

Freedom is Not Free

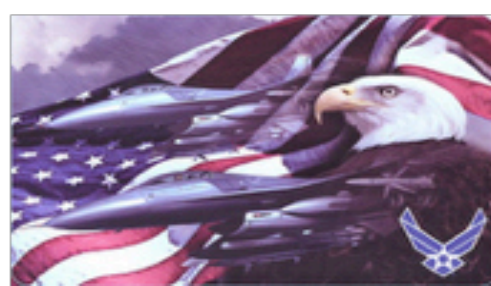


I watch the flag pass by one day, it fluttered in the breeze, a young man in uniform saluted it, and then he stood at ease. I looked at him in uniform-so young, so tall, so proud, with hair cut square and eyes alert, he'd stand out in the crowd. I thought how many men like him had fallen through the years? How many died on foreign soil? How many mothers' tears? How many pilots' planes shot down? How many died at sea? How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?

No, freedom is not free.

I heard the sound of taps one night, when everything was still. I listened to the bugler play and felt a sudden chill. I wondered just how many times that taps had meant "Amen" when a flag had draped a coffin of a brother or a friend. I thought of all the children, of mothers, and the wives, of fathers, sons and husbands, with interrupted lives. I thought about the graveyard at the bottom of the sea, of unmarked graves in Arlington.

No, freedom is not free. (By Major Kelly Strong)



And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Romans 5:5 (NIV)

Contributors:
Belinda Hiemstra
Janice Alexander

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

Revelation 1:8 (NIV)

This is My Story: Steve Mason

I was born and raised in Brandon, FL. outside of Tampa. My parents are Steve and Barbara Mason and I have one brother, David.

I accepted Christ my junior year of high school at a Fellowship of Christians Athletes camp in Black Mountain. After high school I attended Appalachian State University on a football scholarship. I graduated in 1984 and married Tammy in 1985. We moved back to Florida and I worked for my dad at Mason Motors. Four years later I went to work for Manheim Auctions a subsidiary of Cox Enterprises. While living in Florida, I managed two auctions. Then in 2003 I became the manager of an auction house in Fredericksburg VA. We attended Spotswood Baptist Church there in Fredericksburg and I served as a deacon.



Steve and Tammy Mason

In 2014 I retired from the auction business and we moved to Sparta that same year. We built a home on one of the Gambill family farms. (Tammy is a Gambill.) Soon after moving here I became manager of the Alleghany Wellness Center where I still am currently employed.

Tammy and I have three daughters and one son, and now have 3 granddaughters and one grandson. Grand children add a lot to our lives.

From the first time Tammy and I visited Grace Community Church we knew this was where God wanted us to be. Tammy and I both have served as a deacon. Currently I am serving as an elder. That responsibility means I, as well as the other elders, jointly make decisions for the church. I want you to know, I'm here to assist or listen in your times of trouble.

Tammy and I love GCC and this fellowship. The warmth of this body of believers cannot be mistaken for anything less than the love of Christ. Let me add, this is a praying church.



Operation Christmas Child

Pastor Mark Brumbelow and his wife, Cherry, from a small church in Texas shared with us May 1. They relayed facts of how God was working through Samaritans Purse's program. One shoebox reaches approximately 10 people. . . people who have never heard of God and what He has done for them.

It has been said, "Find where God is working and join in to be a part of that work." And that's just what is going on at Grace Church. We have started this year with a major drive to fill shoeboxes now and through out the year. At the Ladies Breakfast on May 14, the ladies enjoyed a good meal and fellowship together and then they filled 107 shoeboxes. A field trip is schedule for May 27 to a warehouse in Lexington where we can purchase items for shoe boxes at wholesale prices. So as many people that are free to go and help load trailers and vans are welcome to help. The goal for the next shoebox packing "party" is 300 boxes. Don't you find that exciting? The date will be announced soon. You will want to be part of that. * * This month we are collecting WOW toys - stuffed animals, etc. There is a drop-off box in the vestibule for your donations.

ROCKY RAILWAY
JESUS' POWER PULLS US THROUGH



Vacation Bible School (VBS)

We need to start praying for this children's ministry. Children need Christ. . . maybe more than ever.

Also plan to be a volunteer. Your help is needed.

Contact Steven Hall (336) 970-9415 or BriAnne Hall (336) 486-3797

July 6 - 8 each evening 6 - 8 & July 9 from 9 - 12

Shoe Box Field Trip - field trip is schedule for May 27 to a warehouse in Lexington to purchase items for shoe box ministry. Meet at the church at 8 am.

