

2014 Review & 2015 Vision

January 11, 2014—Pastor Steve Berger

What Motivates Us

- Matthew 28:18–20
- Matthew 25:34–40
- Matthew 5:14–16
- We're to be difference-making, world-changing, kingdom-expanding followers of Jesus, operating under the power of the Holy Spirit.

Celebrate Where We Have Been

Volunteers

- Psalm 110:3
- Every Sunday 500+ volunteers serve at Grace Chapel. It's the most ever and they make everything happen.

Iron Men

- We had our first men's retreat in April and will have one again in April 2015.
- We have over 800 men who participate in six monthly rallies. One hundred men are committed to small groups, discipleship, outdoorsmen, veterans and others.

Women's Ministry

- Annual Spring Luncheon—185 ladies in attendance. This luncheon is designed to be an outreach to bring friends and family who do not know Christ. We have twenty-five tables available and the ladies come in and set the tables with their best china and serve as table host for the day.
- 1st ever Women's Ministry Conference—The "Living Words" conference had over 300 women in attendance. This Conference featured an option for the women to buy a ticket and receive one free for an unchurched or unsaved guest. Many women received Jesus for the first time!
- Women's Bible Studies—Over 200 women attended women's Bible studies each semester. 400–500 women attended Women's studies in 2014.
- Women's Dominican Republic trips—We had three Women's Ministry trips to the Dominican Republic. The women served at Josiah's House and cooked freezer meals and served in any capacity needed.

GC Kids Ministry

- Sunday morning weekly attendance average is 450 to 500+ Kids (Birth–5th grade + special needs)
- There are over 900 individual Kids (Birth–5th grade), and we manage over 400 volunteers to minister to them.
- VBS 2014 (pre-K to 5th grade + special needs)—We had record numbers: 450 attended, 88 were saved, 180+ volunteers
- Uncamp 2014—We had record numbers, 120 kids, ten were saved at camp and ten baptized right after on 4th of July.
- GC kids Birth–PreK—Our 2–4 year olds are learning God's story experientially. They are learning about creation and how God made the sky.

- GC Kids K-3rd—180-200 kids, 96 volunteers.
- GC Kids 4th & 5th—Many children received Christ and hundreds disciplined on Sunday. We have over 120 kids every Sunday
- “Kids Craze”: Wednesday night teaching and Bible Study
- Kids Crew: Children’s musical and dramatic arts ministry. We had eighty kids in the 2004 spring musical, dozens of kids singing in the kid’s choir and we had forty kids involved in the 2014 Christmas production.

Can Do Ministry

- 80 volunteers provided respite for over 20 special need families during our quarterly Grace Nights
 - Without Grace Night, one couple would not have been able to celebrate their 10 year anniversary, since their three boys have autism and finding a sitter is nearly impossible.
 - Another couple drives from Murfreesboro because Grace Night is their only chance to have respite from the burdens of raising five small children, with two on the autism spectrum
- Can Do Ministry offered buddies to VBS participants with special needs, allowing six children to attend VBS for their first time!
- Sunday mornings:
 - We currently partner with fifteen individuals in our Sunday programming
 - Ten volunteers buddy, each week, with children in our traditional Sunday classrooms or in the specialized Can Do classroom
 - An adult equipping class also takes place twice a month, where our adults with intellectual and developmental delays learn the truth of Jesus
- Other churches and organizations have been trained on the importance of disability ministry and equipped with how they can serve families with special needs

Grace Christian Academy

- 400 kids' everyday are disciplined in the ways of God, receiving a great education and being prepared to be world changers for the glory of God! Next year, 2015-16 we'll have our first graduating class.

Prayer Ministry

- Prayer Team grew to 124 people
- Prayer Chain grew to 150 people
- Team 52 Men & Women grew to 57 people
- We have seen an increase in healings at our healing nights services, Sunday service prayer times and also through day-to-day ministry
- Celebrate Recovery was launched in April and runs every Monday night. It is growing weekly.

