

2016 Theme Verse: "So let us Know; let us press on to Know the LORD..." Hosea 6:3

## Welcome to the Grace Brethren Church of Norwalk

January 24, 2016

### Services Today at Grace —

#### Sunday School: 9:30am

**Class:** 3 - 5 yrs. old (Kinder.)  
**Teacher:** Carol Ann Perkins

**Class:** 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (KIDMO)  
**Teacher:** Maggie Olmedo

**Class:** 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade (5A)  
**Teacher:** Robin Predmore

**Class:** DRIVEN (Jr. & Sr. High)  
**Teacher:** Timothy Lansing

**Class:** ALL ADULTS IN THE SANCTUARY  
**Teacher:** Dave Guiles, Encompass World Partners

#### Praise & Worship Service: 10:45am

**Special Speaker:** Dave Guiles, Encompass World Partners  
Children's Church for 3-5 years old & K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade after opening

### Those Serving Today at Grace —

#### Ushers for the month of January:

Rob Kimsey, Victor Pearce, Ron Muir, Steven Yrineo

#### Nursery — Today 1/24

**9:15am** Tracy Lansing  
Josie Lankford  
**10:30am** Dee Muir  
Jenna Wilson

#### Nursery — Next Week 1/31

**9:15am** Leticia Posada  
Clansy Cabrera  
**10:30am** Ruth Hurtado  
Lisa Patton

### Happy Anniversary —

George & Bonnie Miller January 26

### Happy Birthday —

Tommy Miller January 24  
Mary Robison January 25  
Anabella Morales January 26

### Events This Week —

FAMILY NIGHT: ABS, DRIVEN & ROCK Wed., 6:45pm  
Ladies' Psalms Study Fri., 10:00am

### Events This Month & Next —

**CE National Celebration (Long Beach GBC) Sun., 31<sup>st</sup>, 7:30pm**  
**Concert begins at 6:00pm — 5885 Downey Ave., Long Beach**  
DRIVEN Valentine Cookie Bake Sat., Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> 8am-2pm  
4<sup>TH</sup> Quarter Business Meeting Sun., Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> 12:15pm  
Women of Grace Tues., Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm  
DRIVEN Youth Winter Camp (Green Valley) Fri.-Sun, Feb 19-21  
Kamron & Nayeli Jones' Baby Shower Sun., Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> 12:15pm

### For The Record —

#### Attendance Last Week:

Sunday School: 58, Worship Service: 103

**CALENDAR FOR YEAR 2016:** If you have any events to be added to the church/wall calendar for 2016, please text Lisa Patton or leave a note on her desk in the church office (examples: work days, communions, youth events, commission meetings, meals, retreats, etc.). Thank you so much.

## Church Announcements

**SPECIAL SPEAKERS:** We are extremely privileged to have Dave Guiles, the president of our missions organization, Encompass World Partners, with us this morning; next Sunday, Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, we will have Ed Lewis, president of CE National. Praise God for how He is working in our fellowship and around the world.

**LADIES' RETREAT:** This morning our ladies are away at their retreat in Solvang; please pray for their safe return this afternoon.

**DRIVEN NEWS:** Valentine Cookie Bake: Sat., Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> 8am-2pm. **YOUTH WINTER CAMP:** Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> at Green Valley Lake. See Timothy Lansing for all details.

**4<sup>th</sup> QUARTER BUSINESS MTG.** is Sunday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:15pm in room: 6B. To all members, please attend.

**HEIGHTS OF GRACE:** Our next outreach is on Sat., Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>. Please meet at the church at 11:00am for a brief meeting before we head out to Boyle Heights. If you have any questions, please see Vet or Jen Gonzalez.

