

# MARCH

## Mission Spotlight



Starting in the 1990s, about 1.5 million Somali people have been scattered via resettlement and migration to all corners of the world, including South Asia, Australia, New Zealand, northern Europe, Canada, and the United States. An estimated 150,000 to 200,000 Somalis live in the US.

Back in Somalia, civil war and instability have stretched on for more than 25 years. After two elected governments in the postcolonial period, a 22-year military dictatorship grew increasingly oppressive. It was overthrown in 1991 by a coalition of Clan base malicious Hoover unified only by their desire to overthrow the dictator. As Somali Society broke down, people were killed just for being the wrong Clan, weaker clans were severely oppressed, and Islamic fundamentalism presented itself as the answer to the breakdown of law and order in Somalia. With infrastructure destroyed, houses looted or destroyed by bombings, the threat of rape or death, lots of property, and little chance for education or a future, many families ran and Scattered. Many became displaced within the borders of their former country and some fled to other parts of Africa or the Middle East. Many others escaped to a neighboring country where they often lived for years in some of the world's largest refugee camps, waiting to be resettled to a third country.

Somali refugee-immigrants in the US face a number of difficulties. Many struggle to adapt to a very different way of life in urban centers. Education and employment present opportunities but also challenges. Children who missed out on education in Somalia or as refugees are expected to enter school at grade level, learning English as they go. Adults are expected to learn English and get employment within 6 months of arrival. Many men face the discouragement of not having their professional or occupational qualifications recognized. Men also lose the status they had as clan and family leaders in group-oriented Somali Society.

The increasingly large number of Somali people living in close proximity to American Christians presents an amazing opportunity for serious followers of Jesus to engage with them in friendship, build trust relationships, and find Opportunities to communicate gospel truths. Christians seem to be increasingly afraid of Muslim immigrants. Rather than reaching out in love, many seem to be growing more defensive. God, however, has his purposes in mind for all peoples: "From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us" (Acts 17:26-27).

### Prayer Points:

- \* for peace, reconciliation, and political stability in Somalia leading to healing and economic rehabilitation
- \* for Christians in the US to recognize the great opportunity God has given them to reach out to their Muslim immigrant neighbors
- \* for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of Somalis in the diaspora as they hear the gospel and see it lived out by Christian friends

# Grace Chapel

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2017

PRAYER  
CHANGES  
EVERYTHING.  
Don't be ANXIOUS,  
Pray instead.  
If God is for us, who  
can be against us?  
HIS GRACE IS  
SUFFICIENT. -PHILIPPIANS

## Ministry & Leadership

Pastor	Tim Russell
Music	Don Maffioli
Children	Jessica Longo & Jennica Trusler
Middle School Youth	Carrie Siples & Jon Moore
High School Youth	Stoney & Brandy Fisher
Women's Ministry	Susan Ashe & Teri Chamberlain
Men's Ministry	Riley Decker
Elders	Jason Britton, Jim Little & Jeff Chamberlain
Deacon	Rose Zuch & Jim Zimmerman



Welcome to Grace Chapel. Please silence your cell phone when entering the sanctuary. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit with no unnecessary movement in and out of the sanctuary during the service and especially at the close of the service. Thank you!

## March LifeVerse

*Romans 8:38-39 "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

## Announcements

**Men of Grace:** Riley Decker would like to thank everyone that volunteered, cooked chili, baked pies, attended, tasted the chilies and donated or bought pies. The 1st Annual Men of Grace Chili Cook Off/Pie Auction was a success because of the body of Christ.

**New Believer's Bible Study:** BEGINS THIS EVENING at 6:00pm. Study will be "Christian" by Andy Stanley. Anyone who is interested in the study can let Riley know and he will order a book for you. Child care.

**Roman's A Little Deeper:** Each Sunday at 6:00pm with childcare provided.

**Wednesday Night Prayer:** Prayer at 7:00pm with childcare available. James 5:16

**Gifts & Offerings:** 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8 Boxes are located on the wall at each entrance/exit for gifts and offerings.

*Let's read through the Bible together in 2017. Week 11:*

- March 12 ~ Deuteronomy 16-18; Mark 13:1-20
- March 13 ~ Deuteronomy 19-21; Mark 13:21-37
- March 14 ~ Deuteronomy 22-24; Mark 14:1-26
- March 15 ~ Deuteronomy 25-27; Mark 14:27-53
- March 16 ~ Deuteronomy 28-29; Mark 14:54-72
- March 17 ~ Deuteronomy 30-31; Mark 15:1-25
- March 18 ~ Deuteronomy 32-34; Mark 15:26-47

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK:** Share announcements, praise reports and prayer requests. [facebook.com/groups/gracechapelministries](https://www.facebook.com/groups/gracechapelministries)

**BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION:** Save the box tops from General Mills products. There is a basket on the back table to place them in.

**WE ALL HAVE CHANGE:** With our change, let's change the world.



## Children & Youth Corner

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH:** 9-12<sup>th</sup> Grade

SHY meet Thursday @ Stoney & Brandy Fisher's home at 6:30-8:00pm. Ask a SHY member or leader for more info!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH:** 6-8<sup>th</sup> Grade

You are invited to meet during the sermon starting TODAY for an age appropriate Bible study. After the today, we will meet every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month. See Carrie Siples or Jon Moore for more information.

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:** Newborn - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Anyone who is interested in volunteering for during the next quarter (April, May & June), please let Jennica or Jessica know your availability.
- Vacation Bible School (VBS) Committee: Contact Jennica or Jessica if you are interested in being a part of the committee. First meeting will be March 26<sup>th</sup> after church.