

# Moments Grace



*Life and death are in the **POWER** of the **TONGUE**...*

## **The fruit of our speech**

*“Life and death are in the power of the tongue,  
and those who love it will eat its fruit.”*

**Proverbs 18:21 (HCSB)**

**Winter Edition 2016**



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## GRACE CHURCH

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# Welcome to the winter edition of Moments Grace 2016

This winter as we throw on our winter coats we have also been challenged to throw off negative speech patterns. Peter's latest sermon series on the power of the tongue, has challenged us to consider our speech habits; the good, the bad and the downright ugly!

At first glance, passages like Proverbs 18:21

***“Life and death are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit,”***

seem a little black and white. Just like the snake's question to Eve in the garden, the enemy whispers to us... “Does God *really* mean that?” Most of us can recall the ways we have encouraged someone with a kind word or positive appraisal. We can also remember occasions when we have spoken biblical truth into someone's difficult circumstances.

However, we are not so fond of dwelling on the times we have hurled hurtful comments at a family member, spoken behind a friend's back or complained bitterly about our lot in life.

Those moments... we prefer not to dwell on. In fact, we find ourselves wishing they never happened.

We are quick to affirm the tongue's ability to encourage, uplift or praise, but we are slow to consider the many ways our speech can be used as an instrument of brokenness, pain and strife. The enemy would rather we didn't examine our hearts on this issue; he would rather we lacked self-awareness and ignored the Spirit's discernment altogether. But God has triumphed and given us a way not only to receive life, but also enables us to speak it (John 10:10).

Let's be people who regularly re-examine our heart's before God; people who speak life and love, rather than pain and bitterness. Our tongues were designed to praise our Heavenly Father and to edify the Church. Moments Grace is an opportunity to do just that. In the following pages you will read about how God is working in hearts and lives through the people of Grace. We have SO many reasons to overflow with praise and thanks to God.

**Rochelle McLean**

Moments Grace Editor



Okay, it's time to make a cuppa,  
turn off your phone,  
push the cat off the couch  
and relax in the sun (it's there  
somewhere I'm sure..!)  
with this edition of...

MOMENTS  
GRACE!



## *Upcoming Events*

Note these in your diary...

*Excel* - performing at Annesbrook Church, Friday 2nd September

*WCC Women's Christian Convention* - 16th/17th September, Christchurch

*Long Story Short* - course starting 18th September

*Church Camp* - 28th/30th October at Bethany Park, Kaiteriteri

*Elevate* - Sunday 16th October  
- Sunday 20th November

*BIG Day Out* (Pinnacle House) - mid November

# Women's Coffee Group

Thursdays 10-11.30am

Headingley Centre Cafe



## *Praise points at Grace*

- The East Wing rooms are providing a vibrant new space for our KOGs and Little Discoveries kids to learn and explore on Sunday mornings.

- Pinnacle House have been able to employ three new team members after saying farewell to Bernard and Jacqui. Praise God for His provision of wonderful new staff joining their already amazing team.

- Senior Chef continues to be a huge success with another course underway and a waiting list! Keep praying that God provides opportunities for the gospel to be shared during their interactions.

- Thursday mornings at the Headingley Centre are bursting with life and laughter. We have multiple groups using the space and enjoying coffee together!

- Ken and Wendy Joyes have taken over the leadership of the Long Story Short team. They have some exciting ideas for the future of this ministry. Another course is just around the corner; due to start 18th September!

- The Youth ministry team has welcomed Sean Young as interim team leader. We are thankful for his faithful leadership and willingness to stand in the gap following Brett's return to teaching in Christchurch.

# *Slip of the tongue*

Words carry enormous power. Words can heal or wound, build up or tear down; praise or criticize. Words spill off our tongues every day - 20,000 of them on average, enough to fill a good sized book. Imagine sitting down and having to read that every night. How much of the content would you be happy with? What would need editing or changing? What would need erasing?

