



CELEBRATION OF GRACE

"Jesus, I want to thank you for..."

GRACESANTAMARIA.ORG

"Jesus, I want to thank You for the tech team at Grace who worked so hard to get our Livestream up and running, for helping to set up the outdoor service, running sound, and the many other ways that they use their gifts to serve." Pastor Benji

"Jesus, I want to thank You for the elders who had to make some very hard decisions in 2020. What a gift they are to this church! Thank you for their wisdom and patience, and for being men who love you and seek your face in all matters." Pastor Benji

"Jesus, I want to thank You for those who served on and alongside the Celebration Committee. I am also thankful for the deacons who have served in many different ways and cared for our members during this difficult time." Pastor Benji

"Jesus, I want to thank You for those who serve with AWANA, youth, and children's ministry. What a joy it is to see people pouring into the next generation and teaching them God's word." Pastor Benji

"Jesus, I want to thank You for continuing to bless our people as we gather together using technology! Thank you for the FaceBook Live devos and for our tech crew that has spectacularly stepped up our ability to share the Good News far and wide." Praise Jesus!!!
Pastor Greg

"Jesus, I want to thank You for our Junior Highers last night (1/27)!!! For the first time in a long time I got to break out our Junior Highers for teaching. We love intentionally combining our Junior High and High Schools for Kickback or a State of the Youth/Union address, but it is our preference to regularly multiply after worship and teach the groups separately each week. 2020 had primarily put that on hold but we got a little normalcy back for the first time in a while...for some of our JH it was the first time ever. It was a joyous time of throw up stories and James 1's tossed to and fro in prayer. Parents of 7th and 8th please keep sending your students on Tuesday nights, so we have enough Junior Highers to continue this; it was so much fun to focus on your JHers last night." Pastor James

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."

James 1:5-8 ESV

"Jesus, I want to thank You for our Elders! In a year of division, angst, government guidelines, public declarations and much more, it was encouraging to see Pastor Benji and the Elders seek God's wisdom (also referenced in James 1:5-8) and do their best to lead Grace in wisdom rather than mere reaction." Pastor James

"Jesus, I want to thank You for our Tech Team and my Youth Staff! Both sets of volunteers have shifted on the fly, solved problems, creatively expanded their job description and been a joy to work with all while dealing with gusty winds, temperature ranges from the 100's to the 30's/40's, ever-shifting Covid guidelines and unpredictable attendance." Pastor James

"Jesus, I want to thank You for faces both new and old! We reach our neighbors each week in the parking lot whether they want to join us or not. We reach across the globe and into homes each week through a very unanticipated online stream. We connect with familiar faces that we've missed, sometimes reaching back through the years with technology enabling us to reconnect us with ministry participants from long ago. We've connected with new faces who have joined us this year online, in the parking lot or as we moved back into the building for services. And, of course, the past year gave us the faces of newborns, even as it gave us the picture of Jim Winger standing with Louis Armstrong as we celebrated Jim's life last weekend." Pastor James

Jesus, I want to thank You for overwhelming thankfulness for my Grace family! During Jim's final illness, passing to Glory, and service you have been wonderful.

Thank you and Praise Jesus!" Michelle Winger

"Jesus, I want to thank You for my church family here at Grace! Thank you for my brothers and sisters, young and old, with whom I study God's Word, worship, fellowship, and serve with."

Lisa Correale

"Jesus, I want to thank You for ministering healing and strength to Laura Hobbs and Bob Chase during their battles against cancer. Thank you for the kidney transplant that Cliff Nelson underwent and that his brother in Christ, Chet Harter, was able to donate his kidney to Cliff! Praise you Jesus for healing Cliff! Thank you for your lovingkindness & faithfulness, Jesus."

Lisa Correale

"Jesus, I want to thank You for Grace Baptist's support of about 24 missionaries monthly and that our Global Outreach team shows us how we can pray for and support them thru the year." Lisa Correale

"Jesus, I want to thank You for our pastors Benji, Greg, & James who tirelessly study & preach God's Word, pray with us, and encourage us NOT to fear, but to TRUST God's promises and be humble like you, Jesus." Lisa Correale

"Jesus, I want to thank You for the many faithful prayer warriors that lift Your people up to You in prayer."

