

GRACE TODAY

Vol. 19 No. 50

December 13, 2015

John MacArthur
PASTOR-TEACHER

Clayton Erb / Minister of Music

Welcome to the Lord's day
worship service at Grace Church.

We are truly blessed to be here
this morning as we open God's
Word together, sing His praises,
and enjoy a time of fellowship
in His presence.

Be sure to take advantage of
the many fellowship and ministry
opportunities available to
our church family today and
throughout the week.



8:30 & 10:30* am*For Unto Us* • Handel • Stephen Sturz, Organist*Hymn 132 Angels We Have Heard on High* • Congregation*A Trilogy of Carols* • Trad./Maddux-Rice • String Orchestra, Woodwinds*Christmas Hymn* • Grant-Smith/Fetke-Grassi-Mauldin • Worship Choir*Hymn 133 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* • Congregation*Gesu Bambino* • Yon/Krogstad • Grace Chung**JOHN MACARTHUR PREACHING****Communion***Joy to the World!* • Handel/Beck • Organ Postlude**6:00 pm***Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* • Mendelssohn/Mott-Galbraith • Instrumental Prelude*Songs of Praise* • Congregation*Winter Snow* • Assad/Spacht • Tricia Hulet*Baptism* • Austin Duncan*Child of Light* • Sterling • Ensemble Sine NomineMESSAGE: **WHY WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS****Nathan Busenitz • Hebrews 2:9–18***The First Noël* • Trad./Sturz • Organ Postlude

* Interpreting for the deaf is provided during the 10:30 a.m. service.

Arabic translation for the 10:30 a.m. service is available at gracechurch.org/live.**Anthem****Christmas Hymn**

Praise to God whose love was shown, who sent His Son to earth.
 Jesus left His rightful throne, became a man by birth.
 The virgin's baby Son, all creation praised Him, God Incarnate,
 Come adore Him.

Still a higher call had He, deliverance from our sins.
 Come to set all people free, from Satan's hold within.
 For by the sin of man, we fell;
 By the Son of God He crushed the power of hell,
 Death we fear no more!

Now we stand with strength, with power—the sons of God on earth.
 Faithful to the final hour, Christ's righteousness our worth.
 And now all praise be given,
 For the Babe, the Son, the Savior King is risen,
 Christ is Lord indeed.

Praise to God!
 Praise to God whose love was shown,
 Praise to our God!

©1983 Meadowgreen Music Co., and Word Music LLC (admin. by EMICMGPublishing.com).
 UBP. CCLI Lic. 32723

Words and music by Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith

Campus Ministries

THE WELCOME CENTER hosts a reception for visitors following each Sunday-morning service. Enjoy refreshments and find helpful people with answers to any questions you have about our church. You'll also receive one of Pastor MacArthur's books as a thank you for being with us today.

THE MEMBER CENTER has information about membership and baptism. It is located on the north side of the Heritage Building, across from the Welcome Center.

Next Membership Class • January 3
101 • 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. • T66 (basement)

THE PRAYER ROOM is staffed with counselors, ready to offer pastoral care. It is open after every service, and is adjacent to the Worship Center.

Generations of Grace Children's Sunday School

The following lesson was taught **today** in Sunday School (Preschool through Juniors)



MESSAGE **God Reveals the Messiah**

PASSAGE **Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 1:26–38**

PRINCIPLE **Jesus is Savior and Lord and deserves all our worship.**

HYMN OF THE MONTH **"O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

ASK YOUR CHILD **What is important about the names Immanuel, Savior, and Son of the Most High?**

APPLY **By obeying Jesus Christ as Lord and God.**

THIS WEEK **As a family, read Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 1:26–38**

NEXT WEEK **Matthew 2:1–18**

On GraceWalk

- **Fundamentals of the Faith**
- **Local Outreach**

On the Patio

- **Grace Advance**
- **Juniors Winter Camp**
- **Missionary Calendar**
- **Spanish Ministries**
(by the Chapel)

Bookstore

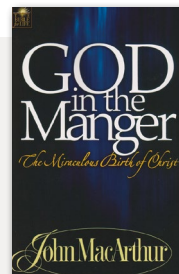
The Bookstore is open after each service and during the week. It is located on the south side of the Worship Center.

