

Journey - Pursue - Impact

True or False? One day of your wages can change EVERY day of a child's life? TRUE! Our holiday outreach challenge for Faith Journey Church and Gaarde Christian School has been to raise \$12k for One Day...that is, \$12,000 for food to be provided for one year every day for 100 children in Haiti and The Philippines. To date we have raised **\$1111111** and we are trusting that since God gave us the \$12K amount that He will provide the funds.

Gaarde Christian students have sacrificed allowances, done extra chores, held bake sales and hot cocoa sales and truly became students who SONIC'd! S.erving, O.thers. N.eeds, I.n, C.hrist....We are so proud of our student body, they took on the challenge to raise money to provide a hot meal every day for a year for 10 children in Haiti and The Philippines and they did it



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GCS Registration

It's hard to believe that plans for the 2015/16 school year are well underway. Soon we will send home registration packets for our current GCS student body to fill out and get their spot in a class secured for the upcoming school year. Our mission at Gaarde is not to fill seats in a class room; our mission is to impact the lives of children and their families in the SW Portland area with educational excellence and train them to be missionally minded people who are world changers now and in the future! The great sacrifice made in order for a child to attend GCS, is a sacrifice that not only benefits the child who receives a strong foundation for further educational pursuits, but benefits society in the future. The level of excellence that GCS provides, springboards many students into advanced course work in high school which in turn propels them into rigorous coursework at the college level. We are proud of former Gaarde students who are now serving others in vocations such as nursing, educating, pastoring and many other fields. Together we believe we truly can build up a generation who will shake their world and make a significant difference wherever God leads them!

Current student re-enrollment starts January 12th

Community Open House is Jan. 29th @ 7pm and Community Registration starts Feb 3rd

A NEW YEARS CALL: "KEEP PEDDLING!"

Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going

to a certain town and will stay there a year.

We will do business there and make a profit."

How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow?

Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that." Otherwise you are boasting about your own plans, and all such boasting is evil. Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it."

~James 4:13-4:17

With every new year seems to come a fresh introspection of our lives. Depending on how our reflection of our success or lack there-of from last new years resolutions, trials and difficulties, this year looking back at us in the mirror can be the monster of "regret-stress!"

Pastor Mark Batterson wrote in his book "Soulprint;"

"We have high levels of past tense guilt, present tense stress, and future tense anxiety. And if we allow it to, that three headed monster will devour every ounce of holy confidence we posses, until we lose our sense of destiny."

There is a lot of life that can and does get in the way of following our Lord's direction and purpose for us. Our hearts desire to establish our course for the year and spend ourselves in the pursuit of His desire for our life is NOT an easy calling.

"When the heart sees what God wants, the body must be willing to spend and be spent for that cause alone!"

~Oswald Chambers

Even the disciples had a difficult time lining up their hearts with their bodies willingness to fulfill what was asked of them by our Lord. That is why Jesus made that famous declaration about the bodies willingness to follow through on what the spirit bids when He spoke in Matthew 26:41 of the disciples inability to stay

awake and pray with him in the garden: "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak."

Like running back Marshawn Lynch of the Seattle Seahawks in "Beast-Mode," keep your



feet churning!

Each new year becomes part of a greater season of life and the key to having a successful year is to persistently and consistently workout **every day** what the Lord has set before us in this year as a piece of this season of our life! The



second piece is much harder... we must be **ALERT** to the opportunities the Lord sets before us!

Hard work alone is NOT enough! We need to move forward in faith ready to receive what God has for us in this season, all while readying our selves for what awaits us in the next. We must not enter the new year frozen because of last years failures! As Os Guinness so aptly states it in his book: "God in the Dark" concerning faith:

"What would you think of a boy who gave up learning to ride a bicycle, complaining that he hurt himself because his bicycle stopped moving so he had no choice but to fall off? If he wanted to sit comfortably while remaining stationary, he should not have chosen a bicycle but a chair. Similarly faith must be put to use, or it will become useless."

