

**ANNUAL
REPORTS
FROM OUR
MINISTRIES**

Grace Evangelical Church
2008

PASTORAL REPORT

Dave Bohyer
2008

CHANGE AND FAITHFULNESS

“Yet there is one ray of hope: His compassion never ends. It is only the Lord’s mercies that have kept us from complete destruction. Great is His faithfulness; His loving kindness begins afresh each day.” Lam. 3:21-23

What a year 2008 has been for us! Remember the Y2K scare? Here we are now, several years later. We still wait for Christ. The world still is in turmoil, with 9/11, Iraq, and now economic collapse threatening us. A new president is on the way and the password is “change.” It is time for a new way. Fresh hope, God is not only the God of the past, but especially of the future. We live in the NOW, looking for the WHEN, reflecting on the WHY. It’s a wonderful life, right?!!

Well, it can be. Change is great, if God is in it. If His faithfulness and sovereignty drives the change. Change can either bring transformation or deviation, growth or apostasy. I believe these are special times for Grace Church. God desires something NEW AND FRESH for us, but always rooted deep in His truth and love. He invites us in!!

MINISTRY REFLECTIONS:

- We are always glad to praise God for His faithfulness to us as a church family. Seeing God draw people to Christ this year—through the Super Bowl event, through our funeral services, our church camping trip, Awana ministry, through pastoral ministries, through ESL, etc., -- this is humbling to us and thrilling both!! It is also precious to see God work in believer’s lives in growing us to love God more and more. Then what a joy it is to see God use His children in ministry and service. Knowing, loving, serving God. I hope you also can see it—these are God’s individual blessings all around us. My most satisfying blessings are when I watch God change lives of many!
- I am also thankful for the preaching and teaching opportunities God gave this year. This year I personally have shared from Galatians, Daniel, the Resurrection of Christ, Love Needs of Men and Women, the Signs of Life series, Haggai and Economic Stress, the Gospel of Mark, Bible Doctrine, as well as various others. I personally love the ministry of the Word opportunities.
- There are multitudes of specific other areas of praise as well—we brought Dee Duke back to teach on “prayer”, a wonderful community Thanksgiving service, the ESL Christmas dinner outreach, Mom’s group, small group ministries, Awana back on Wednesdays, prayer service on Sundays, the youth and children’s ministries. Our church leadership team has been sacrificial in their ministry commitments. Our Sunday refreshment times have been refreshing. And more. God’s faithfulness is EVERYWHERE, for those who look!

STAFF CHANGES:

Of course, the big news here is God’s leading Jeff and Deana to the land of cowboys, sun, and a young church. We continue to wish them the best and miss them LOTS. But God is still PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSE, and of Grace Church. Once again, I want to highlight His faithfulness in this ongoing change.

- Our church staff has been totally phenomenal in stepping up. Dan, Dawn, and Diane have all helped keep us on target. I encourage you to give them your thanks often.
- God has raised up a music ministry team for us—something Jeff and I have desired for quite a while. Sergio is leading this, along with Jim Fraser, Diane Best, Bruce Brumfield, and now Lori Thereon. It is simply amazing. We made it through the Christmas season well. Our Christmas program led by Ana Devine with a cast of many, gave us all a great boost!
- Dawn, along with help from Dan, is currently giving direction to our CE children's ministry. A new CE committee is forming just about now. Dave Erb and Micah Bohyer are leading the Wednesday adult class during Awana. Josh Monninger is doing great with our power point programming for Sundays. Jason Ramcke is now the resident computer/tech expert for us. Dan Grindel, Frank, Matt, and Josh M. are serving with our sound team. I am helping with the overall oversight of these areas at this time. We are very thankful to the Lord!

CHALLENGES:

There also are many challenges for this next year. We sense a clear and demanding need for outreach ministry. Our regular weekly budget level is hindering us in key ministry areas. Many in our church family are dealing with economic hardships. The elders and I need God's direction for future staffing needs at Grace Church. A lack of finances may restrict us with this. Increasing our attendance as God wills, would help us too, but only for the right reasons. Overall I am praying for a revival of our love for Christ and His Word, His people, and His work. This is the 50th anniversary year for the church and we want to make it special to the Lord. May the Lord Himself continue to be faithful to us!!

PERSONALLY:

These are busy times for many of us. I continue to thank God for so many here at Grace who encourage and pray for me in my roles. I am thankful for this time being able to share in ministry with Dan. I am thankful for Jan who has a heart for supporting me in this ministry too. Let us all remember God's faithfulness in 2009. **GOD HAS THE POWER TO GET US WHERE HE WANTS US WHEN AND HOW AND NO MATTER WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK OR DO!!** May we be alert to His surprise visits in 2009!!

Love in Him,

Dave

PASTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES

Dan Bohyer
2008

As I have tried to look over this past year I have many mixed feelings on a personal level. I am very thankful for God's protection and provision over our family. God has worked in many different ways and it has been good to look back and see what He has accomplished in our lives.

I am thankful for both of my daughters. It has been exciting to see them grow and develop into independent thinkers even though that doesn't always lead to positive results. Cassidy started Kindergarten this year and has done pretty well. Hayley is now two and has entered into her own little world of conversation of which I really only understand parts. Also, I was thankful that we had some good times of vacation with the whole family throughout the year.

Jenny and I have also had some restructuring in our lives as Jenny started a new job at St. Joseph Hospital working in the outpatient lab putting her degree to use. I also have started a "new" job working as a window washer on the side. Our schedules of gotten busy but as we look back we are able to see God's provision for our lives. Jenny and I also had a chance to attend a marriage conference with Chip Ingram down in North Carolina this past fall. We both really enjoyed this personal time away.

This has definitely been a year of change, both politically but also personally. Each of our lives shifted with some sort of varied change over this last year but also in my job. I was saddened by the departure of Pastor Jeff Denton to Texas, although I was very happy for him. It has been a time of transition as we all attempt life without Jeff. But with this change comes a newness of schedule, opportunity, and the anticipation of what lies in the future.

I am very thankful for this church and the ministry I have the opportunity to lead with the teens. Having been here for four years now, my love for the church and the students has grown greater. I am looking forward to the future years with great excitement to see how God will continue to develop and grow our ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Dan Bohyer

LAO MINISTRY PASTORAL REPORT

Siripong Leal
2008

2008 has been a year of slow growth for the Lao ministry. We continue to seek God through the study of His word, through loving one another, and through prayer.

During Sunday school, our adult Bible study continues to move verse-by-verse through the Old Testament. The Old Testament has helped us understand the ministry of Jesus. We came to the ending chapters of the book of Psalms at the end of year. On Friday nights, our adult ministry meets in the L4 classroom for study and prayer. Friday night has been a blessing from God, and many prayers have been many answered.

One of the highlights of the year was our participation in the leadership of music and worship, joining together with the larger GEC family on a Sunday morning in June. We are thankful for the support and fellowship of Travis Stauffer and missions committee members, and we can say that we found new joy in the hope of joining together with every tribe, tongue and nation to sing praise to our God.

