

The Mission Briefing

January 2023



Grace and the Four G's

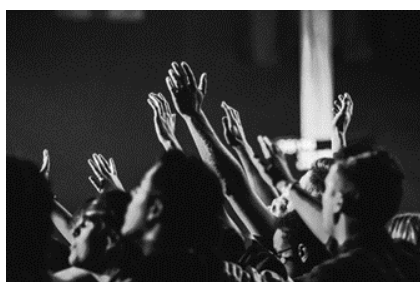


When I first arrived back in Moab two years ago, I wanted to get to know the church I grew up in. On the surface, it seemed like a lot had changed in the twenty years I was gone. There were many new names and faces, the front of the sanctuary was redesigned, a praise team led the music, pastor Keith (dad) was not leading from the front anymore, we had a ton of great food served after worship but no Sunday School classes, services were now broadcast live to almost anywhere on the planet, and because of the circumstances those attending wore masks and practiced social distancing.

Despite these changes, however, the congregation I grew up in remained remarkably the same. You love Jesus, passionately worshipping God together, study the Bible, are fervent in prayer, and you still had a heart for the lost and hurting around you. How can a group comprised of some many different people have so much consistency to the one I grew up with? Pastor Keith's leadership had much to do with it of course, but the integrity of this church goes deeper still. There are core values in every church or organization that do not change, even after two decades and despite all the changes around them. Core values are what give us our identity as a group and make our ministry distinctive from the world and even other congregations, although they may sound very similar. I would like to remind everyone what these values are through this first preaching series in 2023. I will call them the 4 G's of the Community Church. Committing these to memory will help you practice our values with more intentionally and be able to communicate them to the community in a winsome way to those currently outside of our family.

By grace.

Who we are does not start with effort or earning but God's grace. Paul writes, "But by the grace of God I am what I am..." He continues, "...and His grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them-yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me (1 Corinthians 15:9-10). Like Paul, we all have things in our past that we think might disqualify us from meaningful and fruitful ministry today. Paul persecuted Christians, taking property, livelihoods, and even lives from God's people. Yet, he is an apostle in God's church because of God's powerful grace. Grace refers to God meeting us where we are and doing a new work in us that is all gift. This grace in us is not without effect either. The grace we have in Jesus produces fruitful work in us. We do the good things God has "teed up" for us because of and by His grace. We can sum up this work in four topics all beginning with "G." They are 1) Glorify, 2) Gather, 3) Grow, 4) Go. These are important lifestyle characteristics related to living in Christ as the Community Church in Moab.



We glorify.

This means that we have *lifestyles of worship*. We highly value authentic encounters with God. Often times, these encounters come through corporate worship on Sunday morning but they also come in personal prayer time, Bible reading, relationships with other believers, and doing ministry, just to name a few. Our relationship with the Father, through the Son, and by the Holy Spirit is central to who we are and the things we do.

We gather.

This means we have *lifestyles of togetherness*. We highly value community believing we are stronger together in every way. We demonstrate this through living as a family. We love each other, invest in one another, “rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn” (Romans 12:15). We belong to each other. We are committed to living out the “one anothers” of scripture. We see this practiced on Sunday mornings, early morning prayer meetings, potlucks, small groups, and a number of other outreach ministries. We can be spiritual without gathering together, but we cannot be the Church. Gathering is vital for us and others.

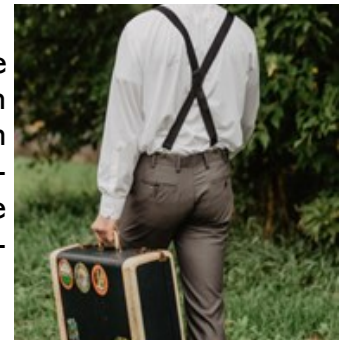


We grow.