Here are seven ways to keep peddling and moving forward in God's call for you this year:

- 1) **Work on your "self-leadership" skills** by finding areas where you are weak that will impede your progress.
- 2) Upon finding those weak areas, work to compensate for those shortcomings. **Compensatory weaknesses** can often become strengths later in life.
- 3) **Use this time for "self-education"** through reading books in your field or in your areas of shortcomings.
- 4) **Take a "targeted" college course or training course** to build upon your knowledge base and skill sets.
- 5) **Sit down with safe, honest, and godly counsel** to look at possible personality or spiritual issues that "may" be holding you back.
- 6) **Walk in a bold faith**, but keep a spirit of humility.
- 7) **Work to support someone else's effort** to move forward in their areas of weakness in this year.


Journeying Together ~Pastor Tom

January - February 2015 Calendars

JANUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 One hour Family Service Pastor Phil Speaking	5	6	7 7pm Ablaze Youth Mpact Club Accelerate Club	8	9	10
11	12 Current GCS Students Enrollment Begins	13	14 7pm Ablaze Youth Mpact Club Accelerate Club	15	16	17
← GCS MS Spiritual Emphasis Week →						
18	19 No GCS/Daycare - Martin Luther King Day	20	21 7pm Ablaze Youth Mpact Club Accelerate Club	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 7pm Ablaze Youth Mpact Club Accelerate Club	29 GCS Community Open House	30	31

FEBRUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 GCS Community Open Registration	4 7pm Ablaze Youth Mpact Club Accelerate Club	5	6	7 Father/Daughter Tea for GCS students (K-MS)
8	9	10	11 7pm Ablaze Youth Mpact Club Accelerate Club	12	13 Movie Night Out	14  Valentine's Day
15	16 No GCS/ Daycare - President's Day	17	18 7pm Ablaze Youth Mpact Club Accelerate Club	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 7pm Ablaze Youth Mpact Club Accelerate Club	26	27	28

Service Schedule

Sundays

8:45 - 9:45 am **Sunday School** - All Ages
Nursery (Birth - 2 Yrs)

10:00 - 11:30 pm **Worship Service**
Children's Church (3 Yrs - 5th Grade)
Nursery (Birth - 2 Yrs)

6:00 pm **Adult Home Group** - Location Varies

Tuesdays

5:30 am **Men's Bible Study** - Davidson's

Wednesdays

7:00 pm **ABLAZE Youth**
Accelerate Clubs
Missionettes (Girls Kinder - 5th Gr.)
Rainbows (Girls and Boys 3 - 4 Years)

Fridays

7:00 pm **The Wave Prayer and Praise**
Second Friday of each month

Office Hours

8:00am - 4:00pm Monday through Friday

**WEST
OF
55**

West of 55

“Go and learn what this means; I desire mercy, not sacrifice.”

- Matt 9:13

When the religious leaders of Jesus' day were wrapped up in making a reputation for themselves as pious, noble, and righteous, Jesus challenged them to revamp their thinking. “Go and learn what this means,” He told them. “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.”

In God's eyes, our most noble deeds are not necessarily the things the world considers awe-inspiring. A missionary once said there are at least two reasons people fail to exercise compassion; (1) we long to do the really big, brave, noble things that are beyond our reach, or (2) we may refuse to render service that seems insignificant or beneath our dignity.

We look at martyrs, missionaries, and saints

with an eye of admiration; we regard them with honor and esteem. In fact, their noble acts have earned them a place in humanity's hall of fame. Nevertheless, what does living more nobly translate into for the average person?

Each time we take an opportunity to extend help to a needy neighbor, a listening ear to someone who's hurting, groceries to a local food bank, our time to a charitable organization, or a visit or a phone conversation to a lonely individual, we have acted nobly.

