

Grace Notes

From: Rev. Jim Gorski

October 2024

Jonathan Goforth – Went Forth

*And I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
“Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”
Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.” – Isa. 6:8*

Jonathan Goforth was born on February 10, 1859 on a farm near London, Ontario. He was one of eleven children whose journey to Christ began at the age of eighteen. Still in high school and struggling to finish, he came in contact with a Presbyterian pastor named Lachlan Cameron, who made frequent visits to his high school to hold Bible studies for the students. Goforth developed a friendship with the pastor and decided to visit his church. He visited on three consecutive Sundays and on his third visit the pastor’s sermon spoke to his heart. At the end of the message Goforth bowed his head in prayer and trusted in Christ for his salvation.

Later that year when visiting his brother Will’s farm, located fifteen miles from his home, Will’s father-in-law gave Jonathan a copy of *The Memoirs of Robert Murray M’Cheyne*, a renowned Church of Scotland pastor and evangelist. On the way home he began reading the book and became so captivated with the story of M’Cheyne’s life and his burden to reach people for Jesus, Goforth tethered his horse to a tree and continued to read. As the sun was about to set, Jonathan Goforth purposed in his heart to devote his life to leading the unsaved to the Savior.

Not long after, and still in high school, Goforth heard a missionary to the Far East lament he had been unsuccessful in finding any young men to carry on the work of ministry. Stirred in his heart by the missionary’s words, the Lord brought to his mind Isaiah 6:8, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” and Goforth silently answered, “Here am I! Send me.” It was at that moment in time the missionary career of Jonathan Goforth began.

Aware he was in need of theological training before entering the mission field, Goforth enrolled at Knox Presbyterian College in Toronto and in-between studies and church, he spent much of his time visiting the city’s slums. It was during his inner-city mission work that he met his wife, Rosalind Bell-Smith, who said after peeking at Goforth’s well-worn Bible and discovering it was filled with notes from cover to cover, she was certain this was the man she wanted to marry. After Jonathan concluded his studies at Knox College in 1887, he was ordained by the Canadian Presbyterian Church. In October of that year, he and Rosalind married and four months later they sailed for China as missionaries.

While in China, Jonathan and Rosalind, along with their growing family, traveled throughout the country doing evangelistic work and the Lord blessed their labors. But the trials of missionary life cost the family dearly. Five of their eleven children died in China.

(Continued on page 2)

Yet despite the heartache and hardships, the Goforth's continued to labor for the Lord and their labor was not in vain. During their forty-six years on the mission field the Goforth's witnessed thousands of Chinese become Christians through Jonathan's preaching and his and Rosalind's personal evangelism. Jonathan records in his journal that in the first five months after moving to the city of Changde, twenty-five thousand Chinese came to their home and heard the gospel proclaimed an average of eight hours a day. Incredibly, while ministering in this location a thirteen day evangelistic meeting was held at the request of a Chinese general that resulted in more than four thousand baptisms. These hymn singing soldiers, transformed by the power of God, came to be known as "the soldiers of heaven."

Eventually, Jonathan Goforth's health took a turn for the worse and he went blind. But even after losing his sight, he continued to preach, teach, and train Chinese evangelists until friends persuaded him and Rosalind to return to Canada, which they did in December of 1934.

After he and Rosalind were settled in Canada, Goforth received many invitations to speak about their missionary work in China and he took every opportunity to do so. On October 7, 1936 after he returned from a speaking engagement, he retired for the evening and went to bed. The next morning Rosalind discovered that sometime during the night Jonathan had passed into glory and was now in the presence of his Savior.

Reflecting on Goforth's life in a letter to Rosalind shortly after Jonathan died, Charles W. Gordon wrote:

The characteristic features of Goforth were his simplicity of spirit, his selfless devotion, and the completeness of his faith in God. As I came to know him better, I came more and more to honor his manliness, his humility, his courage, his loyalty to his lord, and his passion to save the lost.

