

Great is Thy Taithfulness

CELEBRATING 55 YEARS OF GOD'S WORK THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF HIS WORD

SINCE 1969



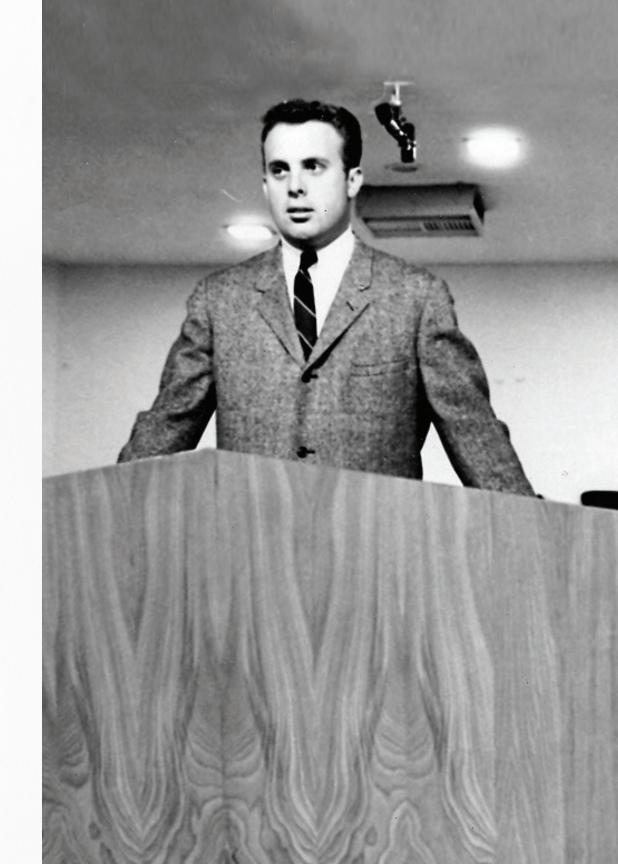
THE NEWS

Friday, January 24, 1969

Name New Pastor for Grace Church

PANORAMA CITY — Grace Community Church, 13248 Roscoe Blvd., has announced that the Rev. John MacArthur Jr., will be pastor of the church. His call was the result of a unanimous decision of the congregation. Rev. MacArthur will start his work Feb. 9.

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CELEBRATING 55 YEARS OF GOD'S WORK THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF HIS WORD FEBRUARY 4, 2024

9AM & 11AM

Sinfonia from Cantata No. 29

STEPHEN STURZ, ORGAN PRELUDE . BACH

His Robes for Mine

TMS CHORUS . ANDERSON-HABEGGER/ERB-RICE

The Mark of a Man of God

JOHN MARTIN . CAMP/RICE

Hymn #407 It is Well with My Soul

CONGREGATION

Special Presentation

I Believe

KORY WELCH, WORSHIP CHOIR • LEVI/RICE
LYRICS BY JOHN MACARTHUR

Upon This Rock

WORSHIP CHOIR, CONGREGATION . BECK

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

JUBILANT SYKES . RUNYAN/RICE

Reflections

JOHN MACARTHUR

Doxology Hymn #440 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW; PRAISE HIM, ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW. PRAISE HIM ABOVE, YE HEAV'NLY HOST;

Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals

ORGAN POSTLUDE . KARG-ELERT

6PM

Hymn #404 My Faith Has Found a Resting Place

PRAISE FATHER, SON AND HOLY GHOST. AMEN.

CONGREGATION

Anthems

TMU CHORALE, DIRECTED BY DR. MARIUS BAHNEAN

Q&A

JOHN MACARTHUR

Hymn #19 To God Be the Glory

CONGREGATION



Upon this rock I will build my church;
And the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Upon this rock I will build my church;
And the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

I will give thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven,
And whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven.

And whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Upon this rock I will build my church.

Lo, the winter is past;
The rain is over and gone;
The flowers appear on the earth;
The time of the singing of birds has come.

Arise, and come away; arise, and come away;

Arise, arise!