Linda Chase

"Jesus, I want to thank You for technology response within Grace Baptist Church, and other ministries around the world which have made possible telecommunicated Bible study, worship, and fellowship." Dee Vandercook

"Jesus, I want to thank You for the Christmas Carol singers who came to my door just before Christmas! They surprised me! I thought no one would even think about me as a "shut-in". I can't tell you how lifted up I was to hear that group of singers sing about Christ's birth.....Just for me! And they kept on singing in spite of my granddaughter's husky was barking at them because he thought they were intruders! Thank you for your patience and mostly for remembering me! I'm so glad and grateful for being a part of Grace!" Alice McKay

"Jesus, I want to thank You for all of our "Prayer Warriors" who pray for all of our prayer requests and all those who are ill, need healing, or comfort." Kevin Laird

"Jesus, I want to thank You For our tech crew; sound crew and all of my helpers with the tech, video and lighting."
Kevin Laird

"Jesus, I want to thank You for the worship band. The best band to usher in the Holy Spirit. Bible study class with Jerry Hines. Greatful Jerry came to my home and installed a garbage disposal & fixed my furnace. So grateful." Patti Nice

"Jesus, I want to thank You for my family at Grace"
I am thankful that I have been able to sob on so many shoulders and know that I am loved and prayed for by so many." Danielle Stewart

"Jesus, I want to thank you for your faithfulness in using our church and it's faithful staff in sustaining and continually meeting the spiritual needs of myself and my family throughout the past year. I am so thankful for them and their ministry. " Ryan Burks

"Jesus, I want to thank you for Grace Baptist Church, it is a blessing to me and I am so thankful for my Pastor Benji such a man of God and for Pastors Greg and James, we are truly blessed. I am also thankful our Worship Team who always brings uplifting worshiping songs to us to sing to our Lord. I am thankful for our Sunday School Teacher Jerry Hines also thankful for Video and Sound Team and for all the volunteers who give of their time and service." Rich Lee

"Jesus, I want to thank You for the technical work done by talented individuals, for music in our service that ministers to our hearts, although preparation taking these individuals away from their families, and for our pastors that continue to feed us spiritually and caring for our needs. Although these may sound very general, rather than specific, I have been ministered by them and I am thankful. Although missing the fellowship on Sunday mornings, many have consistently helped me and are right there when I needed them. Thank you, my Family at Grace." Charlene Black

"Jesus, I want to thank You for...

I am so happy to have been a member for the past 25 yrs. I love this church and every pastor, teacher, member and my precious Lord Jesus. I so enjoyed being in the choir and Living Christmas tree several times. You have helped me many times. My precious husband J.R. Kerr also loved Your house soooooo much. You all were there for me when He went to Be with Jesus, 6 yrs ago.

I thank God for everything." Arlene Kerr

"Jesus, I want to thank You for the joy of working on the elder board over the past year. We experienced great unity and fellowship while giving sometimes difficult direction to his church." Mike Jones

"Jesus, I want to thank you for our staff, volunteers, Awana, and Missionaries." Margaret Peden

"Jesus, I want to thank You for encouraging my fearful mind and heart with Your grand and glorious Words of Truth through the preaching of our pastors here at Grace Baptist Church. You have given these men great insights into Your message to humanity and they have been faithful to declare these truths to all who hear. Thank You for their leadership!" Sharon Newnham

"Jesus, I want to thank You for all my brothers and sisters in Christ that have become my family. Having no blood-line family anywhere nearby, I'm grateful for the love that has been given to me by so many. I'm so privileged to call them my personal family! Without you all, I would surely perish of loneliness. God has been so gracious to me and us all!" Sharon Newnham

"Jesus, I want to thank You for a couple of things:

1. ...for Him giving Randy Giorgi the vision to focus on what God has done through GBC in the last 50 years of AWANA,
2. ...for Him giving Kim Casazza the urgency to get some of us women together for morning Bible studies, when we were angry & frustrated and "lost",
3. ...for prayer...anytime & always,
4. ...for outdoor services, being able to see children running around & older people braving illness to worship corporately,
5. ...for worship. I felt like we were charging into battle, or maybe just walking around Jericho with the worship.