Equipping Classes

- 280 people participated in STEPS & Next STEPS
- 247 people participated in other adult equipping classes
- 527 people participated in ALL Grace Chapel equipping classes
- 251 people attended the Membership Classes in 2014

Room in the Inn

- In the last year we have served 1,650 meals to our 550 homeless guests all while cultivating relationships which allow us to share Christ in word and deed. Some of those men who have worked their way into jobs and private apartments actually come and visit on Tuesdays just to hang out!

Sustenance Ministry

- Sunday and Wednesday night meal fellowships have served over 26,000 meals in the last year. The impact is more than just a convenience for our regular attendees and a blessing to our volunteers—we often have single Moms who used to have trouble getting their kids out of bed for church on Sunday now waking Mom up and saying, “Hey Mom, let’s go to church and get a waffle!”

Resource Center

- 45% increase in 4th quarter 2014 and 25% increase for all of 2014. We are reaching and equipping more people with life-changing resources.
- *Mind Wars Study Guides* are in their 4th printing
- Small Group outlines can be downloaded and include questions to help small groups and individuals go deeper into God’s Word.
- *Between Heaven and Earth*, pastor Steve’s latest book, was released this year with tremendous sales.

Media

- Launched a new Grace Chapel website
- Four appearances on FOX News in 2014 with worldwide viewership
 - Two appearances on Good Friday: Fox and Friends, Megyn Kelly
 - One live remote on Easter Sunday from River
 - One during Operation Protective Edge on return from Israel

Life Groups

- We have over 1,100 people now connected in Life Groups!
- In 2014 we went from 35 to 100 groups
- The strengths of our Life Groups are as follows: people feel safe in our groups, they are caring well for one another, the leaders feel adequately trained, the relationships are getting deeper, and the intentionality of the groups is focused on growing deeper in Jesus. I get great feedback on the simplicity of the curriculum, and the depths of discussions that group leaders are able to have in their groups.
- If you haven’t already please GET CONNECTED!

Finances

- Total Tithes/Offerings to the General Fund—\$6.7M, 11% increase from 2013
- Grace Chapel pays double mortgage payments, as well as a \$500,000 one time payment
- 28% of income goes to salaries/administration, HALF of many churches
- Total dollars that went to Missions/Outreach—\$1.4M
 - Percentage of Missions/Outreach of our total donations—21%
 - Donations to Sudan—\$100,000
 - Donations to Andrew White Iraq—\$50,000
 - Donations to Israel/Gaza—\$100,000

- We sent men's and women's teams to the Dominican Republic and Haiti for building, witnessing, winning, discipling, and equipping people.
- GCA Kids boxed and shipped 374 Christmas Shoe Boxes for needy children.
- Josiah's House in the Dominican Republic—through generous donation we're purchasing the three acre compound with church, classrooms, two homes, two apartments, a pavilion, room to expand. We are sending Darren and Erin Hudson to be house parents.

Vision for 2015

- We will continue and expand the previously mentioned ministries.
- We are adding a corporate Tuesday night prayer and intercession gathering beginning Tuesday, February 3, at 6:30 PM.
- Sacred Assembly growth, A Sacred Assembly has occurred in Waverly. Dickson will happen soon. Manchester is scheduled for March 8th, and there are others coming. Our goal is for, someone from all ninety-five Tennessee counties to attend one by November 2016.
- There will be a Missions increase to Christians in Iraq, as well as assisting a church plant in Culiacan Sinaloa Mexico later this year.
- We want to increase the number, type and visibility of community-wide outreaches.
- We are adding three new Elders immediately, with more to follow in 2015. Our newest Elders are Scott Farrar, Rick Woods, James Brown.
- We will be starting a Philippians book study next week

Discussion Questions

1. What can you recall and celebrate from 2014?
2. Read Luke 17:11–19. Why do you think only one leper returned to thank Jesus? What are you thankful to Jesus for and have you thanked Him lately?
3. Read the three verses from Matthew listed above. Put them into your own words. How do they speak to you about ministry motivation?
4. Describe a difference-making, world-changing, kingdom-expanding follower of Jesus, operating under the power of the Holy Spirit. Does that describe you? What challenges you about this statement? What one or two things can you do to become this kind of person?
5. Read Psalm 110:3. What are some ways you could support Grace Chapel's volunteers?
6. Which ministries are you involved in today? If you are not, which ones could you join in 2015?