Upon this rock I will build my church;

And the gates of hell, the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

CONGREGATION JOINS

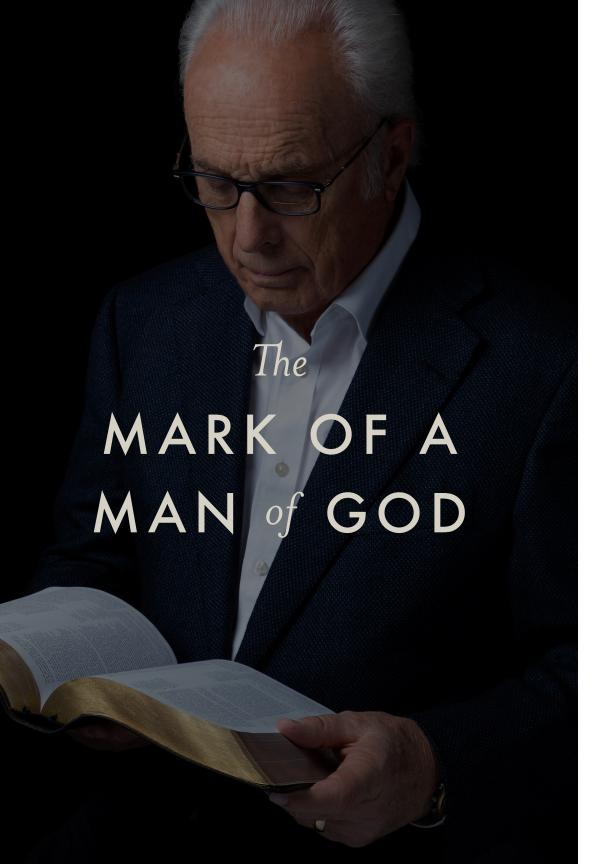
The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation by water and the Word;
From heav'n He came and sought her to be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.

Yet she on earth hath union with God, the Three in One;
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won;
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with Thee.

CHOIR

Amen! Amen! Amen!

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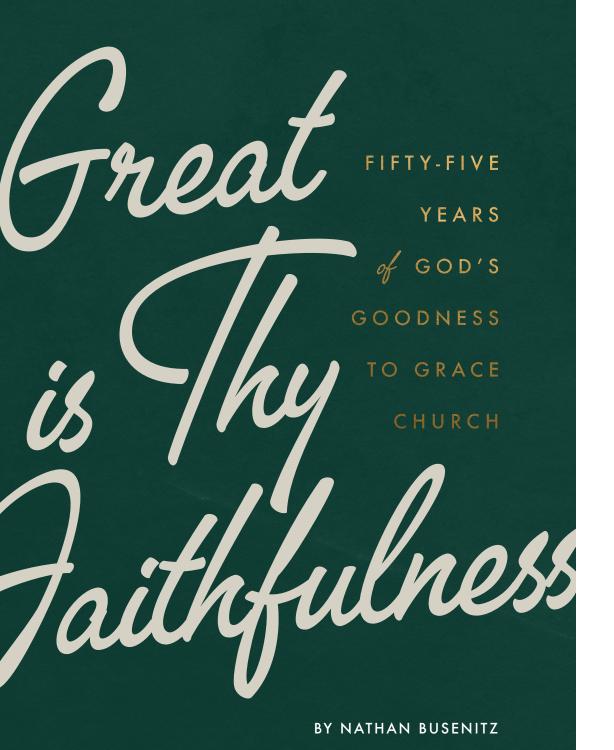
A godly man is such a rarity today, so many start strong and true and quickly fall away. A godly man will take his stand, he can't be bought or sold, hand to the plow he won't look back though other hearts turn cold. He keeps the faith, he keeps his conscience clear, he lives this life of grace through all his years.

The mark of a man of God is what he's faithful to and what he's fleeing from and what he's fighting for. The heart of a man of God is what he daily pursues, his family, friends, the work, the church and worship of the Lord. The godly man daily takes up the cross of Christ and faithfully follows Him as a living sacrifice.

He's not ashamed of the gospel, his sufficiency's in Christ, and the power of integrity is the passion of his life. Instead of reckless faith he has proven his faith works and the ultimate priority is the Master's plan for the church. Saved without a doubt, because his first love is the Lord. The gospel according to Jesus is the truth he would die for.

He lives his life to teach the Word, in season and in not, for he fears more than any man, the approval of his God. He lovingly, yet firmly, leads those placed under his care. The power of his ministry is that he is a man of prayer.

