

To The Point

Encouraging each other to take the next step in our journey of faith in Jesus

www.OurGracePoint.com

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September 2008

Pray for Odessa

Each day we are reminded of how our neighbors and friends need to be encouraged in their journey of faith. Pray that GPer's can help others encounter Jesus, and thus serve as a grace point in someone's life.

Pray for the Tyrees

Christy, Caitlyn, and Andrew have all started school. May the adjustment to this new pattern of life be one that is smooth and effective.

Pray to Step It Up

This fall, we're looking to Step It Up at Grace Point. There are many challenges before us. Some of the challenges will be smaller than others, but all will require new steps of faith.

Pray for Connection

Since our opening, two years ago this October, we have seen nearly 400 people come through the doors of GP. May we provide a place that encourages them to connect with God and each other.

Pray for our Friends

In late September, CMA will host its annual conference in Olathe, Kansas. Church starters from across the country will gather there to be challenged and encouraged.

Pray for our Efforts

Currently, finances are tight at GP. We do not want the cost of ministry to keep us from doing ministry.

Meeting Sundays at Blanton Elementary 4101 Lynbrook Ave Odessa, TX 79762 at 10:00AM

Summer Highlights

For the summer, GP had a singular focus: **Beat the Heat!** We did just that.

This summer we saw our attendance match and exceed our highest attendance records, topping 75 twice in July and reaching 83 on August 24 and then 79 on Labor Day weekend. Last summer, we averaged 45. *All in all more than 150 people participated in our worship gatherings this summer.*

As we continued to Beat the Heat, **we baptized eight this summer.** Chane, Shelley, MaKayle, and Fabian were baptized in July. Sarah, Dale, Aubrey, and Abby were baptized in August. Both baptism events were done in connection with backyard cookouts that helped GPer's continue to connect with



one another.

In June, we launched our ministry for teens, 6th -12th graders. **XP3** began meeting on Thursday nights in June. Attendance averaged around 10, with the last two weeks in August seeing more than 15 teens participating. We've moved XP3 to Wednesdays to accommodate schedules of our students and their activities at school.



XP3 students have stepped up to helping lead in our main worship gatherings as well. Through drama performances and playing in the worship band, as well as serving in our children's and technology areas, they are doing their part to encourage others.



Another notable Beat the Heat moment was **Operation:Christmas in July.** We were able to make donations of clothes, toys, and puzzles to

Odessa Regional Medical Center thanks to the efforts of GPer's.

The summer has truly been exciting and full of momentum and it's time to continue to **Step It Up!** We know that there are thousands of people around us who need to encounter Jesus and have a grace point in their lives. Estimates are that nearly 80,000 Odesans are not part of a church on a given Sunday. We are making strong strides in the right direction, but we are not finished yet.

As fall sets in, we'll continue to make encouraging others a priority. We'll encourage them to be a part of our worship gatherings. We need to encourage steps into ministry service on Sundays and beyond for our community. There is still a great deal of work to be done!

Thanks for your prayers and support. Be sure to check us out online, OurGracePoint.com or my blog malcolmtyree.blogspot.com.



TYREE TIDBITS

The end of summer came quickly. As we wrapped up our family vacation in July, life took on a new pace as Christy was hired to teach 6th grade at Dowling Elementary School.

In her words, "They're a funny bunch, and I love my principal and co-workers. Caitlyn is going there as well, so that's kind of our 'thing' together, and I can get to know her teacher. It's still hard leaving Andrew at home, but I know that this is really good for he and Daddy to be together like this."



Caitlyn's going to Kindergarten each day and loves every minute of it. She loves talking about all the fun things Mrs. Evans is doing and prays for her each night. Caitlyn was also excited to lose her first two teeth recently. She can't keep from sticking her tongue through the hole on the bottom row.

Andrew celebrated his third birthday with a bang. He got a small drum set that he just loves to bang around on. As long as all the pieces stay together, mommy and daddy like it too. He has such an interest in the drums and guitar. He also started pre-school this



month. He is attending the Mother's Day Out program that Caitlyn was involved in last year.

As for me, I'm discovering that God still has many steps of faith ahead for me. I'm glad to be on the journey! I was re-certified as a presenter for Making It Count and I look forward to the opportunities I have to continue working with this company committed to encouraging people.



