

# THE GRAND COMMUNICATOR

Published by Grand Community Baptist Church  
The Community Church in the Heart of Grand



## January 2025 Newsletter – Resolutions

### Pastor's Note



At the beginning of a new year, it is common to think of resolutions.

Making a resolution is like admitting to yourself you still have room to grow and improve. Making a resolution is intentionally improving your character. Making a resolution is the beginning of planning how you can change. Making a resolution is committing yourself to a course of action. Making a resolution is improving your self-esteem by being on an upward journey. Making a resolution is seizing greater opportunities for yourself. Making a resolution is blessing the people around you when they experience a better you.

I doubt any of you are surprised by these assertions, but they certainly drive home how helpful it can be to make a resolution. As far as I can tell almost everyone does this regularly, although most don't use the word resolution. We might think: "I am addressing this problem.", or "I am adjusting to the way the world is changing.", or "I am going to try out this advice." For these reasons and many more we make intentional choices to better ourselves.

Rightly lived Christianity is a journey of similar resolutions and decisions. God reveals to you some area of your life He wants you to address, and then you do. Scripture teaches you a subtlety of Christian living, so you adjust your course. Perhaps a point is brought out in Sunday morning Bible study or a sermon, so you build it into your pattern of living. God is never done growing us, so it is important that we never stop learning, growing, improving, and changing.

What might God do in your life this year? To give the Lord the best chance to be active in your life and use you, be as open to the possibility as you can. Since God speaks to us through Scripture, our prayers, and our worship experiences, stay active in these things. Since God blesses, obedience goes the extra mile to be obedient in all things, even when it is difficult.

I am excited to see how God will use you and I, and all of us together in 2025. Just to encourage you to understand that God is still at work in us, let me remind you of a few of the changes God produced in us during the past year.

We committed ourselves to better communication and now have a longer, more informative monthly newsletter instead of every other month.

We committed ourselves to missions and missionaries, which we were already doing, but we endeavored to increase. We heard from two missionaries at the church, and we blessed the missionaries that came.

We committed ourselves to community involvement and accomplished the goal with the open house, teaching at Grand Learning, and attempted other methods such as coffee with the pastor.

So don't give up until God takes you home, don't quit living until God makes that decision for you. Stay obedient to serving Him in whatever opportunity He places in front of you. And your life will continue to contribute to His Kingdom.

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# Greetings in the Name of the Lord



**Grand Community Baptist Church Prophecy Conference is coming  
January 14-16, 2025**

**Here is a look at the topics to be discussed.**

## **Tuesday, January 14, 2025**

**9:00 -Charlie Dyer** – Cause for the Clash of Kingdoms (The Spiritual Battle behind Current Events)

**10:00 -Bruce Scott** -- Antichrist's God Complex and Jacob's Trouble (Daniel 11:36-12:1) Going verse by verse in this passage covering the Trib mid-point, Abomination of Desolation, impact on Israel, and Michael's standing up for Israel.

**11:00 -Paul Benware** -- Individual Eschatology---What is My Future? (This would have to do with the future of the individual at death and/or the rapture.)

## **Wednesday, January 15, 2025**

**9:00 -Bruce Scott** -- Messiah - The Conquering King---Topical study on the type of Messiah who returns to rescue Israel at the Second Coming.

**10:00 -Paul Benware** - God's Great Future Work---Salvation in the Tribulation Period (when people think of the Tribulation, they most often think of the judgments; yet salvation is the main purpose for the 7 years).

**11:00 -Charlie Dyer** – The Course of the Conflict (How is the Spiritual Battle Unfolding today?)

## **Thursday, January 16, 2025**

**9:00 -Charlie Dyer** - The Conclusion to the Conflict (How will it all end. . . and what do we need to do now?)

**10:00 -Bruce Scott** - Hope in Christ's Return and the Restoration of All Things -- Topical study on how the Second Coming of Christ should give us hope in the days in which we live because of all that He will restore when He returns.

**11:00 -Paul Benware** - Appearing Before Jesus---The Moment We Are Rewarded at Christ's Judgment Seat.

**This will be a great opportunity to invite your neighbors and friends.**

**In His Service, *Brother Gary***

**UPCOMING EVENT – PROPHECY CONFERENCE**



**GRAND**  
Community  
Baptist Church SBC

Prophecy Conference

**January 14-16, 2025**  
**9:00 AM - Noon**

**Dr. Paul Benware**  
Bible professor, theologian, preacher, conference speaker, and author.

**Bruce Scott**  
Director of Program Ministries for The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry

**Dr. Charlie Dyer**  
Professor-at-large of Bible at Moody Bible Institute and host of a weekly Moody Radio program.

**Grand Community Baptist Church**  
18350 N. Goldwater Ridge Dr. Surprise, AZ 85374  
623-975-6262 - [www.grandbaptist.com](http://www.grandbaptist.com)

**The Prophecy Conference**

will be held  
January 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>  
9AM to 12PM

We will have three guest speakers for this event.

