

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 17, 2016

Services Today at Grace —

Sunday School: 9:30am

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

Class: 1st - 3rd grade (KIDMO)
Teacher: Lisa Patton

Class: 4th - 6th grade (5A)
Teacher: Robin Predmore

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

Class: Adults (6B)
Teacher: Dave Goodwyn

Class: Adults (Conf. Rm.)
Teacher: Ron Muir

Class: Young Adults
Teacher: Vet Gonzalez

Praise & Worship Service: 10:45am

Children's Church for 3-5 years old & K-3rd grade after opening

Ushers' Meeting (Conf. Room): 12:15pm

Those Serving Today at Grace —

Ushers for the month of January:

Rob Kimsey, Victor Pearce, Ron Muir, Steven Yrineo

Nursery — Today 1/17

9:15am Patty Morales
Jennifer Gonzalez
10:30am Laura Kimsey
Roxy Barragan

Nursery — Next Week 1/24

9:15am Maggie Olmedo
Josie Lankford
10:30am Dee Muir
Jenna Wilson

Happy Birthday —

Nayeli Jones	January 19
Jackson Kimsey	January 19
Dennis Posada	January 19
Tony DeLuna	January 19
Steven Yrineo	January 21

Events This Week —

Ladies' Discipleship (Patton home)	Mon. at 7:00pm
Elders' Meeting	Tues. at 7:00pm
FAMILY NIGHT: ABS, DRIVEN & ROCK	Wed., 6:45pm
WOMEN'S RETREAT TO SOLVANG	Fri.-Sun., 22 nd -24 th

Events This Month —

CE National Celebration (Long Beach GBC) Sun., 31st, 7:30pm
Concert begins at 6:00pm — 5885 Downey Ave., Long Beach
4TH Quarter Business Meeting Sun., Feb. 7th 12:15pm

For The Record —

Attendance Last Week:

Sunday School: 61, Worship Service:111

CALENDAR FOR YEAR 2016: If you have any events to be added to the church/wall calendar for 2016, please see 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

USHERS' MEETING IS TODAY at 12:15pm right after the worship service; we'll meet in the conference room.

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

IT'S FINISHED! Please pick up your copy (one copy per family, please) of our **2016 CHURCH DIRECTORY**. They are located on the back table in the foyer.

SPECIAL SPEAKERS: We are extremely privileged to have Dave Guiles, the president of our missions organization, Encompass, with us on Sunday, Jan. 24th, and Ed Lewis, president of CE National, on Sunday, Jan. 31st. Please plan to attend these worship services.

LADIES' RETREAT: The ladies' retreat is this weekend! Our theme is JOY. Two spots are still available; if you have not paid yet, please do so today; it's \$80. If you have any questions, please see Josie Ramirez.

ROOF FUNDRAISER — Reminder: the Script table will be available every week except for 1/24, so please plan accordingly. Thank you for supporting the roof project. Update: The Scrip Rebate tally is \$124.49 as of Jan. 3.