I could go on, but those were the most important to me.
Thank you, God for our family" Barbara Biggs

"Jesus, I want to thank you for my new little cousin Wesley." He was born safely during covid and I am very thankful for that. I am very thankful for Grace Baptist Church. I go to the youth group and I love it. Pastor James has been very good to me as well as the rest of the church. The Holy Spirit has brought me closer to God through my family and friends." Cosette Burks

“Jesus, I want to thank You for the Bugout AWANA Club. The plan for 2020 was to have a grand celebration of the 50th AWANA year that Grace Baptist has held the Club. The 50th book was completed with wonderful stories on how God reached out to generations that came through the doors of Grace Baptist Church. Items were gathered for the time capsule that was to be buried on the grounds, but now it stays piled up in the closet. The big BBQ never happened. What did happen was more glorious! Painful to close the program in March early because of the spread of COVID gave birth to “Bugout AWANA”. What’s a Bugout AWANA? The Noah principle is built what God instructs and He will send the people. A small team assembled canopies, heaters, giant inflatable screen, backpacks for each clubber, and all sorts of items. Oh yeah, people will come so provide 2 slices of pizza and a drink for a \$1. Okay God, but who will serve? Build the Ark, God sends the people. When we had the leader’s meeting Randy expected maybe a dozen people, God sent 55 volunteers! God has a prayer group meeting in the Ed building while the Club is going, the secret weapon God provides are prayer warriors praying for the gathering. Alright God, so Randy expects maybe 20 to show up because of the government restrictions, but God sent over 150 kids!! On Club nights the Gospel is being preached, kids are earnestly memorizing God’s Word, games, smiles, laughter, fellowship, prayer, and tears of joy for our Great Savior. Praise Jesus.” In his service Randy Giorgi.

“Jesus, I want to thank You for my church leaders who have kept our worship service open on Sunday morning. Thank you for the worship team who have so faithfully and meaningfully led us in worship. Thank you for our pastors, all three, who have taught us Your truth from Your Word and blessed us in each of their gifted areas in ministry. You are here in our midst, Lord Jesus. Glory to God. With a grateful heart and growing faith”
Ruby Millard

"Jesus, I want to thank You for allowing our church to continue to minister to us throughout 2020. Thank you for Pastor Benji and his messages from your word that spoke life and hope to us during dark times. Thank you for being near to your people and for never leaving or forsaking us. Thank you for Grace Baptist Church and how the ministries of this church continue to bless me and my family even while we are worshipping at home. We are truly thankful for the teams of people who have worked on the livestream and giving us the opportunity to still worship and enjoy the message each week safely from our home. Thank you, Jesus for Grace Baptist church, and for all the lives that are touched by the staff. We are blessed each Sunday, thank you!" Stephanie Burks

"Jesus, I want to thank You for Grace Baptist Church. Last year was challenging to say the least for many reasons. Grace's Pastors Benji, Greg and James and the Elders always kept us informed about what the church was doing and the Tech team stepped up by connecting us online when we needed it the most with the Sunday services until we were able to reopen. My heart was missing my kids and grandkids and worried over the state of the world. Grace gave me peace and strength in a time of turmoil." Deborah Paduganan

"Jesus, I thank you that you are forging relationships between me and other members by which you're revealing more of just how great this salvation is that you've freely given us! That we are united together in you no matter what is going on in the world. The truth of this reality I see increasingly manifested in the men and women around me at Grace, and in my own heart-changes, wrought by you through them. Thank you for your church and that nothing can stand against it (Matthew 16:18)." Mark Clayton

"Jesus, I want to thank you for the community and family that Grace provides me and for the prayer warriors who surround those in need of prayer!" Ann Harter

“Jesus, I want to thank you for my pastors at Grace.

—Specifically thank you for Pastor Benji always being real and preaching the gospel every Sunday - and also knowing who the Buggles were when Matt sang Video Killed the Radio Star - it made Matt's day.

—Thank you for both Pastor Greg and Pastor James going out of their way to greet Matt on Sundays. And especially, thank you for both of them laying hands and praying for Matt when he was having a bad time of things.”