HIGHLIGHT

GOD IN THE MANGER **THE MIRACULOUS BIRTH OF CHRIST**

by John MacArthur

Available today for 25% off retail price



Grace to You

RADIO gtv.org/radio

The Jesus of Christmas

- KKLA 99.5 FM LOS ANGELES M–F 6:30 am & 7:30 pm
- KDAR 98.3 FM OXNARD-VENTURA M–F 2:00 & 10:00 am; Sun 2:00 am

TELEVISION gtv.org/television

"Christmas Future"

- NRB Network CHANNEL 378 ON DIRECTV Sunday 6:30 pm

ONLINE gtv.org

- Sunday sermons
- Audio archive: John MacArthur's pulpit ministry
- Resource library: books, study guides, videos, Q&As

All audio is available for free listening or downloading.

Adapted from the Generations of Grace Family Devotional, available at the bookstore.

Coming Alongside Our GRACE ADVANCE

GRACE ADVANCE was formed to respond to churches that are in need

Grace Community Church has been a pillar of faithfulness to the Lord Jesus Christ for more than fifty years, so it's natural that churches looking for help contact us. In fact, Grace Advance was formed to respond to churches that are in need—both existing congregations requiring revitalization and core groups desiring to form new congregations.

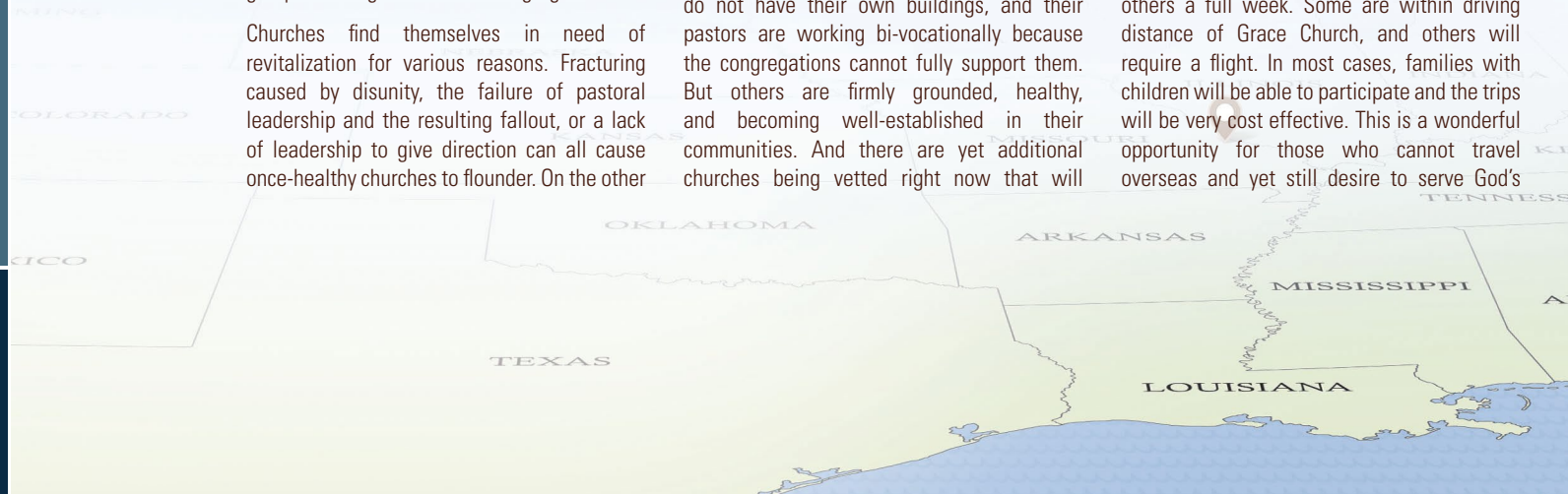
Churches find themselves in need of revitalization for various reasons. Fracturing caused by disunity, the failure of pastoral leadership and the resulting fallout, or a lack of leadership to give direction can all cause once-healthy churches to flounder. On the other

hand, core groups are motivated to contact us because there is a lack of biblical teaching in their areas. This results in a desire to plant new churches that will meet the spiritual needs of the groups as well as those of their communities.

Today, twenty-five fully autonomous churches exist in North America because Grace Church responded to the needs of the body of Christ through the formation of Grace Advance. Many of these churches are still very young—they do not have their own buildings, and their pastors are working bi-vocationally because the congregations cannot fully support them. But others are firmly grounded, healthy, and becoming well-established in their communities. And there are yet additional churches being vetted right now that will

hopefully become Grace Advance churches and begin to thrive to the glory of Christ.