Dr. Charles Dyer,  
Professor and radio host  
at Moody Bible Institute.

Dr. Paul Benware, Bible  
theologian and author.

Bruce Scott, Director of  
Program Ministries for  
The Friends of Isreal  
Gospel Ministry.

**New Year's Prayer**

*As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends. Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways,*

## **MALE CALL SHOUT OUT**

Monday mornings at 8:00 AM a group of us men meet and share, pray, and study the Word together. We start back up on January 6. Our Bible topic will be the *12 Disciples*. Each week we will highlight one of the 12 and see if this was a good pick for Jesus. Then we will ask ourself, "Am I a good pick?"

John Elder is the discussion leader and has provided a dated list so you will know which disciple comes on what day. Our number one goal is to be open and honest with each other as we get to know how to pray for our needs together.

Man, do you need this kind of bonding group? Woman, does your man need this kind of support group? If so, men come join us. Ask John for more information. He is open to sharing with you!

Hopefully we will see you for the first 2025 session on Monday, January 6 at 8:00 AM in the classroom next to the kitchen. Coffee is served and generally some homemade goodies!

John Elder

### **MALE CALL Bible Study 2025 - Monday Morning, 8:00 AM**

January 6	<u><i>A Study of the Twelve</i></u>
January 13	Simon Peter
January 20	MLK Day no bible study
January 27	Andrew
February 3	James
February 10	John
February 17	Thomas
February 24	Nathaniel Bartholomew
March 3	Matthew Levi
March 10	Simon the Zealot
March 17	James – Son of Alphaeus
March 24	Philip
March 31	Judas – Son of James
April 7	Judas Iscariot

# WHY BIBLE STUDY

Studying the Bible is important for many reasons, including:



## **DEEPENING KNOWLEDGE OF GOD**

Studying the Bible helps us learn about God's principles and Jesus, and how to know them on a deeper level. Psalms 25:4

## **DEFENDING FAITH**

Studying the Bible helps us understand why we as Christians believe what we do, which is important when others challenge their faith. 1Tess 5:11-16

## **SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT**

Reading and studying the Bible nourishes the soul and strengthens relationships with God. Matt. 4:4

## **BIBLICAL LITERACY**

Studying the Bible book-by-book helps us develop skills to explain the Bible, including learning about different writings styles, contexts, and genres. Luke 4:16-21

## **SHARING GOD'S TRUTH**

Studying the Bible helps us learn how to share God's truth and word with others. 1Peter 3:15

## **GROUP STUDY**

Group Bible study can create meaningful connections, provide encouragement, and keep us accountable. Eph 4:11-13

## **LEARNING ABOUT FORGIVENESS**

Studying the Bible can help us learn that God is willing to forgive and support us no matter what we have done. Col 3:13

**BEGIN THE NEW YEAR! GCBC offers several Bible studies. Sunday mornings at 9am before the Worship service. Individual men's and women's weekly. Wednesday evening at 4pm. Others scheduled from specific topics. Come join a Bible study and build a closer relationship with God through His Word.**

Rick Webb



## **COOKIE TABLE**

Next year I am going to Praise the Lord more. He loves our Prayers. Great is the Lord, greatly to be praised.

**Psalms 145:3**

**Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;  
And His greatness is unsearchable.**

I will try to greet more new people and help those in need. God has blessed me and in turn I would love to be a special blessing to someone as well.

I praise the Lord for all the strength he has given me, the last two months. God's help and my walker. With the walker I can still do what is set before me. No Excuse!

I want to thank Jackie, as she and Michael always step up when I need help and always with a smile. I praise the Lord for both of them!

Marie Miller  
Linda Mackendrick

**The Lunch Bunch** ended 2024 at Longhorn Steakhouse with a merry Christmas luncheon. We will begin 2025 at Applebee's on the first Tuesday since the church will be hosting a prophesy conference on our usual date. We are looking forward to starting the new year on a warm and friendly note - an opportunity to share stories and laughter with those we don't find time to know at services. We are missing some Lunch Bunch regulars who have moved or passed away . . . one in particular is Dave Mackendrick. Dave never once failed to stop and thanked me for planning and setting up Lunch Bunch. He was so special to me. So, while we miss those, we look forward to getting acquainted with new people. I encourage you to switch around from your usual seatmates and get to know other fantastic folks from our church family. Happy New Year to all!

Virginia King

## ***RECENT EVENTS – Carols, Cookies & Louise Cannady 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday!***

Thank you to the Social Committee and Rod Johnson for organizing this event!

Rod the pictures are wonderful!!