Jonathan Goforth purposed to devote his life to leading the unsaved to the Savior soon after his conversion. God honored his desire and used him to lead thousands of Chinese to Christ during his forty-six years on the mission field. While not every Christian is called to foreign missions, we are called to live for Christ and to make him known, wherever God has placed us, and for as long as he gives us breath. May Jonathan Goforth's unwavering commitment to lead the unsaved to the Savior encourage us to be faithful to our call.

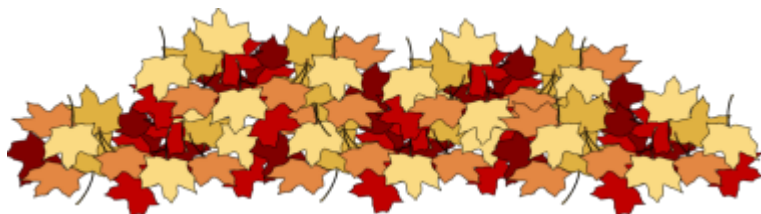
Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness that God requires.

James 1: 19-20 ESV



The Lord's Supper

will be
observed on October 6, 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.

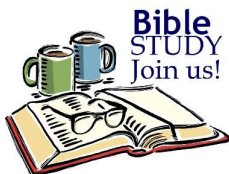
Our group of prayer warriors meets in the sanctuary for the sole purpose of praying for our nation. If you cannot attend, please join us in prayer from your home or office during that time as we follow the command to pray for all those in authority.

“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 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.**



What do you know about Jonah?
 This book of the Bible is more than just about a man and a fish!!
 What do you know about Habakkuk?
 It is a book of the Bible also!
 These questions are being answered the second Tuesday of the month at our Circle Meeting. God is teaching us how we can use these examples and events in our every day life. Please join us at 10am the second Tuesday of every month at Grace as we look at "God's Cranky Prophets".
 We have a great time of study, prayer, and fellowship.
 If you have any questions please contact 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, October 3, 6:30pm
WIC Circle Meeting: Tuesday, October 8 10:00 am
Session Meeting: Sunday, October 13, 12:00 pm
Prayer for our Nation: Wednesdays at 10:00 am
Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:30 am



Men of the Covenant Resumes Thursday, October 3

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

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*

Gratitude Cabinet

If there is something that you are thankful for this summer, please remember to take a couple of photos so that we can included them in the Gratitude Cabinet.

"Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" Psalm 107: 1

The next **Session Meeting** will be Sunday, October 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, Kit Bonvillian, or Cleve Chandler know.



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Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1	2 <i>10:00 Prayer for Nation 10:30 Bible Study</i>	3 6:30 pm Men of the Covenant	4	5
6 Communion	7	8 10:00 am WIC Circle Meeting	9 <i>10:00 Prayer for Nation 10:30 Bible Study</i>	10	11	12
13 Session Meeting	14	15	16 <i>10:00 Prayer for Nation 10:30 Bible Study</i>	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23 <i>10:00 Prayer for Nation 10:30 Bible Study</i>	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30 <i>10:00 Prayer for Nation 10:30 Bible Study</i>	31

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

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Romans 12: 2



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

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CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR OUR MILITARY

As a way of encouraging our men and women serving in the Armed Forces around the world, we will be partnering with the Blue Star Moms of Central again by sending Christmas Cards to our troops.

Beginning Sunday, September 29th through Sunday, November 3rd, please write a greeting in one of the Christmas cards provided. Place the finished card in the decorated box on display, and we will take care of the rest! You may gladly fill out more than one card.

Remember, please do not seal the envelopes. There are lists of suggested things to say by the display; feel free to take one if you need it. In signing your card, if you wish, you may sign just your first name, or simply sign it "A Friend" or "A Friend in Baton Rouge, Louisiana."

What a great honor it is to have men and women serving our country and protecting our freedom. Let's take the chance to encourage and thank them!

Please contact Mary Ann Bennett with any questions