This means we have *lifestyles of learning*. God's grace is producing renewed minds and hearts. We are being made new continually (Romans 12:2, Colossian 3:10, Titus 3:5). God is shaping us over time to use us for His good purposes in this world. Grace is the beginning, but all of our lives are lived in it. This means grace is preparing us for new endeavors and empowering us to meet new challenges with new gifts. We also demonstrate more of Jesus in our lives with increasing godliness, which demonstrate our total holiness. We grow in relationship with God and one another, reading our Bibles, praying, serving, innovating ministries, developing new skills, interacting with the community, and engaging with one another. God is actively making us grow.



We go. This means we have *missional lifestyles*. We serve those inside the church and aspire to go outside our four walls. We develop close relationship in the church but go together out to change lives through relational evangelism and missional love. We want to see God in the lives of our friends and neighbors. Therefore, we go across the street, volunteer all over the community, give to missions and build homes in Mexico. God gives us grace to share it with others.



The Four “G’s” accurately demonstrate what Christ Jesus has given us by His grace to be and do. These values will shape everything we do in this coming year and for generations, that is if the Lord’s return continues to be delayed. Yet, even then, I see these values enduring far beyond that. Let’s keep practicing them!

By the grace of God,

Pastor Kyle



January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1.	2.	3. Ladies Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner	4. Men's Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner Awana	5.	6.	7. Tina Kelling Funeral Service 11:00 a.m.
8.	9.	10. Ladies Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner Pizza & Movie 6:00p.m.	11. Men's Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner Awana	12. Ladies Prayer Luncheon 12:00	13.	14.
15.	16.	17. Ladies Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner	18. Men's Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner Awana	19.	20.	21.
22. Annual Meeting 6p.m.	23.	24. Ladies Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner	25. Men's Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner Awana	26.	27.	28.
29. Fifth Sunday Sing Along 6:00p.m Here	30.	31. Ladies Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner				

Bernie and Paula Radcliffe (Anniversary) 1/1

Stan Zook 1/25

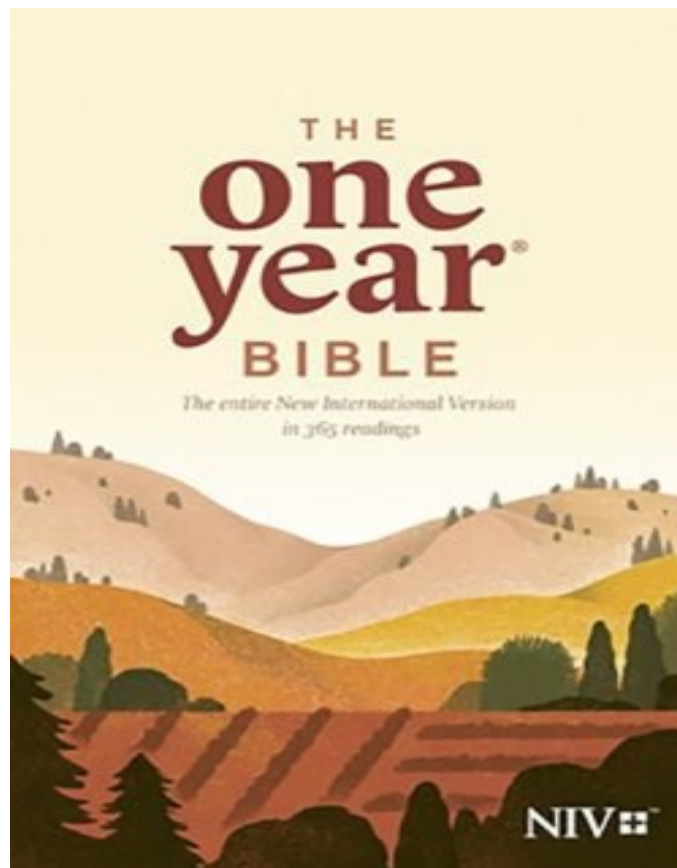
AmAsie Willison 1/29

Janet Weis 1/30



Let's Keep Reading

It is so important to be engaging with the scriptures all the time. January is when we restart or start to read through the Bible together. The One Year Bible makes this journey simple and enjoyable. You can pick up one of these devotional Bibles in the sanctuary or church office. This year we are offering the New Living Translation and the English Standard Version, if you need some variety. If you already have one, pick one up for a friend or pass along your old one, encourage those around you to join you on this adventure. You will be glad that you did!



