

Grace Notes

From: Rev. Jim Gorski

March 2025

Afflicted but Not Crushed

*We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed;
perplexed, but not in despair – 2 Cor. 4:8*

Many Christians have a favorite Scripture verse they have memorized and often recite. Certainly, among the top favorites is Romans 8:28, “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for the good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

This oft quoted verse has brought great comfort to Christians going through hard times. For when we know God works all things together for our good, even the difficult things we wish we did not have to experience, we take heart that our trials are not random purposeless events. Rather, they come to us from the hand of God for our benefit, even if we are unsure what that benefit may be. And though, most times, we never know how God worked the hard things in life together for our good, sometimes God does allow us to see the good reason behind our trial. Such was the case for William Carey.

William Carey, often called the “Father of Modern Missions,” served as a missionary in India from 1793 until his death in 1834. He had little formal education but was a gifted linguist who purposed to translate the Scripture into as many Indian languages and dialects as possible. In order to meet his goal, Carey helped create India’s first printing press in the city of Serampore, where he did his Bible translation in a large building converted to a print shop.

On March 11, 1812, William Carey was teaching in Calcutta. While he was gone, a fire started in his print shop at Serampore. Despite hours of exhaustive efforts to put the fire out, the entire shop burned to the ground. Along with a majority of the print equipment, Carey’s entire library, two grammar books, and ten completed translations of the Bible in the Indian dialects were lost in the fire. Also gone were the type sets for printing fourteen different languages, vast quantities of paper, and priceless dictionaries.

When Carey returned to Serampore and surveyed the burnt remains of his print shop, he wept and said, “In one short evening the labors of years are consumed. How unsearchable are the ways of God. I had lately brought some things [i.e. Bible translations], to the utmost perfection of which they seemed capable, and contemplated the missionary establishment with perhaps too much self-congratulation. The Lord has laid me low, that I may look more simply to him.”

Although God’s frowning providence broke his heart, William Carey took little time to mourn his loss. With great fortitude he wrote, “The loss is heavy, but as traveling a road the second time is usually done with greater ease than the first time, so I trust the work will lose nothing of real value. We are not discouraged; indeed, the work is already begun again in every language. We are cast down but not in despair.”

Like the prophet Job, who declared of God, “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him,” William Carey resolved to trust God in his trial. Within a few months he set up a temporary print shop in a local warehouse and restarted his translation work.

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Shortly after his work resumed, William Carey’s plight came to the attention of people all over Europe and America and also in India. In just fifty days, in England and Scotland alone, about ten thousand pounds (over two hundred thirty-seven thousand dollars today), were raised for rebuilding Carey’s print shop and translation work. So much money continued to come in that Andrew Fuller, who was a member of the mission committee in England overseeing Carey’s work, told the committee members, “We must stop the contributions.”

In addition to the monetary donations, many volunteers came to India to help with the translation work. As a result of the financial contributions and volunteer labor, William Carey’s rebuilt and expanded print shop was able to publish complete Bibles or portions of the Bible in forty-four languages and dialects by the year of 1832.

Amazingly, this would not have happened if William Carey’s original print shop had not burned to the ground in March of 1812. So what appeared to be a crushing blow to the cause of Christ in India turned out to be a blessing in disguise after God worked it all for the good.

I am reminded of the words in William Cowper’s hymn, “God Moves in a Mysterious Way”:

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy and shall break
In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.

Indeed, let us trust the Lord always. Especially, when his providence carries a frown. For it cannot be denied, “for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

With Heartfelt
Sympathy

We express our sincere sympathy and love to the James Smith Family in the death of their daughter Paula Smith Hardoin who went home to be with her Savior on February 10, 2025.



The Lord’s Supper

will be
observed on March 2 at the
morning worship service.
Everyone is
encouraged to be in prayer and
repentance in preparation to partake in this holy
sacrament.

Daylight Savings Time...

Begins Sunday, March 9 . Please
remember to set your clocks
forward an hour Saturday evening!



Praying for our Nation...

Every Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m.

Our group of prayer warriors meets in the sanctuary for the sole purpose of praying for our nation. If you cannot attend, please join us in prayer from your home or office during that time as we follow the command to pray for all those in authority.

“First of all then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quite life, godly and dignified in every way.”

