

*"...your God will come...*



*he will come to save you."*

*Isaiah 35:4*

**GRACE BIBLE CHURCH**

222 Boulder Drive, Gallup, NM 87301

John W. Luginbuhl, Pastor

Rob Sanchez, Youth Pastor

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*Grace Bible Church*  
*~ The Lord's Day ~*  
*December 16, 2012*

**WELCOME**

9:00 AM  
10:15 AM

Sunday School for all ages  
Worship Service

Call To Worship  
Welcome/Announcements  
Praise & Worship  
Handbell Choir "Christmas Medley"  
Prayer  
Offering  
Praise & Worship\*

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-7

Message John Luginbuhl

**"Christmas Carol Theology!"**  
**(Part 2: "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne")**

Closing

\*After this, children age 3 - grade 4 will be dismissed to Children's Church.

**SERVING IN THE NURSERY TODAY:**

*Crawlers/Walkers ..... Marji Campbell & Willie Helf*

**SERVING IN THE NURSERY NEXT SUNDAY:**

*Crawlers/Walkers ..... EJ Charles & Moriah Yale*

WE SAY "GOODBYE AND GOD BLESS YOU" today to John and Kellie VanEyck and family as they move this week to Conrad, Montana. Please join us in the gym after the service today for a cake reception in their honor.

**LATER TODAY...**

4:00 PM Christmas Concert, presented by Rehoboth Christian High School Choir at Sacred Heart Cathedral (415 E. Green, Gallup)

[No Prayer Time this afternoon/evening]

6:00 PM Edge Group (after High School) meets

**“Christmas Carol Theology!”**  
**(Part 2: “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”)**  
**Luke 2:1-7**

We continue, this morning, our look at Christmas carols/songs and their theology. The song we are looking at today probably won't be sung by our carolers tomorrow night. But, it *is* a song which has been played and sung *many* times in churches around the country at this time of the year! It is different from most of the Christmas carols we know because it focuses not only on the birth of Jesus, but also on His life on earth, His suffering and death, and the ultimate triumph of His return!

I. Background

II. Theology

III. Response

## PRAISE & PETITION



“And you shall call His Name Jesus, for it is  
He Who will save His people from their sins.”

~ Matthew 1:21

### Praise the Lord for:

1. Jesus' mission: to save people from their sins! Praise the Lord for salvation through Jesus, as we trust in Him!
2. Forgiveness of sins, a place in heaven reserved for us, deliverance from Hell - all through faith in Jesus Christ and His finished work for us at Calvary.
3. Opportunities for ministry during this Christmas season.
4. The privilege of worship and prayer!
5. His sovereignty!
6. Family and friends, both “near and far”.

### Petition the Lord for:

1. Those who are lonely and/or depressed this holiday season.
2. Those who will be traveling to see family and friends.
3. Families in our church going through the rough waters of life at this time. (Isa. 43:1,2)
4. College students “home for the holidays”. Pray for a refreshing time with family and friends.
5. Opportunities during the Christmas season to share our faith in Jesus with family and friends.
6. Couples preparing for marriage: Chris Piano & Sarah Luginbuhl (Sept. 21, 2013); Anders Berg & Jennifer Schell (no date set); Ryan Hamilton & Erica Sowers (no date set)
7. Concerning the very tense situation in the Middle East.
8. Becky Bierly, Ricky Lee (Nellie Lee's son) both in Afghanistan.
9. Our President, military advisors, military men and women.
10. Ron Tallent (Carole Bertinetti's brother): prostate and bone cancer; Staci Spolar's uncle (cancer); Carol Reen (shingles)

# “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”

Emily S. Elliott (1836-1897)

Timothy R. Matthews (1826-1910)

Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy Kingly Crown  
    When Thou camest to earth for me,  
But in Bethlehem's home there was found no room  
    For Thy holy nativity.

(Refrain) O come to my heart Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for Thee.

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,  
    Proclaiming Thy royal degree,  
But of lowly birth didst Thou come to earth,  
    And in great humility.

(Refrain)

The foxes found rest and the birds their nest,  
    In the shade of the forest tree,  
But Thy couch was the sod, o Thou Son of God,  
    In the deserts of Galilee.