Congratulations to Jayelen Knowles and Gabriel Stevens.

They were married in an outdoor setting along the Colorado River on Friday December 30th. They are both graduates of the US Navel Academy and are commissioned submarine officers. Jayelen is the daughter of John and Jacque Knowles. Jayelen was one of our SAP recipients. It's such a blessing to see our kids starting their careers and their families.



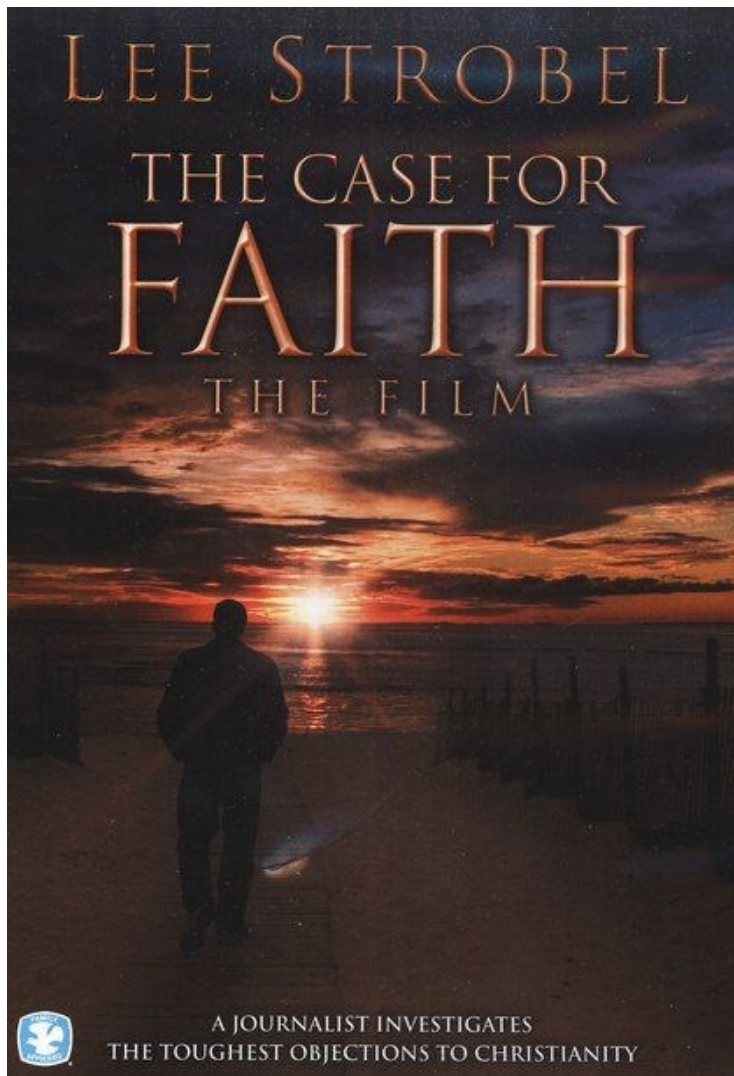
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December Fund Report

Total Income-	\$ 22,748.79
Online Giving-	\$ 7,483.00
Expenses-	\$ 29,599.22
Budget Need-	\$258,775.00
Given 2022-	\$309,692.03

Average Worship Attendance 103



Is it Possible...?
Series

6:00 pm Pizza
6:30 pm Start

Cookies
Afterward

No Cover charge

Invite Your
Friends