Mary Rose Gerardi

“Jesus, I want to thank You for the staff and elders praying for and accommodating all of the awkward changes this virus has caused. It's really fabulous that they continue to live stream (thank you tech team) the service for those in quarantine and we especially love the outdoor service Grace continues to offer. ”

Mary Rose Gerardi

“Jesus, I want to thank You for making us a part of the Grace Baptist family. We are so very blessed to be loved by so many.”

Mary Rose Gerardi

“Jesus, I want to thank You for our pastors who have more than once preached a sermon that spoke to my heart and that I needed to hear. I am thankful for the worship team for blessing me and everyone every Sunday with praise to Jesus. I am thankful that we went caroling to the shut ins. Just seeing how happy it made them filled my heart with joy.” Francie Harter

“Jesus, we want to thank You for the faithfulness of the pastors, staff, tech team, worship team, elders and the people of Grace Baptist. Our God has proved Himself to be with us all the time, providing health, energy, finances and the ability to figure out a way to get things done in a way that is amazing and God honoring.” Bob and Sharon Conley

"Jesus, we want to thank You for our Grace Family. You have BleSSed us incredibly this past year. We appreciate the adjustments to service during the covid-19 lockdown to allow us to "gather" with our Church for worship. Many Thanks to the Worship Team, The Sound Team and Set-Up Crew for all the time and effort you have all given to help keep our Grace Family connected. We have joined in services on You Tube and Outdoors, both have been wonderful. Our Gratitude to Pastor Benji for the sermons filled with hope, faith and encouragement during this craziness. Thank You Pastor Greg and Pastor James for your videos and live messages that BleSS so many. We're thankful to the Office Staff, AWANA Team and Janitorial Staff who work hard to try to maintain our normalcy. God has been so Good to allow us to reach out when we have had needs. Thank You to everyone who provided meals while we were recovering from surgeries, we were overwhelmed. God BleSS Our Beautiful Grace Church Family, we Anxiously await the opportunity to hug you all."
The McBurneys - Robert, Carolyn & Beckie

"Jesus, we want to thank You for our pastors, elders, deacons, worship team, and staff who are always working. Our children's team Michelle, Paula, and Michael Shaw and the Baldizon family for the great Kidz Vidz. Our Sunday school group, who is a constant source for fellowship, edification, and support. Our Awana program volunteers and Randy Giorgi who give up their time and serve our children and community. Lastly, our missionaries, who have remained faithful in these trying times and the support our church gave for those who needed a little extra during Covid. We love you Grace." The Campa Family

"Jesus, I want to thank You for Pastor Benji spending time to teach me sermons about the Bible. " Brayden Burks

"Jesus, I want to thank You another way Facebook can be used. A friend wrote Gods blessings to her son on it. God inspired me do it with my son and is giving me opportunities of speaking His blessings to others." Mary Ann Schuerich

"Jesus, I want to thank You for the faithfulness of our elders to respond to the latest crises in our country and world with humility and wisdom. I want to thank you for the faithful men and women who serve our kids in children's church. I want to thank you for the new families who have found a home at Grace. I want to thank you for our pastor who loves God's word and expositis it. I want to thank you for the GO team that has ministered to my soul. I want to thank you for those praying together throughout the week. I want to thank you for Jackie Patterson who is more concerned with the spiritual health of women than about protecting herself from sickness. I want to thank you for friends like Heidi Miller who are constantly seeking first the Kingdom of God. Thank you, Jesus, for grace."
Danae Madrid

"Jesus, I want to thank You for: my mom working in the church and how hard she works in putting the bulletin together, she does an amazing job!! :)" Leah Correale

"Jesus, I want to thank You for the AWANA program, and the leadership team who love on and minister to the children and parents of our church and community every month." Greg Naugle

"Jesus, I want to thank You for our Sunday school teachers and ministry leadership for continuously looking to you for wisdom and direction in finding ways to encourage the brethren, fellowship and corporately worship together. In Jesus" Greg Naugle

“Jesus, I want to thank you for continuously showing me that the Holy Spirit teaches/imparts the Word and works in the hearts and minds of all God’s children in ways that are uniquely His own. Working with special needs kids has been a joyful, humbling and precious experience in being reminded of these truths.