The godly man takes a young Timothy like me and teaches me to run the race, to carry on this life of grace, he sets the mark and we keep the pace with this man of God.



FIVE MONTHS BEFORE Neil Armstrong stepped foot on the moon, John MacArthur stepped into the pulpit of Grace Community Church. On that Sunday in February 1969, it was but a few small steps from the front row of the chapel to the pulpit. But that day would mark the beginning of a ministry that God would greatly bless.

From the beginning, Pastor John had three primary ministry objectives. The first was to preach the Word, verse by verse, carefully explaining the meaning of God's truth to the flock. The second was to raise up the next generation of spiritual leaders. The third was to see Grace Church obey the Great Commission, both in Los Angeles and around the world.

In pursuing these ministry objectives, our pastor's commitment was singular: to focus on the depth of the ministry and let God take care of the breadth of it. Looking back five and a half decades later, we can only marvel at the ways in which the Lord has blessed the work of His Word. It truly is what Paul expressed in Ephesians 3:20—far more abundantly above all that we could have asked or thought possible.

Consider the ways in which the Lord has blessed these ministry priorities.

TO PREACH THE WORD

Through the clear and consistent exposition of Scripture, the people of Grace Church have grown in the grace and knowledge of God. In His providence, our congregation has also grown in size. What initially fit comfortably in the chapel quickly grew to fill up the Family Center, and then the Worship Center, which was completed in 1977. The Lord further multiplied the influence of our pulpit beyond the walls of our church, through radio and print. Grace to You began informally with the recording and distribution of messages via cassette tapes. Today, GTY represents a broadcast ministry that reaches tens of millions of people each month. Those audio messages are complemented by hundreds of published works, from the MacArthur Study Bible to commentaries to many other printed resources.

TO TRAIN SPIRITUAL LEADERS

From the outset, Pastor John began investing in faithful men, both to develop leaders for Grace Church and to equip future pastors to be sent out. What started as a Saturday morning men's meeting developed into more formal kinds of leadership training. In the 1970s, so many men were eager for training that Grace Church sent them by the vanload to take classes at Talbot Theological Seminary, which was under the leadership of Dr. Charles Feinberg. The demand was so great that, in 1977, Talbot started an extension campus at Grace

Church. Nine years later, in 1986, as the extension campus grew, it became The Master's Seminary. The previous year, in 1985, Pastor John accepted an invitation to be the president of The Master's College (now University). Together, The Master's University and Seminary provide biblicallyeducation sound Christian professionals (at TMU) and faithful pastors (at TMS). Currently, there are over 3,000 students enrolled at TMUS. With regard to pastoral training specifically, the seminary has more than 2,000 graduates ministering in almost 80 countries around the world.

TO REACH THE WORLD

The Lord has also blessed the proclamation of His Word to the ends of the earth. Locally, our church engages in dozens of ministries to those in the Los Angeles area, including 9 foreign-language Bible studies, door-to-door evangelism, and ministries to prisons, abortion clinics, addiction recovery centers, hospitals, and more. Globally, our church reaches the world not only through the broadcast ministry of GTY, but also through Grace Ministries International (GMI) and The Master's Academy International (TMAI). GMI is the global missions arm of our church, deploying 89 missionary families around the world in 34 countries. A close partner to GMI, TMAI is a network of pastoral training schools that was started and is staffed by graduates of TMS. Currently, TMAI consists of 19 member schools, with more than 70 teaching sites in 23 countries. Collectively, TMAI schools have trained more than 7,500 pastors around the globe. Over the next five years, TMAI expects to nearly double the number of schools that are part of its international training network.

PRESERVING A LEGACY OF FAITHFULNESS

In 2017, the John MacArthur Charitable Trust (JMCT) was founded as a key means to secure and support the family of ministries that God has raised up through Pastor John's pulpit ministry. JMCT is designed to help facilitate the gospel work of Grace Church and its associated ministries both now and into the next generation. By prioritizing fidelity to Scripture and providing financial support, JMCT is strategically positioned to protect the future sustainability of our collective ministries. Recognizing the need to steward the rich blessing God has entrusted to us, JMCT will continue to play a vital role in safeguarding and sustaining

the influence of Grace Church, Grace to You, The Master's University and Seminary, and The Master's Academy International. For this, we give thanks and praise to the Lord.

