



Words of Grace



Grace Baptist Church 718 Haywood Road Asheville, NC 28806

Volume 14 Number 7 August 9, 2012

Wednesday Nights Are Back!!!

Starting August 15th we will be returning to our regular Wednesday night schedule.

5:00—5:45 Family Supper

5:15—5:45 Girls of Grace

5:30—6:45 Children's Missions

5:45—6:45 Youth

5:45—6:45 Adults Bible Study: *The Life of Paul*

6:15 IMPACT Rehearsal

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Amazing Grace

The Amazing Grace, senior adult group, will be traveling to the Pisgah Inn for lunch and fellowship on August 16th. We will meet at the church at 10:45 am and leave from there.

Splash Country

Anyone who is interested is welcome to join Grace as we travel together to Splash Country in Pigeon Forge, TN on August 14. The cost is \$40 a person or \$15 if you have your own season pass. We will be meeting in the church parking lot at 7:30 am.

A Story of a Mustard Seed

For most certainly I tell you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; Matthew 21:21

Thirty years ago a young girl from Pretoria, South Africa came to Asheville to spend a year in America as an exchange student. That journey was the beginning of this story about a mustard seed. During her year with us she learned a lot about our culture and we learned much about hers. Lizanne (Zanie) had just matriculated (graduated) from high school in South Africa and enrolled to repeat her senior year at Enka High School.

Some of the differences between the actuality of our American every day life and her view prior to coming were surprising and others not so much. This was the time of apartheid in South Africa and we tended to view South Africa as an armed camp with guns everywhere and anger and bitterness between black and white constantly breaking into battle. Several members of Zanie's family advised her not to come because they told her that the teachers and students in America were at war. Here teachers had to teach their class from a bullet proof cubical to protect them from the students.

Naturally there were lots of questions on both sides. Students asked Zanie, "I thought Africans were black. Why aren't you black?" Zanie's straight-faced reply was, "I was. It took me a long time to bleach it out." Another asked, "Do you live in a grass hut?" Her reply, "No, I live in a tree house and ride an elephant to school every day."

Other questions had a harsh cutting edge as though she was personally responsible for all the problems of her country. "Why do you treat the blacks in your country so cruelly? Are they no better than slaves to you?"

Zanie put this question to me on one of our afternoon walks down our road. This was a time for father and daughter to ask and ask questions, no holds barred. "What must I say to them, Dad?" she asked. My advice was to say, "I'm only 18 years old and still have a few years of school ahead. I haven't been able to run the country yet but when I do I plan to correct all those problems."

We later took her to Cherokee to see the play, "Unto These Hills." As we left the theater Zanie turned to me and said, "How can you possibly criticize us?"

Her year with us passed all too swiftly and the time came for her to go back to South Africa. When she left we all wept because she had become family.

As thirty years have passed we have stayed family with visits back and forth and lots of e-mails. Zanie and I have kept our father-daughter relationship over time and from time to time questions and advice have crossed the thousands of miles between us.

Zanie prospered in her home country and in a few years became the de facto advertising manager for Truworths, one of the largest department stores in Southern Africa. When she was passed over for the official position she asked me about starting her own company in the advertising field. E-mails flew back and forth for some time with questions and advice.

Zanie stepped out on faith and started her own company called Mustard Seed Relationship Marketing. (www.mseed.co.za)

It took much courage and hard work. There were many difficult times and we talked about them from time to time.

Even with the struggles of a start up company Zanie's thoughts were not just for herself and her business problems. She had a heart for the masses of poverty stricken people in shanty towns just outside all of South Africa's bigger cities. She saw the children growing up in this environment and wanted to find a way to help.

A few years ago she sent me an e-mail saying that she and Rudi (her husband) were thinking about giving up their jobs and going full time into trying to help the schools where so many of these children were attending. Schools without the very basics like paper and pencils, crayons, books and other everyday necessities. She asked what I thought. My advice to her was, "Zanie, you are very good at what you do. I think you might want to consider as your contact people every day in your business telling them about some of your concerns and ask if they would consider helping in making the lives of these children better." Zanie took this approach and I heard nothing more for a number of years until Zanie and Rudi and Roelf, their son, visited us on Easter a year ago.

