

AMAZING GRACE

GRACE FELLOWSHIP-EL PASO, ILLINOIS-BIBLE BASED, NON-DENOMINATIONAL COMMUNITY OF FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST

Kipp and Colleen McDonald accept new position in St. Joseph

On Sunday, February 7th, Kipp McDonald, Youth Pastor, announced to the Grace congregation that he and his wife Colleen are "moving on." As always, the prospect of change was accepted with a myriad of mixed emotions. Although we are subdued and saddened at the thought of Kipp's leaving our church family and the ministry we have built together since September of 2002, we are excited about the new opportunities that lie ahead for one of our favorite couples. (continued page 2)



Grace Responds

On Monday, February 8th, Pastor Dan Giese loaded his car with bags of rice, beans, protein bars, Tylenol, antibiotic ointment and soap. This was a result of your quick response to a desperate plea for these items from missionary groups in Haiti. Dan delivered them to Eastview Christian Church in Bloomington, where they were loaded on to a semi trailer and shipped directly

into Cap-Haitian, Haiti. Mike Baker, Senior Pastor at Eastview says, "We believe the local church is the hope of the world." Eastview already assists Pillatre Christian Church in Pillatre, Haiti, Haitian Christian Ministries, and G.O. Ministries. Partnering with Eastview was an excellent way to maximize our outreach to the Haitian people.

EASTER PLANS TAKING SHAPE

Plans are taking shape for the 2010 Easter season at Grace. Vickie Wilder and Brooke Hinds will be heading this year's Easter Egg Hunt. It will again be held at Library Park on Saturday, April 3rd. Encounter God in a unique way on Good Friday with "Experience Jesus' Passion," a transforming worship event surrounding the Passion story. On Easter Sunday morning, come for breakfast before worship. The Easter service begins at 10:15. Watch your bulletin for times and details of all these events.

Kipp and Colleen

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The village of St. Joseph has a population of about 3000 and is located east on 74, 20 miles past Champaign, a little over 80 miles from El Paso.

The St. Joseph Church of Christ is a community of around 250 believers. It was formed in 1858 and has enjoyed several expansions and additions since then. Presently they are located at the corner of 3rd and Sherman. You can check them out at www.sjcoc.com

Kipp and Colleen's last day with us will be Sunday, April 11th. Join us for a farewell celebration on that date. In the meantime, please give Pam or Dan any old photos or videos you have of Kipp or Colleen.



Library Carnival promises a good place for outreach!

July 29th, is the date of the closing 'carnival' at the El Paso Public Library. Inflatables, rides, pig races, ice cream, and drinks will be part of the fun. Renee Griffith is looking for groups who would be interested in operating a 'carnival booth' at this party from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Groups would supply a game and prizes (if you choose to give prizes). Renee will need to OK the game and prizes, but you are welcome to bring information to give away about your group. Since many area children (and their parents) attend this event, it is an excellent place to reach out and inform others about your group. Renee will make tickets for your booth to insure only one visit per child. Plan for 200.

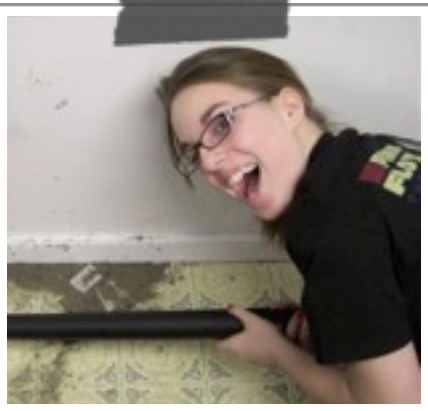
3-8th graders interested in putting together a couple of song specials for March and April, see Renee Griffith. We will meet Thursdays after school for March and April. If you are interested in singing 2 & 3 part harmony, you can join us!