## **2025 New Years Resolution from Louise**

*As always - my 'life plan' includes worship the Lord; serve the Lord; share the Lord, as scripture tells us; follow the Lord instruction in Holy Scripture.*

*Thanks for asking!*

## **Operation Christmas Child**

Through the Follow Your Box program of OCC, our boxes shipped to...

331 boxes were sent in the first week of December to the Philippines and Madagascar.

4 boxes were "built" online through OCC were sent in mid- November to "Hard to Reach Areas", where Christians are a minority and often persecuted. These countries cannot be publicly named. Thank you for giving so others can hear the Gospel and learn of Jesus' love for them.

## **Grand Community Baptist's Missions Giving**

As a church following Jesus, we have an emphasis on missions as Jesus' life was and is about the mission of finding people that were lost, showing them God's love and bringing people into the fold. Jesus said in Acts 1:8 "but you receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth" He also gave the Great Commission in Matthew 28: 19-20 which includes " Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them...."

As part of the Southern Baptist Convention our church has a great opportunity to fund missions in various ways to reach the masses for Jesus.

As a church, we give out of the general fund offering received each month, 10% to the Cooperative Program (CP). 60 % of the funds given to CP stays in AZ to fund mission needs in our state through our AZ Mission Network (formerly the AZ SBC Convention). Then, 40% is given to the SBC convention, which when combined with the giving of the other state conventions, helps to fund the SBC entities including: administrative cost (a small percentage), the 6 seminaries of the SBC are given a small portion, the North American Mission Board and International Mission Boards get a large percentage that makes up to 40-50% both the mission boards annual budgets, and the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission. This giving would be to the Samaria and even the remotest ends of the earth of which Jesus spoke.

Our church also gives 3% of our general offerings to the Estrella Baptist Association to support the missions in our association, generally located in West Valley, our Jerusalem and Judea Jesus mentioned.

At Easter time we do collect a special offering, The Annie Armstrong Offering, for the North American Missionaries (NAMB). This offering provides roughly half of the annual funding that NAMB receives each year. The Cooperative Program funds cannot fully fund the mission need here in the US and Canada. This offering helps reach the Judea and Samaria parts of our country that Acts 1:8 speaks of.

At Christmas time we collect the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, this too is roughly half of the funding the International Mission Board receives to reach people in the remotest part of the earth.

We have an Arizona Mission Offering in September that assists our Arizona Mission Network in assisting the mission churches/church plants/education events/pastors in crisis/revitalizing church-church ministry/ Zona youth camp and more. This is our Jerusalem and Judea in AZ.

There may be other offerings and projects to donate to during the year such as the baby bottle loose change for pregnancy care centers, missionaries that visit may receive a love offering from us, and other special offerings or projects in the year may come up which people may choose to support. These are voluntary as all offerings are and fit all the categories from Jerusalem to the remotest parts of the earth depending on the people they will reach.

Why the various offerings? —the need is great to reach the multitudes of lost people in our community, county, state, country and world. It is mandated by Jesus that we reach the world. While we may not be able to go on mission trips, we can pray for, learn about and give to missions.

Jesus asks for our tithe to the church in obedience to Him, the special offerings are above and beyond this and voluntary. The resolute obedience of our church to tithe back to the LORD and to give special offerings, brings blessings from the LORD to our church! A giving and mission-oriented church will have the favor of the LORD as we chase after His own heart.



## The Mission Committee

There have been questions about the Mission Committee (MC), its purpose and role and how it is different than the general missions giving. Let's look at what the committee is and does.

The Mission Committee (MC) has appointed members to it for 3-year terms. The Committee has nothing to do with the handling of general funds or the special offerings mentioned in the GCBC mission article, other than setting the special offering goals. The MC is tasked with spending the funds people donate to generic (undesignated) missions. The Committee has a resolution to take seriously the funding of requests that honor God, help to reach people with the Gospel message, and discipleship people in the LORD.

### **The MC funds ministries monthly for a year at a time, special short-term needs, and one-time events.**

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- An example, of a monthly ministry funded is to a junior college campus AZ missionary who has helped lead six young adults to the LORD this year at Pima Community College.
- A one-time event is the Christmas in the Village program that a missionary, Eric Gibbs, of Live Love Ministries runs. At Christmas, the ministry raises funds to give the impoverished Tohono O'odham children in up to 12 tribal villages Christmas presents by allowing their parents to pick free gifts for their children. The Gospel is presented at each of the villages Christmas parties where the kids receive their gifts. The Christmas party and gifts helps Eric develop and maintain relationships that will help lead the people to Jesus.
- A one-time project the committee gave to this Fall was funds to help hand dig 2 wells in West Africa, so the refugees could have a source of water near them. The missionaries tell the people the LORD through His people provided the wells and introduce them to the Living Water.