During the final months of the year, we took up orange and grapefruit fund raising as a means of putting extra moneys together toward ministry needs. Our immediate goal was to fund the purchase of drums and other musical instruments, but we also looked to establish a reserved account to support future ministry needs. The fund raising netted \$1,408, of which \$200 was given as a gift to a member in financial need. The remaining \$1,208 will be brought into GEC church accounts. A very nice drum set was donated separately to the ministry.

Year 2009 is still a year for seeking God's direction. We give thanks to God for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In His Service,

Siripong Leal, Lao Ministry Lead
Ken Hinterlong, Lao Ministry Co-lead

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR

Dawn Ferrara
2008

Grace Kids 2008

I started planning Family Camp in January using Group curriculum. Pastor Jeff tailored it to work around our "family" theme. We were pleased with the attendance and the donations that were given to Feed My Starving Children.

Again, Dan and I planned an overnight conference, SuperStart, for the 4th – 6th graders. We believe that this is an age where kids need more mentoring. Kids are faced with many different influences starting at this age, and our desire is to give them one that is Christ centered. It is important that they connect with other Christians their age to know that they are not alone. We are planning on taking another group in 2009.

AWANA, ESL, and the Parenting Study have been well attended.

Grace Kids Ministry is now structured as follows:

<u>Church Service @ 9:15 am</u>		<u>Sunday School @ 10:45 am</u>	
Nursery 0 – 1 year old	(rm L6)	Nursery- 0-1 year old	(rm L6)
2 thru 3 years olds	(rm L5)	2 thru 5 years old	(rm L5)
4 thru 5 years olds	(rm L7)	K-2 nd Grade	(rm L7)
Children's Church		3 rd – 6 th Grade Grapple	(rm L1)

Renovations continued in classrooms, and we are almost ready to unveil a mural in L5 designed by Norm Jonsson.

I continue to work closely with Pastor Dan to provide consistency in ministry for children and youth. This includes working on a mentoring ministry to provide accountability for all ages. This will ensure that children are taught biblical worldview thinking and application to lead lives that are set on Christ.

Blessings,

Dawn Ferrara

APPLES OF GOLD MENTORING PROGRAM

2008

This mentoring program of women ministering to women completed its fifth year in 2008. The program was guided by seven mentoring women and included the valuable help of Lisa Erb, Noelle Hoppe, Debra Wehr and Berni Walkush, and reached out to nine women. One purpose of Apples of Gold is to connect women with one another. We want to create an avenue for older women to teach the younger women as mandated in the Titus 2 scripture--such things as being kind, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be pure, submissive to God and their husbands, to be workers at home and hospitable to family and strangers.

We wanted this program to be primarily spiritual in nature, but practical as well. Every household needs someone with skills in cooking to be able to provide healthy, tasty and attractive meals. As skills are honed it creates confidence to bring people together to enjoy good food and good fellowship. This year we provided demonstrations for crock pot meals, seafood dinners, sweet and savory salads, breads, stock for soups, pie crusts, and quick prep breads and coffee cakes.

The mentors found great satisfaction in being able to do ministry together. It strengthened relationships and opened the door for new ones as we opened our homes for the six sessions and the opening and closing events.

Each year we have varied the demonstrations and rotated mentors who teach the various Bible lessons. This has kept the lessons fresh, interesting and varied as each mentor has her own unique style and experiences that she draws upon in teaching the lessons. It's also been encouraging to have women who have found the lessons and interaction so valuable that they want to go through the program again.

We felt the program was very successful in the goals that were set and we greatly appreciated all the time and work of each mentor and helper that made this possible. A special thanks to Jim and Diane Fraser for opening their home for some of our gatherings. And we were especially grateful for those who were willing to come as participants and let us get to know you. We love each one of you!

We are not currently planning this program for 2009, but if you would like to see it offered again, please speak to the deaconesses and let them know of your interest.

Mentors for 2008:

Jan Bohyer
Marti Brumfield
Mary Chin
Ana Devine
Karen Krup
Margot Palpant
Carolyn Pouncey

Helpers:

Noelle Hoppe
Berni Walkush
Debra Wehr
Lisa Erb

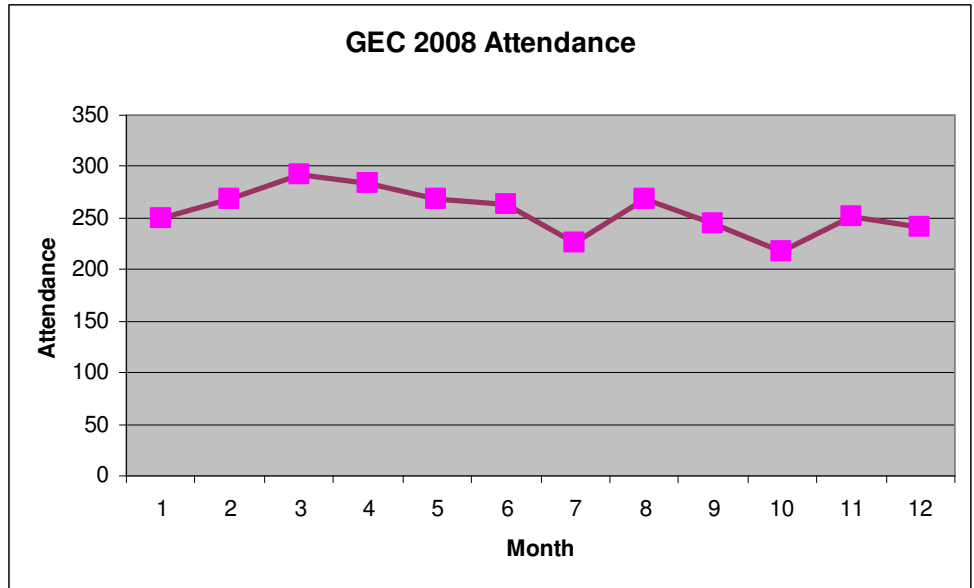
Apple Participants:

Lisa Erb
Diane Fraser
Pam Goff
Meghann Holverson
Laura Ramcke
Amy Rodriguez
Megan Stauffer
Barbi Stone
Pam Sutherland

GEC 2008 Attendance Report

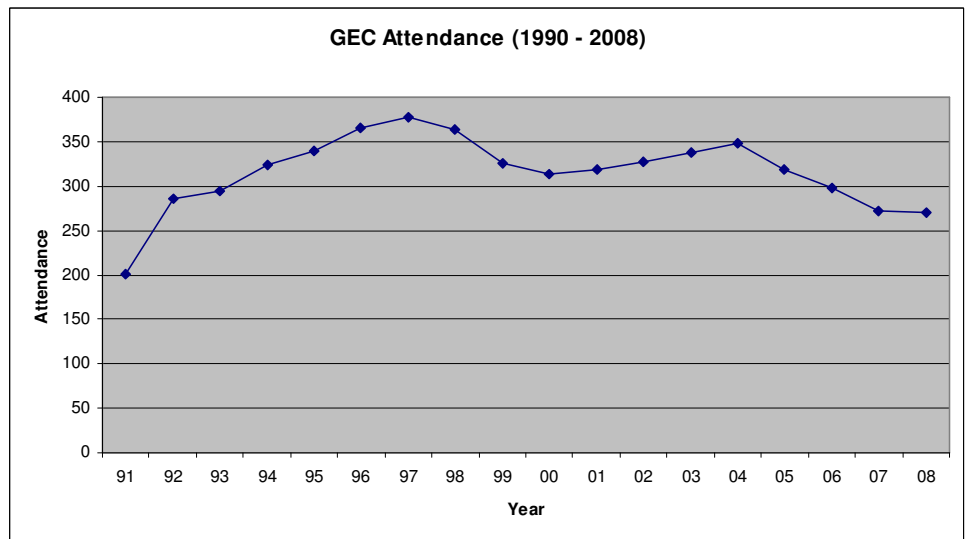
The monthly average attendance appears in the following table and chart.

