

# GRACE MISSIONARY CHURCH ~ NEWSLETTER

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## Epidemic TID-BITS BY JAMES WILSON

**“We will not neglect the house of our God.”  
Nehemiah 10:39**

*After Nehemiah led the Israelites in rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem, the people gathered together and worshipped the Lord. They spent days reading the Law and praising Him. They made vows to be faithful to Him because of His faithfulness to them. One of those vows was to not neglect the house of our God.*

*As you well know, for them, the house of God was a literal house – a physical structure. For us, however, if we are going to not neglect the dwelling place of the Lord, we cannot neglect our hearts. We must protect it – we must build it up – we must remodel it when necessary – we must keep it clean. It is interesting how hard we work to clean our physical home when we have important guests come into our house – but we neglect to remember that Christ, the most important guest, is constantly dwelling in our hearts. We must keep it clean and worthy of His presence.*

*May the Lord bless you as you continual renew your hearts for Him. May He prosper you greatly in your walk with Him. May you continually open your hearts to Him and allow Him to lead, guide, and direct your lives.*

*All For Him  
Pastor James*

*We say goodbye and thank you to **Pastor James and Tami and family** for all they have done for us as they leave Grace. They will be greatly missed as God leads them to continue His ministry in Franklin. This month we welcome **Pastor Doug and Diane Tindall and family** who God has prepared to begin ministry here at Grace as **Pastor Doug** shoulders the Senior Pastor position.*

## What Do You Believe? ~ by Sally Olson

I'm in a Bible study with women from other churches that meets somewhat regularly. It's an eclectic group of women. All of us have children, ranging in ages from 2 months to 15 years old. The group consists of teachers, stay-at-home moms, business owners, nurses, and scientists. Even though we aren't all in the same station in life and we don't all share the same experiences, we have found that we all struggle similarly in our walk with the Lord. This struggle seems to be universal. The struggle, I think, begins with what we believe about God.

Our current study is one by Beth Moore called Living Free: Learning to Pray God's Word. We've just barely begun the study but God has been speaking mightily to me through it. I'm learning, namely, that being a Christian requires more than believing in God. Moore says that one of the benefits God provides is that I can believe Him. Do you see the distinction? Believing in doesn't require much faith; believing Him requires me to know God intimately and to accept who He is.

I think I've always believed in God but I've struggled believing Him, believing who He is, believing what He says He will do for me, what He says about me, and what He desires for me. Believing in God causes me to put God in a box, to limit Him to the kind of god I could easily serve. That's not the kind of Christian I want to be. Rather, I want to believe God, the real One; to have faith that He is what He says He is in His Word. And that His Being is perfect even if I don't always understand why He does the things He does. There's a distinction there that the man in Mark 9:24 noticed: "...I do believe; help my unbelief." Believing in God contains elements of unbelief. I want those elements removed from my life. I want to believe, truly believe.

The questions I have to ask myself, then, are these: Do I believe that God loves me for who I am? Do I believe that He wants what is best for me, even if it's not always what I want? Do I believe that He will be faithful to me? Do I believe He saved me for His purposes? In essence, do I believe His Word? That's what the struggle is--believing what He says in His Word and aligning my life to His Will. I want to believe, so Lord, help my unbelief!

OUR MISSION IS TO REACH OUR WORLD WITH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST AND TO HELP PEOPLE DISCOVER THE JOY OF KNOWING, LOVING AND SERVING GOD.