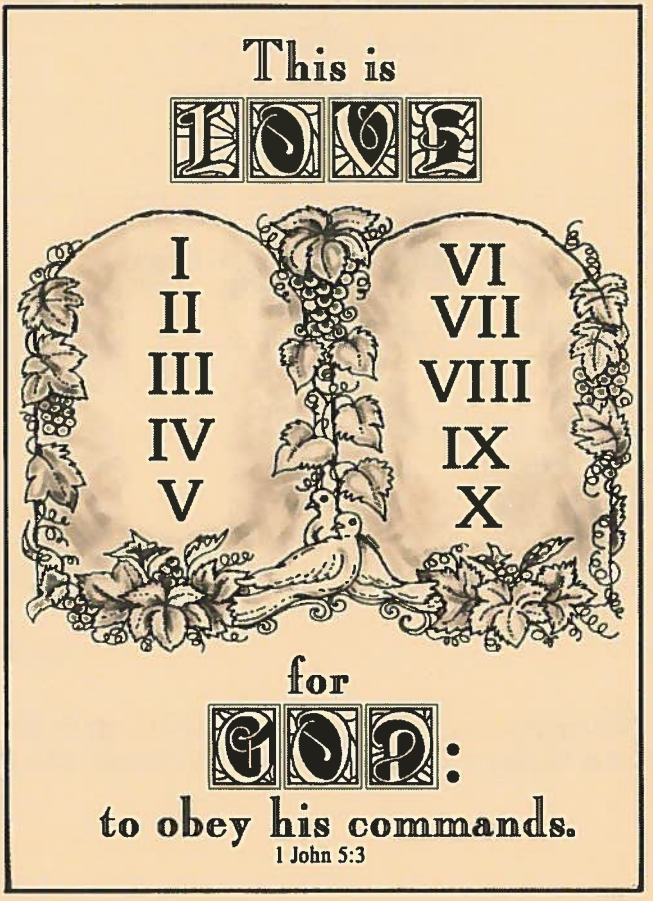

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH
222 Boulder Drive, Gallup, NM 87301

Sunday School - 9:00 AM
Worship Service - 10:15 AM
Youth Group - 6:00 PM
Edge - 6:00 PM
Prayer Time - 6:00 PM

John W. Luginbuhl, Pastor
Steve Yoder, Youth Pastor
Church Office: (505) 722-5114
Pastor's E-mail: john@gracebiblegallup.org
Youth Pastor's E-mail: forevertrustinghim@yahoo.com
www.gracebiblegallup.org

Grace Bible Church
~ The Lord's Day ~
February 16, 2014

WELCOME

9:00 AM	**Sunday School for all ages**
10:15 AM	**Worship Service**

Call to Worship
Welcome/Announcements
Praise & Worship*
Special Music

Scripture Reading — Revelation 2:12-17

Message — John Luginbul

"Pergamum: Faithful, but Tolerating Evil!"
(Part 5 of a Series, "Grace Bible and the Seven Churches!")

Closing

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*Offering will be received during the third song; children age 3 - grade 4 will be dismissed to Children's Church after the Special Music.

SERVING IN THE NURSERY <u>TODAY</u>:
Crawlers/Walkers ..... EJ Charles & Madison Sutliff
SERVING IN THE NURSERY <u>NEXT SUNDAY</u>:
Crawlers/Walkers ..... Betsy Branson & Amanda Gaines

LATER TODAY...

6:00 PM	Prayer Time. Join us!
6:00 PM	[<u>NO</u> Youth Group tonight.]
6:00 PM	Edge Group meets

PRAISE & PETITION

"Praise Him for His mighty deeds. Praise Him according to His excellent greatness!"
~ Psalm 150:2

Praise the Lord for:

1. Who He is: the one, true, living God! He is the Sovereign One Who created the heavens and the Earth!
2. Answers to prayers! What a great God we serve!
3. Eternal life and forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ, as we put our faith in Him!
4. The wonderful work of the Holy Spirit of God - for giving us the ministry of reconciliation and restoration!
5. Entrusting us with the Gospel, opportunities to share it!
6. A wonderful Couples' Valentine Party on Friday night!
7. All the people who were baptized last Sunday!
8. Steve Tobey discharged from Red Rocks Care Center!