ALL GLORY TO GOD

It is only possible to capture a small snapshot of all the Lord has done through the preaching of His Word and the ministry of Grace Church. Much more could be said about ministries like Grace Academy, Grace Books International, Grace Advance, Grace Equip, Grace Media, the John MacArthur Publishing Group, the Master's Fellowship, the MacArthur Center for Expository Preaching, Legacy Christian Academy, Men of the Word, Every Woman's Grace, Shepherds Conference, and many more. The magnitude of ministry is impossible to quantify. And all of it is a testimony to the undeserved blessing and enduring faithfulness of God. In Isaiah 55:11, the Lord promised that His Word would not return empty. At Grace Church, we have witnessed that truth unfold in astounding ways. Clearly, it is the Lord's doing, and we give Him all the glory.

SO SHALL MY WORD BE THAT GOES OUT FROM MY MOUTH; IT SHALL NOT RETURN TO ME EMPTY, BUT IT SHALL ACCOMPLISH THAT WHICH I PURPOSE, AND SHALL SUCCEED IN THE THING FOR WHICH I SENT IT.

Isaiah 55:11

inistry //ilestones

1970s

1969

Grace Community Church calls John MacArthur to be the pastor-teacher.

1971

Logos Bible Institute is founded as an evening program.

1972

The Book Shack, later Grace Books International opens its doors.

1973

John's first books are published — The Church: The Body of Christ and Found: God's Will.

1977

Talbot Theological Seminary opens an extension on the campus of Grace Community Church.

1978

Beginning of Grace To You: WRBS in Baltimore, MD begins airing John's messages from cassette tapes. 1980s

1980

Grace Community Church holds the first Shepherds Conference, with 200 pastors in attendance.

1983

The first MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Hebrews) is published.

1985

John is inaugurated as president of The Master's University.

1986

The Master's Seminary begins on the campus of Grace Community Church. John serves as president.

1988

The Gospel According to Jesus is published.

1990s

1992

Charismatic Chaos is published.

1996

Grace Ministries International is launched to be the missions agency of Grace Church.

1997

The MacArthur Study Bible is published.

1998

The Master's Seminary opens its new building on the campus of Grace Community Church.

2000s

200I

John appears for the first time on Larry King Live (CNN) in response to the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center.

Shepherds Conference relaunches in its current format enabling thousands of pastors to attend.

2004

The Master's Academy International is launched.

2010s

20II

John completes his verseby-verse exposition of the entire New Testament.

2013

Grace Church hosts the Strange Fire Conference.

2015

The final volume of the MacArthur New Testament Commentary series (Mark 9-16) is published.

2017

Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth is published.

John MacArthur Charitable Trust is established.

2020s

2020

Grace Church officially reopens after publishing "Christ, Not Caesar, Is Head of the Church."

2021

Legacy Standard Bible released.

2022

Grace Academy is launched.

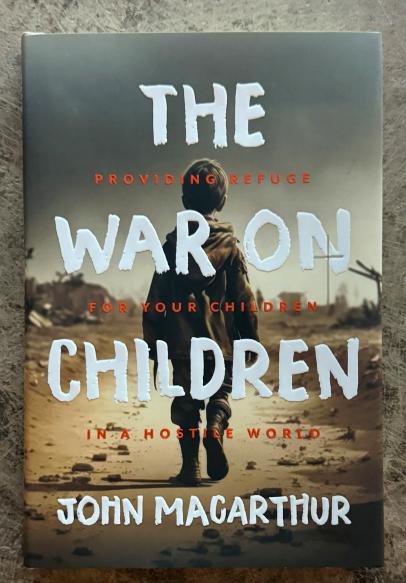
2023

First MacArthur Old Testament Commentary volume (Zechariah) is published and distributed at the 2023 Shepherds Conference.

The Essential Church movie is released in theaters and premiered in churches around the world.

2024

The War on Children is published by the newly founded John MacArthur Publishing Group.



THIS WORLD HAS DEGLARED WAR ON OUR CHILDREN.

Modern culture has been systematically designed with an agenda that is anti-God, anti-Christ, and anti-Scripture, intended to corrupt young and impressionable hearts and minds. As God's people, we need to teach our children God's Word; give them wise and biblical guidance; and above all, show them our extravagant love. Pastor John's new book, The War on Children, provides the tools to confront this battle biblically.

