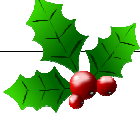





Grace Baptist Church is 
A Great Place To Grow in Christ
For the Entire Family

 Sunday December 20, 2015 
This Weeks Events
Today: 10:00AM: (Grange)— <i>Bible 101</i> —Pastor Saloum 11:00AM: (Grange)— <i>Message from God</i> —Pastor Saloum 6:00PM: (Grange)— <i>Advanced Bible</i> —Pastor Saloum
Upcoming Events
December 27, 2015: 6:00PM: (Grange)— <i>WATCHNIGHT SERVICE</i> —Pastor Saloum Potluck meal, Church Business Mtg. (voting members can vote), Popcorn Preaching, Sword Drills, Testimonies, Video and Final Prayer
January 3, 2016: 11:00AM: (Grange)— <i>RESOLUTION SUNDAY (LORDS SUPPER)</i> —Pastor Saloum 2:00PM: (Fir Lane)— <i>Shut in Saints</i> —Deacon Matt Coale & Brother Charles
April 24, 2016: 10:00AM: (Grange)— <i>Missionary to Panama</i> —Brent Hoffman Family 11:00AM: (Grange)— <i>Missionary to Panama</i> —Brent Hoffman Family NOON: (Grange)— <i>Meet the Missionary POTLUCK</i> —
September 11-14, 2016: EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS— <i>SAM GIPP</i>

NOTE



Isaiah 9:6-7

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

What is a Christian?

By Rev. Ron Coale, Pastor



Christians are not strange people. They are not radical fundamentalist, as some would have you believe. Christians are not someone who needs a crutch to stand on. Nor are they mentally insecure. Christians are just like any other people trying to navigate the pitfalls of this world. They are like anyone else, trying to love their families and do right by their friends and neighbors.

The government and their manipulation by "radical lobbyist" have tried to place any Bible believing Christian in the closet of society. To do so, they must show the evils of being a Christian and get the public to agree with them. It doesn't matter if it is true or not, as long as people believe it.

They do this so they can make themselves look good in the eyes of others. To elevate yourself in the eyes of the world, you can either ascribe to greatness yourself or you can put down all others around you. That way, when you are the last man standing, you can be the king of the mountain.

Adolph Hitler understood this when he victimized the Jews, Gypsies, Communist, Homosexuals

and unfit. In putting them down in society, he gave the perception that the individual common German was greater than the others. He effectively changed their class by changing their perceived position in regards to the classes and races he victimized. This is how the world is making themselves great in their own eyes today. They victimize the common Christian, putting him in an imaginary lower class of people so that others wake up one day and imagine that they have risen a few rungs on the ladder of success.

Despite their best efforts to change the class system, people are still people. We all have the same desires, goals and characteristics because we were all made in the image of God (Gen. 1:27). Yet, there are some very big differences between a Christian and a person of the world. These differences are "big" because they are matters of life and death (Deut. 30:15). Yes, I know that everyone dies, but just keep reading for once. You can learn something.

Christians are saved. I know that this phrase has been tossed around in so many ways, with so many negative connotations that you think you know all about it; But do you really? From the Bible's

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point of view, being "saved" means that true Christians are saved from going to hell. Not because they have earned it, but because it is a gift given to them that they don't deserve. Someone stood in and paid for them so they don't have to go to hell. That person is Jesus Christ. He paid for everyone so they don't have to go to hell, but not everyone will be saved from that destiny. Everyone who does not accept what Jesus did for them will go to hell and remain there forever. This is what true Christians mean when they say they are saved.

Christians are sinners. Somehow the world has conditioned its lemming like followers that Christians claim to be sinless. Even Christians are mixed up on this very point. From time to time they will refer to the unsaved person of the world as "sinners", while at the same time implying that they claim to be sinless. Real Bible believing Christians know that everyone has sinned and come short of God's glory, including themselves. Christians are sinners.

Christians are the children of God. Yes! Everyone was cre-

ated in the image of God, but when sin entered the human race, God's image in man was removed. People get all hung up on this point. They say, "Do you mean that people like Charles Manson was created in the image of God?" Or they go to the other extreme and say, "I can't believe that God would send that young angel to hell. What kind of God would do that?" I have spent most of my ministry explaining this over and over again to people. It truly must be a pressure

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point that the Devil can use to get people all tripped up. Here we go again: Man was originally created in the image of God: Body, Spirit and Soul. When man sinned, his spirit lost God's image. Man retained his body and soul, but his spirit no longer reflected God's spirit. When you get saved, God returns His spirit to you. You then become complete. You do this by getting born again. Your body and soul doesn't get born again. You get spiritually born. Anyone who gets born again becomes saved. Anyone! Why? Because of God's forgiveness. He doesn't care what you think about it. He is only interested what He thinks

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about it. Because it is a spiritual thing, you can not determine a person's sincerity. Only God can do that. Therefore, the greatest and most beautiful do gooder can go straight to hell if they are not spiritually born again. Likewise, the most wicked vile person you have ever seen can go to heaven if they get spiritually born again. God can do this because He is the creator and He has determined that salvation will be contingent upon being born again or not. He can freely forgive anyone who gets born again. Likewise, He can condemn anyone who does not. Regarding how He makes this decision, He only cares about one thing, "Did you get born again or not?"

Anyone who gets born again, He calls them his children. They refer to Him as Father. He rejects all others and He is completely fair in doing so.