January	250
February	269
March	293
April	283
May	268
June	264
July	226
August	268
September	245
October	218
November	251
December	242



The attendance for the last 18 years is graphed:

Attendance totals are the sum of all of the people in the buildings during the morning worship service. During previous years with two services, the total of both services was added to the total of all of the people attending and working in the children's ministry during the larger of the two services.



Detailed attendance records were submitted to the church office showing the number of people in

Sunday school for both children and adult classes. During the worship service, this includes: Nursery, 2-3 year old, 4-5 year old and K-2nd grade. During the Sunday School hour, attendance is taken for each of the classes (children and adults).

Attendance records are taken and maintained by Warren & Karen Krup.

AWANA CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

2008

Awana meets on Wednesday evening for children ages 3 through the sixth grade. We have a great group of Directors and Leaders as shown in the table below:

<u>Club</u>	<u>Age/Grade</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Cubbies	3-4	Ana Devine	15-20
Sparks	K-2 nd grade	Ruth Stuart	20-25
T&T	3-6 th grade	Lloyd Hasken & Amanda Burklow	25-30

A dinner is served on the first of the month at a nominal cost. A group time follows with some fun family activities, and then we split into the three club groups shown above. This format occurs only on the first of the month, the other three Wednesdays; we do not have the dinner or family time.

Each group's time is generally split into three segments; Game time, Book time, and Devotional time. Each segment is about 30 minutes long and each serves a different function. The Game time is the attraction – we work hard to have exciting and fun games that will attract new kids to our club. The Book time is the one on one time for our kids to recite Bible verses to their leader and receive the credit for this. The Devotion Time is used for singing, announcements and award presentations but is also the time when the gospel is clearly presented. The message is simple, God loved us, He sent His Son Jesus whose death is payment for our sins and whose resurrection proves victory over death.

Our Special Events include: Leadership Conference Training, Fun Fair, Grand Prix, Bible Quizzing, AwanaGames/Sparks-A-Rama, Book Finisher's Outing, Scholarship Camp participation and others.

Submitted by Warren Krup

Warren Krup is the Club Commander, his wife Karen serves as Club Secretary, and Cheryl Krup serves as Treasurer.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

2008

The committee was comprised of Pastor Dave Bohyer, Bruce Minus, John Roberson, Paul Heidenreich, Ted Palpant, and Ken Krup (chairman).

Our primary goal this year was to pursue obtaining a proposal for Civil Engineering work for the planned addition. The proposal was obtained during the summer and was presented to the Elders in August and the combined board in December. We will be asking the congregation to release funds to complete the Civil Engineering work which includes detention, parking lot, and landscaping work.

With the Civil Engineering work complete, the final drawings for the proposed addition can be finished. Final completed drawings will allow quotes to be obtained and a firm cost estimate established to build the addition.

As a committee we are concerned that general giving has not met budget for the past two years. It would be much simpler for us to promote the building project and giving to the project if we (the church) were at or above budget. Please pray with us that this shortfall will be reversed this year (Phil. 4:5-8).

CHURCH CLERK REPORT

2008

Membership: January of 2007	252
Membership: January of 2008	244
Total membership: January of 2009	249
Active Membership	164
Inactive Membership	85
New Members	8
Reactivated Members	0
Members Deleted	1
Deaths	1
Transferred	0
Other	3

Names of Members Dropped
 Rodney Volkening (deceased)
 Everett Hawbaker
 Carolyn Hawbaker
 Karen Heidenreich

Professions of faith by baptism	11
Funerals (by staff)	3
Weddings (by staff)	1
Baby dedications	7
Births	5

Average Attendance 2006 298***

Average Attendance 2007 272***

Average Attendance 2008 256***

***Attendance numbers collected by Warren Krup
 All other numbers collected and filed by church secretary Diane Best

Steve Westerman, church clerk

DEACON REPORT

2008

The past year was a busy one for the Deacons. Thankfully we have had many deacons for the past few years to make our load a lot lighter. As charged with the task of running the business side of the operations here at the church, we do a lot of varied tasks to try to keep the church operations running smoothly.

Here is a list of the following tasks undertaken during the past year:

- Carpeted, painted and tiled all or parts of Rooms L1, L2, L5 and L7. In addition, a closet was installed in Room L1.
- The old, overgrown plantings in the islands out in the parking lot were removed and a new array of plants installed.
- We received bids for the replacement of 5 vinyl windows on the west side of the educational wing. They are to be replaced within the next few weeks, but not before the Annual Meeting.
- Purchased new computers for the office staff and performed several upgrades to the network system. A new server is in the works, but not yet completed.
- Scraped and painted the outdoor columns and stairs.
- Replaced a bad circulation pump for the boiler in the Educational wing. The pump was donated.
- Performed emergency water and sewer services on the building. A water line into the building on the east side failed and had to be replaced. This happened concurrently with a sewer line breakdown out of back door of the gym. We had it temporarily rodded out, while the actual replacement was performed by Matt and Warren Krup with their own equipment saving us literally thousands of dollars. Thanks, Krups! The sidewalk will be replaced in the spring- thank you for your patience.
- Seal coated the parking lot. In addition, minor patching of bad asphalt and crack filling performed prior to seal coating. Striping of the lot afterwards.
- Tuckpointed the chimney off of the boiler in the Sanctuary wing.
- Painted 2/3 of the Sanctuary to date.
- Electrical work performed in the Fire Pit to eliminate extension cords.
- 2 successful work days that included much needed routine cleaning and maintenance on the building.
- Saw more than 70 volunteers graciously donate time to cleaning of the building on a regular weekly basis and during the work days. Thanks to all of you who helped.
- Accepted a donation of a small copy machine from the Home School group who use our facilities.

We thank all of you who supported us throughout the year with volunteer work and donations of materials and supplies as well as their time.

Sincerely,

GEC Deacons

DEACONESS REPORT

2008

The church constitution defines that the role of the deaconess is to oversee the women's ministries and ensure that the women's ministries are meeting the spiritual, physical, emotional and friendship needs of women in the church. In response to that charge, the deaconesses planned and encouraged attendance at many events in 2008.

To help meet the spiritual needs of the women of Grace Church, we encouraged women to regularly attend a Bible study. In addition to church wide Bible studies offered on Sunday and throughout the week at various times, Bible studies exclusively offered for women are available on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings and Thursday evenings. During the first few months of the year, many women participated in the Apples of Gold mentoring program held on Saturday mornings. In the fall (and continuing through the spring of 2009) the curriculum entitled "Entrusted with a Child's Heart" was offered to the mom's group that meets on Friday mornings. Women were encouraged to attend the "True Woman" Conference held in the Schaumburg in October. Six women were able to attend from Grace church. Also, the deaconesses spent time praying for the women of the congregation and their various needs that had been shared with them. We would encourage women to continue to share their needs with the deaconesses for prayer support.

