



**much &
more** 
Entrusted with Much...Envisioning More

*Stay dressed for action...
from the one who has
been entrusted with much,
much more will be asked.*

Luke 12:35,48



www.gracenormal.org





As we approach our 50th anniversary as a community of believers, I have had the opportunity to reflect on the life of Grace Church. I am grateful for all those who make Grace their home, and for the relationships that are enriched by each person's faithful commitment to this church. I am blessed by the growing desire I see amongst us to be very intentional as we engage the people God has placed in our OIKOS. I'm very thankful that four years ago, we followed God's direction with the construction of the new children's wing. Its usefulness and function have exceeded our expectations.

As I reflect on this monumental undertaking, God has prompted my thoughts to a passage of Christ's teaching in Luke;

"Stay dressed for action...from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked" - Luke 12:35, 48b

Jesus begins this section with the statement "Stay dressed for action" and concludes with the "much and more" exhortation. That is where I see us today as a body of believers. God has blessed us with so much yet there is so much more He wants to do in us and through us. And so it is for this compelling reason that we now, with much prayer, are seeking to gather the funds that would allow us to retire the debt on the children's wing.

It is my prayer that God will use this time to grow us closer to Himself. As we have been "entrusted with much" so we want to be "envisioning more" for His Kingdom, within our Oikos, i.e. sphere of influence. Would you join me in praying diligently through this process? The end result will change countless lives to the praises of God's glory.

Blessings to all of you,

Dr. Ed Searce
Senior Pastor

WHAT IS "MUCH & MORE: ENTRUSTED WITH MUCH; ENVISIONING MORE" ALL ABOUT?

- It is about fulfilling the purpose of Grace Church: "Reaching those in a dying world and Teaching them to be part of the living church."
- It is about more effectively reaching our OIKOS as we Intentionally become part of their lives and Engage them where they are, looking for the opportunity to share the Gospel.
- It is about realizing our goal of effectively ministering to 1% of the population of Bloomington/Normal on a consistent basis.
- It is about Envisioning the MORE God has planned for us as a body of believers
- It is about staying dressed for action so we are prepared for any ministry God sends our way.
- Positioned for God's next phase of Reaching and Teaching in Bloomington/Normal

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28: 18-20



GRACE CHURCH HAS BEEN BLESSED AND ENTRUSTED WITH MUCH!

On the morning of July 9, 1961 a small handful of men, women and children met to worship together in the basement of a home on Grove Street in West Normal. They had heard the voice of God and were obediently following what He was leading them to do. And they were ever so hopeful that their faithfulness would result in a church where people would come to know, love and serve their Heavenly Father.

Some 50 years later, the campus of Grace Church stands less than three blocks from that house. Those 12 people have become a congregation numbering over 600 men, women and children who serve and are ministered to on a regular basis.

Over those 50 years God has formed us into:

A PRAYING CHURCH

Where we enter into Christ centered worship each week
Where we pray with and for each other

A REACHING CHURCH

Sharing the Gospel with our OIKOS
Sharing the love of Christ through ministries like Awana, Angel Food and our Deacon Fund

A TEACHING CHURCH

Starting with our Worship Service and continuing through our ABF's, Small Groups, Children's and Student Ministries.

A SERVING CHURCH

Where Biblical Fellowship is encouraged and actively pursued
The church family ministers to one another through a variety of ministries.

A SENDING CHURCH

Since we brought on our first missionary in 1964, we have added over 40 more who serve around the globe. We regularly send individuals and groups on short term missionary trips to places like Romania, Guatemala, Netherlands and India.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer... praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42, 47

AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE, GOD WANTS US TO ENVISION THE MORE HE WANTS TO DO IN US AND THROUGH US!

- Together, growing and maturing into more Fully Devoted Followers of Christ.
- Building strong, spiritually healthy marriages and families.
- Discovering the unique gifts and talents God has given to each of us and using them to serve Him and each other.
- A growing Small Group Ministry where everyone at Grace Church can develop closer relationships with God and others.

THEN, DRESSED FOR ACTION

- Maximize our outreach to our OIKOS as we continue to expand our ministry to effectively and consistently touch the lives of 1% of the people of Bloomington/Normal.
- Increase our service to our community by lovingly meeting the many various needs found there.
- Begin a Preschool that reaches both believing and unchurched families.
- Increase our Missionary budget from 15% to 30% of our total giving as we reach the various parts of the Globe with the Gospel through a growing Missionary Family.
- Have additional resources and staff for Reaching and Teaching our community to the glory of God.

To equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:12-13

WHAT IS BEING ASKED OF ME... HOW DO I GET INVOLVED IN MUCH & MORE?

BE INFORMED – Take time to understand the endeavor by attending an information meeting.

STUDY – Read and reflect on the devotional and other materials provided on Biblical stewardship.

THEN TAKE THESE THREE STEPS:

PRAY – Ask God to show you how He wants you to be involved in Much & More

LISTEN – Wait patiently for direction from the Holy Spirit

OBEY – Step out in obedience to act on His direction

WHAT ARE THE WAYS I CAN GIVE TO MUCH & MORE?

Give a cash gift. Ask God for creative ways to maximize your gift! You might consider giving from your savings, tax refunds, or a garage sale. You could find a way to reduce your expenses and give that amount or defer a major purchase as a sacrifice to God. Look for ways to involve your whole family in giving a specific amount.

Make a 36-month Giving Pledge. The Bible teaches that spiritual maturity includes developing the discipline of regular giving. Giving the first portion of our income is a key way we show God really has first place in our lives. You gift increases more than you think when it is given over a period of time! See the “My Potential Giving” chart.

Give Stocks, Securities or Other Assets. There can be tax advantages to giving assets directly to the church.

Not Equal Gifts...But Equal Sacrifice



CELEBRATION SUNDAY MAY 22, 2011

On this special Sunday, we will each bring our Commitment Cards to the worship service. Our “MUCH & MORE; ENTRUSTED WITH MUCH; ENVISIONING MORE” commitment cards are to be what we intend to give “over and above” our regular giving during the next 36 months.

*On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.
1 Corinthians 16:2*

HOW TO MAKE YOUR COMMITMENT

First, be sure you have Prayed; Listened and are now ready to Obey.

- 1) Using the “My Potential Giving” chart, write down on your commitment card the total amount you commit in faith to give during the next 36 months.
- 2) Bring your card on Celebration Sunday May 22, 2011.

My Potential Giving

A little consistency builds into a lot. Each of us can give far more than we think by giving over a 3 year period. Here are some examples.

Weekly Giving	Monthly Giving	Annual Giving	3-Year Total
\$5	\$20	\$260	\$780
\$10	\$40	\$520	\$1,560
\$15	\$60	\$780	\$2,340
\$20	\$80	\$1,040	\$3,120
\$30	\$120	\$1,560	\$4,680
\$40	\$160	\$2,080	\$6,240
\$50	\$200	\$2,600	\$7,800
\$60	\$240	\$3,120	\$9,360
\$75	\$300	\$3,900	\$11,700
\$100	\$400	\$5,200	\$15,600
\$150	\$600	\$7,800	\$23,400
\$200	\$800	\$10,400	\$31,200
\$300	\$1,200	\$15,600	\$46,800
\$500	\$2,000	\$26,000	\$78,200
\$1000	\$4,000	\$52,000	\$156,000
\$2000	\$8,000	\$104,000	\$312,000