

STORIES OF GRACE

Members of our church family share their stories of Grace.
Justin and Julie Walter share their story of Grace during his 2013 deployment.



Trying to relate how God has shown His grace always seems like an overwhelming task, a little like trying to pick from 99 flavors of ice cream, because there are so many good choices. But we've selected a

few examples of His grace in our lives in the past year that stand out in our minds.

As Justin's deployment drew near at the end of 2013, we both wondered how our family would handle the time apart. Julie worried about assuming the responsibilities that Justin normally carried, especially with a fourth Walter on the way. Justin was concerned about this and anxious about being able to do a job overseas that he had only ever performed, at best, part time. We both knew that God would be faithful, but shared the concern of wondering how He would do it.

Looking back, it is reassuring to see how God's Grace was revealed in His people during this time. We had great support from family and The Family. Julie is especially grateful for the support she received from her parents and from those here at Grace Brethren Church. From odd jobs around the house that needed to be done to helping with our son James on Sundays and Wednesdays, others took the time to help bear the burdens of a pregnant single mother (Galatians 6:2).

Of course, no list of blessings this year would be complete without our second son Jackson, who was born in March and has been a unique source of joy all by himself. The pregnancy itself was also a blessing because Julie experienced minimal

discomfort and few complications, which were both answers to prayer. Even labor and delivery went smoothly.

Justin was surprised by an unexpected reassignment when he arrived in Afghanistan. Initially, Justin did not want to be reassigned.

Ultimately, partly because of where he was working, Justin was able to come home much earlier than expected and was able to see Jackson just two weeks after he was born.

Even through circumstances that we might not choose, God remains always faithful. Julie often reminded herself of the truth in Hebrews 13:8 that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever regardless of what might happen during the deployment. Justin was thankful for the promise in Psalm 139 that we can never go too far for God. Together we thank God for His Grace, and for you our church family, so often the vessel for that Grace.



The Walter Family
Justin, Julie, James, and Jackson