(Refrain)

Thou camest, O Lord, with the living word  
That should set Thy people free,  
But with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn,  
They bore Thee to Calvary.

(Refrain)

When the heav'ns shall ring and the angels sing  
At Thy coming to victory,  
Let Thy voice call me home, saying, "Yet there is room,  
There is room at My side for Thee."

(Refrain) My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus, when Thou comest and callest for me!





# YOUTH MINISTRY

**SUNDAY SCHOOL • SUNDAYS 9:00-:10:00 AM**  
Classes for 7th-8th Grade, 9th-12th Grade

**LIFE SUPPORT • SATURDAYS 6:00-:8:30 PM**  
NOTE: No regular youth meetings on December 22nd or 29th.  
We will resume meeting on January 5th.

## 2013 Sovereign Artistry Wall Calendar



*This 12-month calendar features beautiful, scenic photography and an inspirational message for each month of the year!*

**A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE YOUTH MINISTRY**  
**\$14 EACH • Available in the foyer or from Pastor Rob**



**This Week at Grace Bible...**

(Here at the church unless otherwise noted.)

**Monday, December 17**

**6:45 PM** All-Church Christmas Caroling  
(see announcement)

**Tuesday, December 18**

**9:30 AM** NO Ladies' Bible Study ("The Life of Christ")  
(Resumes January 15)

**5:00 PM** Handbell Rehearsal

**7:00 PM** Life Group at DenBleykers' home  
(615 VandenBosch)

**Wednesday, December 19**

**6:30 PM** AWANA [No AWANA on 12/26 or 1/2]



**COMING SOON:**

**December 24**

Christmas Eve Service (7 PM)

**February 15**

African Children's Choir with us



# Better LIFE!

Enriching Personal and Family Relationships  
*an edition of Better Families*



## Commitment or Covenant

**M**arriage is a huge commitment. Think about it. What could we give anyone that is more significant than giving ourselves? Frankly, I believe it is commitment—even more than love—that is the real “glue” of marriage. Whatever comes, good or bad, we can ride it out if we are forever and unconditionally committed.

The word commitment makes many people shiver, but it’s actually a softer word than covenant. Commitment, in the modern sense, still leaves you in control. You can choose to commit to something and then control the length and depth of that commitment. But covenant... calls for complete surrender. In covenant you give up control; you surrender your personal rights in order to become one with the other person.

*Dr. Fred Lowery, COVENANT MARRIAGE*

## Beyond Understanding

**W**hile temptation thrives on our failure, God is not surprised or overwhelmed by it. He understands that a good man will struggle and fall. He knows the way we take, even when we feel as Paul felt, “I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do” (Romans 7:15). We may have the best of intentions, but still we do wrong.” God knows and stands by us, willing to be our help. “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and He delights in his way. Though he falls, he shall not be cast down: for the Lord upholds him with His hand” (Psalm 37:23-24).

It’s difficult to grasp that compassionate hand because of our own shame and disappointment at our failings. Making it difficult to forgive ourselves... It’s hard to believe that His compassion could be that complete. But it is.

*Michelle McKinney Hammond*

WHY DO I SAY “YES” WHEN I NEED TO SAY “NO”?

## It’s A Fact

**J**esus was born in Bethlehem. In Hebrew, Bethlehem means house of bread.

CHRISTIAN FACTS.COM

## Off The Hook

**A** lot of kids act like there’s no right and wrong. They’ve got a “do whatever feels good” attitude. But when those same kids go against their consciences, I guarantee you, they feel guilty. They may not let you know about it, but they do. They try to stuff the guilt down deep inside and end up getting mad at God. It nags at them, so some of them take pills or start drinking to drown out His voice.

The only real way to lose the guilt is by asking Him for forgiveness. He’s the only One who can let you off the hook. The good news is He can and will erase your wrong every time. You can start fresh, just as if it never happened. So if you feel guilty about some of the things you’ve done, bring them to Him. He’ll always forgive you.