Socially, several events were planned to help women connect with one another.

- January – Ladies night out at Red Robin enjoying dinner together
- February - Pizza at Stuarts followed by bowling at Elgin Lanes
- May – Ladies luncheon at Colonial Café
- July – Tour and picnic at Cantigny Museum and gardens
- September – Card making workshop led by Berni Walkush
- November – Game night at Penny Dillehay's
- December – Ladies Christmas party at Mary Chin's

We continued the baby basket ministry in which baskets are delivered to families who have a new baby. We purchased some items for the baskets from our budget and also asked for donations for this ministry. This year several baskets were delivered.

For publicity and communication, an information table was set up in the gym on a few occasions throughout the year to promote women's ministries and answer questions for women who were inquiring about any women's activity or ministry within the church. The deaconesses took turns submitting articles for the GEC newsletter each month.

The deaconesses would like to extend our appreciation for all of the women who attended and participated in any of the women's Bible studies or activities this year. We are privileged to be in this role to serve, pray for, and encourage the women of Grace Church and we really appreciate your involvement.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Chin, Ellie Bach, Tammy Hodge, Denise Krup, Dao Maranion

DECORATING COMMITTEE

2008

Winter 2008

After taking down the Christmas decorations the church felt very empty. The winter arrangement was kept in the baptismal window as well as the Christmas banners until the week before Palm Sunday.

Palm Sunday 2008

The church was decorated with palm branches from Everything Floral. They were arranged into four holders and placed on the stage. The total for the four bunches of palm stems were \$38.66. We could have used some more since some of the stems were not as full and a little dead looking. A spring arrangement was in the window. The Banners were on each side reading, "Death could not hold Him", and "Christ is Risen!"

Easter Sunday 2008

The Easter flowers were ordered in advance from Schaefer Greenhouses in Aurora, IL. Diane Best put up the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and announcements were made in church for people to purchase flowers to decorate the church. The price was \$8.00 each for 6 ½ inch lilies with 5-7 blooms. These were not decorated but were shipped to the church the Thursday night before Easter for a \$20.00 charge. This was the BEST deal in the area. I also ordered one 10 inch lily with 4 stems for the baptismal window. That was not decorated either and cost \$29.95. Since I ordered some additional flowers last year and many people enjoyed them; more were available this year. I ordered 8 small lilies, 1 large lily, 8 daffodils, 3 hyacinths, and 3 hydrangeas. The total cost for the flowers were \$234.96 with delivery and natural gas surcharge included. Unfortunately my family and I were sick the days before Easter and thankfully Louise Gabler and Ruth Stuart offered to help by decorating the flower pots with ribbon, bows, and colored foil. We had enough foil and ribbon left from last year. I am very thankful for everyone who helped get this all together and bring the flowers in and set them up. I am very thankful to J. Tillery, L. Gabler, M. Chin, L. Schroeder, G. Machowski, D. Shroyer, C. Minus, D. Wehr, L. Conway, R. Krup, R. Stuart, J. Bohyer, and T. Hodge families for purchasing flowers and letting us use them to decorate the sanctuary. This was a great way for the church to look beautiful as we worshiped and allowed some families to enjoy the flowers longer. If I left anyone out from this list please forgive me. I tried to keep track of everything as best as I could.

Spring 2008

After Easter I left the Spring Arrangement in the window with the Easter banners. I don't remember when exactly they were changed but sometime before summer.

Summer 2008

A summer arrangement was made by Karen Weith and placed in the window. There were also some beautiful patriotic banners made by Lola Conway and others. This was a wonderful addition to the banners and a great way to celebrate Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Patriots Day in September. I am very thankful for all of the people who helped make these beautiful banners. I am going to try and have an arrangement made to compliment these banners for 2009.

Fall 2008

The beautiful fall arrangement made last year to use at church was damaged in storage. Thankfully this was noticed before the Sunday I needed to put it up. Karen Weith was able to restore the arrangement and make it even more fantastic than it was before. It now fits the entire length of the window and is very festive. During this time Pastor Dave was beginning a series, "Signs of Life." This was a wonderful series and had many important messages with the five signs of living a God-filled life. Ana Devine offered to create banners to compliment this series. These banners were hung and looked great with the key verse displayed on one side and the five signs of life arranged on the other banner. Thank you so much Ana, for the time you spent putting together these beautiful banners. Ana also is going to make some more banners using the back side of the fabric; possibly for Easter or another season.

During the Thanksgiving Season there were many posters made by families in the Awana program. These posters were used to decorate the bulletin board at the bottom of the stairs near Dawn's office. Thank you all for helping with this and displaying what you are thankful for. I think this was a great way for families to think about what is important and together make a special poster to display at church. I think everyone did a really great job making these, thank you!

Winter – Christmas 2008

I have to apologize in advance for not being more organized during November and December. Life was happening way too fast and time was not in abundance. I thank God for how he is faithful and always so near to me. Somehow everything fell into place just in time.

I am thankful to Rick Stone for bringing many of the decorations up from the storage areas. Friday night November 28th the church was decorated by Debbie, Becky, and Jenny Kozuch, Ted Palpant, Bailey Gabler, Raymond Bonner, Rebecca Stuart, Laurene Johnson, Aaron & Kristine Steffen, Kurt & Ruth Stuart, the youth group (downstairs), the Sunday school classes (in their rooms), and the church staff. I am so thankful for the way they worked together and got those up. Everyone worked so well together and really did a great job. It was very fun. We did have snacks and drinks for energy breaks but started at about 5:00 and got finished very quickly. We put up one Christmas tree in the sanctuary to the left of the organ. It was decorated by the Kozuch ladies with white lights, red and gold ball ornaments, clear stars with gold glitter, and ribbon. There was a gold star on top of that tree. The baptismal window was decorated with one red sparkle berry wreath in the center. The window ledge held the winter arrangement which looked wonderful. The banners used said, "Unto us a child is born" and "I am the light of the world". Actually I am not 100% sure that is what they say; as I'm typing this I drew a blank... There are also wreaths on the windows and doors coming into the sanctuary. The side windows had garland above each one and wreaths decorated with a gold bow, pinecones, and red berries were in between each window.

We saved and used many of the wreaths made last year. This was great since we only needed to reshape the bows and fluff the pine stems in order to make them ready to hang.

The nativity scene was placed on a gold piece of shimmery fabric and set up on the piano.

The advent wreath was placed on a pedestal on the right front side of the stage. The advent wreath needs one white candle in the center, three purple candles and one pink candle around the outside circle. I appreciate all of the help in putting up these decorations. It was a fun time and I really enjoyed being with each person who contributed.

Thank you all who helped.

*Sorry for not including the pictures this year. I cannot seem to find them on my computer.