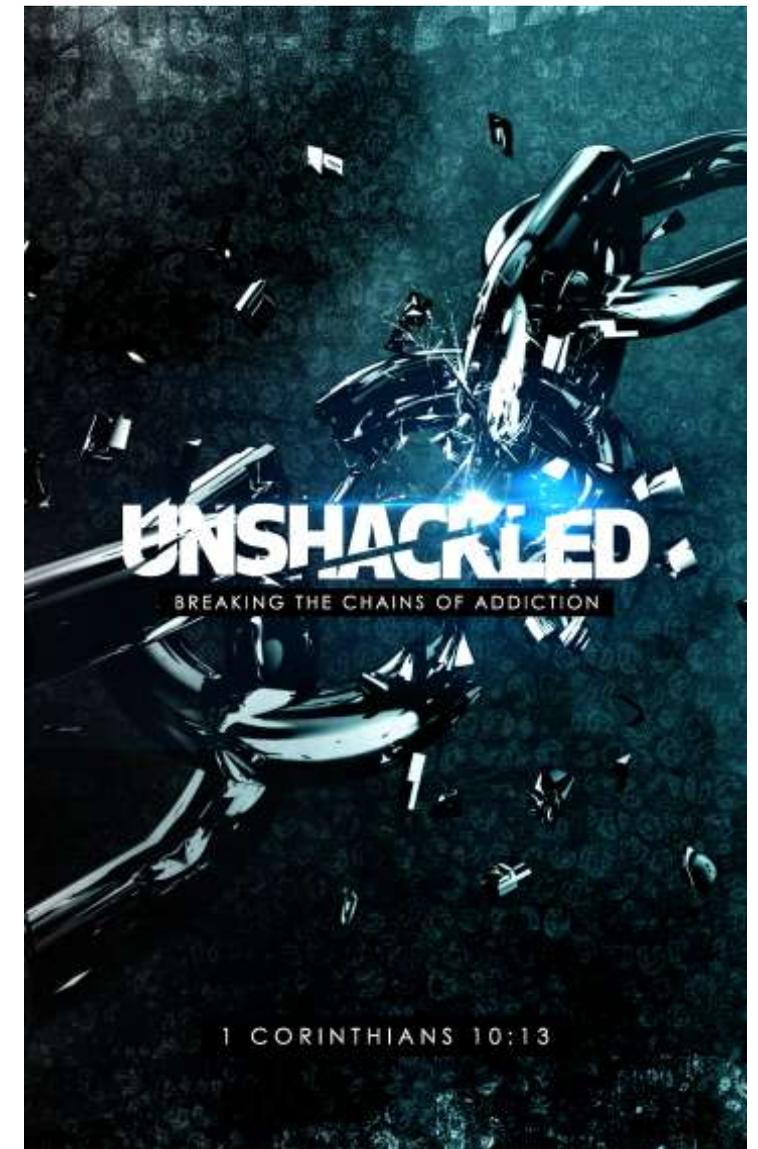
YOUTH WINTER CAMP: Feb. 19th-21st at Green Valley Lake, CA. See Timothy Lansing for all details.

UPDATE: Victoria Arreola, Mario & Fernando Alarcon, Home: (562)653-7740, Victoria's cell: (562)653-7740 (Please tear out and place in 2016 Church Directory.)

Sermon Notes
January 17, 2016

“Addicted to God”
New Ways of Seeing and Walking Free
Part 2

“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. When we turn to something other than God to provide things only God can provide, we are stepping outside the boundaries of His Kingdom to look for blessings elsewhere, and this is idolatry. The basic story line of the entire Old Testament is about people who find idolatry irresistible. And so, eventually God sends His Son Jesus to rescue His people out of their enslaving practices. This is why all sin is summarized as idolatry (Deuteronomy 4:23; Ephesians 5:5). Though Old Testament idols were visible, manmade statues, it was always about “idols of the heart” (Ezekiel 14:3). 1 John closes with the words, “Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.” John never mentions visible idols, but only “the cravings of the sinful man, the lusts of the eyes, and the boastings of what man has and does.” John is concerned with the “unseen Baals of the heart.” Here is a very important point in a biblical view of addiction: Scripture permits us to broaden the definition of idolatry so that it includes anything on which we set our affections and indulge in as an excessive and sinful attachment. This is why, for instance, the bottle that the drunkard sees is not the whole problem, it is what he is longing for in his heart, what he is attached to more than God. And so idolatry includes anything we worship: the lust for pleasure, respect, love, power, control, comfort, escape, freedom from pain, etc. And here is a liberating thought: the problem is not outside of us, located in a liquor store or on the internet; the problem is within us. Alcohol and drugs are essentially satisfiers of deeper idols. The problem is not the idolatrous substance, but the false worship of the heart. The good news is that if the problem is worship-related, the cure is worship-related too! To overcome, the addict needs a “worship-replacement program.” Healing for the addict begins with learning how to properly worship God with all his “heart, soul, mind, and strength.” We’re not saying this relearning is easy, but we are saying that “with God all things are possible.” Jesus Christ has made it so. More next time...



Grace Brethren Church of Norwalk
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info@gracelive.com



Please come and join us as we gather together for the

*Southern California CE National
Celebration Sunday*

January 31st, 2016

7:30 pm

Hosted by

Community GBC

5885 Downey Ave.

Long Beach, CA 90808

This will be a time of fun and fellowship as we come together and hear what God is doing in the lives of people through various CE National ministries. At 6pm there will be a free concert with the Blackwood Legacy group. You won't want to miss!

Fellowship and Dessert time after the concert.



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