

# GRACE FAMILY BIBLE CHURCH

## E-NEWS



*Grace* be unto you, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We hope this issue is a blessing to you and that you are found in Christ Jesus well, healthy and continuing in the faith.

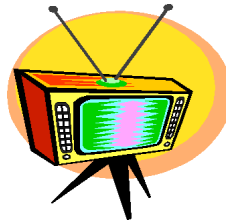
Our thanks to the Lord Jesus Christ for great preaching this past weekend in Texas at the Bible Conference in New Braunfels. Please plan to join us next year if you can.

Let us continue instant in , season out of season!

Yours in Christ,

*Scott and Sandi*

**NEWS & PRAYERS:**



A great **Bible conference** was had in **New Braunfels, Texas** this past weekend, and we praise God for the preaching, testimonies and music. I know all were edified, and three people got saved! Thanks to **Bro. Jerry and Barbara Lockhart** for the planning, preparation, food and fellowship, to all the teachers and preachers, workers and singers and players! May the Word richly dwell in each who attended, and we look forward to another great conference next year, should the Lord tarry.

**Grace Family Bible Church** earnestly covets your prayers over a building that has come up for purchase in Seguin. It is a **fully furnished church building** with an additional metal activity center on 2 acres of land for sale for \$155,000. It is easily \$300,000 worth of property. We have put a contract on the property in hopes the Lord will either supply the need for us to obtain it, or close the door if it is not His will at this time.

The new *berea* cd **Frozen Lake** is available to download on line at [www.childreninglory.com](http://www.childreninglory.com), or to order via the mail from me. Contact me at [smitchell14@satx.rr.com](mailto:smitchell14@satx.rr.com) or 830/305-0119 for a copy. **Bro. Brad Davis** and I are

making ourselves available to come and perform the songs of **bera** in your church if you so desire. Please contact me if your assembly would want us to perform or if you know of an area church or that would like to host such a concert.

**James and Tracy Dear** are on our hearts, as they have a baby due any day now. James is also in need of a good job to help ends meet. We lift up James, Tracy, the birth, and their children Claire and Jackson.

Please continue to be in prayer for all the **victims of Hurricane Katrina, Rita and Wilma**. May the Lord open doors of utterance to preach the Word with free course.

Continue to pray for the family of **Beth Cottle**; her husband Bobby Cottle and son and daughter Bobby Jr. and Claylee.

Please continue to remember **Bro. Obed and Linda Kirkpatrick** in prayer as they still face their day in court over legal issues in Obed's former business. Hopefully their ordeal will be over soon.

Pray for **Bro. Damasius**, a pastor in Nigeria, and his assembly of grace believers there. Here is the latest email correspondence we exchanged:

Beloved Pastor Scott in Christ ,

Greetings and blessings to you all in the precious name of our great King our Lord Jesus Christ, the cause of our great joy! I hope that this email will find you greatly blessed in the lord !

It has been long we haven't hear from each other. How are you? and how is your Family? How is the Lord's work moving there inTexas? What is the situation in Texas now like?

Thank you very much for the Bibles and materials you sent to us.They are a great blessing to us. We are greatly blessed with the materials. Thank every one who may in one way or the other have contributed to the raising and sending of these materials. May our Father bless you all.

Greetings to every saint with you with a holy Kiss of Peace and love. Pastor, Know that you all are in our prayers. Looking forward to hearing from you. May our Father in Heaven richly bless, protect and guide you all in Christ Jesus

Because of His Matchless grace

Pastor Damasius C. Ekeocha

Dear Bro. Damasius and Faithful in Christ Jesus,

Greetings to you all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace and peace be unto you!

Your emails always find us greatly blessed in the Lord, for we have all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 1:3), and we are doubly blessed to hear from you.

I and my family are well, thankfully, as we strive to do the work of the ministry here in Texas. The storms caused quite an upset in the lives of so many in our state and neighboring Louisiana and Mississippi, but we are grateful that no damage came our way. Things slowly are getting restored and back to normal for all those affected, and we continue in prayer for them and covet your prayers also.

We praise God you were able to receive the Bibles we sent, and thank God for answering our prayers that customs released them unto you. There is no question that the god of this world, Satan, will use any device to prevent God's word from having free course. We only pray we will be able to do more in the future to help your ministry. Praise God for His amazing grace!

We are in negotiations to purchase a church building of our own, and we pray the Lord's will in the matter. A situation arose where a good buy has come up, though it may be too soon to even consider due to our small size. We've made a bid to purchase, but we pray the Lord will shut the door if it is not His will at this time to buy a building larger than our needs. On the other hand, perhaps having a building of our own will enable us to grow, and thus you see the dilemma. Pray God grant us wisdom to make the right decisions in order that the Lord Jesus Christ receives all glory and honor.

