

Grace Notes

From: Rev. Jim Gorski

September 2026

John Calvin's Missionary Zeal

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation" – Mk. 16:15

John Calvin is primarily noted for his biblical commentaries and his magnum opus, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, a seminal work of systematic Protestant theology that became one of the most influential texts in the Reformation and Reformed Christianity that, together with his commentaries, is still utilized today.

However, John Calvin was not your typical Bible scholar/theologian. He was also a pastor who was deeply involved in missions and church planting in France and throughout Europe. This may surprise some people who think of Calvin as something of an "ivory tower" theologian. But the fact remains, he was a missionary and church planter at heart and did whatever he could to support these kingdom labors.

According to one author, when Calvin was in Geneva in the 1550s the population doubled as refugees, many from France, entered the city looking for a place to call home. Quite a few of them sat under Calvin's weekly preaching and heard sermons calling them to be active in bearing witness to Christ and sharing the gospel. As they listened, many of these French refugees were moved in their hearts to return to their homeland and preach the gospel. Calvin agreed to commission some of them, but insisted he train them first. So, he taught them how to preach, instructed them in theology, and assessed their moral character to be sure they were qualified to be ministers of the gospel.

But Calvin did more than train missionaries and send them off with financial support to provide for their needs. He continued to correspond with them via the many letters he wrote to them, thousands of which we are able to read today. As one person comments, "The missionaries Calvin commissioned weren't just magnets on a refrigerator, they were his brothers in Christ for whom he took a great personal interest."

Calvin was so involved in the work of missions that by 1555, he and his Geneva supporters had planted five churches in France. Four years later, they planted one hundred churches in France. By 1562, more than two thousand churches had been planted in France through the efforts of Calvin, his supporters in Geneva, and some of their sister cities. During the last ten years of his life, Calvin devoted the greater part of his energy to missions and church planting. He trained, assessed, sent, counseled, prayed for, and corresponded with, the missionaries and church planters he commissioned and, by God's grace, his efforts met with some success.

(Continued on next page)

One French church in Bergerac that Calvin helped to plant, reported in a letter that God had caused his work to bear such fruit that between four and five thousand people regularly attended Sunday worship. Another church in Montpellier reported, "Our church, thanks to the Lord, has so grown and so continues to grow every day that we are obliged to preach three sermons on Sundays to a total of five to six thousand people." A pastor in Toulouse wrote to Calvin, "Our church has grown to the astonishing number of about eight to nine thousand souls." France, however, was not the only field Calvin equipped missionaries and church planters to harvest. He and his Genevan supporters sent missionaries to Italy, the Netherlands, Hungary, Poland, and the free Imperial city-states in the Rhineland. It was also reported that Calvin sent two missionaries to Brazil in 1557.

Clearly, John Calvin took to heart the words of Jesus in Matthew 28:19, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations," and he tirelessly worked to accomplish that task. One man writes of Calvin's zeal to take the gospel into the world, "Missions was not a section of his systematic theology, it was central to what he was trying to accomplish in his ministry."

John Calvin was a great theologian and biblical commentator, but he was also a great supporter of world missions and church planting and, to God's glory, he gave of his time, monies, and energies to prepare and equip others to carry out this work of ministry.

Jesus said ...

By using the letter of the alphabet BEFORE the letter shown, decipher one of the sayings of Jesus.

Jesus said to them:

" J B N

U I F

C S F B E

P G

M J G F "

—John 6:35

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. (King Solomon)

Answers:
Jesus said ...
" I am the bread
of life."
Number
Stumpers:
1-83
2-46 or 64
3-55
4-38



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."

(1 Timothy 2: 1-2)



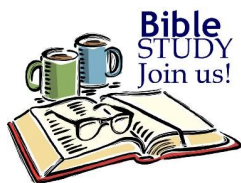
Blessed
is the NATION
whose
GOD
is the LORD.
Psalm 33:12

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

The Lord's Supper

.Will be observed on
September 6
at the morning worship service.
Everyone is encouraged to be in prayer and
repentance in preparation to partake
In this holy sacrament

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



**Please Join us every Wednesday
Time: 10:30**

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



Ladies
ministry

Dear Sisters in Christ,
The women of Grace meet on the second Tuesday of the month for prayer, Bible study, and fellowship. We would love to have you join us. We are studying the book of Hebrews. We have learned a lot and have had many prayers lifted up to God in our time together. Please come join us on the second Tuesday, everyone is welcome. 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, September 3 at 1:00pm
WIC Circle Meeting: Tuesday, September 8 at 10:00am
Session Meeting: Sunday, September 13 at 12pm
Prayer for our Nation: Wednesdays at 10:00 am
Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:30 am

Men of the Covenant

Resumes Thursday, September 3

All men of GPC are invited to the Men of the Covenant which will resume its monthly meetings.

We enjoy a nice meal at 1:00 p.m., but many of the men arrive around 1:30 to enjoy some good fellowship. Following the meal we will hear a devotion from the Word of God. Men, please sign up in the foyer if you are planning to attend.



The next **Session Meeting** will be Sunday September 13, 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.

Budget Committee Meeting

The Committee will meet on September 27 to discuss and finalize the budget for the upcoming year. Please be in prayer for these individuals as they seek the Lord's wisdom for Grace Presbyterian Church's 2027 Budget



September 2026

*For everything there is
a season, and a time for
every matter
under heaven.... "*

Ecclesiastes 3:1



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

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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Verse to Remember

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.

—Psalm 100:1-2