*Claire & Curt Cloninger*

E-MAIL FROM GOD FOR TEENS

## Christmas Memories

When my adult children and I talk about Christmas now, our conversations always return to the year our move from New York to Colorado resulted in our having only thirty-four-dollars to spend on gifts. Our new friends in the area were mostly other single parents and their kids, and we'd planned to all gather at our home on Christmas Day. Before the holiday, I explained our financial crunch, and then suggested we exchange homemade items or gifts of service at the dinner. The other struggling parents were relieved at my suggestion.

Christmas Day the others arrived for a potluck dinner. When it was time to open gifts, we exchanged promises for help with errands, plates of homemade cookies, and creative gifts, including spray painted avocado candlesticks! It was an incredible day all because we didn't allow a lack of money to spoil our fun.

What can you do to make Christmas memorable? Remember, the best Christmases don't come from charge cards and piles of gifts, but from finding new ways to reach out to others as you celebrate the reason for the holiday—the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

*Sandra P. Aldrich, ONE HUNDRED ONE UPWARD GLANCES*



## Holiday Warning!

Make a conscious effort this Christmas season to put a stop to the over spending, the hectic schedule crunches and the lack of peace from trying to make it “the perfect Christmas.”

This Christmas slow down; take this opportunity to really focus on the miraculous birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Make time to quiet your spirit and bathe in the Peace that Jesus came to give us. Practice loving

people through patience, kindness and by

simply acknowledging them. After all, what we are actually celebrating is Jesus and all He encompasses, not the frantic search for more stuff we don't need, or just shopping to fill a void. Put that energy and effort into letting Jesus Christ fill those needs and voids. Just give Him some time alone with you, to hold you and love you. *Jorrie Muniz, THE RRG*

## Life Lesson

*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ~ Isaiah 9:6-8*

Website: [www.therrg.com](http://www.therrg.com) · December access code for Kids Rock: KR-Dec12

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Images: 123RF



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## WE WELCOME YOU!

There are many good reasons for coming to church, but we hope that your joining us this Sunday 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 out a guest card and place it in the offering plate, so that we can have a record of your visit. Thank you ... and visit us again!

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

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### 2012 YEAR VERSE:

"As for God, His way is perfect. The Word of the LORD is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in Him."

~Psalm 18:30

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YOU ARE RUNNING OUT OF TIME to suggest a "Year Verse" for our church for 2013! Suggestions can be written out (please include which version of the Bible) and given to Pastor John or placed in the offering plate.

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**LAST OPPORTUNITY!** Today is the last day to check the information for your family on the roster for our new church directory! Roster is on a table in the foyer.

Please make changes or additions right on the roster. Thank you!

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### ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROLING!

Dec. 17, 6:45 PM

- Meet at church and dress warmly!
- Bring the whole family!
- Refreshments after caroling.



**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**  
Monday, December 24, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

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A list of December 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!

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## FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY:

"Notice to donors: Donors are advised not to file their federal income tax return before they receive their contributions receipt from the church. Also, donors wishing to 'catch up' on their financial commitments to the church must deliver such contributions before Jan. 1, 2013, to be credited to 2012, (mailed-in contributions must be post-marked by Dec. 31). Backdating is not allowed by the IRS. See Paul Schell for advice."

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## This Week in Church History...

On December 18, 1707, Charles Wesley, co-founder of Methodism was born, in Epworth, England. The 18th child of an Anglican pastor, Wesley followed his older brother John to Oxford in 1726. The Wesleys and their friends formed the "Holy Club." The group was derisively dubbed the "Methodists" for their methodical forms of personal piety. Ordained an Anglican priest in 1735, Charles underwent a spiritual conversion three years later (May 20, 1738), three days before John's heart was "strangely warmed" at Aldersgate. Between 1737-42, they published 6 volumes of original hymns. The United Methodist hymnal still contains 73 of the more than 6,500 hymns Charles penned during his lifetime. Among his best-known works are: "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," "And Can It Be?," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "O for a Thousand Tongues," "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling," "A Charge to Keep I Have" and "Jesus, Lover of My Soul." It was said that one could sing the theology of John in the hymns of Charles.

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## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...

*"God became man to turn creatures into sons, not simply to produce better men of the old kind but to produce a new kind of man."*

- C.S. Lewis