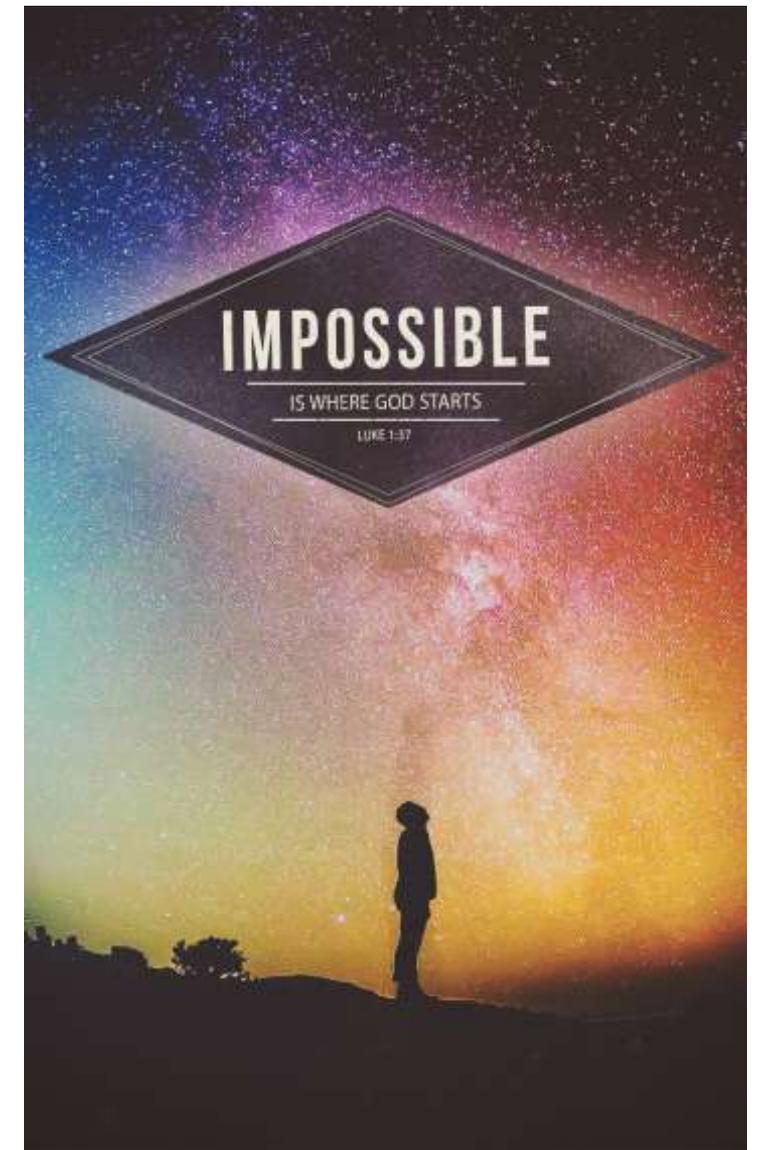
**Memorial Service for Jenny Carter:** We are so sorry for her daughter, Sue's loss as Jenny passed on Mon., 1/11; her mother's memorial service will take place at **Downey Calvary Chapel** (12808 Woodruff Ave.) on Wednesday, **Feb. 3 at 11am** in the Fellowship Hall (the hall is midway of Woodruff Ave., on the side of the church). Please pray for Sue's comfort. You can contact her by phone: (562)228-4711, email: [suecares@gmail.com](mailto:suecares@gmail.com), or address: Sue Warth, 13100 Curtis & Kind Rd., Norwalk.

Sermon Notes  
January 24, 2016

Note from Pastor:

***“Addicted to God”***  
*New Ways of Seeing and Walking Free*  
*Part 3*

*“The unfolding of Your words gives life; it gives understanding to the simple.” (Psalm 119:130)* The world uses only one metaphor to describe our struggle with addiction: “disease.” But the world does not say, “Addiction is like disease.” The world says, “Addiction is disease,” which is neither theologically nor medically correct. To truly “recover” from addiction, sinful addiction must be replaced with holy addiction, for addiction is merely a perverted form of worship. Even organizations like AA confess that addiction is a “spiritual struggle that needs spiritual healing.” The word “disease” certainly does describe how addiction makes us feel controlled by something, but it omits that the control of addiction is a voluntary enslavement by the addict. The Bible gives us five metaphors to describe addictive behavior: idolatry, adultery, foolishness, attacks by a wild beast, and disease. One of the most common biblical pictures of the human condition, both when we are in control and when we are out of control, is that of idolatry, which we learned about last week. The second metaphor Scripture uses to describe addiction is adultery. Adultery is a companion metaphor with idolatry because idolatry is ultimately a personal relationship gone wrong. Adultery emphasizes the more intimate features of idolatry. If you go to an AA meeting and listen to the language being used, you would think that people were having affairs. They are talking about something they loved. They once thought of nothing but that object. They felt complete when they were with it. They made a conscious choice in favor of their most beloved. There was control, lies, obsession; all the things that describe an illicit relationship. **Proverbs 7** describes the whole process of addiction in terms of a foolish young man who intentionally walks into the neighborhood of his forbidden lover, being seduced, enjoying the temporary pleasure, and then learning that he was trapped by the desires that were controlling and dominating him. The Bible says it is “a banquet in the grave” and “an animal eating meat from a deadly trap.” The biblical language of adultery describes addiction. The addict indulges in a secret life that will eventually be exposed. Deception is commonplace. The addict is unfaithful, and hurts others because he loves the desires and pleasure above all else. The addict’s relationship with his object of desire becomes his life. It is what he lives for. We may be tempted to ask the addict, “Why did you throw away everything you had for this?” There is never a satisfactory answer for this because sin is never rational. Sin doesn’t make sense. It doesn’t look into the future. It doesn’t consider the consequences. All it knows is “I WANT – I WANT MORE.” To help the addict, we must help him find something more beautiful, more desirable than his current love. It is tempting to spend countless hours with the addict talking about everything that went wrong, but that is not enough, we must talk about Jesus, who is to be his first love. And the only way to learn to love Jesus is to know Him in the Bible. Adultery is a complex metaphor; we move toward it because of our own selfish desires, but in the end the “adulteress,” whatever “she” may be, controls us. We have to commit to fight against not only the things we see such as alcohol, drugs, pornography, and etc., but also against the desires of our hearts (Matthew 5:28; James 4:1ff). Learning to love Jesus more is the best first step in fighting any addiction, and we would be well served that the Apostle James in his epistle, reminds us that none of us is far from the addict’s life. More next time.



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