Jr. High Snippets

Junior High Lock-in: March 5th - 7:30 p.m. to March 6th - 7:30 a.m. All 6th-8th grade students. Bring a snack to share and \$5 for pizza. Call Mark Whitcomb at 527-2972

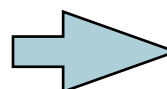
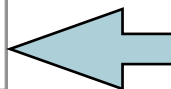
Believe! - April 17 - 18, Anderson Indiana. \$75/person. Sign up deadline: March 14th. Call Kipp McDonald (309) 830-8129.

In March, the Junior High Youth will be serving as Ushers. Check with Kipp or Mark if you would like to serve too. You'll need to be at the church by 9:45 a.m. on March Sundays.



High School Action

Grace Fellowship's High School Youth group took time out of their day off of school on February 15th to move cans and boxes and dust under shelves at the Food Pantry in El Paso.



Archaeologists constantly finding verifying artifacts

The following article appeared on Yahoo News, Monday, February 22, 2010 and was sent to me by Jill Wilson! Praise God for vigilant friends and helpers!

Archaeologist sees proof for Bible in ancient wall.

MATTI FRIEDMAN, Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM – An Israeli archaeologist said Monday that ancient fortifications recently excavated in Jerusalem date back 3,000 years to the time of King Solomon and support the biblical narrative about the era.

If the age of the wall is correct, the finding would be an indication that Jerusalem was home to a strong central government that had the resources and manpower needed to build massive fortifications in the 10th century B.C.

That's a key point of dispute among scholars, because it would match the Bible's account that the Hebrew kings David and Solomon ruled from Jerusalem around that time.

While some Holy Land archaeologists support that version of history – including the archaeologist behind the dig, Eilat Mazar – others posit that David's monarchy was largely mythical and that there was no strong government to speak of in that era.

Speaking to reporters at the site Monday, Mazar, from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, called her find "the most significant construction we have from First Temple days in Israel."

"It means that at that time, the 10th century, in Jerusalem there was a regime capable of carrying out such construction," she said.

Based on what she believes to be the age of the fortifications and their location, she suggested it was built by Solomon, David's son, and mentioned in the Book of Kings.

The fortifications, including a monumental gatehouse and a 777-yard (70-meter) long section of an ancient wall, are located just outside the present-day walls of Jerusalem's Old City, next to the holy compound known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary. According to the Old Testament, it was Solomon who built the first Jewish Temple on the site.

That temple was destroyed by Babylonians, rebuilt, renovated by King Herod 2,000 years ago and then destroyed again by Roman legions in 70 A.D. The compound now houses two important Islamic buildings, the golden-capped Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa mosque.

Archaeologists have excavated the fortifications in the past, first in the 1860s and most recently in the 1980s. But Mazar claimed her dig was the first complete excavation and the first to turn up strong evidence for the wall's age: a large number of pottery shards, which archaeologists often use to figure out the age of findings.

Aren Maeir, an archaeology professor at Bar Ilan University near Tel Aviv, said he has yet to see evidence that the fortifications are as old as Mazar claims. There are remains from the 10th century in Jerusalem, he said, but proof of a strong, centralized kingdom at that time remains "tenuous."

While some see the biblical account of the kingdom of David and Solomon as accurate and others reject it entirely, Maeir said the truth was likely somewhere in the middle. "There's a kernel of historicity in the story of the kingdom of David," he said.

Editor's Note: The comment by Aren Maeir at the end of this article does not match the beliefs taught at Grace Fellowship. I included it because it was in the article written by Ms. Friedman.

I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE THE BIBLE BECAUSE IT'S A RELIABLE COLLECTION OF HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS WRITTEN BY EYEWITNESSES DURING THE LIFETIME OF OTHER EYEWITNESSES.

Voddie T. Baucham, Jr.

Grace men are traveling to Springfield March 13th



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Act quickly, you may still be able to go with the group! Call Pam at 527-2920 Please leave a message if she is not available.

As Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another - Proverbs 27:17

U P C O M I N G
FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

APRIL 17
MYSTERY DINNER
(ADULTS)

JUNE 12
PROGRESSIVE FAMILY
DINNER

JULY 26 - 30
VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL



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Anytown, State ZIP