2009 Ideas

This year it would be nice to update the Easter banners. There were some really amazing banners I included in the report of 2007. They are almost like stained glass windows with beautiful Easter images. I also think the idea of coordinating the banners with the sermon series has been great. This is an excellent way to enforce the message being presented during the teaching part of worship. If possible to know about sermon series topics in advance it would be easier to prepare the banners and have them up in time for the beginning of the series.

I also really appreciate any ideas and people who are willing to contribute towards any area of decorating the church. Many of the great ideas come from people who make suggestions. Thank you all who have helped during 2008.

Submitted by Rachel Coleman

ELDER BOARD

2008

2008 was quite an eventful year. There were many blessings and answers to prayer as well as challenges. Each monthly meeting began with a meal provided graciously by Darrell and Gloria Swanson. The meal was always followed with one of the elders or pastors sharing a short devotional of something they had learned from the Lord. A God Centered Church, by H. Blackaby was used as part of the devotional material. A season of prayer followed before we began working through the agenda for the month.

The status of the elder goals established in the annual leadership meeting is as follows:

1. Develop closer relationships within the board.

- a. The meal before each meeting provided time to share and fellowship. We often shared answers to prayer or specific blessings the Lord had sent.
- b. Partners were selected for establishing regular contact to pray for one another and provide further opportunity to develop deeper relationships. This did not reach the full expectation but it did help to build slightly closer relationships.
- c. Darrell and Gloria Swanson hosted a time of fellowship in July for the deacons and elders and their spouses which provided a time of growing closer together.
- d. Some of our quarterly or special meetings included a time of fellowship during breakfast that was hosted by various elders/pastors.

2. Continued involvement to strengthen the shepherding ministry.

Some groups have become stronger but there are some members or regular attendees that are not part of a small group or under a shepherd's care which is of concern and changes are being considered to further enhance this ministry.

3. Discern God's will for staff job descriptions.

This goal is actually more clearly defined as, elders providing direction and input regarding the vision and future of Grace Church.

- a. Pastor Jeff Denton shared with us his calling from the Lord to be a head pastor. The elders unanimously agreed to provide him with the liberty to pursue his calling.
- b. Discussions have been in process with regard to the direction for the Christian Education ministry and we are continuing to progress toward a final decision.
- c. Considerable time has been spent discussing vision and future direction for Grace church particularly as it relates to pastoral staff. We are in the process of defining the position for the next addition to our pastoral staff.
- d. Pastor Dan will continue in Youth Ministry and has accepted some CE responsibility but his focus will continue to be with the youth.

4. Review and promote instructional training that is biblically rich.

We only touched on this but have not really completed this goal. We are all in agreement that more involvement from the elders is needed in this area.

5. Develop and improve the music ministry.

The current music team will continue through next year and we will be seeking to establish a longer range plan.

Many changes occurred in 2008 and we believe that change will continue to be a part of Grace Church as we seek to grow spiritually to become zealous followers of Christ, reach out to the lost and disciple new believers for the cause of Christ.

“And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ. And for this purpose also I labor striving according to His power which mightily works within me.” Col. 1:28 (NAS)

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Chin, Chairman of the Elder Board

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) MINISTRY

2008

This was a full and rewarding year for the E.S.L. ministry here at Grace Church. The Lord truly blessed us with great students and wonderful teachers in 2008. This ministry is totally the Lord's. Early on we weren't sure we wanted to continue with it. This fall started up with some familiar faces as well as new students. The number of students has been around 14 faithful attendees with 6 teachers and a format of 2 to 3 students per class. What has been especially exciting has been the friendships formed in each class. We are sharing our knowledge of English as well as showing Christ's love in how we care for the people coming to class.

Grace and the ESL ministry team (with a lot of help from others in the church) provided a Christmas dinner for the students where the Gospel was shared. Because we were already good friends with all who attended the message was received with open hearts and one person openly accepted Christ that evening. Praise the Lord. In addition, the students received a Bible with Gospel tract provided by the Outreach Committee. Some of our students were hit hard by the economy and we have six students unemployed, this allowed for prayer before classes. Through Grace and ESL, a monetary gift was provided to those needy families as well. We had 14 people participate and other Grace friends who joined in the celebration. Sergio R. and Esther M. provided music. A special thanks to Gayle and Paul M. for the food preparation, and Gloria and Janet for the beautiful decorations.

In addition, we have a possible cooperation with The Literacy Connection of Elgin that could lead many more students to Grace Church for the same types of interaction we now enjoy with our current students. Janet Miller and Ellie Bach have been instrumental in this potential joint venture.

Please pray for us and our students. Let's see what God has planned in 2009!!!

In Christ, Ken and Ellie Bach

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

2008

1. January 13—Annual dinner
2. April 14 – Meal for funeral service of Ron Price
3. April 26 – Work Day, breakfast and lunch served
4. June 9-13 – Family Camp with meals each night
5. August 24– Church picnic
6. September 28- Palpant Farwell Reception
7. October 4– Meal for Funeral service (a friend of Siripong Leal)
8. October 18 – Work Day, breakfast and lunch served
9. December 14 –Soup Supper
10. December 21-- Family Christmas Program

Many thanks to ALL who helped with food, serving and clean-up. Thank you to all the deacons for setting up the tables and chairs for all the events through out the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Schroeder, chairman

GOLDEN BELIEVERS MEN'S GROUP

2008

The Golden Believer's men's group meets each Wednesday morning at 8:30 for coffee and bible study and prayer. We have a great fellowship time, always a few jokes. John Feldman is our bible study leader and always has a lesson and challenge for our everyday lives.

We also have a time of prayer, where we all share prayer requests and all the men pray for these request.

During our time we take an offering for David Isais. This past year we have collected \$1992.25, which was sent to David for his ministry work.

We would like to thank Diane Best, who faithfully makes coffee for the men each week.

We invite any men who have time Wednesday mornings (about 1 hour) to join our group.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Heidenreich

MISSIONS REPORT

2008

2008 was a year of transition for several GEC missionaries. Also, once again, our members were active in short-term missions and evangelism, with trips to New York City, Uganda and Mexico City. It was also a year of prayer and perseverance for the missions committee.

Early in the year, Jorge Torres announced that he was leaving his association with Greater European Missions to join Global Outreach. GEC determined to re-affirm our sending and support to Jorge as he made this move, and we signed a partnership agreement with Global Outreach. Jorge and Ruth will continue to serve the Gospel through support to local churches in the Catalan region of Spain as they have since leaving GEC in 1999.

Then, after several years of prayer and preparation, Scott and Carolyn Pouncey began full-time ministry to the people of Romania in September. Their burden continues to be for the care of orphans and troubled young women, and they are trusting God to provide for a youth ranch which can serve as a base camp for ministry. GEC is blessed to watch God work through the Pounceys and be part of their lives.

Late in the year, Bruce Brumfield transitioned back into the field through Awana after working nearly eight years as support staff at the organization's corporate office in Streamwood. By way of the congregational meeting held December 7, GEC members determined to commission Bruce to serve in ministry through Awana. He has been assigned to serve churches in northern central and northwestern Illinois. Bruce and his wife Marti began their work as active Awana leaders more than 20 years ago.