Pick up your free copy of *The War on Children* at the Chapel Plaza or Heritage Building.

ONE COPY PER FAMILY



HOW BEAUTIFUL

ARE THE FEET OF

THOSE WHO PREACH

THE GOOD NEWS!

Romans 10:15

The FRUIT OF FAITHFULNESS

These six testimonies represent countless others who have been richly blessed through the ministry of the Word over the past 55 years. Decade after decade, hearts have been transformed and lives changed by the power of the Holy Spirit, as He has accomplished His saving and sanctifying purposes through the preaching of biblical truth.

1960s

PASTOR JOHN PREACHED HIS FIRST SERMON AT GRACE CHURCH ON FEBRUARY 9, 1969.

His message, from Matthew 7:21–23, was titled, "How to Play Church." It was a clarion call to avoid superficial religion and embrace the Lord Jesus in repentant faith. Later that year, Pastor John began preaching through the Gospel of John. That marked the beginning of a 42-year verse-by-verse journey through the New Testament.

Burton and Dolores Michaelson were in the audience that first Sunday. The couple were founding members of the church and were also part of the search committee that recommended John MacArthur to the congregation. They continue to serve at Grace Church to this day. Below is a testimony they shared:

PASTOR JOHN, YOU ARE OUR HERO. WHEN YOU CAME TO THE CHURCH 55 YEARS AGO, WE COULD HAVE NEVER IMAGINED THE ADVENTURE IT WOULD BE, WATCHING GOD GROW THIS CHURCH AND USE YOUR FAITHFUL PREACHING IN THE LIVES OF SO MANY. WE WILL FOREVER BE THANKFUL FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND ENCOURAGEMENT. TO GOD BE THE GLORY, GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE!

1970s

In 1975, an II-year-old boy named Rick Dempsey came to Grace Church with a friend. He went home and asked his parents if they could all go to Grace the next week. The Dempsey family has been here ever since. Today, Rick has children and grandchildren who also attend Grace. Including Rick's parents, four generations of Dempseys have sat under Pastor John's ministry.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR 55 YEARS OF FAITHFUL MINISTRY AT GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH. THE IMPACT YOU'VE HAD ON MY LIFE SINCE I JOINED GCC AS AN 11-YEAR-OLD IN THE MID-70S IS TRULY PROFOUND. WHAT I HAVE EXPERIENCED UNDER YOUR TEACHING, WEEK AFTER WEEK, HAS MADE AN INDELIBLE MARK—A CONSISTENT "SLOW DRIP" OF GRACE AND BIBLICAL TRUTH GUIDING MY LIFE. THIS FOUNDATION HAS NOT ONLY SHAPED MY WALK WITH CHRIST BUT HAS ALSO INFLUENCED MY WIFE, CHILDREN, AND GRANDCHILDREN. YOU HAVE BEEN AN ENDURING SPIRITUAL MENTOR AND AN INVALUABLE GIFT OF GRACE THROUGHOUT THESE YEARS.

Pastor John
preached
through during the

JOHN • HEBREWS

ACTS • 1 CORINTHIANS

COLOSSIANS

EPHESIANS

MATTHEW (CHS. 1-6)

1980s

In 1983, Tim Brenner attended Grace Church for the first time. A few months later, he joined as a member. Tim met his wife Chelley at Grace, which is where her family also attended. The Brenners raised five children at the church, and now also have grandchildren at Grace. Today, Tim serves in the high school ministry.

WITH ALL THE INNUMERABLE BLESSINGS THAT COME FROM BEING A PART OF THIS LOVING CONGREGATION, WHAT I HAVE APPRECIATED MOST IS THE EXCEPTIONAL EQUIPPING PROCESS FOR LAY PEOPLE TO BE INVOLVED AND TRAINED TO DO THE WORK OF MINISTRY. THANK YOU PASTOR JOHN FOR 55 YEARS OF FAITHFULNESS AND PREPARING ORDINARY PEOPLE TO DO EXTRAORDINARY, ETERNAL WORK.