We're pleased to announce the launch of a Grace Advance ministry support program, an exciting new opportunity for members of our Grace Church family to come alongside these developing churches in person. Under the aegis of Grace Advance, starting in the summer of 2016 we will begin making short-term ministry trips to our GA churches throughout North America. Some trips will be long weekends, others a full week. Some are within driving distance of Grace Church, and others will require a flight. In most cases, families with children will be able to participate and the trips will be very cost effective. This is a wonderful opportunity for those who cannot travel overseas and yet still desire to serve God's



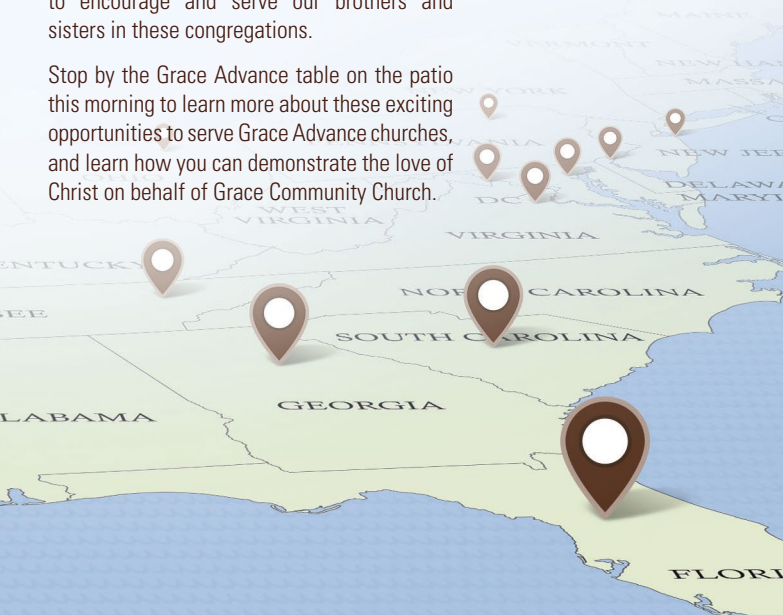
Churches

people as the physical hands and feet of Christ on behalf of Grace Church.

Similar to international STM teams, these domestic support teams will do things like lead Vacation Bible Schools, help renovate church facilities, conduct community outreach, and much more. There will be many opportunities to encourage and serve our brothers and sisters in these congregations.

Stop by the Grace Advance table on the patio this morning to learn more about these exciting opportunities to serve Grace Advance churches, and learn how you can demonstrate the love of Christ on behalf of Grace Community Church.

**For more information about
Grace Advance or ministry
support trips, visit
www.graceadvance.org.**



Christmas Concert

December 17–20

Thursday & Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, 2:00 & 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, 6:00 p.m.

**Worship Choir • Symphonic Orchestra
Vocal Solos & Ensembles • Handbell Choir
Children's Choir**

Call 818-909-5670 or go to gracechurch.org/concert for more information.
Child care is available for children five years old and younger.

2016 Missionary Calendar

The 2016 Missionary Calendar is available on the patio this morning.

One per family, please.



Grace Around the World

John & Meg Glass

Serving in **Switzerland** since **1986**



Prayer / Praise

- Praise God that He has called us to live in this country at a time such as this—to be able to proclaim that good news of Jesus Christ to those we encounter.
- Pray for our annual Christmas Concerts in Geneva, Zurich, and Romania. This is one of the ways we are proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ.



Faith Promise

Last week you generously gave **\$44,336**. Thank you for your ongoing support of our missionaries and their ministries around the world.

Local Outreach Spotlight

Retirement Home Ministry

Sundays, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

On Sunday afternoons teams of volunteers visit two assisted-living facilities in Northridge. They provide a worship service with songs, Scripture reading, exhortation, and a short sermon. This is a wonderful opportunity to build relationships and minister to the fainthearted. For more information call 818-909-5721.

Homebound Ministry

Remember to let the homebound members of our church family know that you care about and are praying for them during the Christmas season. Drop off your cards and notes at the Information window at the Welcome Center by next Sunday (December 20).

Juniors Winter Camp January 8–10 • Forest Home

To register or for more information, visit the patio table on Sunday mornings or gracechurch.org/childrens.

Junior High Winter Camp January 1–3 • Thousand Pines

For details or to register, visit xchangeministry.com.