The summer months brought opportunity for GEC to participate in several mission activities coordinated by our pastors and missionaries. Pastor Dan Bohyer led a large group to participate in help ministries in New York City where they worked home repair and soup kitchen services while staying in a local gymnasium. Dave and Jan Bohyer joined together for nine days in Uganda to "team teach" at a women's church conference; their assignment was coordinated through Leadership Vista International Ministries. And Ginny Feldmann traveled down to Mexico City for two weeks working side by side with Liz Isais in various ministry functions.

During the months of late winter and early spring, the missions committee participated again with a small group of GEC pastors, deacons and church workers to complete initial exploration of strategic growth concepts in missions. The group finalized a draft report in April and forwarded it on to our elders board for discussion and approval. The report advanced a focus statement and three broadly-defined areas for growth.

We praise God for zeal in the Gospel that He has cultivated in the lives of the GEC church family. We praise God that we were able to receive Dick and Pat Worden as they come home from Europe to visit family and friends this past June. And we praise God for the hospitality of Paul and Gayle Machowski as we met in their home for prayer and fellowship – and eat big bowls of Gayle's popcorn – during weekly prayer meetings that ran through the year!

MOTHERS OF YOUNG CHILDREN MINISTRY

2008

This mom's group meets most Friday mornings through the school year 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. There have been fourteen moms and about 15 children that have taken part this last year. We really enjoy being together. We usually enjoy a light breakfast, share parenting tips, spend time in the Word, or listen to sound biblical teaching by way of DVD, and most importantly pray for one another. Dao Maranion has stepped up this year to co-lead the group with me, Jan Bohyer. It's been a great blessing to have her help and leadership among the women.

Last winter we started out with watching a video series, "Parenting is Heart Work". This was an excellent study put together by the National Center for Biblical Parenting. Many great parenting guidelines were laid out.

After breaking for the summer, the group came back together in the fall with a lot of excitement. Because of a generous gift to the Mom's group and the Women's ministry, we were able to offer new parenting series called "Entrusted with a Child's Heart" by Betsy Corning. This is once again a parenting class, but we found it to be broader in scope. Betsy is an excellent mentor and she nurtures us to be the woman God calls us to be. It is about being connected to Christ, growing in the Lord, and relating to our husbands and children. There are nineteen lessons of which we have covered only seven so far. This includes a workbook with detailed notes of all that is taught on the DVD. These lessons are so practical for moms with children no matter their children's ages. The workbook will be a resource that will be used again and again as children move from one stage to another. There is also a very strong emphasis on prayer and memorizing God's Word. The memorizing has been a real challenge for most of us. But I'm so proud of the good effort and prayerful approach the women have displayed in adding this discipline to their lives. We also appreciate that the Women's Ministry donated CD's to each of the moms so that they could learn the scripture hearing it set to music. Thank you , deaconesses. What a blessing!

We have had the glad luxury of having childcare available. On average we have 10-15 children that need care during our fellowship. We praise the Lord for Brie Russell, Brooke Russell, Margot Palpant, Debbie Strong, Noelle Hoppe, Sara Wheatley and Maria Machowski. Marilyn Johnson, Nellie Pries, Tammy Hodge and Thao Nelson have helped from time to time this past year. While some of our help has been on a volunteer basis, the moms also make weekly donations to cover the cost of some of our help. *We can't express enough how important these workers have been* to make this ministry possible to these young women. Just having time to interact with each other and the scriptures and praying together without distraction is a huge blessing. We always need others who would be able to help us throughout the year. Please contact Jan Bohyer or Dao Maranion if you have an interest in serving. Also, we give our thanks to Rick Stone who has graciously set up tables and equipment for our meeting each week.

If you are a mom of young children, please come and join us! We would love to welcome you and have you a part of this fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Bohyer

MUSIC MINISTRY

2008

This year has gone by so fast with all the exciting things going on in the music ministry. Earlier in the year, Travis Stauffer took over the role as the Music Director and faithfully served each week. He made sure things were put together ahead of time and were done well.

Late in the summer, God was calling Travis and his family out of Elgin and to his hometown of Ashton. This left a need for someone or a group of people to fill his shoes. Out of this need, Pastor Jeff approached Sergio Rodriguez, Meghann Holverson, Diane Best, and Jim and Diane Fraser about putting together a music ministry team.

Since then, we as a team have been trying our hardest to make the best setting possible that encourages the congregation to focus on God and what He has for them (and us). Our number one goal is to bring glory to God through song. We also try to point to Him and promote a mood or tone of worship. We are also trying to keep a blend of contemporary music and traditional music.

The last quarter came and flew by and a new year is already here. As a music team, we will continue to do our best to bring glory to God and encourage and edify the body of Christ here at Grace Church.

We ask that the body continues to pray for the music ministry and everyone who serves in it from week to week. We are encouraged by the positive remarks we receive but we give all the glory to God, for he alone is worthy (1 Chronicles 16:25a). We also listen and evaluate constructive criticism and try to improve week to week.

God is great and he loves to hear his people sing Him praise. May we do everything we can to make Him happy.

Submitted by Sergio Rodriguez

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

2008

The Nominating committee was selected by the church in the fall of 2008 to identify candidates who are willing and qualified to serve in leadership roles in the church.

Members of the committee this year included: Dave Bohyer, Dan Chin, Aaron Steffen, Diane Fraser, Ellie Bach, Micah Bohyer, Mark Goff and Chairman, John Devine.

The committee met regularly through the fall and winter to select church members for contact. Each committee member contacted numerous people requesting them to consider serving at GEC in a variety of positions. We were encourage by the willingness of many to serve here at GEC

Church Officers and Committee Chairs for 2009

New or Second Term Elders

Darrell Swanson (will serve a 1-year term)

Bruce Brumfield (will serve a 3-year term)

Apolonio Maranion (will serve a 3-year term after having served a 1 year term)

Total elder board with the above three elected and including Pastor Dave will be seven members.

New or Second Term Deacons

Ken Bach (will serve a 3-year tem)

Total deacon board with Ken elected will be nine members.

New or Second Term Deaconesses

Rachel Coleman (1st term)

Mary Chin (2nd term)

Total deaconess board with the above elected will be five members.

Treasurer

Kari Bohyer

Church Clerk

No one has agreed to serve in this position. Perhaps a deacon or elder can fill this role for 2009.

Committees

Outreach

Missions – Ken Hinterlong and Paul Machowski will continue to serve as co-chairs.

Decorating – Nancy Weiss

Fellowship – Lois Schroeder

Christian Education – Dawn Ferrara

Ushers – Dave Kozuch

Publicity – Chuck and Rene Fischer

Nursery – Linda VanNatta

50th Year Commemoration – Darrell and Gloria Swanson

Submitted by John Devine

NURSERY MINISTRY REPORT

2008

We were blessed to be in charge of the Nursery ministry again. We were able to reduce the expenditures of our budget through many generous donations of clean and appropriate toys and supplies.

Our goals again this year were to provide a clean and loving atmosphere that would allow parents to feel comfortable leaving their child.

We had five babies born this year. We blessed the families that had a new child. A gift basket for the whole family was delivered by the Deaconess committee. Thank you to all who donated items or made something.