Pastor John
preached
through during the

MATTHEW (CHS. 6-28)
ROMANS • 1 TIMOTHY
JAMES • 2 TIMOTHY
PHILIPPIANS • 1 PETER
GALATIANS

1990s

In the summer of 1990, Natalya Zhakevich, her husband, and five children immigrated to Los Angeles from the USSR, where they had been persecuted for their Christian beliefs. A friend invited them to Grace Church and the Zhakevich family has been part of the congregation ever since.

WHEN OUR FAMILY ARRIVED, WE WERE IMMEDIATELY EMBRACED BY GRACE CHURCH. THE CHURCH MEMBERS SHOWERED US WITH SACRIFICIAL LOVE AND GAVE US EVERYTHING WE NEEDED TO START OUR LIFE IN LOS ANGELES. BUT WHAT STOOD OUT MOST AT GRACE CHURCH WAS THE PREACHING OF PASTOR JOHN. COMING FROM A COUNTRY WHERE IT WAS ILLEGAL TO OWN A BIBLE, MY GREATEST DESIRE WAS FOR MY CHILDREN TO GROW UP UNDER THE TEACHING OF GOD'S WORD. I RECALL THE TIMES OUR CHURCH IN LATVIA HAD TO MEET SECRETLY IN FORESTS TO WORSHIP GOD, UNDER THE THREAT OF IMPRISONMENT. HAVING BEEN PERSECUTED FOR SMUGGLING AND DISTRIBUTING BIBLES IN RUSSIA, IT WAS AMAZING TO ATTEND WEEKLY WORSHIP AT GRACE CHURCH AND HEAR THE PAGES OF THOUSANDS OF BIBLES TURN

EVERY TIME PASTOR JOHN SAID, "OPEN YOUR BIBLES." FOR THE PAST THIRTY-FOUR YEARS, OUR FAMILY HAS BEEN SHAPED BY PASTOR JOHN'S PREACHING AND THE INTEGRITY OF HIS LIFE. AS I WATCHED MY CHILDREN GROW UP AT GRACE AND SERVE IN DIFFERENT MINISTRIES, I SAW THE FRUIT AND IMPACT OF PASTOR JOHN'S FAITHFUL LIFE. AND NOW, I HAVE THE INDESCRIBABLE BLESSING OF SEEING MY GRANDKIDS GROW UP AT GRACE CHURCH AND ALSO SIT UNDER THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF THE WORD.

Pastor John
preached
through during the

1 THESSALONIANS
2 PETER • PHILEMON
REVELATION
2 THESSALONIANS
TITUS • 2 CORINTHIANS

2000s

In 2007, Oscar Salamanca was single, in his twenties, a new believer, and eager to learn more about the Word of God. He was not familiar with Pastor John's ministry when a friend invited him to Grace Church. Oscar was struck by the preaching of the Word. He quickly realized that this was a congregation where he could grow and serve.

WHEN I BEGAN ATTENDING GRACE CHURCH, I IMMEDIATELY NOTICED THAT PASTOR JOHN'S PREACHING WAS DIFFERENT THAN ANYTHING I'D EVER HEARD. HE SPOKE WITH AUTHORITY AND WAS UNAPOLOGETIC IN EXPLAINING DIFFICULT TEXTS. SUNDAY AFTER SUNDAY HE FAITHFULLY PROCLAIMED GOD'S SUFFICIENT WORD AND THE BEAUTIFUL DOCTRINES OF GRACE. I'M GRATEFUL FOR GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN PASTOR JOHN'S LIFE; THROUGH HIS MINISTRY I'VE BEEN EQUIPPED TO BETTER UNDERSTAND WHO JESUS IS AND WHAT IT MEANS TO SUBMIT TO HIM AS LORD. I'M GRATEFUL FOR OUR CHURCH; THIS IS WHERE I MET MY WIFE AND WHERE WE SERVE AS PART OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY.

Pastor John
preached
THROUGH DURING THE

LUKE • 1 JOHN 2 JOHN • 3 JOHN JUDE • MARK

2010s

In 2011, Pastor John completed his 42-year journey through the New Testament, preaching the Word one verse at a time. During this decade, his granddaughter, Audrey Welch, would be baptized and join Grace Church. Now a college student, Audrey is thankful for the spiritual heritage of her family and church.