Church Golf League - Golf every Thursday at 5:30 through August at New River Country Club. Four players needed each week. Contact Pastor Joel for more information 336-813-2929

ELDERS

Joel Stamper	336-813-2929
Daryl Simpson	336-359-8327
Steve Mason	540-424-8007
Tim Stamper	336-770-6654

DEACONS

Kathy Abernathy	336-200-1357
Tammy Mason	540-845-5474
Winkie Clifton	336-363-9189
Randy Miles	336-657-2036
Darryl Evans	336-467-4486
Grady Morris	704-239-6659
Dale Jones	727-244-0095
Mark Parker	704-641-1615

So ? ?
What are you feeding your mind?
Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable— if anything is excellent or praiseworthy— think about such things.



Our library is FULL of great books. Just sitting on the shelf waiting for you to check one out. To wet your appetite for some great reading material, here is a listing. This month we are focusing on our biography section.

Becoming Elisabeth Elliot - by Ellen Vaughn reviewed by Belinda Hiemstra

This is a book you will not want to hurry through. It takes you through Elisabeth's childhood to college - where she meets Jim Elliot - to the jungles of Ecuador. In between you will get a sense of the no-nonsense Elisabeth, who only wanted to serve her God. The hardships endured on the mission field from the condition of housing, transportation, strange food, and BUGS, left me cringing but Elisabeth took it all in stride. Elisabeth and Jim had been married just over 2 years and had a 10 month old little girl, the day her husband Jim Elliot and his fellow missionary buddies were murdered by the Waodani Indians. The book goes into detail on how they were murdered, and why. One picture in the book of Elisabeth taken 11 days after the death of Jim is one I will not forget; it is true that a picture speaks a thousand words. What will happen to Elisabeth now? I can tell you this, Elisabeth is known for saying, "Do the next thing", and that is what she did.

Let Us Reason Together - by Leroy Cannady: From a drug addict on the streets of Philadelphia to the board room of two of the largest retailers in the world. Read how a Gideon Bible turned this man around into a powerful messenger for Jesus.

A Chance to Die - The Life and Legacy of Amy Carmichael, by Elisabeth Elliot: Amy was an Irish missionary and writer who spent fifty-three years in south India without furlough.

Bob Pierce This One Thing I Do - by Franklin Graham, & Jeanette Lockerbie: Bob was the founder of World Vision and Samaritan's Purse. This book shows how God can use broken people in mighty ways.

I Would Die for You - by Brent & Deanna Higgins: BJ Higgins loved God and believed in using the opportunities God gave him to share the gospel. BJ's life on earth ended after a six-week battle with an infection contracted on the mission field, he was just 15 years old.

Gospel Trailblazer - by Howard O. Jones, with Edward Gilbreath: Dr. Howard O. Jones broadened the first African American to join Billy Graham, helping Graham to howard and become his ministry.

Janette Oke A Heart for the Prairie - by Laurel Oke Logan: Many of us are familiar with Janette Oke's books; this biography was written by her youngest daughter. It chronicles her background as the daughter of a Canadian prairie farmer, wife of a pastor and educator, and mother of four.

Fallen Angel - Hell's Angel to Heaven's Saint - Barry Mayson with Tony Marco: A former motorcycle gang member tells how he was born again and became an ordained minister.

I Can Only Imagine (a Memoir) - by Bart Millard with Robert Nolan: Bart shares how his dad's transformation from abusive father to man of God inspired the hit song.

Castaway Kid - by R.B. Mitchell: Rob was one of the last "lifers" raised in an American orphanage, after he became a Christian, Rob found what he was looking for, a home, family and a relationship with God.

Broken On the Back Row - by Sandi Patty: Sandi tells how she worked with her church and pastor to find forgiveness and peace all while under the scrutiny of national media attention.

Moody - by John Pollock: D.L. Moody was a pacesetter in modern mass evangelism. He was warm hearted, and worked with equal ease among corporation executives and young toughs on the streets of London.

SUSIE, The Life and Legacy of Susanna Spurgeon - by Ray J. Rhodes: Susanna was not only the wife of London's most famous preacher but was a devout woman of God who had a tremendous ministry of her own all while supporting her husband in his ministry.

Evidence Not Seen - Darlene Deirdre Rose: A newlywed missionary, Darlene survived 4 years in a Japanese prison camp in the jungles of New Guinea.

Remember Us - My Journey from the Shtetl through the Holocaust - by Martin Small & Vic Shayne: Martin was a Yeshiva Scholar in Poland when the Germans invaded. His family was buried alive by Polish neighbors and Martin was thrown into a work camp. Many years later Martin meets the soldier who saved him from death in the Mauthausen concentration camp.

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