

# 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 26, 2017

Let us then with  
**CONFIDENCE**  
draw near  
to the  
throne of  
**grace**  
that we  
may receive  
**mercy** & find  
grace  
to help  
in time of need.  
hebrews 4:16

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## Ministry & Leadership

<i>Pastor</i>	<i>Tim Russell</i>
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 Sanders & 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

**New Believer's Bible Study:** Taking spring break off and will resume April 16, 6:00pm.

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

**Prayer:** Prayer at 7:00pm each Wednesday with childcare available. Sunday prayer, 10:00am-12:00pm, held upstairs for Pastor Tim, Jeremy, the church, ministries and the Body of Christ. A corporate prayer shut-in is planned for Friday, March 31, 10:00pm-6:00am.

**Prayer Path:** We are going to build a prayer path in the woods behind the church. A meeting is planned after church, Sunday, April 2, for anyone interested in helping. We need tools, machinery and volunteers. Work days are planned for Saturday's in April, general clean up around the church. All volunteers are welcome. See Riley Decker or Paul Baty with questions and ideas.

**Men of Grace:** Mark your calendar! The next Men's Breakfast will be April 9<sup>th</sup>.

**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 13:*

- March 26 ~ Joshua 22-24; Luke 3
- March 27 ~ Judges 1-3; Luke 4:1-30
- March 28 ~ Judges 4-6; Luke 4:31-44
- March 29 ~ Judges 7-8; Luke 5:1-16
- March 30 ~ Judges 9-10; Luke 5:17-39
- March 31 ~ Judges 11-12; Luke 6:1-26
- April 1 ~ Judges 13-15; Luke 6:27-49

**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

MSY meet each Sunday during the sermon EXCEPT the first Sunday of each month so we can all enjoy communion with the congregation.

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

- Please let Jennica or Jessica know if you are interested in volunteering in the Children's Ministry.
- Children's Summer Fellowship: First meeting will be April 2<sup>nd</sup> after church.
- Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held April 8<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm, at Grace Chapel. Candy donations can be brought to the church this Sunday and next.