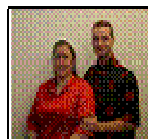
Christians go to church. Although many people go to church for many reasons, Christians do so because they desire fellowship with God and His children. Even though God walks with them everywhere they go because of His omnipresence, they like to go to church because He likes to go to church. To a Christian, church is a small taste of what heaven will be like;

even with all of it's flaws, it is the closest thing they have to heaven down here on the earth. Other people go to church to see what they can get out of it. Christians go to church to see what they can put into it. It gives them an opportunity to love others in a loving and safe environment. Christians don't have to go to church, they get to go to church.

Christians tell people about Jesus. Face it. If it were not for Christians, nobody in the world today would know about Jesus at all. If it weren't for Christians there would be nothing for Atheist to worry about. Oh, God would still be here, but nobody would know about Him at all. But, is that the reason Christians tell people about Jesus; to make Him famous? No! Christians tell people about Jesus because they are excited about Him. They appreciate what He has done for them; and the love that they have experienced through Him. They want to share that wonderfully liberating experience with their friends, family and others. They so appreciate Him that they can hardly contain themselves from telling others. Look at it like this: If you were to win the lottery, wouldn't you want to share that news with those closest and

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The Johnsons



Missionaries to the "Children of the Dragon" in Mainland China

November 2015

Dear Folks,

We are thankful to report that the episcleritis in both of Carolyn's eyes has cleared up and her eyes are free from inflammation for the first time in six months. The gluten-free diet the eye doctor suggested seems to have worked. PTL! The doctor wants to see her again in February. The pressure in her left eye is elevated and he wants to make sure that has gone down since elevated pressure can cause glaucoma or cataracts. Being able to stop the steroid eye drops should lower the pressure.

It looks like Carolyn won't be able to see a rheumatologist this time. We're told an appointment generally requires a six month wait, and we can't find one that takes our insurance.

We are still waiting for the results of some blood tests. She also has one more doctor visit and two follow-ups to go. Once all of the information is in, hopefully we can put together a treatment plan for now.

Interestingly enough, a woman on the Kunming to Beijing flight helped Carolyn with her bags. She is from a city near us and is a physical therapist specializing in rheumatological diseases. She gave Carolyn her contact information, so that may be something to try, too. She doesn't speak English, but Carolyn has been making one to three hospital visits each week since May. As you can imagine, her medical vocabulary in Mandarin has increased this year. It surprised Carolyn because not only did the woman carry her suitcase, she also correctly guessed what the problem was. What are the chances? I guess it depends on what you believe God is in control of.

Please keep WX in your prayers. I met with him last week. He said he didn't think he was a Christian anymore because he couldn't do everything right. Assurance of salvation is a constant struggle for Chinese Christians. I assured him that perfection is not a requirement for salvation or none of us would make it. Working toward being more like Christ is often thought to mean doing everything right the first time. Another Christian had given him a list of things he needed to do as a Christian. He was overwhelmed and had decided maybe he should give up on being a Christian. We talked for a couple of hours about how being a Christian means a changed life, but that not everything changes at once because that is part of growth. WX got excited, "Oh, good, because I still want to be a Christian. I will work harder."

Seeing the young people who have grown up with Christian mothers begin to step out for God on their own has also been exciting. Sarah is vocal about her faith at college. Joy refused to cheat on an exam even when her teacher encouraged her to do so. And even Nina has become a little witness asking her dad, Mr. Z, to join in Bible reading and prayer. This first grader is determined to read her Bible by listening to the audio Bible and following along. She had seen her mom and older sister reading their Bibles and she felt left out.

Finally, if you currently receive this letter by post and would like to start receiving it by email, please let us know at shoremeats@gmail.com. Receiving letters by email allows us to send updates in addition to our prayer letters. Thank you.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

In His service,

Daniel and Carolyn Johnson

PRAYER REQUESTS		
607.	Pastor	Souls saved in Shelton.
629.	Matt	Gregson Family Finances.
680.	Matt	Savings Account (Building fund) to reach —(\$10,000).
685.	Dee P.	Dee's brother Duane (a proud atheist) salvation.
755.	Regina	Grace Baptist Church to grow in membership.
763.	Sally	Brother Nathan called to preach. Strength & direction.
796.	Regina	Strength for God's will in her life.
803.	Dee P.	Improved church attendance for her family.
822.	Regina	Personal Health.
849.	Sally	Jonny seeks God's will in making decisions for future.
865.	Dee P.	Son Joseph's health problems & depression.
867.	Dee P.	Family members to read KJB daily.
955.	Lori S.	Son (Phil Gosline) has lymphoma
973.	Dee	Protection for Stephanie working as a nurse.
975.	Dee P.	Brother-in-law George stage 4 terminal lung cancer
976.	Dee P.	Our Christian men to grow as spiritual leaders in our homes, churches and communities.
977.	Regina	Comfort for John Rodius. Wife passed away.
979.	Colleen	Salvation of Darci Togensen's daughter Katey
984.	Lori	Candy's kidney stones.
988.	Matt C.	Lori Sylvia broke shoulder. Comfort & healing.
989.	Regina	Richard to let God be his all in all.
990.	Pastor	Regina fell at home alone.
991.	Pastor	Rylander family come back to God.
992.	Pastor	Roger Crowe healing from cancer of spine & bladder.
993.	Mark H.	Grand-daughter overcoming depression.
994.	Pastor	God's will on buying the Grange Hall
995.	Pastor	Amanda Ruiz come back to God.

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dearest to you? Be true to yourself now. Of course you would. Well, Christians have something far better than the lottery. They have eternal life based upon the promise of God.

Christians read the Bible. The rest of the world doesn't read the Bible, but Christians do. Real Christians want to get their nose into that book and learn what it says. They are curious about God and what He has done.

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