While they were here she told me this story:

She pondered ways to carry out her plan to help the school children in the poverty stricken shanty towns and in her pondering she remembered something from her time in America. She remembered Spelling Bees. This was a tiny germ of an idea. Just the beginning of a possibility. Zanie's company's specialty is planning marketing campaign's for shopping centers so she set some of her staff to the task of planning a marketing campaign to interest ten to twelve year old children in participating in a spelling bee. Spelling bees were basically unknown in South Africa.

Her staff put together a program to sell to school officials, teachers and students the idea of a spelling bee. There were to be prizes of course but more than that they had to actually sell the idea to overworked teachers, uninterested students, and others who just didn't care.

The program they worked out had flashy, eye catching advertising to catch the children's attention. There was a story book that the children had to read that contained all the words that the participants would be asked to spell but the children not only had to read the story, they had to look up the words in a dictionary and understand the meaning well enough to use the word in a sentence.

How to get ten to twelve year olds to do all of the work needed to participate.

There were gifts for every child who participated and bigger prizes for winners. When the program was ready Zanie presented the plan to one of the poorest schools on the Western Cape of South Africa. After some persuading the school agreed to participate.

One of the gifts given each child was a parti-colored clown's wig. When some of the children started wearing their wigs others wanted one of their own.

One thing led to another. In just a few year that small seed in one school had grown to include most of the Southern part of South Africa. When Zanie visited us a year ago there were 120 schools participating. In this year the number has grown to 180 schools.

None of these film clips mention Mustard Seed Relationship Marketing. When I asked Zanie about this she sent me the following reply:

“You are so right about Mustard Seed not getting the coverage – we are now going on our own drive to get coverage....interesting how the Client takes all the credit....everything from the concept to the execution were our brain child ...and sweat!! We have now 180 schools on board – amazing project! Will send you some press releases – you can also look at the website www.growsmart.org.za – there is a nice dvd as well (that we produced) that tells the story as well. “

Personally I think that this program will have an impact on the future of South Africa. Some of these children will see possibilities for themselves and their lives that they never dreamed possible. They will become teachers, merchants and possibly politicians who will guide their country into the future.

Shopping centers over most of the world have a program where they give an annual award for the best community service idea from companies who serve shopping centers. About a month ago Zanie sent me an e-mail saying they had submitted their idea to the award committee and they had received the award for the best community service of the year for South Africa. A little later they submitted their program for the European award that covers Europe, Africa and Asia. They won that award also. They then submitted to program for a global award and won the award for the best community service idea for the entire world.

Oh, by the way, while Zanie was in America as an exchange student she attended Grace Baptist Church. Yes, she is one of ours.

ABCCM Collection

August 19

They need our help!!!



Red Boxes Are Here

Pick up your Red Box in the parlor and fill it up with the requested items.

These are for the women's prison.

Grace Baptist Church

718 Haywood Road

Asheville, NC 28806

Church Council

Monday, August 13

6:00 PM

Church Conference

Sunday, August 19

5:00 PM

Your Church Staff

Nathan Pruett, Pastor

Rick Ramsey, Minister of Music / Church Administrator

Aileen Lawrimore, Interim Minister to Students

Barbara Kanipe, Administrative Associate

Susie Shaw, Organist

Dianna Wyatt, Pianist

Blanche Starnes, Minister of Music Emeritus

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Words of Grace is published at least every month.

Please send items you wish to contribute to

r Ramsey@gbcavl.org

| GBC | Sunday July 29 | Sunday August 5 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Total in Bible Study | 99 | 84 |
| 10:45 AM Worship | 109 | 94 |
| Budget Requirement | \$6,750.00 | \$6,750.00 |
| Budget Offering | \$4,394.42 | \$8,477.10 |