Thanks for your prayers!

~Malcolm

Step It Up

Grace Point operates with a clear purpose of encouraging each other to take the next step on our journey of faith in Jesus. To guide us in this, we establish goals or next steps. Below is a brief explanation of our current one.

Now that summer is over it's important to celebrate the victories and **Step It Up**. The fall is a prime time for people to connect with one another and reconnect with God. We have an opportunity to encourage them to take the next step!

This fall we'll Step It Up in our journey as a community of faith. Some of the things to look forward to include:

- Understanding how to connect emotionally, personally, and spiritually
- Forming home-based small groups that encourage family participation
- Getting to know your neighbors through block parties
- Answering the questions of why church really matters

So here's what you can do to Step It Up at Grace Point.

- Make Sundays a priority - participate in our gatherings
- Open your home to a small group gathering
- Invest in a family through serving one month in one of our children's classes.
- Contribute financially: give what you can, as often as you can, and practice tithing
- Take the 360 challenge of praying for 3 people, 6 times a week, missing 0 opportunities to point them to Jesus

Will you help us **Step It Up**? Allow God to continue to Open Gates in '08.

In just a few short weeks we will be asked to vote for civil leaders to guide our cities, counties, states, and nation. There are many factors to consider as we choose who we'd like to lead us. Evaluate the issues. Ask the hard questions. Educate yourself on the candidates. Vote your conscience. Trust God!

Dollars and Cents

The rapid increase in the cost of goods and services across our country has been shocking to all of us. Few of us have seen our incomes rise during this time of price increases and so it has forced us to make some decisions on how we use our money.

Keep in mind your income is not your source of security nor does it provide for your needs. God does. Our willingness to trust God is best demonstrated in our use of money. Will you continue to trust God by giving as God directs you?

I pray that you will "put your money where your mouth is" with regards to your trust of God.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse...test me in this...see if I will not open the floodgates of heaven...." Malachi 3:10.

Grace Notes

The central theme of Grace Point is that we encounter Jesus at various points in life. As a community of believers and seekers, we will encourage each other to share those stories of encounters, those grace points, with others. These stories are what we call Grace Notes.



Congratulations to Robert and Natalie Clay on the arrival of Ema. I'm sure big sister Natlisha is loving every minute!

Congratulations to Wes Toller, Christy Tyree, Natalie Clay, and Jeremy Bowen on your new jobs.


Congratulations to Jennifer Bowen and Jason Tidwell on your recent engagement.

Congratulations to Wiley and Mindy Gregg on the engagement of your daughter Tia.

Congratulations to Tammy Scarborough and Leesa Summerford on your expected arrivals. Both are due in late October or early November.

Check for more Grace Notes online at www.OurGracePoint.com.

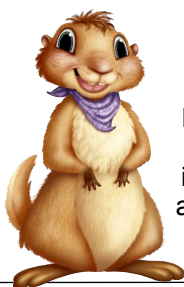
Beat the Heat



Through baptisms, cookouts, small groups, a rocking band, everyone pitching in to help, and a variety of other means - we Beat the Heat! Together we encourage those around us to take the next step on the journey of faith.

Children's Ministry Update

Thanks to our staff and parents who made it possible for us to provide a rotation break for many of our regular servers in the Children's Ministry this summer. All three classes resume in September.



Prairie Dog Village
is for infants and toddlers.



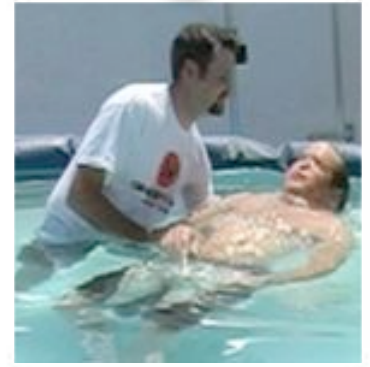
Fort Tumbleweed
is for 3-5 year olds



Grace Town
is for K-5th graders

GP Quick Pics

After church on July 13, more than 60 people gathered around a swimming pool to witness Fabian, Shelley, and Chane get baptized. They were joined by MaKayle and then one month later by Dale, Aubrey, Abby, and Sarah. Congratulations on taking this step of faith!



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