Petition the Lord for:

1. More of a desire to love and serve Jesus Christ, a deeper love for the lost and opportunities to share the Gospel!
2. Continued growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. (I Peter 3:18)
3. Roger & Kathy Scarbro as they continue to lead American Indian Missions, Inc. as well as work in Zuni among the youth.
4. The Helf and Scott families, during this time of loss of loved ones.
5. Ricky Lee (Nellie Lee's son), Sean Begaye, and Jana Sheffield (Nixons' niece), all in Afghanistan; Adam Sowers (Ft. Hood); Kyle Prendergast (Ophelia Krupica's son), stationed (Air Force) in Germany.
6. Our President, military advisors, military men and women.

"Pergamum: Faithful, but Tolerating Evil!"

(Part 5 of a Series, "Grace Bible and the Seven Churches!")

Revelation 2:12-17

Today we look at the third of the seven churches of Revelation 2 and 3. We learned that the church at Ephesus had lost her first love (her zeal for the Lord had grown cold). She was told to repent of that sin. We also learned, last week, that the Lord didn't have any particular criticism for the church at Smyrna. He encouraged them to *not* fear, and to be faithful to Him, despite persecution. Today we'll look at the church at Pergamum...

1. The Commendation

2. The Criticism

3. The Instruction

This Week at Grace Bible...
(Here at the church unless otherwise noted.)

Monday, February 17

7:00 PM	Life Group (2 Peter) at the Luginbuhls' Home (303 Cactus Rd.)

Tuesday, February 18

9:30 AM	Ladies' Bible Study
5:20 PM	Ladies' Aerobics
6:30 PM	Elders' Meeting
7:00 PM	Life Group at Silvas' home (621 VandenBosch Parkway, Gallup)

Wednesday, February 19

6:30 PM	AWANA

Thursday, February 20

5:20 PM	Ladies' Aerobics

COMING SOON:

March 23	Amy Shreve (harpist) & Gary Wixtrom (guitarist) with us
March 23	Kitchen Shower & Potluck (watch for details)

Issue #170 John (1509-1564) and Idelette (d.1549) Calvin

CHRISTIAN HISTORY INSTITUTE'S

GLIMPSES

of people, events, life and faith from
the Church Across the Ages

A Love That Was Meant To Be:

The Odd Romance of John and Idelette Calvin

Someone once said that all Frenchmen are lovers. John Calvin seemed to be working hard to disprove that notion. As a 31-year-old bachelor, Calvin announced he was not one of "those insane lovers who embrace also the vices of those with whom they are in love, where they are smitten at first sight with a fine figure."

Along with Martin Luther, Calvin stands as a giant in the Protestant Reformation. But where Luther wrote often about his passionate relationship with wife Katie, Calvin kept rather quiet about his love life. But then, this quiet, bookish scholar didn't talk much about any personal matters.

Educated in France and famous for his work in Geneva, Calvin found his wife in German-speaking Strasbourg. It would be more correct to say, "a wife was found for him." The story would make a great premise for a modern TV reality show.

John Calvin – French scholar and theologian and reluctant leader of the Reformation in Geneva, Switzerland. It took a search committee to find him a wife. (17th century Dutch print)

Stopped in His Tracks

Shortly after a spiritual conversion brought him around to the Protestant cause, Calvin left his native France for the somewhat freer climate of Switzerland. Stopping in Geneva, he was pressed into service by a fiery preacher named William

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Farel. "Stay here," Farel said, "and help me reform the city." Calvin felt he wasn't cut out for church leadership—he was a researcher and a scholar—but Farel wouldn't take no for an answer. "You're using your studies as an excuse," he thundered. "You're being selfish and self-willed."

So Calvin stayed in Geneva. "I felt as if God from heaven had laid his mighty hand upon me to stop me in my tracks," he said later. But Geneva wasn't ready for this dynamic duo. Less than two years later, Calvin and Farel were both given three days to get out of town or else. They got out. Suffering chronic headaches and stomach upsets, Calvin vowed never to get mixed up in church administrative affairs again.

Calvin welcomed back to Geneva in 1541

Calvin married Idellete in Strasbourg in 1540. But they would not enjoy a quiet married life there. Calvin was recalled to Geneva after being banished from there three years earlier. It wasn't exactly the place Calvin would have chosen for their honeymoon. He dreaded going back to Geneva. He lamented that "I would rather die a hundred deaths than again take up that cross."

