 am  WORSHIP CELEBRATION
7:00 pm  MS & HS Youth Group - crowded house

YOUTH MISSIONS TRIP UPDATE
Everything is coming together and God is in it! Keep us in your prayer and thanks for your support! If you would like to gift some deflated (new) soccer balls, hacky sacks, Spanish Bibles and/or Sounder’s Soccer SWAG so we can do ministry on the block, contact Pastor Lucas (509-496-8003). Or leave it in the office. We leave Saturday August 4. ¡Dios es bueno!

HOME COMMUNITY SUPPORTED YOUTH GROUP
During the summer, we are focusing on making teens feel like a part of this church body by having HC’s provide dinner and dine with the teens! So far we have had the Anway/Mooring, Watson/Dillinger, and Hanson/Yeager HC’s support these “bridge-building, finger-lickin’, feasts”!! We are still looking to fill August 5; don’t miss the opportunity to enfold the youth into this church!

HOME COMMUNITIES SUMMER NOTE
Grace Church Home Communities – where a lot of life happens – continue to meet over the summer months, though some are on a lighter schedule. If you’re newer to Grace, it can be hard to get connected during July & August. If that’s you, keep on leaning in and looking for opportunities to connect; we’ll be hitting the “refresh” button on Home Communities in September. (We’ve got a dozen, with one or two new ones in the hopper!). Reach out to Pastor Mark if you’re feeling discouraged or would like help getting connected!

BUDGET THRU 07/22/18
We are $4,437.43
our anticipated YTD giving.
BUDGET YTD $ 44,405.00
GIVING YTD $ 39,967.57
We are at 90% of budget

GRACE CHURCH exists to LOVE God & people,
PROCLAIM Christ, BUILD community,
EQUIP the saints, MULTIPLY ministers,
and missionally SEND out followers of Christ to
be the Church wherever we are.

CITYSERVE WEST SEATTLE PROJECT IS TODAY from 12-4pm at Arbor Heights Elementary!
Together with Arbor Heights Community Church, willing workers from Grace Church will converge on Arbor Heights Elementary School to do needed projects on the grounds and in the classrooms.
☐ Join together serving our local elementary school, in Jesus’ Name!
☐ Lunch and childcare provided!
☐ Bring your gardening tools & gloves
☐ Opportunity to collaborate with another church in West Seattle

THANK YOU PAINTING VOLUNTEERS
A HUGE thank you to the volunteers who ‘adopted’ and painted our children’s classes last week! You were so helpful!!

MENS ROUNDUP SEP 7-9 SAVE THE DATE!
Men’s Roundup is a Christian men’s camping retreat and conference held in a forested mountaintop setting at Camp Tadmor in Lebanon, Oregon. Men are encouraged to believe, obey, connect, and lead. Roundup features an inspiring primary speaker, well-known guest artists and musicians, biblical teachers leading action workshop breakout sessions, great food, and opportunities for guys to worship, learn, grow, and connect with other guys. See Paul Lang for more details. You can reach him at plang1a@comcast.net or (206) 240-8528 .Visit http://mensroundup.com