

Pastor's Notes:

I am very appreciative of the opportunity given to me by Calvin College and by Grace Church to teach an interim college class over 3 weeks in January. The class is entitled "Urban Missions in NYC" and it meets from January 3-23 in the mornings. I will be available to fulfill all of my responsibilities as pastor of Grace during that time except from January 5-14. On those dates I will be in NYC, engaging with significant Christian leaders on the challenges of the urban setting and ethnic diversity, especially in such an important global city like NYC. The leaders that we will meet with include:

A R Bernard, pastor of the 30,000 member Christian Cultural Center in Brooklyn

Peter Scazzero, pastor of New Life Community Church in Queens and author of "Emotionally Healthy Church" and "Emotionally Healthy Spirituality"

Mark Gornik, President of City Seminary of New York and author of "To Live In Peace" an important work on the subject of Urban Ministry

Dr. John Perkins (by video conference)

Others

We will discuss with CRC leadership, the progress that our denomination has made in NYC, with our Home Missions planning for 40 church plants over the next 10 years.

I have been very blessed with the opportunity to become friends with wonderful Christian leaders that have impacted who I am and how I view ministry. It is a joy to share those relationships and perspectives with the students at Calvin. You can learn more about the interim at:

<http://jackkooreman.wordpress.com/new-york-city-interim/>



2007: The Year of Our Lord



Looking back on the year 2007 we may recognize the following events connected to Grace Church.

Births:

Evelynne Grace VanDyke, April, 19

Meika Spears August 5

Brianna Parveneh Amirshahi, September 29

Weddings:

Ryan Schreiber and Sarah Steen, May 26

Deborah Lew and Sean Farrell, October 7

Jenna and Amir Amirshahi



Brianna

Professions of faith:

Matthew Van Harn, David Kwiatkowski and Marshall Kvas, April 8

Grace and Ryan Spears, August 5

Silas Kok and Deveta Clayton, December 2

Deaths:

Ken Hammer, May

Viola Cross, October 22

Christine Williams, November 28



Lorraine Pierce and Christine Williams

The Grace Church Jail Ministry
REMEMBRANCES OF GRIEF AND GRATITUDE,
by John and Mary Vroon

Bob Geels, who led the ministry and asked us to serve when he became ill.

Marcus Day, remembering his son, and calling the parent or spouse of inmates on church holidays.

Ollie Chaffin's prayers for her "friends in jail".

Betty Higgins' testimonies and songs of praise.

Arie Knoester's reliability and jokes.

ANDREW CROSS'S EXAMPLE OF A LIFE OF FAITH IN HIS WORDS OF ADMONITION AND ENCOURAGEMENT.

David LaGrand's quiet chats about grace.

Greg Mellema's thoughts of family and gifts of music.

Sally Kikkert's testimony of her life's journey.

Bill Eerdman's gifts of books and clothing.

Roger Van Harn's followup visits and encouragement.

Youngsters crying in the service.

Testimonies, prayers and music contributions of inmates.

Applause, grateful faces and bump - handshakes .

Jack Kooreman's heart and action for the "least".

Songs and prayers to God
in concrete and steel.

A file full of notes, drawings, and
prayer requests from inmates.

**The encouragement of Bill Broersma, head Chaplain
for Forgotten Man Ministries.**

Ted Rottman's teaching and personal
involvement in the criminal justice system.

*Inmates remembering Grace Church
as neighbors, visitors, or attendance
at N.A. or A.D.*

Appreciation to Grace Church
for a way to serve and a place to grow.

God's grace freely and
marvelously given
regardless
of time and place.

The Jail Ministry has been ongoing for a long time and many people have been involved in different ways throughout those years. John and Mary Vroon remain active and visit the Kent County Jail every second Sunday of the month. If you are interested in becoming involved in this ministry call them at 531- 6813 and give them your support. Some have joined them for a few visits, other have ministered with them for many visits. It is officially a ministry of the Grace Church and the Deacons.

Committee Membership

2007-2008

Education Committee:

Chair, Greg Yoder,
Gretchen Bouwsma
John Vroon,
Marcus and Janice Cole, Elder
Liaison

Ron DeWaard, Deacon Liaison

Arie Knoester, Ex Officio

Amy Crow, Ex Officio

Facilities Committee:

Doug Haverkamp – chair

Terry Eggebeen

Mary McKinney

Tom Vander Laan

Mary Van Harn

Roger Wagenmaker, Deacon Liaison

Bill Flikkema

Hospitality Committee:

Marla Hoekwater – Chair

Laurie Wood, Secretary

Matilda Brandon

Marcia Lucas

Mildred Pinder

Helen Gray, Elder Liaison

Dawn Brown

Pastoral Relations

Committee

Karl Westerhof

Mike Bruinooge, Coordinator

Helen Brent

Paul Hart

Andrea Owens

Marla Hoekwater

Tech Support Committee

Ron Steenwyk – chair

Paul Hart

Steve Karr

Finance Committee

Ron De Waard - Chair

Jackson Van Dyke

Worship Committee

Michael Bruinooge – chair, secretary

Melanie Karr, staff

Emmanuel Phillips, DOAW, Choir Director

Tom Hoeksema, Elder Liaison

Jack Kooreman, Pastor

Liz Spears

Stephanie Rottman

Ad Hoc Christian Education

Committee

Harry and Judy Lew

Marcia Lucas – Chair

Ron and Kathy Steenwyk

For comments, articles, etc. for
Grace Notes please contact Chris or Greta
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