

JANUARY 2022

# GRACE MONTHLY

*"The Lord works out everything to its proper end - even the wicked for a day of disaster."  
Proverbs 16:4*



## Seeking God's Purposes in Unwanted Surprises

by Lynne Ki

I would say 2021 was a year that gave all of us many surprises. The year was going well because we finally escaped the online Zoom world and finally re-started in-person service and school; we all got our vaccines (I hope), and the Covid-19 cases were falling. I thought we would go back to our old lifestyle by September. However, starting mid-October, a tragic flood happened in Abbotsford that affected many families; scientists detected new variants, and cases began rising again. It's honestly crazy and unfair to think how things can take turns unexpectedly. We have now concluded the year 2021 and, before, we would all be so excited to start a new year, but for this year, I feel like most of us started 2022 with worries and fearfulness.

Personally, for me, in 2021, there were many times that I questioned God why this was all happening. No, not "asked" - complained. Later throughout the year, I realized **God has set up everything with a purpose** (Proverbs 16:4), **even the hard days**. Living in this pandemic crisis, I learned the importance of simply talking with people face to face and how I've been taking it for granted. The thought of this never-ending and consistent loneliness made me scared and worry about the future. Nevertheless, I understood how even if we feel dreadful and lost, there is nothing to fear because we are forever in God's hands, and He has everything in control.

Now that it is 2022, no one knows what God has planned for us. Moreover, we will live another year with surprises. I hope we all know that, whatever happens, God did not let it happen for no reason. When things get hard this year, don't forget to seek God and pray because He will listen.

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# DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

## ROYAL MASKERADE & SLEIGH WITH CLAY

On December 17th, both GEM and CLAY Youth had their Christmas events. GEM's event was called "Royal Maskerade." The students and leaders had dressed up semi-formally to participate in this event. They were divided into teams to play a few table games. The winning team for each around collected raffle tickets for the team prize. They also had raffle draws for individual prizes. Sleigh with CLAY was CLAY's event. They had a few talent show performances and made gingerbread houses.

The funds collected through the ticket sales were donated to Samaritan's Purse to support their BC flood crisis relief work. All together, GEM and CLAY Youth raised \$983! Through this year's Christmas event, GEM and CLAY had a fun fellowship night and it was also a meaningful time to help the community.



## SMALL GROUP OUTINGS



grade 8 girls



grade 12s



grade 10 boys

## CHRISTMAS FAMILY WORSHIP NIGHT

On Christmas Eve, Friday December 24 we had our church's Christmas Family Worship Night, themed, "An Unexpected Christmas". Grace Youth performed two songs as a choir and orchestra. "Mary did you know" and "Joy! A Holiday Fanfare" which featured "Angels We Have Heard on High" and "Joy to the World." The children's ministries also presented video-recorded performances. Pastor Phil shared a message from Luke 2:1-7 and led a time of praise and prayer.

*Huge thanks to teachers Rachel and Sylvia for leading the choir and orchestra, and for all the students who signed up! The performance was spectacular and amazing!*





- **Praise** God for letting us have a wonderful and fun time to practice and perform the orchestra and choir at the Christmas Family Worship Night! Close to 80 Grace Youth students participated; the Orchestra team practiced their instruments with their musical talents, and the Choir team practiced synchronizing their beautiful voices through singing Christmas hymns and songs. Let us also **praise** God for also allowing the church to gather in person to praise and celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, despite the troubling circumstances of the Coronavirus. As He continues to graciously bless our church, let us always keep in mind that the virus can never stop us from praising and worshipping our loving God.
- **Praise** God for giving us the necessary strength, health, and blessings to endure the year 2021, despite the prolonged experience of the Covid-19 pandemic. Let us reflect on our life during the past year, and **praise** God for all He's done for us in our lives. **Pray** that we do not ever take what we have for granted, but live a humble life with a grateful heart for everything we have, through the grace and love of God as He continues to bless us in our everyday lives.
- **Praise** God for the new year of 2022, where we enter with newfound hope and joy. As of right now, there is a new Coronavirus Omicron variant that is roaming and spreading across our very streets and making the whole world fear in peril once again. **Pray** for the world, so that in the new year the coronavirus situation will die down and be gone, so that we can resume our normal life we enjoyed before Covid-19 disrupted our society. By the grace of God, we should also keep in mind how fortunate we are to live in a well-developed society, with the capabilities to contain and relieve the Covid situation. Lastly, let us **pray** for the people who are living in third world countries without the resources to stay safe from Covid, so that they may find peace amidst unfortunate and dire circumstances.



GCC's 2022 Spiritual Theme

# "GOD'S PEOPLE WILL STAND FIRM BEFORE HIM"

*The children of your servants will live in your presence;  
their descendants will be established before you.*

*Psalm 102:28*

2021 was a year that greatly tested our perseverance as we continued to live through various restrictions. With another year behind us we look forward to another one, one that continues to question whether or when we will come out of this "wilderness" season.

For 2022 we enter with a message that charges us to "stand firm" before God who upholds us. God upholds those who are faithful to Him; those who live by His Word. He upholds those who are honest, living with integrity, and those who live by faith with their eyes fixed on things that are unseen and eternal. Our prayer is that we will become trees that are deeply rooted in God's Word, unwavering and remaining green in seasons of both drought and plenty. This year, Grace Youth, let's stand firm together as deep-rooted trees, firmly planted by the Living Water!

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JANUARY

**Friday, Jan 14th** Friday Youth Night  
**Friday, Jan 21st** Friday Youth Night  
**Friday, Jan 28th** Friday Youth Night

Events are subject to change. Make sure to keep up with our latest updates with your small group leader, on our website, or Instagram!