After I left for Texas the year was finished out with Dawn Ferrara and Linda VanNatta working together on nursery details.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deana Denton & Linda Van Natta, Nursery Co-Coordinator

OUTREACH REPORT

2008

While 2008 was a trying year in most respects we believe outreach was able to move forward in many areas and through the hard work of our volunteers brought many to be saved and to hear the gospel message! We want to thank the entire congregation for their support in 2008, especially all the ones who gave of their time and financial resources to help the various programs.

Early in the year we reviewed the available resources at Grace and were able to purchase more items for our gift bags. We have used “The Way of The Master” website to obtain materials, and after talking to pastor Dave decided to order DVD’s of the Jesus film and phase out the VHS tapes, while keeping a few if need be.

In late march we were involved in the Easter egg hunt and it was a rousing success. Dawn and pastor Jeff did a great job organizing things and lots of children and families showed up. The egg hunt along with Superbowl, is one of the larger church outreach opportunities to reach children and families in our area and we feel should be a lasting tradition. Over the Easter weekend we were able to hand out many gift bags to visitors and now have a table in the gym available for our weekly fellowship to offer gifts to our visitors.

In July Warren Krup was kind enough to get a group together to assemble a float for the 4th of July parade, which he was also able to use to promote his soccer camp that was held shortly thereafter and was also a great success. Thanks to all who helped with the float and camp.

In early November we met with Pastor Dave about using Outreach Ministries printed resources to promote our Christmas programs and also to do a follow up in the new year. Marcia worked with Outreach to have the cards printed and available in early December and also did the follow up for more cards for early 2009. They will be ready for January.

In December we were able to work with Ellie Bach and Gayle Machowski on the ESL dinner and while turnout was a little low, everyone had a great time and a wonderful dinner. Thanks to Sergio and Esther for the music and all who helped! Many were able to hear the Good News. If only one soul is saved through our efforts it is al worth it! December was a good month for church outreach and we are glad so many visitors attended the programs and for the participation of so many.

We are so blessed to have been able to serve on outreach in 2008, and thank god for his faithfulness, grace and mercy every day. We are looking forward to the Superbowl coming up and trust it will be a great time again this year! Thanks to all who are diligently working towards that goal and the support of that outreach opportunity. Our young people are our future.

This a brief summary of some of the things that were done with the Lord’s help this last year, but we know there were many other things that He had a hand in through small groups and one-on-one contact in 2008, some of which were shared with the congregation, but all of which God finds worthy of Praise! “We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.” Phil. 4:13

Submitted by Mike and Marcia Gehrig

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

2008

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

We've had between two and eight ladies on Thursday evenings at the home of Mrs. Pam Sutherland in South Elgin. These are mostly working women and need an evening Bible study time in order to participate in a ladies' Bible study. We started out by doing an Inductive Bible Study of the Gospel of Matthew and are now doing a Chip Ingram video/study series entitled Transforming Your Life. We pray for each other and support each other in any way we can. This study is open for any women of the congregation. We thank God for how He is growing us and bonding us together through the power of His Spirit.

Submitted by Ginny Feldmann

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

This study meets a 9 to 11:30 a.m. at Nellie Pries' home. We are now studying "Unlocking the Bible Story Volume 1" by Colin S. Smith. We read a chapter a week and come ready to discuss and share how we can apply what we have learned into our everyday lives. We also have a sharing time of prayer and praises for each other. If you have any questions regarding this study or are considering joining please contact Tammy Hodge at 847-741-3582

Submitted by Tammy Hodge

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Twelve women meet each Tuesday morning to study God's Word in the church library. They are now studying the book of John. Coffee and a snack are served as the women arrive and our last half-hour is devoted to prayer for needs within our group and in the church. We encourage any woman looking to be involved in a Bible Study and a good time of fellowship to join us on Tuesday mornings at 9:30.

Submitted by Donna Rees

USHERS REPORT

2008

The ushers at Grace Evangelical Church are a group of dedicated men eager to help serve. Also, they are of great importance as they help assist others at the same time.

Ushering duties consist of many things. They greet people upon entering the sanctuary, give assistance to people that need it or ask for it, hand out bulletins, help people find seating in the sanctuary as needed, and pass the collection plates during the offering time. To the visitors of our church, an usher is especially beneficial because they can answer any questions that they may have. For example, some questions that may be asked would be: times of services, nursery care, Sunday school, or any other programs or services that our church has to offer.

Other than the regular Sunday services where ushers provide assistance, there are times when ushers are needed. This would include funeral services, special events or services held by our church, or combination of other churches needing our help to provide ushering services as needed.

With having one service held at 9:15 a.m., there are four men that provide ushering duties on a rotating basis. When it is a person's turn to usher, it is recommended that they are present 15-20 minutes prior to the start of the service so that assistance can be provided to people attending the service.

I am thankful to the men who participate as ushers and give of their time willingly. This is a valuable program of ministry to Grace Church. Once again, my thanks to all who participate. The willingness and assistance provided by these men are what helps keep this an ongoing success.

Respectfully,

Dave Kozuch, chairman

WAYSIDE CENTER MEALS MINISTRY

2008

We have continued another year with the Wayside Center Meals Ministry which provides one meal per month for the homeless. The meal is prepared here in the church kitchen and delivered to the center on Friday morning. Food items needed for the meals are listed on the bulletin board each month.

I want to thank everyone who has helped support this ministry as a cook , a driver, donating food and through prayer. Your help is much appreciated! Thank you!

Submitted by Lois Schroeder

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

2008

We have continued our annual fellowship time for the youth adult group. It has been a great time for us to develop some close friendships with many of the young adults. There is still probably a need for more but for right now this monthly gathering is doing great. Mike and Elizabeth Battaglia have continued to help with this ministry and we are very thankful for their help and support in this ministry. We are hopeful that Ken and Denise Krup will be involved with this ministry in the next year. Denise has been teaching a small weekly Bible study so we are going to join our efforts to establish this ministry better. This is a ministry that we feel is very important and will work to see it improved and grow just as any other ministry under our care.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Bohyer, Youth Ministry Pastor

YOUTH MINISTRIES

2008

2008 was a year that we emphasized service. I am really proud of our students that were involved with basic projects around the church and with members of the congregation as well as bigger projects that were tackled on our summer trip and with other organizations. I really believe that the core students have a real heart to service and understand their part in the broader church.