(I Timothy 2: 1-2)



Blessed
is the **NATION**
whose *GOD*
is the **LORD.**
Psalm 33:12

Please pray for the following physical concerns and spiritual needs of each, individual.

Physical Well-being of Members and Friends:

- Marsha Allison
- Don Andries
- Toni Andries
- Ronney Arnold
- Julia Benoit
- Donna Blanchard
- Gerri & Kit Bonvillian
- Kristi Croxton
- Shirley Croxton
- Warren George
- Keith Jackson
- Marge Jackson
- Gaylan McLin
- Opal Neusetzer
- Susan & Charlie Wimberly

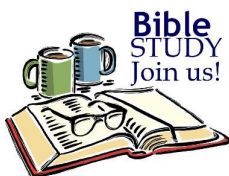
Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.”
Jeremiah 29: 12

The
prayer
of a righteous person is
powerful
and
effective. (James 5:16)

Please Join us every Wednesday

Time: 10:30

Where: Fellowship Hall
Rev. Jim Gorski will be teaching from the book
“Survey of the New Testament”
By
Jack B. Scott, Ph.D.



WELCOME to 2025 ! This past year we have been studying the books Of Jonah and Habakkuk.

In 2025 we will be using a book by Marci Ogrosky called "Looking to Christ.....Hebrews".

Marci is a pastors wife, Mom, and has a degree from Reformed Theological Seminary in Special Education. She is a down to earth writer that we have enjoyed learning from. Hebrews has 13 chapters, and encouragement is the heart of the books purpose. Jesus sanctifies us for the true worship of God,so that we draw nearer to heaven.

Please join us on the second Tuesday every month at 10am at Grace. I think you will enjoy Bible study, prayer, and fellowship with loving Christian women. Bring a friend if you like. If you have any questions, please call Marsha Allison.



Pennies for Missions

Just a reminder that the WIC is still collecting pennies for our missionaries! If you have any spare change that you've been looking to get rid of, feel free to drop it in the container in the Foyer or in the Sunday School Rooms.

The money will be used to help the missionaries that Grace Presbyterian Church supports.

Calendar of Activities for the Month

Men of the Covenant	Thursday, March 6, 6:30 pm
Session Meeting:	Sunday, March 9, 12:00 pm
WIC Circle Meeting:	Tuesday, March 11, 10:00 am
Prayer for our Nation:	Wednesdays at 10:00 am
Bible Study:	Wednesdays at 10:30 am



Men of the Covenant Thursday, March 6

All men of GPC are invited to the Men of the Covenant

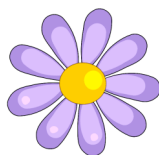
We will have a time of fellowship, food, and a devotion from the Word of God.

The men gather around 6:30 p.m. for fellowship and the meal begins around 7:00 p.m.

*"As iron sharpens iron,
so one person sharpens another."*
Proverbs 27: 17




The next **Session Meeting** will be Sunday, March 9 at 12:00 p.m. If you have something you would like the Session to discuss, please let Pastor Jim, Jesse Arnold, Randy Borill, or Cleve Chandler know.

hello
spring!



MARCH 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion 	3	4	5 10:00 Prayer for The Nation	6 6:30 pm Men of the Covenant	7	8
9 Session Meeting Daylight Savings Time Begins	10	11 10:00 am WIC Circle Meeting	12 10:00 Prayer for The Nation	13	14	15
16	17 	18	19 10:00 Prayer for The Nation	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 10:00 Prayer for The Nation	27	28	29
30	31		30 10:30 Bible Study			
						

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

*In the same way, let your **light** shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give **glory** to your **Father** who is in heaven."*

Matthew 5: 14-16

March Birthdays

Weslee Jo George	11
Emary McGehee	13
William Cobb	15
Robyn Arnold	19
Robert Bennett	28

Sundays : 9:15 a.m. Sunday School • 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship Service

Grace Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Church in America
9526 Joor Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70818

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March 2025

99th Anniversary Of Grace Presbyterian Church

This is just a reminder to plan on joining us for this special occasion.

Future date has not been set but will be sometime in the beginning of April.

We will let everyone know
Once we receive this
information.



I have come into the
world as a light, so
that
whoever believes in
me may not remain
in darkness.

John 12:46 ESV