You are familiar no doubt with the saying "a slip of the tongue." That's when something comes out that you wish didn't. Once aired, you instantly regret it. You say to yourself, "Did I *really* just say that?" You want very badly to take the words back, but you can't - it's too late. You try to repair things by explaining that you didn't quite mean it; it was a mistake - a slip of the tongue.

It would be nice if we could just leave it at that. Just apologize and move on. But Jesus stops us in our tracks:

*"A good tree doesn't produce bad fruit; on the other hand, a bad tree doesn't produce good fruit. For each tree is known by its own fruit... A good man produces good out of the good storeroom of his heart. An evil man produces evil out of the evil storeroom, for his mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart," (Luke 6:43-45).*

Ouch. What we glibly pass-off as a slip of the tongue was an intention of the heart. What was in our minds went public. Our sin has just been exposed and we are ashamed.

What's the cure? It's not a reformed tongue. This is something speech therapy won't fix! The answer is a renewed heart; which praise God, is possible because of Jesus. Jesus, by his death and resurrection overcame the power of sin and offers to cleanse and renew our hearts so that what slips off the tongue brings healing rather than hurt and life rather than death. So next time the tongue slips, remember these words of Jesus and the remedy he offers. Deal with the root and you'll start seeing the desired fruit.

**- Peter Somervell**





You may or may not know that one of the ministries we have at Grace Church is Fresh Perspective.

Fresh Perspective is all about mentoring and it creates an opportunity to connect with someone who is finding life a little challenging. People are identified by local service agencies, who offer this ministry as a means for further support. If this is something the person would like, they are connected with someone from a local church who has undergone some training in order to equip them to become a mentor. The mentor and person being mentored usually meet for an hour a week for a period of around six months.

Up until last month, Fresh Perspective was a part of the Open Home Foundation. However, it is now an organisation in its own right, with its own governance and structure.

At the coal face there are a few changes. One significant change is in regard to the overall focus of this ministry.

Previously, Fresh Perspective had a parenting focus and required that there be someone under 18 in the household. It has now broadened its focus and is happy to mentor anyone over the age of 18, regardless of whether or not they are a parent.

The other change is the way the training is delivered. Previously, it was done over a weekend. Now it is done on a week night over four weeks.

A training course is about to get underway at Richmond Baptist church starting on Monday August 29th at 7.30pm (7.15pm if you need some caffeine beforehand) and finishing at 9.30pm. The remaining sessions are on September 5th, 12th and 19th.

Doing the training does not necessarily mean that you are committed to becoming a Fresh Perspective mentor. If you decide after the training that it isn't for you, that's not a problem. You are welcome to use the training if you are involved in another area of ministry and want to use it for professional development.

If you are at all interested in this please contact me at: [wejoyes@gmail.com](mailto:wejoyes@gmail.com)

**- Wendy Joyes**



# Pinnacle House Update



It has been an exciting few months at Pinnacle House despite the weather turning cold and the season of coughs and colds being upon us.

The Quiz night earlier this year was a real highlight and we thank Sandra Johnson for her amazing help in organising this event, and also to all of you who donated and helped in so many ways. Your support is impressive and speaks volumes to our local community about God's amazing love.

To raise \$11,000 was a real buzz and then to have a call from Mike Hoskings from Newstalk ZB (after receiving a letter of commendation from Jocelyn Sutton), was the icing on the cake. Their 'Go for Gold' program and ASB have given Pinnacle \$2,500. We are extremely grateful.

It was a real blessing too, to receive financial assistance from the local Methodist Synod and Snowden's Trust towards the costs of the upcoming camp.

With the ups there is often the downs.

Sadly, we have recently had to say goodbye to two of our very valued staff members.

Bernard Frost and Jacqui Howley both left in July and we have welcomed new staff members in their wake. We would appreciate prayer for the participants. They certainly miss Bernard and Jacqui and are now having to get to know and trust new people.