‘But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything that I have told you.

John 14:26”

“Jesus, I want to thank you for a church family whose members love one another in You, and who continuously exemplify the words of Romans 12:10-11 to ‘Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.’ For the past nineteen years, our family has felt loved and encouraged by our Grace family, and we cherish and praise you, Jesus, for each person. Praising Jesus,” Kerie Naugle

“Jesus, I want to thank You for your love for your people at Grace. When we come in contact with other people, we let them know we are His children because of His Grace. We are thankful for the classes we have here at Grace. We are thankful for all of the ministries we have here. We have classes that give us a better understanding of your word. We are thankful for all the workers in our children and youth ministries, which include a multitude of volunteers. The AWANA ministry at our church gives children an opportunity to memorize scripture, hear Bible stories and play games, again with many volunteers. We are thankful for our worship team that gives us the opportunity to sing praises to the Father every week. We are so thankful for our Pastors, who proclaim the word every Sunday in ways we haven't thought about before which causes us to have a greater desire to read your word and learn more about you. I am thankful to be a part of this church family..”

Gary Barron

Jesus, I want to thank for all the ministries that are provided at Grace, Santa Maria. The staff is always open to serve to anyone in need, member or not. They are always available & their encouragement is appreciated. All feel welcomed here. God Bless you all" Ann Murtha

"Jesus, we want to thank you for:

- the creativity and resourcefulness of the Grace staff during the trying times of 2020,
- the flexibility of the worship band and the tech crew that made it possible for church members to worship when it was not possible to attend,
- the multiple prayer groups at Grace,
- the sound Biblical teaching at Grace. "

Russ and Laura Lycan

"Jesus, I want to thank You for...

.... all the pastors Spirit-led commitment to emphasize my continuous dependence on Jesus.

.... allowing our family to find stability and security through the GBC's commitment to "plow through", while the pandemic is ongoing.

.... allowing GBC to employ technology to allow the maximum function of various ministries.

.... the pastor's commitment to carefully exposit ALL of God's Word.

.... the challenge to review ALL of what happened in 2020, and discover the overwhelming blessings and working that God accomplished in my family's life. "

Al Correale

“Jesus, I want to thank You for...

Tenacity. That’s the word that has gone through my head after hearing of the Celebration of Grace booklet.

This last year, I was blessed by the tenacity of all the staff and members of Grace Baptist. The “stick with it” tenacity that bubbles up even when all the extra work and effort is REALLY, really hard. Certainly, I’m not talking about the tenacity that is from individual strength. I’m referring to the Holy Spirit, gift of Jesus kind of grit that only the Family of God enjoys. That tenacity was palatable at Grace Baptist this last year.

Though I could list multiple individuals and teams that demonstrated Godly tenacity all year, I’m going to focus on the team that I know the best- The Global Outreach Team (GO Team) and the family here at Grace. The Global Outreach Team; Danae and Phillip Madrid, Heidi Miller, Cassie Campa, Benji Magness, and Carl Hathaway the elder representative, bowed our heads and prayed, seeking wisdom as well as guidance from our Lord. How does a team in California care for God’s field workers scattered globally during a worldwide pandemic? We asked and then listened to our global workers and the Holy Spirit as to what we could do to support these precious workers. Then we asked you, our Family at Grace to give monetarily so that we might be able to fill in the gap locally and around the world. Godly tenacity in overdrive was shown in your giving.

Over the year 2020, because of your servant’s hearts, we were able to raise \$7,210 through our Covid-19 Relief drive in the spring, and the Christmas in Fall! Can I hear an “Amen”? The GO Team is so thankful to you all for your generosity.

We continue to “Praise Jesus!” and shout “Thank You!” to our Grace Family for your Godly tenacity!

Serving Jesus with all of you!” Danielle Hathaway



Grace Baptist Church
605 E. McCoy Lane
Santa Maria CA 93455

805-925-2671

Church Website
www.gracesantamaria.org

General Email Address
gracebaptist@gracesantamaria.org

Prayer Request Email Address
prayer@gracesantamaria.org