

# Goodness Gracious Notes

August 2026

#189



## ELDERS SERVING:

Lou Blagg, Mike Pachak

## SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

Fri. - August 7 – 12:00 pm All Church Prayer

Tues. – 9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Sat. – 9:00 am Men's Bible Study



Grace Christian Church

630 Broadway

[www.gracechristianpueblo.org](http://www.gracechristianpueblo.org)



8/9 Betty Hicks

8/12 Chance Jones

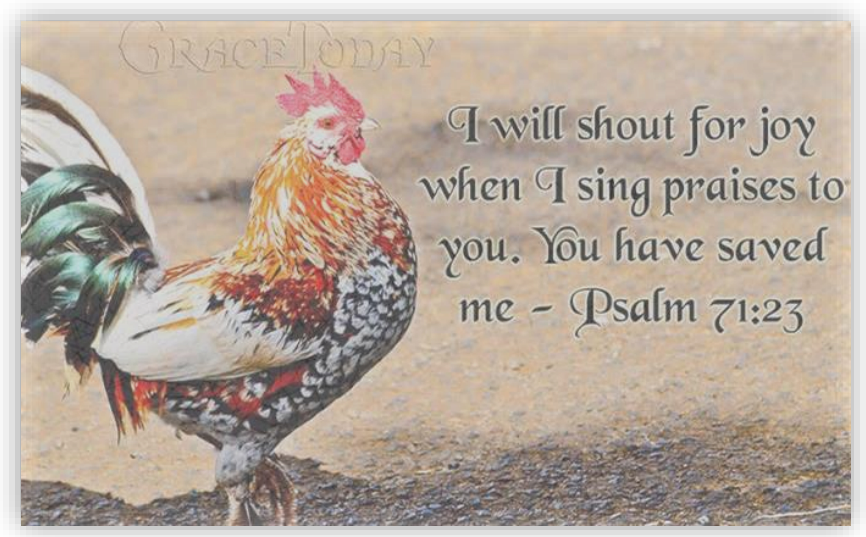
8/13 Barb Carere

God Bless You!



8/26 Lou and JoAnn Blagg

|                                   |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Financial report for June, 2026   |            |
| Income-----                       | \$6,550.00 |
| Expenses-----                     | \$6,448.64 |
| See a Board member for questions. |            |



Church mouse saw a servant of the Lord making sure God’s word was accessible to everyone. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path"

Psalm 119:105

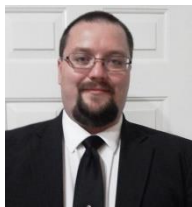
Someone restocked the pantry and some servants decorated for the next season. Boy does it look nice. Church mouse loves having personal interior decorators.

Thank you servants of the Lord.

“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.”

Hebrews 6:10

Thank you, Church Mouse--keep watching.



## From Pastor Andy's Pen

### 1 Timothy 6:7

For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. (niv)

When we are born, we have nothing. We come naked into this world, and bring nothing with us. Likewise, when we die, we cannot "take it with us". We enter into eternity the same way that we entered into the world, without any possessions, or goods. The only possessions that we keep are those stored up in heaven.

Wealth was a dividing factor in the early church. You had wealthy patrons, who provided meeting places, and were oftentimes leaders in the church, trying to control the theology and teachings of the church, along with the other members. And then you had the common, every day Christian just trying to survive. Sometimes not knowing where their next meal was coming from. As a result, the 2 groups had little in common.

Paul's message for the church is the same today, as it was 2000 years ago. We all entered into the world in the same manner, naked, without any worldly possessions. And one day, we will all die, leaving all the things of this world behind. Instead of focusing on wealth, which can divide us, let us focus on working for God. Making sure as many people know about him that we can, and storing up our treasures in heaven, not on earth.

Sunday August 2

A Firm Foundation

John 8:39-42

Sunday August 9

The way, the truth and the light

John 14:6-7

Sunday August 16

The Good Shepherd

John 10:1-5

Sunday August 23

Give of your best to the master

Luke 21:1-4

Sunday August 30

Do not fear about tomorrow

Matt 6:19-20





# Grace Outreach



## MISSION SOUTH AFRICA

July 2026

Maggie, Robert and Shirley

Greetings in Jesus' name,

We have approached the early stages of winter. It is starting to get really chilly.

Blankets and hoodies have been purchased and to be distributed to many in need this winter. We plan to buy extra this month. On July 21 we start a sweater and pants drive. We have a qualified seamstress who will assist us in the preparation of the end product. We donated cash from the missions drive and will be actively involved. We look forward to great impartation.

We have a request if you may kindly assist in our new project for an AC unit at our Church Bethel Assemblies of God. It costs \$915 dollars. Any assistance will be much appreciated.

A men's conference was held recently just for the men of the Church. Great plans were made and they prayed trusting God as they prepare for the Regional conference. We expect many to come and fellowship and share the goodness of God. Robert and I are part of the catering and ministry of helps.

Thank you to all donors in helping us spread love and support to many in need. As the Body of Christ let us stand in prayer for many who are afflicted with sickness and poverty. We have lost many loved ones in a couple of months.

Pastor Maggie is actively involved in helping many in counseling and we have heard many answered prayers. She is well known for her great talents, and great works in the ministry. At times we take her with us to the mission field. She has knowledge of many languages.

We love and appreciate you all.