## **We appreciate your prayers too for:**

- The participants every single day, that God would draw hearts to himself, that their whole lives and the lives of their families would be enhanced by being part of Pinnacle.
- Upcoming two day camp at Mistletoe Bay in the Sounds - 14/15 September - for a great and safe time
- BIG Day Out early in November - for God to move on hearts. (As usual we'll be asking for help :)) If you're interested, we would love to hear from you!

Please continue to pray for Carol Burson and Sheryl Waterhouse as they manage the day to day of Pinnacle House. They are an amazing team and so very valued. Pray for strength, wisdom, for answers when they are needed and that God would return to their lives much, much joy.

**- Linda**



**Knit &  
Natter**

Thursday's  
10am  
H.C. foyer



# *The Start of a New Season*

By the time this goes to press Sandy and I will have vacated our offices at Grace and will have begun a new chapter in our lives in Christchurch. We arrived in Nelson for our interviews on the day the Headingly Centre was opened in November 2010 and began ministry here about 2 ½ months later. It was a time of great excitement for us as we looked forward to what God was going to do amongst the young people at Grace and in the community of Richmond.



On the rollercoaster of ministry there have been plenty of highs as well as the usual tough times, but one thing I have learned over the last twenty years is that God always has the last say. The things that I see as the greatest triumphs are nothing but dust if they were borne out of my own energy and enthusiasm, and the things I see as my greatest failings can be used to give God unsurpassed glory when they are entrusted into His hands.

Sandy and I can honestly say we have given our best to guide and grow the young people at Grace, and now it is time to follow God's call back to Christchurch. We have no regrets and wish God's richest blessings on the people who follow in our footsteps. We will be back on occasion, and look forward to seeing what God does through the hands of people who love nurturing young people as much as we do.

We want to say a heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported us through prayer and every other way over the last 5 ½ years. We have cherished your timely encouragement and valued the way you have loved us. We would never have lasted as long as we have without your caring help and support. Sorry we didn't get you all over for a meal at some time. It was on the plan....

In the twenty plus years that have passed since Sandy and I stepped into youth and children's ministry, we have been to eighteen Easter Camps, run nearly fifty of our own camps, and spoken at approximately 100 more. We have also organised and trained six teams of young people for overseas mission trips, twelve Livewyrz outreach teams, taken seven week-long road trips to Parachute, and run nearly 1000 youth group nights.

It has cost us dearly both financially and energy wise, but if I could go back I wouldn't alter a minute of it.

It has been an honour to be a part of what God has done in the lives of kids who look past themselves and place themselves in His hands.

We have seen them end up as pastors, evangelists, camp speakers and missionaries, some have ended up in leadership positions of Christian organisations, others are elders and a couple are well on their way to becoming world leaders. Many of them are still strong believers and support the work of others who are in full time ministry, and have a real heart for the marginalised and those in need of social justice.

They have done sooooo much more than we ever could by ourselves and will continue to be gems in His crown long after we have been forgotten. to do here.



Now it's time for Sandy and I to move on to new pastures and let God do what he wants

My prayer for the young people we have served at Grace is that they would hold fast to Rom 12:2-3 and refuse to conform to the standards this world imposes on them, allowing their minds to be renewed by the Holy Spirit, and then find their active role in the body of Christ (1Cor 12:12-31) regardless of your age (1 Tim 4:12) and give the Holy Spirit full permission to transform your whole being and attitude into the likeness of Christ (2Cor 3:16-18).

Peace and grace be with you all. We love you and look forward to catching up with you in the future.





# Operation Christmas Child 2016!

**Spreading JOY  
Sharing HOPE**



**OCC Representative  
Julie Barry**

It's time for Operation Christmas Child's (OCC) annual appeal!

Last year saw the South Island, alone, send off over 7000 shoeboxes. That's 7000 children shown genuine love as they received a shoebox gift, carefully packed just for them.

Your shoebox is not the only gift these children will receive. Each child is also given the opportunity to attend a program, teaching them about the love of Jesus in their own language.

