

# GIVING

05.10.26

General Offering	\$12,277.80
Building Fund	\$1,232.34
Uganda	\$191.00
Benevolence	\$90.00
Total	\$13,791.14
Attendance	285



Welcome to  
Grace Harvest  
Bible Church

05.17.26

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***"Give thanks to Him who led His people through the wilderness, for His mercy endures forever!"***

Psalm 136:16

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## VISITORS + MEMBERS

For ALL church announcements, our church calendar, ministries for serving and small groups to join, please see our Church Center app.

## SUNDAY BIBLE CLASSES

9:00am

Elders - 2 Samuel  
Sanctuary A

Bereans - Luke  
Upstairs C

Young Adults - 1 Corinthians  
Downstairs B, Gray Room

Surge (10 - 12 Year Olds)  
Upstairs C

Youth (13 - 18 Year Olds)  
Basement A

Children's SS  
(Birth - 9 Year Olds)  
Downstairs C

## SUNDAY SERVICES

10:30am

Worship Service

Children's Church  
(Birth - 9 Year Olds)

## WEEKDAY EVENTS

Trail Life  
Mondays 6:30pm

Men's Book Study  
Mondays 7pm | Fridays 6am

Women's Book Study  
Mondays 6:30pm

Worship Team Practice  
Tuesdays 7:00pm

Awana  
Wednesdays 6:30pm

Surge (10 - 12 Year Olds)  
Wednesdays 6:30pm

Youth (13 - 18 Year Olds)  
Wednesdays 6:30pm

Men's Alliance  
Wednesdays 7:00pm

Family Groups  
Every other Thursday  
9:00am, 6:30pm, & 7:00pm

# Pastor's Pen

Not Our Home!

**"So then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as God is pleading through us."**  
2 Corinthians 5:20

When an ambassador is appointed by the President of the United States, they move to the US embassy in the country to which they are assigned. For example, the US ambassador to China, David Perdue, resides in Beijing. The ambassador represents the interests of the United States of America, not the interests of China. He understands that China is not his home.

Every believer experiences a tension: we live, work, and build our lives here, but deep down, we recognize this is not our true home. Scripture clearly addresses this reality. Paul reminds us in Philippians 3:20 that **"our citizenship is in heaven,"** while Peter urges us in 1 Peter 2:11 to live as **"sojourners and exiles."** Jesus Himself said in John 18:36, **"My kingdom is not of this world,"** making it clear that if we belong to Him, we belong to a different kingdom.

This world is real, but it is not our true home. When we forget this, we start chasing temporary illusions. Things, comfort, security, and approval, instead of Christ. The writer of Hebrews 11:13 describes believers as **"strangers and exiles on the earth,"** reminding us that we are passing through, not settling down, and that should shape how we live.

Paul emphasizes this in Colossians 3:2, urging us to focus on **"things above"** instead of worldly concerns, encouraging us to fix our hearts on heaven rather than what is fleeting. Simultaneously, we are purposeful travelers—ambassadors. As 2 Corinthians 5:20 states, we are **"ambassadors for Christ,"** residing in a foreign land while representing our true home. That means our lives should reflect the values of heaven in the way we think, live, and love, remembering that we are not settlers here but sent ones, faithfully representing Christ until the day we are finally home with Him.

**"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."** Philippians 3:20

Your shepherd, Pastor Mark

## Grace Gems

God leading His people through the wilderness  
(James Smith, "Food for Hungry Souls")

**"Give thanks to Him who led His people through the wilderness, for His mercy endures forever!"** Psalm 136:16

How much we have to be thankful for. Everything short of Hell, is mercy!

THE OBJECTS OF GOD'S CARE. "His people." Those whom He has chosen for His own, and eternally set apart for His praise. Those whom He has redeemed from the claims of justice, by His blood. Those whom He has called out of the world, and consecrated to His service. Those with whom He has entered into covenant, saying, "I will be your God, and you shall be My people!" They are His own—in the highest, holiest, and most blessed sense.

THEIR PILGRIMAGE. They are brought into a wilderness. That is, the world becomes a wilderness to them, in consequence of His precious work within them. They have to pass through the wilderness, where they experience spiritual hunger and thirst, and are often sighing for suitable supplies. Not hunger only, but spiritual weariness—for they have little rest or repose. Many foes meet them, oppose them, and come into conflict with them. Dangers in every direction surround them, and many painful privations are felt by them. These and other things discourage them. But it is the way to the Promised Land! Egypt has been left, the wilderness is now being journeyed, and Canaan with all its glory is before us!

THE MANNER OF GOD'S GUIDING. The Lord leads us by His servants, by His providence, and by His Word. He leads us . . . like a faithful shepherd leads a flock—with care, watchfulness, and wisdom; like a kind parent leads a little child—with gentle attention and love; like a mother eagle, who teaches her young to fly—watches it if there is the least danger, and darts beneath it and carries it on her wings; like only a God could—whose patience, love, and grace, are as constant as the day! Thus the Lord leads us; never taking His eye off us, or remitting His care at any time for one moment.

THE CAUSE OF GOD'S ATTENTIVE LEADING. "His mercy endures forever!" His mercy fixed upon them, and chose them for His own. His mercy took charge of them, to conduct them to the promised land. His mercy continued with them, through the whole of the long, tedious, and trying journey. His mercy was glorified in them, in its constancy and power to supply. In His mercy, He led them . . . to try them, to prove them, to humble them, to teach them, and to do them the greatest good. The Lord always makes the world, to be a wilderness to His people. They cannot feel at home in it, nor will it yield them suitable or sufficient supplies. In the wilderness, they learn His ways. They learn . . . to trust in Him, to look to Him, and to expect everything from Him. In the wilderness, He becomes everything to them! In the wilderness, He prepares them for 'Canaan'. He . . . weans them from the world, empties them of self, and shows them the insufficiency of all creatures!

All who follow the Lord as their leader arrive safely in their heavenly home. He does not lead them by the shortest way, nor by the easiest way—but He leads them in the right way, which is the best way. Following Him, they . . . escape dangers, find supplies, master difficulties, overcome their foes, and arrive with certainty at their journey's end! Reader, what is the world to you? Is it a home—or a wilderness? What are you in the world? Are you a resident—or a stranger and a pilgrim? Is God leading you through it—or are you making your home in it? If God is leading you through the wilderness, then do not be surprised if you meet with changes, trials, difficulties, and troubles; they are wilderness fare. If you can make your home in the wilderness, then do not be surprised if you are excluded from the 'Promised Land'. For only those whom God leads through the wilderness, ever arrive safely there!