Our prayers are for you, as often as you enter our hearts and minds, that you continue in the faith, grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel. We know that the hardships and opposition you face in your part of the world is far greater than that we face in a country where we still have certain freedoms (though it is certain American Christians often take those freedoms for granted). So we lift you up to our Savior Jesus Christ, praying that He grant you all perseverance to continue in the work you have been called unto.

Greet all the believers in Nigeria with a holy salutation from their kinsmen in Christ Jesus from Seguin, Texas, and know that you are on our hearts, in our prayers, and perhaps soon we'll be caught up together to meet the Lord in the clouds to fellowship together in eternity! We thank you, our beloved in Christ, for your fellowship, prayers and work in the Lord.

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
Bro. Scott Mitchell and  
Grace Family Bible Church



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS** - a "witnessing 101" class to sharpen our skills at sharing our testimony and help embolden us to preach the cross, will meet each **MONDAY NIGHT, 7:30 PM** (right after Berean Bible Brigade begins) at **Grace Family Bible Church** in The Silver Center, 510 E. Court Street, Seguin, Texas. Call Bro. Scott for more information, **830/305-0119** or [smitchell14@satx.rr.com](mailto:smitchell14@satx.rr.com).

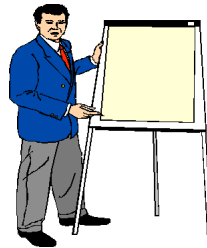
## NOTABLE QUOTES:



*“He removeth the scales from our eyes, the vail from our hearts, opening our wits that we may understand his word, enlarging our hearts, yea, correcting our affections, that we may love it above gold and silver, yea, that we may love it to the end.”*

*The King James Translators*

## BIBLE CLASS SCHEDULE:



### ***MONDAY NIGHT, 7:30 PM***

**Soldiers of the Cross**  
Grace Family Bible Church  
510 E. Court Street  
Seguin, Texas

### ***TUESDAY NIGHT, 7:30 PM***

4050 Fischer Store Road  
Wimberley, Texas

### ***WEDNESDAY NIGHT, 7:30 PM***

8926 North Plaza Court  
Austin, Texas

### ***THURSDAY AFTERNOON, 4:00 PM***

Care Inn  
1219 Eastwood Drive  
Seguin, Texas

### ***THURSDAY NIGHT, 7:30 PM***

Bawdsey Manor British Tea Room  
in Bracken Village  
18771 FM 2252 (Nacogdoches Road)  
San Antonio, Texas

### ***SUNDAY MORNING, 10:00 and 11:00 AM***

**GRACE FAMILY BIBLE CHURCH**  
*Children's classes taught by Sandi Mitchell*  
The Silver Center  
510 E. Court Street  
Seguin, Texas

## BIBLE LESSON:



### WITCHCRAFT AND REBELLION

Today's Christian family has to contend with a world of spiritual influence in America that is producing rebellious children. While man by his very nature is rebellious, current glorification of magic, sorcery and witchcraft appear to be adding fuel to the fire. Clearly many factors contribute to the rebellious trend growing in our young people, such as broken homes, ungodliness, societal decay, corruption in government, emasculated law enforcement, etc. Yet certainly a key factor is a clear path away from the Word of God. Perhaps if we begin to steer ourselves back to the Scriptures and consider what it has to say about witchcraft and rebellion, we may be able to shed the light of truth on the subject.

God has commanded children to be in obedience to their parents, as this is the first training in raising up children to be obedient to the Lord. Even in the dispensation of the grace of God this admonition continues:

***Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.*** **Ephesians 6:1-3**

To demonstrate how serious God was about children honoring their parents and being obedient to them under the law, notice Deuteronomy 21:

*If a man have a **stubborn and rebellious son**, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them: Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place; And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard. And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.* **Deuteronomy 21:18-21**

We can thank God we now live in the dispensation of grace and the punishment for rebellion is not death, but the **character** of God has not changed. He still promises long life and wellness (*that it may be well with thee*) if we honor our father and mother (Eph. 6:1-3), thus His requirement that children obey is still His will. May I ask, might stubborn and rebellious behavior today have anything to do with the glorification of witchcraft in books like the Harry Potter series that many parents are permitting their children to read? Let's examine the Scriptures.

*For **rebellion** is as the **sin of witchcraft**, and **stubbornness** is as **iniquity and idolatry**. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.*  
**1 Samuel 15:23**

There is a connection between rebellion and witchcraft, for rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft. Then certainly witchcraft and idolatry are rebellion from the Lord and His Word. While not every rebellious child is involved in witchcraft or reading Harry Potter books, those participating in witchcraft are rebelling against the Lord. Even Paul said those who practice witchcraft will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

*Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, **witchcraft**, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*  
**Galatians 5:19-21**

This is not to single out witchcraft as the worst work of the flesh, and those in Christ have crucified the flesh and are no longer in the flesh (Rom. 8). But the passage demonstrates a continuation of God's hatred of witchcraft in the dispensation of grace. Such practice was evil and provoked the Lord to anger in prior dispensations.