International President of Samaritan's Purse, Franklin Graham says, "Every shoebox gift is an opportunity to touch a child's heart and share the love of Jesus Christ."

This Christmas, you have the chance to do just that by spreading joy and sharing the hope of Christ with whole communities.

It might seem a little early to be thinking about Christmas, but the New Zealand OCC team is already underway with preparations for the 2016 shoebox appeal.

We hope that you will join us! Children and adults alike can get involved and this is a fantastic way to help children experience the joy of giving to others.

Keep an eye on the church foyer over the coming weeks as we hope to have boxes available for collection soon.

Alternatively, you can start filling your own shoeboxes at home!

This year we hope to collect 8000 shoeboxes.

If you would love to see more local churches, schools or businesses joining in the fun, come and talk to us about how you can help spread the word!



**A great activity to do  
with your children or  
grandchildren!**



## *Christmas Outreach 2016*

It might seem a little premature to be thinking about Christmas, but this is the time when we begin dreaming and scheming... I mean planning... for the key events in December.

*Please pray* for the Elders and staff team as they get the ball rolling. Pray for fresh inspiration, guidance and a receptiveness to the leading of the Holy Spirit. We want to put our best foot forward and devote our energy to the things which will enable the people of Grace to shine God's light brightly in our community this Christmas.



# *Points to Ponder*

The best way to discover your spiritual gifts is to just start serving! Let God reveal where your strengths and gifts lie, through active service in the church and community.

Stop asking God to bless what you are doing and start doing what God is blessing.

Maybe you don't need more of your life to fall perfectly into place, but instead, you need to be concerned with doing what you already know to do.

If you feel like you are lacking the wisdom you need in this season of your life, pray! God promises He will give wisdom to those who ask for it.

# *Discovering JOY in the midst of trials*



Hello from Mae Sot!

Since I can't be there physically sitting in front of you, having a cup of tea and enjoying some of your lovely wives' baking, I am just going to type imagining that I am.

As I was driving back from dropping all the children from the Early Childhood Development Centre (ECDC) home yesterday, I was thinking and praying about what to share with you. My brain kept coming up with a jumble of different things to share. I realised that God has been teaching us so much through our journey here in Thailand, and it is not until I stop and reflect for a bit that I realise just how vast His love is, and how He has been guiding and blessing us each step of the way.

I've decided to touch on the topic of joy, because if I dig deep and try and think of a word to sum up the last ten months, something to collect together our

experiences and express it verbally, it would be joy!

Has this whole time been a box of fluffy ducks, with everything going as smooth as a baby's bottom? Absolutely not! But man, God has definitely brought us through those times and made us stronger as a family, more culturally aware, humbled, and thankful for His sovereignty.

Thinking on this, my mind jumps straight to an incident that happened in November between myself and a local staff member of our organisation. Boy did we butt heads! Unfortunately, also very publically, at a meeting in front of the whole organisation (apart from Jim).

This led to a really horrible time for me, wanting to quit, being ready to come back to NZ, telling our mentors I couldn't last out even a year's commitment and feeling totally isolated.

What followed was a month of coldness between myself and this team member, me being quiet and listening more to the locals, rather than thinking I know best (which is a skill I would suggest to any foreigner heading to another country to serve there), and a whole lot of pressing into God.

The long term outcome has been that I learnt SO much about how (and how not) to do things here.

How to show respect towards others, accept that Western ideas are not always best, and to seek to see people the way God sees them and love them as He loves.

My relationship with that staff member is now even healthier than before the incident happened, as they also really sought God's heart through the situation. We actually work together very effectively as a team, and God has used the two of us to empower and equip the people we serve here in Mae Sot. Loads of joy has come from what was initially a really negative situation.

Living in a place where extreme poverty is literally on your doorstep makes you thankful each day for what you have as a Westerner. But, living amongst poverty has also given me greater insight into the joy that can be found even in its midst.

