

# Grace Notes

From: Rev. Jim Gorski

January 2025

## Labor in the Lord

*Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast,  
immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,  
knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain – 1 Cor. 15:58*

On New Year's Day 1956, five missionaries, Nate Saint, Jim Elliot, Pete Fleming, Ed McCully, and Roger Youderian, prepared to make contact with the Auca Indians of Ecuador. The Aucas were a fierce tribe known for their hostile treatment of outsiders. As the five men packed for their journey, Jim Elliot's wife, Betty, wondered, "Will this be the last time I'll help him pack?"

On the day of their departure, January 3, the five men ate breakfast and afterward sang one of their favorite hymns:

*We rest on thee, our Shield and our Defender,  
Thine is the battle, thine will be the praise.  
When passing through the gates of pearly splendor  
Victors, we rest with thee through endless days.*

Saying goodbye to their families, the men climbed into their small aircraft and departed for a jungle beach where they hoped to contact the Aucas. Once they landed, they built a tree house and waited for the Aucas to arrive. On Friday, January 6, an Auca man and two women came to visit, which greatly encouraged the missionaries. Hopeful that their friendly encounter with the three Aucas was an indication of good things to come, the missionaries eagerly awaited another visit.

However, they had no further contact with the Aucas until two days later, on Sunday at 12:30 p.m., when several Auca men came to their site. Nate Saint then made a radio call to his wife informing her of the visit and asking that she and the other wives pray for them. He promised to recontact her at 4:30 p.m. with an update.

When 4:30 came, the missionary wives turned on their radio. Silence. Five minutes went by and then ten. When the sun set there was still no word from their husbands. Fearful of the worst, the wives slept very little Sunday night.

On Monday morning, January 9, a missionary pilot, affiliated with a different organization, flew to the beach and spotted the aircraft but the missionaries were nowhere to be seen. A ground party was organized that day to search for the men. On Wednesday, January 11, the lifeless bodies of the five missionaries were found on the beach.

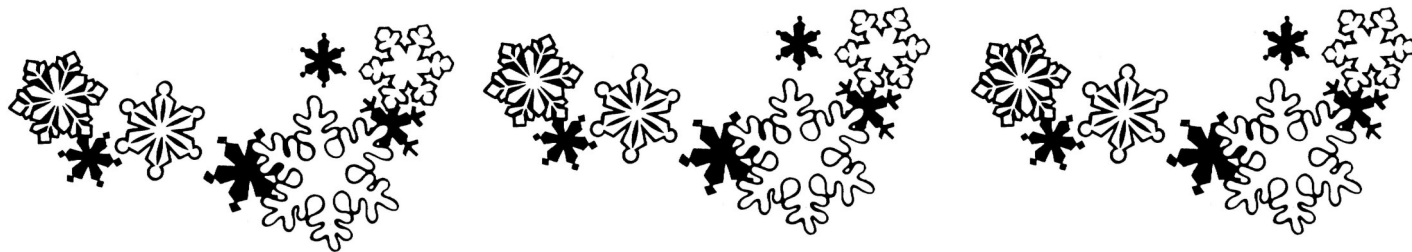
From a purely human perspective, this mission endeavor was a failure. It was a waste of life. Five young men were murdered by the Aucas. They and their wives had left the comforts of America and moved to the jungles of Ecuador to proclaim the gospel to an unreached people and they died without a single convert. "What a waste," someone may say. But that is the human perspective on the matter. It is not God's. He views things differently and tells us our labor in the Lord, whatever that labor may be, is never in vain. Even if it bears no immediate results.

And we can see this is true by what happened after the five missionaries died at the hands of the Auca Indians. For even though they did not live to see one Auca come to Christ, their wives and children did.

In 1958, Betty Elliot and Rachel Saint, Nate's sister, continued the ministry to the Auca Indians and one by one, they put their faith in Jesus Christ. Even the men who murdered the five missionaries trusted in Christ and became spiritual leaders among their people.

And in June of 1965, nine years after the five men were killed by the Aucas, two of Nate Saint's children, Kathy and Stephen, were baptized on the beach where their father died by two of his killers. I am reminded of the words of the early church father, Tertullian, who wrote, "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." The five missionaries did not die in vain.

Nothing we do for the sake of Christ and his kingdom is a waste of time. Therefore, for this new year and every year God gives us breath, let us, as Paul writes, "be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." For we can know that our labor in the Lord, whatever that labor may be, is never in vain. God gives us his word.



### **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

*Starting in January 2025*

*The Newsletter will be available in the vestibule for you to pick up each month.*

*Also the newsletter will be on our website:  
[www.gracepresbyterianbr.church](http://www.gracepresbyterianbr.church)*

### ***The Lord's Supper***

will be  
observed on January 5 at the  
morning worship service.  
Everyone is  
encouraged to be in prayer and  
repentance in preparation to partake in this holy  
sacrament.



**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.”*

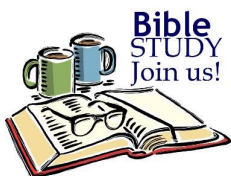
*(1 Timothy 2: 1-2)*



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.

*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 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.



### Calendar of Activities for the Month

- Men of the Covenant Thursday, January 9, 6:30 pm
- WIC Circle Meeting: Tuesday, January 14, 10:00 am
- Session Meeting: Sunday, January 12, 12:00 pm
- Prayer for our Nation: Wednesdays at 10:00 am
- Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:30 am



## Men of the Covenant Thursday, January 9

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

### 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.

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

**Tax Statements** will be ready towards the end of January and available in the foyer at church. If you need yours to be mailed or emailed to you, please call the church office.



# JANUARY 2025



*“Remember not  
the former things,  
nor consider  
the things of old.  
Behold, I am doing  
a new thing;  
now it springs forth,  
do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way  
in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.”*

*- Isaiah 43:18-19*



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Happy NEW year</i>	2	3	4
Communion 5	6	7	8 10:00 Prayer for The Nation 10:30 Bible Study	9 6:30 pm Men of the Covenant	10	11
Session Meeting 12	13	14 10:00 am WTC Circle Meeting	15 10:00 Prayer for The Nation 10:30 Bible Study	16	17	18
			22 10:00 Prayer for The Nation 10:30 Bible Study	23	24	25
			29 10:00 Prayer for The Nation 10:30 Bible Study	30	31	
			28			
			27			
			26			

**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

# *Grace Notes*



*January 2025*

## Psalm

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever*

*Happy  
New  
Year*