That's when he met his match, in more ways than one.

Martin Bucer, the head of the Protestant movement in Strasbourg, invited Calvin to lead a church of refugees in his city. Maybe it was the fact that he was now a refugee himself, but somehow, despite all his objections, Calvin said yes. Thus began a three-year stint in Strasbourg.

While the church work was going well, Calvin's finances were not. He rented a large house and turned it into a dormitory for students, hoping the rent would cover his expenses. It didn't. Besides the money problems, he had people problems, and that gave him stomach and headache problems as well.

He hired a cook-housekeeper who had a sharp tongue. That didn't work out very well either. She had a tendency to scream at the tenants when Calvin was trying to edit the second edition of his classic *Institutes*.

Finally Bucer told Calvin, "You ought to have a wife." Bucer didn't usually make suggestions; more often they were commands. After three decades of single life, this would be a major adjustment for Calvin. But maybe if he had a wife, John thought, she could decide what to do with unpleasant housekeepers. So he agreed to have a "search committee" hunt for a suitable mate.

The Search Begins

Calvin gave the committee instructions: "Remember, what I expect from one who is to be my companion for life. . . . The only kind of beauty which can win my soul, is a woman who is gentle, pure, modest, economical, patient, and who is likely to interest herself about my health."

Calvin had good reason that she be concerned about his health. He was said to eat only one meal a day and was often ill with indigestion, headaches, gallstones, hemorrhoids, gout, fever and chronic asthma.

Candidate #1

It took them a year-and-a-half to find a suitable candidate. On the plus side, the woman was wealthy, which would be helpful because Calvin wanted to live the life of a scholar. Her brother was an ardent supporter of Calvin's teachings, and sort of acted as her campaign manager with the committee. This match made sense to everyone—except Calvin.

On the debit side, the woman spoke no French, though she reluctantly agreed to learn a little. But another problem was, in fact, her money, as John described in a letter to his old friend Farel: "You understand, William, that she would bring with her a large dowry, and this could be embarrassing to a poor minister like myself. I feel, too, that she might become dissatisfied with her humbler station in life." So Calvin turned her down.

Candidate #2

Farel responded with a candidate of his own. In his congregation was a woman who spoke French, a devout Protestant who had never been married. On the negative side was the fact that she was in her mid-forties, about 15 years older than Calvin. John never pursued the suggestion.

Candidate #3

The third candidate seemed like a good one. She lived in another city, but had a good reputation. "She is mightily commended by those who are acquainted with her," said one of his searchers. She didn't have money, but that was fine with Calvin. She seemed to meet all of his qualifications, so he began inviting friends to his wedding. But something went wrong. As Calvin got to know her, he didn't like her. The more he knew her, the less he liked her. However, the opposite was true for her—she had now fallen deeply in love with him. John Calvin wanted to have a non-emotional arrangement, but now it was complicated by some intense feelings.

Now Calvin was embarrassed because she was pressing for marriage, trying to "overwhelm me altogether with her kindness." As the wedding date approached, John wrote that he wouldn't marry her "even if the Lord had altogether demented me." He prayed, "Most earnestly do I desire to be delivered out of this difficulty." Ultimately he asked his brother Antoine to "deliver him" by giving his fiancee the bad news of the final breakup.

The Interesting Idelette

At that point, Calvin wasn't sure what God wanted for him. Should he remain a bachelor? "I have not yet found a wife and frequently hesitate as to whether I ought any more to seek one," he wrote. Was it worth the trouble?

Then he remembered a widow in his congregation. Her husband had died in a plague a few months earlier, and John had conducted the funeral. Calvin had been impressed with how she had cared for her dying husband as well as her two children. She was 31, about John's age.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

An artist's conception of Idellete, beloved wife of Calvin. He married her in 1540 when he was 31 years old.

An intelligent woman, she was not afraid to speak her mind. Most interesting, she and her husband had been Anabaptists, fleeing persecution in their native Holland. Coming to Strasbourg, they had connected with Calvin's church and converted to the Reformed faith a year earlier.

It didn't take long now. Within two months, John married Idelette de Bure Stordeur, with William Farel officiating.

Scandalous!