Please be praying for Maggie, Shirley and Robert with the passing of Sheryl, Maggie's daughter and Shirley's sister.

*Pastor Maggie, Robert and Shirley*

**For God is working  
in you, giving you  
the desire and the  
power to do what  
pleases him.**

Phil. 2:13, NLT  
JollyNotes.com



# Elder's Corner

Shared by a servant of the Lord:

## THE PROBLEM OF SUFFERING

*I have kept His way and not turned aside.*

JOB 23:11

Some scholars think Job may be the oldest book in the Bible. Whether that is true or not, it certainly deals with one of humanity's oldest questions: Why does God allow suffering?

It isn't an easy issue, because it goes to the heart of our deepest questions about God. After all (the argument runs), how could a loving and gracious God allow suffering? To put it another way, if God lets us suffer, He must not love us. But that conclusion is false. God does love us—and the proof is the suffering He allowed His Son to endure on the Cross.

What, then, is the answer to this age-old question? The key is to understand the character of God. That is what Job discovered. No, God never gave him a logical, complete answer for his suffering. But through his experience he came to realize that God could be trusted, because He is merciful and loving. And you can trust Him too—not because He always gives us all the answers, but simply because He is God.

### HOPE FOR TODAY

During a trial, it is tempting to ask why we are suffering. The answer doesn't lie in the *why* of our suffering. The answer lies in the *who* is with us in the midst of our pain.





There is a peace that settles over your heart when you realize God has never been bound by time. We live one day at a time, wondering what tomorrow holds, replaying yesterday, and trying to make sense of today. But our Father lives in eternity. He is not walking through history hoping everything works out. He sees the beginning from the end in one perfect, unchanging view. Nothing has ever surprised Him, and nothing about your life has ever caught Him unprepared. (Isaiah 46; Psalm 90)

That means before you ever opened your eyes for the first time, your Father already knew every moment you would ever experience. He knew every joy that would make you smile. He knew every heartbreak that would make you cry. He knew every question, every fear, every weakness, every failure, and every victory. Yet knowing all of it did not cause Him to pull away from you. It caused Him to send His Son for you. That is how deeply you have always been loved. (1 Peter 1; John 3)

Sometimes we believe God loves the version of us we hope to become. The gospel tells a far better story. God loved the real you before you ever existed. He never loved an imaginary version of you. He loved the one He already knew completely. The cross was never God's reaction to your sin. It was His eternal decision to reveal the depth of His heart toward you before the foundation of the world. (Ephesians 1; Revelation 13)

Think about how freeing that is. There is nothing you have discovered about yourself that God did not already know. The struggle that discourages you today was never hidden from Him. The thoughts you wish you had never entertained, the tears you cried in silence, the seasons when you felt empty, He saw every one of them before you ever lived them. Yet Jesus still came. That tells you everything you need to know about the Father's heart.

Religion teaches people to hide because they are afraid of being fully known. Grace invites you to rest because you already are. There is no conversation you need to have with God where He says, "I didn't know that." He has always known, and He has always answered with Jesus. The finished work of Christ is the everlasting proof that His love was never dependent upon your ability to surprise Him with goodness.

The Hebrew word *yada* describes an intimate and complete knowing. It is far deeper than simply possessing information. Your Father does not know facts about you. He knows you completely. Every part of your story has always been before Him, and still He calls you His beloved because your standing before Him is established in His Son, not in your ability to understand yourself. (Jeremiah 1)

This is why the gospel brings such deep assurance. If God already knew everything about you before sending Jesus, then His love was never fragile. It was never built upon your consistency. It was never sustained by your performance. It was established forever through the obedience of One. Jesus did not become your righteousness after God learned more about you. He became your righteousness while God already knew everything about you. (Romans 5)

How exhausting it is to spend your life trying to become someone worthy of God's affection. Yet the Father never asked you to earn what He freely gave. The invitation of the gospel is not to strive for acceptance but to receive the acceptance Christ purchased once and for all. The heart that rests in His finished work begins to flourish because it is finally living from love instead of for love. (Colossians 2)

Perhaps you are disappointed in yourself today. Maybe you thought you would be stronger by now. Maybe you expected life to look different. Lift your eyes away from yourself for just a moment and look at Jesus. He is not God's backup plan for your failures. He has always been God's eternal plan for your life. Your confidence has never rested in how well you know yourself. It rests in how perfectly the Father knows His Son and has given you His Son as your life. (Colossians 3)

The beautiful truth is that you will spend the rest of your life discovering things about yourself that God has always known. Every new lesson about your heart simply becomes another opportunity to discover how much greater His grace has always been. You are never arriving at a place where God has to reconsider His love for you. The cross settled that forever.

So stop measuring the Father's love by your latest success or failure. Measure it by Jesus. Stop wondering whether God has changed His mind about you. Look at the cross and remember that His mind was made up before time began. The One who lives in eternity wrote redemption into your story long before you ever needed it, and He has never regretted giving you His Son.

Today, rest your weary heart in this unchanging reality. The God who sees the beginning and the end also sees you. He knows you more deeply than you will ever know yourself. He knows every page of your story, yet He chose to write the name of Jesus across every chapter. You are not secure because you understand yourself. You are secure because the Father has always known you completely, and He has forever declared His love for you through the finished work of His Son. (Hebrews 10; 2 Timothy 1)

**Brian Romero**

