

JANUARY 2018

# GRACE MONTHLY

*"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus,  
for he will save his people from their sins."*

*Matthew 1:21*



## Immanuel: God With Us

by *Julia Lee*

In the midst of welcoming the New Year and setting seemingly unattainable goals for ourselves, it's important to reflect on our faith. Look back on 2017 and see how God has worked in your life. Although it may seem like He wasn't present day to day, we need to see the bigger picture and recognize that God makes a vast impact on our lives.

Throughout the Advent season we heard a sermon series titled, "Immanuel". The purpose of this sermon series was to shed light on Jesus' birth so that we would be able to gain a deeper heart of gratitude for the event. In order to fully understand the meaning of "Immanuel" - meaning, "God with us" - we focused on one word each week: "God", "With", and "Us".

For the first week, we focused on "God". The birth of Jesus represented the fact that God was breaking barriers to be with us, to show His unfathomable love for us by sending His Son to compensate for our sins. The next week, we focused on the word "With" and how our lives should be affected when God is "with" us. The two main ways that God should affect our lives is in the way we see things and in the way we think. In these two seemingly simple ways, God is able to transform our lives to help us see and think as He does. For the third and final week, we focused on the word "Us". The phrase, "God with us" reveals God's relationship with humanity; God, who is holy, chose to be in relationship with "us", a sinful people.

The season of Advent reminds us of how much God loves us, and to what extent He went in order to express that love. Despite our sinful nature and worldly ways, He never fails to forgive us and comfort us. Because of Jesus' birth, we are able to be in His presence as much as we please.

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# DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

## GRADE 12 BOYS SLEEPOVER

The grade 12 boys had a sleepover outing at church on Friday, December 8th. They had pizza together, played some games, and also spent some in worship and prayer. Pastor Josh also had an opportunity to share a brief message with them.



## THE GREATEST GIFT: CHRISTMAS BANQUET

On Friday, December 15th we held our annual Christmas Banquet. This year's theme was "The Greatest Gift", where we celebrated our greatest gift - Jesus Christ - while also blessing a family with some gifts with the proceeds collected from the ticket sales. A total of \$365.75 was raised, with which we were able to gift much needed clothing, winter accessories and toys to a mother and her three children through the Surrey Women's Center. The evening was full of laughter as we shared a meal, played a game, and sang carols together.



*Writing Christmas cards to the sponsored family.*



*Annie was one of the three lucky winners of the raffle prizes!*



# DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS CONT'D

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION NIGHT

GCC held their Christmas Celebration Night on Friday, December 22nd, with the theme, "Humble King". Over three practices together, Grace Youth prepared three performances: orchestra, skit, and body worship.



## KALEO

Kaleo is our annual year-end outreach project. On Thursday, December 28th, GEM, CLAY, and ABLE held a food drive to collect non-perishable food items for the Duncan community food bank. They also spent the evening in worship and praying for GCC's ongoing mission work in the First Nation regions.

## Praise & Prayer

- **Praise** God for an eventful Christmas season! Approximately 200 families were sponsored by the Surrey Women's Centre this year, one of which we were able to sponsor and provide Christmas gifts for. As well, the Duncan community was able to restock their food bank through the food items that were collected from our Kaleo outreach event.
- **Praise** God for the new year! **Pray** that we will all experience rich blessings of God's Word, prayer, and worship in our lives.
- **Pray** for the Student Discipleship Ministry Team launch happening on Jan 5th. Pray that the students will serve in Grace Youth wholeheartedly through the different ministry teams they will be plugged into.

## GRADE 10 OUTING

The grade 10 girls and boys had a joint outing on Friday, December 28th. They had fellowship over food at church and then had a couple of rounds of bowling at The Zone. What a great way to end the year together!



# UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JANUARY

**Friday, Jan 5th** SD Ministry Team Launch

**Friday, Jan 12th** Friday Youth Night

**Friday, Jan 19th** Friday Youth Night

**Friday, Jan 26th** Friday Youth Night

"Grace upon grace"; this is the new theme for GCC for the year 2018, spoken to us through Pastor Park at the New Year's Eve service on December 31st, 2017. As we enter the new year, there are three simple prayers that we can pray to help us live a God-centered life:

1. **Fill my life with your *Word*, Lord.**

"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us..." (John 1:14) Read the Word. Meditate on it. Memorize it. Apply it. Teach it. Live by it.

2. **Fill my life with *prayer*, Lord**

Commit each day to the Lord through prayer. Confess that your life is completely dependent on God's provision and grace.

3. **Fill my life with *worship*, Lord.**

Make everything you do be an act of worship to God. Glorify and praise Him in all of your words and action.

By becoming flesh and dwelling among us, God has poured out on us "grace upon grace". It is by this abundant grace that we are able to experience His unconditional and unending love in our lives. As you meditate on this truth, may your year be filled with God's rich blessings of His Word, prayer, and worship. Happy new year!

"For from **His**  
**fullness** we have  
all received,

*grace  
upon  
grace.*

JOHN 1:16