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If you choose to give to the undesignated missions for the Mission Committee to distribute the funds, please do so in addition to your tithe.

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Know the MC is using the money given each month, giving more than is received in general. The Committee is mindful that God wants the funds spent that reach people for Him through accountable ministries. The MC also understands there is a need for some cushion of funds to allow fulfillment of the promised funding in low-income months and for special needs and events of the ministries. The Mission Committee is looking forward to what the LORD will do through the generosity of our people at Grand Community Baptist. Keep an eye out on the board in the foyer to see ministry updates!

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**Don't be a Neil...** 39 years ago, at my church was a man named Neil. Neil at 82 years old, was a deacon, a Sunday morning Bible study teacher, and a leader in the church. Neil would smile and greet people, but most experienced that he liked to be in control, that he was often hard to work with, if he didn't like a program in the church he would persuade people against it. People tip-toed around Neil to get things accomplished, and yet he often got his way. Everyone including the Pastor found he was hard to work with.

One Sunday morning during the invitation, Neil came forward. He prayed with the Pastor, then Neil addressed the congregation. Neil gave a shocking testimony--- God got a hold of Neil, through his Bible study, prayer and largely the Holy Spirit. God made it clear to Neil that he did not belong to God; he was not a Christian. He recounted that at 9 years old his parents made him go forward to receive Christ, but it was not his choice or decision, neither was his baptism. He was an imposter, just grew up in the church and put on the Christian face and title, said the right words, acted like a Christian as much as he could. The problem was he was not acting with love or through the Holy Spirit. He had become problematic to the church, harsh, legalistic, a grumbler, made everyone know what he did not like and more. Neil stood there, told everyone, at 82 years after decades in the church, he had asked Jesus into his heart during that past week. He was baptized soon after by his choice in obedience to Jesus.

Neil was changed by his Jesus. He had a "softer" attitude, no longer being a roadblock, had a larger genuine smile, was more cooperative, in short, he became someone who was starting to really show Christ's love.

*What Neil said then and what he would tell you today:* Growing up in church, being born into a "Christian" family, going through the motions of praying to receive Jesus and even being baptized does not make you a Christian if you truly did not seek and submit to Jesus. All it makes you is an imposter, still lost. One who is still hell bound at death.

To truly put on Christ and be counted as His, you must accept Him as Savior and submit to Him as LORD. Neil experienced and understood this when he made his resolute life changing decision at 82.

To be a Christian is to have a whole-life commitment. As a Pastor friend has said—when one accepts Jesus, He does not leave the person the same. There is a Spirit led change. If there is no change, then the person is likely not really saved.

Make sure you are not a Neil, at least in his first 82 years of life, but... be the Neil once he started his eternal life with Jesus at 82 years old. Neil would tell you, Heaven is worth it, even if it took all he had to come forward and proclaim he had been lost and faking Christianity. The cost of exposure that day did not compare to the cost of not belonging to Jesus. Make sure you have made the decision to follow Jesus, for you don't want to miss Heaven with Him! If you have not decided on your own accord, there is no time like the present to seek Him out, answer His call, accept Him as your Savior and LORD, and commit your life to Him! Don't delay a true and heartfelt response, for we are not promised even to finish today before God calls us to meet with Him. You want to hear, "Well done good and faithful servant", not "Depart from Me for I never knew you". The choice is yours. This is a true story that I have shared it many times over the years, including in the women's Bible study here at Grand Community. I have seen Neil's story make an impact in others for resolute life change. **Stephanie Short**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

In case you haven't noticed, a new handicap door has been installed at the south entrance to the Worship Center Foyer. We are also pleased to report that in 2025, handicap doors are scheduled to be installed at the north and south entrances to the Fellowship Hall area of the Ministry Center. Also, upgrades to the irrigation system have been completed and will continue to be assessed in 2025.

## **IMPORTANT**

Would you like to earn some extra cash? We are looking for assistance in opening and closing of the main doors to the Worship Center and Ministry Center on Sunday mornings and the Fellowship Hall classroom door on Monday evenings. If interested, please contact the church office and leave your name and phone number for further information by a member of B & G or someone familiar with the duties.

## **CHURCH SECURITY**

If you are interested in helping to keep GCBC safe on Sunday mornings, please contact the church office. Law enforcement or Security experience is not required. It is ideal to have two individuals in the Worship Center Foyer on Sunday mornings, thus the reason for this request. This is not limited to Men only; Ladies are very welcome to assist in this service. This is a very important part of the overall ministry of GCBC.



2 Corinthians 5:17 says it wonderfully: "If anyone be in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has gone, and the NEW has come." Through the power of God, you and I can be forgiven and begin a new life. Forgiveness always brings newness; for the Christian, every day can be a NEW YEAR type of day.