MY PAPA'S PROFOUND IMPACT ON THE SPREAD OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE IS NOT LIMITED TO OLDER GENERATIONS. THROUGHOUT MY SHORT LIFE, I HAVE COME TO KNOW HIM AS THE ULTIMATE EXAMPLE OF A CHRISTIAN PURSUING GENUINE FAITH IN A WORLD ATTEMPTING TO DESTROY TRUTH. THIS IS NEVER MORE RELEVANT THAN TO YOUNG GENERATIONS FACING THE INDOCTRINATION AND CHAOS OF CURRENT EDUCATION SYSTEMS. MY TIME UNDER HIS TEACHING HAS EQUIPPED ME TO BE A LIGHT AS I ATTEND VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY, EVEN AMIDST A WORLD WHERE TRUTH IS INTERPRETED SUBJECTIVELY. AS HIS GRANDDAUGHTER, I HAVE WITNESSED THE INTEGRITY OF BOTH THE MAN AND HIS MINISTRY, FURTHER PROMPTING MY THIRST FOR SOLID TEACHING AS I EMBRACE THIS NEWFOUND RESPONSIBILITY. HIS FAITHFUL EXAMPLE NOT ONLY ENCOURAGES YOUNG CHRISTIANS, LIKE ME, TO HOLD FAST TO THE TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE, BUT INSPIRES THEM TO CONTINUE THE NECESSARY FIGHT FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

THE LORD'S LOVINGKINDNESSES INDEED NEVER CEASE, FOR HIS COMPASSIONS NEVER FAIL. THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING; GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS.

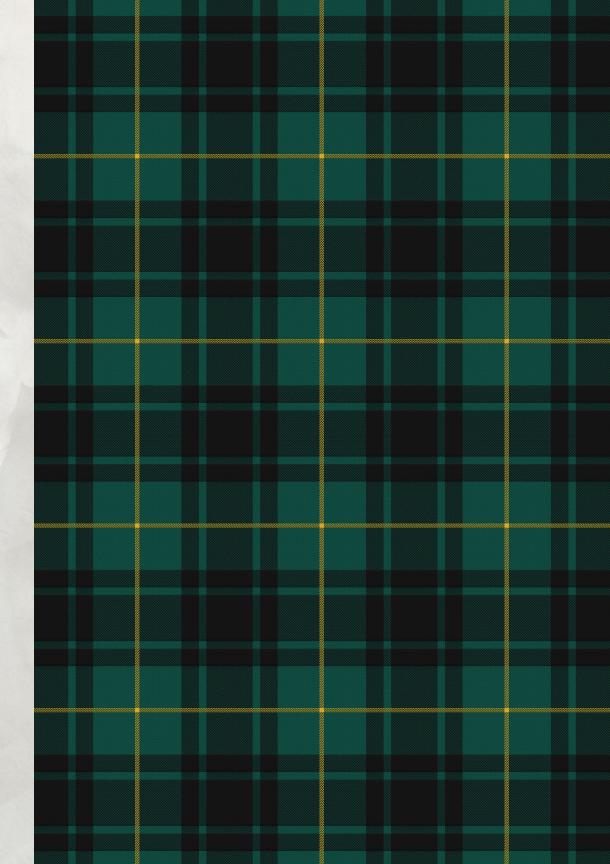
Lamentations 3:22-23



A FRONT-ROW SEAT AT GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH FOR 55 YEARS. I was a toddler (4 years, 5 months, and 18 days old) when Dad began his ministry here. So for literally as long as I can remember, I have benefited immeasurably from the rich fellowship of this body. Words can hardly express my gratitude for more than five decades of accountability and discipleship in a congregation whose worldview is defined by a commitment to the authority of Scripture. Most of all, I'm grateful for the privilege of listening to and learning from more than three thousand expository sermons that Dad has prepared and delivered. His faithful teaching from the Word of God has been the single most important factor in shaping the culture of Grace Community Church.

For me, John MacArthur's greatest sermon did not come from the pulpit. It is embodied in the way he lives his life on a daily basis. He models exactly what he preaches: truthfulness, integrity, discipline, steadfastness, courage, love, and great faith. Mom also deserves much credit, of course. She is Dad's most enthusiastic helper, encourager, and ally. Their consistent, relentless, joyful pursuit of Christlikeness and deep love for one another are rare virtues, worthy of honor.

Thank you for joining me and the rest of our family in celebrating the Lord's wonderful goodness to us as a congregation for these five and a half decades.



grace community church