When Calvin announced his choice of Idelette as his bride, there must have been some clucking and tongue-wagging in the pews of Reformed churches throughout Europe. Idelette and her late husband had been Anabaptists—in fact, he had led an Anabaptist group. To the Reformed Christians of that time, the Anabaptists weren't just another denomination: they were seen as a dangerous cult!

Making the Inevitable Adjustments

Now came the adjustment to married life. Since his mother had died when he was three, and he had received little love from his stepmother, John did not have much experience of a loving home. His best model of a loving Christian family was Martin Bucer's. "In his family during the entire time I saw not the least occasion of offense but only ground for edification," Calvin wrote. "I never left the table without having learned something." Calvin saw Elizabeth Bucer as a good mother, a hospitable homemaker and her husband's best critic.

It seems as if Idelette played a similar role. Though he never wrote much about his own home life, John called Idelette "the faithful helper of my ministry" and "the best companion of my life." At times she accompanied him in his travels. Calvin's biographers speak of her as a woman "of some force and individuality."

Three Births, None Survive

After John and Idelette moved back to Geneva, Idelette bore a son prematurely, who died when only two weeks old. In the next five years two more children died at birth, and Idelette struggled with physical problems. When she could, she went with John to visit the sick and those in prison. But after only nine years of marriage to John, Idelette passed away. As she lay dying, she regretted that she was adding more problems to the load John was already carrying in Geneva.

A week after her death he wrote to a friend, "Truly mine is no ordinary grief." He had never shared intimate details of their relationship, but others observed that it was a marriage of mutual love, respect and companionship. Perhaps John was teaching his ex-Anabaptist wife of God's sovereignty, while Idelette demonstrated for her nervous husband the Holy Spirit's role as Comforter. ✣

— by William J. Petersen, author of *25 Surprising Marriages* (Baker, 1997)

WE WELCOME YOU!

There are many good reasons for coming to church, but we hope that your joining us this morning includes the best reason: to thank and worship God for His amazing love revealed in the birth, life, and ministry, the suffering and death, and the wondrous resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! This is what our church is all about! If you are visiting today, please fill our a guest card and bring it to our Welcome Center in the foyer and receive a free gift. Thank you… and visit us again!

The mission of our church is to prayerfully prepare believers for worshiping God, serving Christ, loving one another, and reaching out to others!

2014 YEAR VERSE:

"The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

~ I Samuel 16:7b

OUR THANKS to all who worked so hard in order to make Friday night's Couples' Valentine Party at church a wonderful time! 25 couples attended the party.

WE CONGRATULATE the following people who were baptized during our morning worship service last Sunday: Frank Amankonah, Dennis Cosens, Whitney Cosens, Dandro Fralinger, Jackson Fralinger, Arthur Rascon, Carlos Silva (by his father), Graciela Silva, and Michael Silva.

DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR USED INK CARTRIDGES!

We are collecting them for cash. If you can help, drop them off in a box by the church office.

A list of February birthdays and anniversaries of regular-attenders of Grace Bible is on the kitchen door. Please make (legible) corrections/additions right on the list. Thank you!

GUYS: We're going back to Promise Keepers!

July 25-27, Loveland, CO.

Make plans to come! Watch for more details!

PLEASE PRAY for Pastor Steve, the adult youth leaders, and our young people (approx. 20) as they are in Hesperus, Colorado, this weekend for their Winter Retreat! They are scheduled to return to Gallup tomorrow in the late afternoon.

Pastor John and Linda are leaving Wednesday morning for Tucson, AZ, where Pastor John will be involved in a several-day Leadership Retreat with United Indian Missions. Please pray for them as they travel and as they are in Tucson. In the event of an emergency in Pastor John's absence, please contact Pastor Steve or one of our Elders (Caleb Chavez, Steve Knox, Glenn Marshall, and Mike Nye).

This Week in Church History...

On February 21, 1945, Eric Liddell (b. 1902), Scottish Olympic champion and missionary to China, died. While a student at Edinburgh, Liddell became the best known athlete Scotland produced. In 1925, he joined the staff of the Anglo-Chinese Christian College in Tientsin, China, (his birthplace). In 1942, he became a prisoner of the Japanese. His death from a brain tumor occurred just before he would have been released from his captors.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...

"The sign of our professed love for the Gospel is the measure of sacrifice we are prepared to make in order to help its progress."

~ Ralph P. Martin