Logos Institute *Classes starting in January*

The Rescue of the Bride: A Study of the Church and Salvation

January 11–February 22

The Beginning of Us: A Study of Genesis through Deuteronomy

January 11–February 22

Contemporary Issues and Theology, Part 2

January 19–February 9

They Will Know That I Am God: A Study of the Book of Ezekiel

January 23–30

Discipleship Counseling, Level 1

January 11–April 11

Discipleship Counseling: Level 2

January 13–April 13

For more information or to register, visit gracechurch.org/logos.

High School Winter Camp January 16–18 • Forest Home

For details or to register, visit gracechurch.org/oneighty.

Hymn Sing December 27 • 6:00 p.m.

Join us as we introduce the new Grace Church hymnal for the very first time.

Joyful Givers 2015 Tax Information

All contributions for calendar year 2015 must be received by the church no later than our December 27 offering or postmarked no later than December 31, 2015. The church campus will be closed for the holidays December 24–25, 2015, and December 28, 2015–January 1, 2016. Contributions received after Sunday, December 27, 2015, or postmarked after December 31, 2015, will be recorded in 2016. The elders, pastors, and church staff thank each of you for faithfully and sacrificially giving to the Lord.

Job Opportunity

Web Programmer. Grace to You has an immediate opening for a Web programmer knowledgeable in ASP.NET C#, MSSQL, Javascript, and related technologies. This individual must give close attention to details, communicate effectively, and work well independently and within a small team. For an application, please contact Gabriel Powell at 661-295-5777, or email gpowell@gty.org.

With the Lord

Sarkis Instanbulian and **Pearl Sincock** recently went to be with the Lord. Please remember their families in your prayers.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His godly ones. —Psalm 116:15

8:30 a.m.

Children's Sunday School
Visit the Welcome Center
for room locations.
Pastor: Mike Johnston

Cornerstone
(All ages) T371
Pastors: Nathan Busenitz,
Justin Harris, Mark Tatlock

Doulos (Young families &
singles) T361
Pastor: Carl Hargrove

FaithBuilders (All ages) T261
Pastor: Bill Shannon

GraceLife (All ages)
Family Center
Pastors: Phil Johnson,
Mike Riccardi

Junior High (Grades 7–8)
T73 (Basement)
Pastor: Jay Lennington

Mentally Disabled
CC130 (east)
Pastor: Rick McLean

**Spanish Adult Sunday
School** H221-222
Teachers: Josiah Grauman,
Angel Cardoza

Spanish Worship Service
Chapel
Pastors: Henry Tolopilo,
Michael Mahoney

10:30 a.m.

Children's Sunday School
Visit the Welcome Center
for room locations.
Pastor: Mike Johnston

Crossroads
(College & young adults)
Family Center
Pastor: Austin Duncan

High School (Grades 9–12)
T73 (Basement)
Pastor: Josh Petras

Joint Heirs (All ages) T261
Pastors: Tom Patton, John Street

Mainstream (All ages) T361
Pastor: Rich Gregory

Mentally Disabled
CC130 (east)
Pastor: Rick McLean

Sojourners (All ages) T371
Pastor: William Varner

**Spanish Adult Sunday
School** H221–222
Teachers: Ruben Pidal,
Isaias Godoy

Spanish Worship Service
Chapel
Pastors: Henry Tolopilo,
Michael Mahoney

12:30 p.m.

Neighborhood Outreach
T273

5:00 p.m.

Sunday Night Prayer Group
Grace Grill
(next to the Children's Center)

6:00 p.m.

Discovery (Grades 1–6)
Family Center

Discovery Kids (Ages 3–5)
CC134-136

Visit our website at

GRACECHURCH.ORG

Fridays 7:30 p.m.

The Guild (Single adults)
T361
Pastor: Don Carr

Mondays 9:00 a.m.

Monday Morning Prayer Group
Welcome Center

Building Abbreviation Key

T = Tower

H = Heritage

CC = Children's Center

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Administration
818-909-5500

Children
818-909-5631

Logos Institute
818-909-5562

Membership
818-909-5644

Men
818-909-5537

Outreach
818-909-5700

**Pastoral Care &
Counseling**
818-909-5537

Prayer
818-909-5519

Spanish
818-909-5722

Special Ministries
818-909-5519

Student
818-909-5593

Women
818-909-5521

GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

**13248 Roscoe Blvd.
Sun Valley, CA 91352**

*Our mission is to glorify God
and extend His kingdom by
living and proclaiming
His truth in the world.*

Grace Today is published weekly by Grace
Community Church. ©2015 by Grace
Community Church. Scripture, unless
otherwise noted, is taken from the NEW
AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®. © The
Lockman Foundation 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968,
1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995.
Used by permission.