I work with a beautiful bunch of women each day at the ECDC. Compasio transports them because they do not have vehicles and live far away. Some live in thatched huts or shed-like buildings, without any power or running water. They have very little money to buy things, but do you know who I laugh with the most here in Mae Sot? It is these same people.

Lately we have been laughing about how much chilli foreigners can or cannot handle and how our mouths go on fire.

Since I am pregnant, we have been cracking up at different labour stories and ways women in different cultures try to ease the pain of childbirth.

When we pray at lunchtime, they are so thankful for the rice porridge with a bit of minced pork and the leaves they have picked from our trees to boil. I am too, because it's actually really yummy! They could wallow in self-pity for what they don't have, but each day I see them choosing joy amidst their circumstances. The outcome is that I am finding such joy myself.

This atmosphere impacts our kids as well. Manuella and Solomona are at the centre with me each day. They don't receive any special treatment, but are cared for in the same way as the local kids. Our kids eat and enjoy the rice porridge too, and at the same time receive an overflow of joy from their teachers.

So Grace Church, whether well fed or hungry, in need or in plenty – go out and rejoice in the joy of the Lord!

Blessings,

**Nitika Ennion, Mae Sot, Thailand**



 **COMPASIO**  
Relief and Development



## *East Wing Update*

The East Wing has been a hugely beneficial addition to the Headingly Centre. We now have dedicated spaces for our Children's and Youth Ministries, along with rooms for hire.

These rooms now have official names! In keeping with 'nature' of our other room names we now have:

KOG's room = *Kowhai room*

Sunshine room = *Rata room*

Internal room = *Totara room*

And... even though it hasn't been officially named yet, the youth ministry has recently christened the green room (upstairs) 'The Lounge'





prayer: verb

simple.

powerful.

9:15 Sunday mornings.

All welcome to join!

*Join us tonight, 5pm in the Elm room for a time of intentional prayer and thanksgiving to God, for the work He is doing in and through the people of Grace Church. All welcome!*

## *Prayer points at Grace*

We should all be passionately praying for the ministries of Grace. Join us in praying for continued wisdom for our Elders and leaders, for opportunities to speak life giving words; to be a light in our community, and the grace to meet people where they are.

### **Specific ministries you can pray for:**

Little Discoveries (under 3s)

Sprockets (3-5 year olds)

KOGs (Kids of Grace)

ICE (Intermediate age youth)

Detonate (College age youth)

Young adults group (18+)

Words for HER

Women's coffee group

Knitting group

Small groups

Operational Friendship

CAP (Christian's Against Poverty)

Fresh Perspectives

Senior Chef

Senior's Bible Study

Mentoring

Sparkles Girls Club (5-10 year old girls)

Petrol Heads

STM team

Long Story Short



## *Missed a service? No problem!*

Head over to the Grace Church website to access all the latest sermons and archive.

You can even listen to and download sermons by following 'Grace Church Richmond' on Sound Cloud. Simply download the App and enjoy.



# CAP MONEY MANAGEMENT



**Christians Against Poverty (CAP)** are an amazing organisation, helping people of all ages get out of debt and into a state of greater financial well being. We have people within Grace who have been trained to run these courses.

If this is something you or someone you know could benefit from, contact the church office for more info.





## *'Created for His Glory'*

### Church Camp 2016

Come and join us for a weekend of fellowship, encouragement and great teaching! We have a wonderful guest speaker lined up, Pastor Craig Lloyd from Grace Bible Church in Brisbane. This will be a weekend not to be missed! The camp is also a great opportunity to get to know each other better, particularly if you are new to Grace Church.

The final day for camp registrations is next Sunday (28th August). It's not too late to register, but you need to move fast. Don't miss out on what is sure to be an awesome weekend away.

For more information, contact the Grace Church office or talk with Avik and Kathryn Halder.

You can contact us during the week and we welcome you to visit us

Grace Church Office, 452 Lower Queen St, Richmond.

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