Some events from the past year-

- **Senior High Winter Retreat**—Once again we used the winter retreat to kick off our emphasis on Service as we looked at the life and example of Daniel. We developed a Biblical understanding of how to serve and why we serve. We had a great group of students participate and it really got us moving in the right direction at the beginning of the year.
- **Superbowl Outreach**—This year we had 183 students attend our outreach event. Pastor Todd Burrow was our speaker and as he presented the gospel we had 23 students trust Christ. Some of those students involved with our church are now involved regularly and growing in their walk.
- **MOVE/NEW YORK**—Our big Sr. High event was CIY's Summer Conference and New York. We took 11 students to Penn. in July. The students were exposed to some intense discipleship with great singing, teaching, small group interaction and some good 'ol dodge ball (They won the dodge ball tourney this year). We had a great time and again saw students really own their faith and move to new levels of spiritual understanding and growth. The Baht presentation concerning the sex slavery in Cambodia struck a deep cord in some of the students as was communicated at the last service of 08. After this week of conference we traveled to New York and meet up with 12 more students and worked with CitiVision. We were able to serve this organization that minister to inter-city youth. We built a ropes course and a rock bridge that has already been used in the ministry up in NY.
- **Student Leader Retreat**—We took another weekend with our student leadership team to develop some leadership skills and to do some planning and praying for the ministry. I am very excited about the teens that really want to be involved and are willing to commit their time in service to their peers here at GEC. We also got to do some spelunking in Iowa as well.
- **Sr. High Youth Meetings**—This year we really focused on serving in faith. We looked at men and women of the Bible and their examples of service in the spring. Then over the summer, we studied the life of Christ and His example of service. We finished our year with a study in Galatians and Ephesians as we looked at the blessings and benefits of serving Christ with everything.
- **MOB**—MOB is Monday on the Bible. This is a weekly Bible Study that we have for our Sr. High students to dig deeper into God's Word. This year we finished up the book of Hebrews taught by Ken Krup and then I walked them through an in-depth study of I John and what it means to have true fellowship with Christ.
- **Jr. High Youth Meetings**—Once again we have a great year to really focus on some fundamentals of the faith in our Jr. High ministry. We began allowing 6th graders into our Jr. High program and we have really enjoyed the new faces. We have studied topics like following God's direction in our lives and yielding our will to Him. It has been a great year to see them wrestle with their faith and begin to take ownership of what they believe.
- **Jr. High Fall Retreat**—Once again we took a group of Jr. High students up to Devil's Lake State Park in October. We had a great time swimming, hiking, and playing in...or around the

fire (Don't worry, we were always safe). Mike Tully, our Jr. High intern, presented some lessons on being "Filled Up" spiritually. We had a great trip and the students were challenged to be filled with God in order to live His way. We also had a monster shaving cream war which was awesome.

- **Believe**—Believe has quickly developed into a favorite event for our Jr. High program. We went for the fourth time this year in April but back to Anderson, IN. I was once again very impressed with CIY and thought it was a great experience to expose our students to. They learned how to identify opportunities that God gives us to love Him and serve Him.
- **Musty Men**—This group has continued to be a small group of guys that are willing to help out with various service projects in the church and with others throughout the year. This was a great extension of our overall goal for the year. I am very proud of the guys that are involved with this aspect of our ministry.
- **Service Projects**—The students were involved in many service projects as I have stated. Some of them were as simple as helping with church cleaning and the Men 4 Men breakfast while others involved helping others with small needs. They pulled weeds, painted, etc. They also helped to provide a meal at the Wayside Center and worked with an organization called Feed My Starving Children where they packaged meals for kids around the globe. Once again, I am very proud of the students that gave of their time to serve others so often in so many different ways.

Up coming events and programs-

In 2009 we will have an emphasis on evangelism. Our goal is to teach the reasons why we evangelize and to help them to get comfortable in talking about their faith with others. We will also expose them to different forms of evangelism in their own lives.

- The Sr. High will be attending a Winter Retreat up in Wisconsin Dells, WI at Kalahari Resorts and will be dealing the topic of being "The Great Conflict." Travis Stauffer will be teaching this year and will be talking about how to share Christ through this topic.
- The Fire Ministries will be participating in various outreach events throughout the year in an effort to reach out to our community and schools.
- We are planning another Super Bowl Outreach this year and are praying for more lives to be saved. The speaker this year is Awana Youth Ministry Director, Kevin White. He will be sharing the gospel at half-time with all the students. Please be praying that God would use this event for His glory.
- Once again our Jr. High will be attending Believe but this year in Holland, MI. We are also planning another Fall Retreat in October. This year we really intend to hit home on Speaking up for our faith. We want them to get comfortable with making their faith a part of their everyday lives.
- This year we are doing a little less but we will be traveling to South Carolina to attend Move once again. This conference and another small conference that we will be attending will help to mobilize the students as they are challenged to share their faith.
- I am hoping to take the Musty Men group down to Answers In Genesis to see the museum and do some camping.

Thanks,

Once again, there are no words that can express my gratitude for my adult leaders. I have the greatest co-workers and co-laborers anyone could ask for. I am greatly indebted to them for their

time and commitment to the ministry, all that they have sacrificed and the example that they are for me.

Thanks to Warren & Karen Krup for teaching Sunday school class and consistently opening their home for many events and occasions. Thanks to Angie Kotschi for opening her home for Girls Connect and leading that group and the Kotschi family for opening their pool every Monday night, but mostly, thank you so much for all your help with fundraising. There is no way we would have made it this year if it wasn't for some of your great ideas, some "strong" words of encouragement/motivation to the students and some prayer. I still can't believe we raised the money we needed to do back-to-back trips. Thanks to Ken and Denise for opening their home for MOB and to Ken for imparting his great wisdom through teaching. Thanks to Jenny, Jonathan, Heather, Logan and others for leading worship through song for youth group. Thanks to Sarah Stuart who bailed me out this last year and went to NY (with a bad foot). Thanks to our newest addition, Ken Nagler who has joined us last fall. The time you have given is appreciated and your involvement with the teens is great. Thanks to Matt Krup for his endless support and work, all the projects, trips, video, generosity, hospitality and countless hours that you have poured into the ministry. Thanks to Micah and John for all your time and commitment and helping me "get things done"—trip planning, preparing, building, wisdom, etc. Thanks to all of you for your time with activities and events—using your vacation time to be with students. Thanks to Ana Devine for the help with fundraising and planning for events. Thanks to Lisa Bates and Denise Krup who directed the Awana part of our ministry. Thanks to Dave Kozuch for all your help and support. Thanks to Sergio Rodriguez for your leadership with the Jr. High and sharing in worship through music. It has been great to have him on staff. Thanks also to Amanda Krup and Sara Schramer for your commitment, leadership, and involvement in the lives of our Jr. High students. Thanks to Jason and Laura Ramcke who help out with Jr. High Fire and teach the Jr. High Sunday school class. You have been a great help to the team especially with Believe and the Fall Retreat. I have enjoyed having Mike Tully serve in an internship role this fall and look forward to more of it this spring. I am excited to see how God is using Mike in the Jr. High ministry. Thanks to Cheryl Krup who got us through a crazy year and kept us all up to speed. I would be lost without you. A special thanks to my bride who understands the ups and downs of ministry and chooses to love me anyway. You guys are the greatest team of volunteers ever assembled and I know that God is glorified in your efforts. May God richly bless you as you continue to serve Him.

Thank you to the congregation at large. We are so dependent on your prayers and support. Many of you gave generously to the trips/events (SUPERBOWL) that we did this last year and I believe it was an eternal investment so thank you. A special thank you again to the Swansons and their In-Home Fellowship group for their continued support with much needed food. I know that for many what we do is a bit of mystery but your prayers and support are the life of our ministry.

And lastly, thanks to you parents. You are the true heroes in the lives of the students. Your willingness to bring them week in and week out and to deal with my craziness from time to time is not unnoticed. I pray for you regularly and pray God's special blessing on your lives as you make Him a priority in your home.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Dan Bohyer