*And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he observed times, and **used enchantments**, and **used witchcraft**, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with **wizards**: he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to **provoke him to anger**.*  
**2 Chronicles 33:6**

The Lord wrote specific commandments against the practice of magic and witchcraft:

*Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after **wizards**, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.*  
**Leviticus 19:31**

*Thou shalt not suffer a **witch** to live.*  
**Exodus 22:18**

*There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a **witch**.*  
**Deuteronomy 18:10**

*And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after **wizards**, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people.*  
**Leviticus 20:6**

*A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a **wizard**, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them.*  
**Leviticus 20:27**

It was common practice among the heathen nations to use enchantments, observe times (fortune telling), seek familiar spirits and wizards. Israel was commanded to be separate from the heathen and touch not the unclean thing. The Body of Christ is commanded to do the same.

*Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not **the unclean thing**; and I will receive you.* **2 Corinthians 6:17**

I am not aware of exactly how the Gentile nations discovered and developed witchcraft and idolatry, but I would not rule out the use of books to teach the young people.

*Many of them also which used **curious arts** brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.* **Acts 19:19**

We do know that sorcerers came in and practiced magic to bewitch the people and entice them to follow the curious arts. All of this occurred in an idolatrous religious system of the apostles' time.

*But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and **bewitched** the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:* **Acts 8:9**

*And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had **bewitched** them with sorceries.* **Acts 8:11**

And lest we think the Body of Christ is immune to such bewitching, let us heed the Apostle Paul:

*O foolish Galatians, who hath **bewitched** you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?* **Galatians 3:1**

Nothing good is ever said about sorcery, magic or witchcraft in Scripture. In fact, Paul dealt with a sorcerer in Paphos, and he referred to him as a child of the devil.

*And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they **found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus**: Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. But **Elymas the sorcerer** (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him. And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, **thou child of the devil**, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?*

**Acts 13:6-10**

This is by no means an exhaustive list of sorcery and witchcraft in Scripture, but it is worth noting the absolute sinfulness of the practice. As I stated before, though we live in the dispensation of the grace of God, yet the nature and character of God has not changed. If He hated sorcery in the past, He hates it now and does not desire that we, the Body of Christ, intermingle with it.

J.K. Rowling is being used by the god of this world to entice an entire generation of young people to accept witchcraft as being good or beneficial. The bestselling books in America consistently include writers like Rowan and Stephen King, the "horror master." The course of this world is not being directed by the God of creation, but by spiritual wickedness that asks, "Yea, hath God said?" Let us come out from among them and be separate in behavior and doctrine.

This writer, for one, does not like the use of wizards and witches in the classics by J.R.R. Tolkien or C.S. Lewis in their Narnia and Middle Earth series, though I understand that much of the Christian world holds them in high regard. I realize these books are not intending to glorify sorcery and magic as the Potter series does, but believers should examine carefully any writings and prove all things. The Christian community's lauding of these two authors seems contradictory since they also condemn Harry Potter, thus exposing a bit of hypocrisy towards magic.

Francis Schaeffer illustrates in his writings that the Christian world has adopted the secular humanist separation of faith and reason, along with other worldly teachings. Worship has been styled "contemporary" or "blended" in order to appeal to the world, and now includes emotionalism, loud music and positive-thinking prosperity gospel rather than the preaching of the gospel of Christ. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump, and it started long ago when an apostate church started to conform to the image of this world in order to attract more members. But Paul said,

***Abstain from all appearance of evil.***

**1 Thessalonians 5:22**

As soon as we allow ungodly influences to infiltrate our homes and our faith, we have then embraced an appearance of evil. The rebelliousness of children in Christian homes may be a reflection of the rebelliousness of a church that is involved in an appearance of evil. If we are allowing impressionable children to read Harry Potter and such like, and we are not grounding them in the Word of God rightly divided, as well as other edifying books, should we be surprised when our children rebel and become conformed to the image of this world?

Why are we here, anyway, Christian? Are we not ambassadors for Christ to beseech the world in Christ's stead, "Be ye reconciled to God?" Are we not to raise our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord in order that they bear the sword of the Spirit and armor of God in the war against spiritual wickedness in high places? Is our children's entertainment more important than the preaching of the gospel of Christ?

Let us preach the cross, and let us prove all things and hold fast that which is good. If God is holy, then we are exhorted to be holy and sanctified in all that we do, too. Let's examine ourselves, whether we be in the faith. Better to study the Bible and read those books which magnify the Lord Jesus Christ and edify the believer. For young people, this might include books like *Pilgrim's Progress*, G. A. Henty novels, biographies of godly men and women, and the writings of those who rightly divide the word of truth. Books such as these present role models for our children far more edifying than books about adolescents casting spells.

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Be sure to listen to  
**"Believing the Bible"** each  
Sunday morning at 7:30 am on  
KWED, AM 1580 in Seguin. If  
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