The simple acts of compassion, not our grand demonstrations of sacrifice, are what please God most and effectively hold together the fabric of humanity. As those who need compassion come your way, remember that mercy is the desire of God's heart.

In His Service,

Pastor John Granholm

Missions Convention 2015

Mark your calendars now for our annual Missions Convention to be held March 7, 2015! It will be a fun filled evening with great food, fun and some laughter mixed in. Admission price will remain the same as in the previous years: – Adult \$12 – Senior \$10 – Child \$6. Take note there is a time change from previous years: Open House begins at 5:00pm - Doors open at 5:20pm - Ends at 8:00pm.

We have three missionaries scheduled that I think you will enjoy hearing from, they are Sue Beaman, Tamara Henkes, Josh and Renee Ransom.

Sue Beaman works in the Middle East and North Africa. The last four years she has been living in Morocco. Because she lives in a sensitive country she is not allowed to post anything to any website. Don't miss hearing what she has to say about the work she does for the Lord.

Tamara Henkes is our missionary to Romania. She is instrumental in working with Kidz Romania, and has some very special tea outreaches to the Romanian women and their children. She is one busy lady driving from one village to another in between her many children's outreaches. Her

newsletter is posted along our missionary hallway. Visit her website at:

www.henkes.ministryhome.org

Follow Tamara on Facebook and see all the many things she is doing for the Lord.

www.facebook.com/tamara.henkes

Josh & Renee Ransom are our missionaries to China. When not in the United States they live and work in Changsha, China. They both have been in China since 2005. They met in Xian and married in Thailand. They are the proud parents to three kids from Ethiopia. They spend their time teaching university students and volunteering in deaf schools. Their newsletter is posted along our missionary hallway. To follow them and see how they operate in China, visit their Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/josh.ransom

Visit the Ransom's website where you will find many interesting facts about their family and work for the Lord.

www.ransomsinchina.com

Make sure you don't miss this year's convention!

Donna Randol

- **Russ and Beth Chambers**
- **Jamie and Alisha Deweese**
Missionaries to OSU (Chi Alpha)
- **Kiel & Niina Downey**
Missionaries to Thailand
- **Rick & Laurel Ellis**
Missionary to Chile
- **Carl and Terri Gibbs**
Missionaries to Africa
- **Tamara Henkes**
Missionary to Romania
- **Dennis & Diane Holcomb**
Missionaries to Poland
- **Ken Huff**
Missionary to Cambodia
- **Eric & Jacquelin Jenkins**
Missionaries to Algeria
- **Steve and Julie Kramer**
Missionaries to the Netherlands
- **Bill & Carol Paris**
Missionaries to Tokyo, Japan
- **Josh & Renee Ransom**
Missionary to China
- **Matt & Heather Reigel**
Missionaries to Germany
- **John & Beccy Rodli**
Missionaries to Azores/Portugal
- **Rob & Jeanel Shipley**
Missionaries to East Africa
- **David & Dorothy Yunuba**
Missionaries to Africa
- **John & Carolyn Stewart**
Missionaries to Africa

Remember to pray for our missionaries

Adult Ministries

Top New Years Resolutions according to USA Today... first five are, "Lose weight, save money, get healthy, manage stress better, get a better job". Intriguing to me that all 5 of these are directed inward to benefit an individual - in other words the "all about me" syndrome that is pervasive in our world. Somewhere in the middle of the list there are resolutions such as "give more to charities, volunteer more to help others, reach out to a hurting person." I guess we can be thankful those are in the MIDDLE and not at the end of list, but it should challenge each of us to consider what our New Year's Resolutions will be for 2015. Perhaps we should filter our lists through Mark 12:28-31 "One of the teachers of

the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." Wow! Let's resolve to have 2015 be the year of LOVE!

Pastor Kelly GrosJacques

I remember last week I went to Target to get some light bulbs for the bathroom, and I came across this gentleman asking if I had some change to spare. I looked into my wallet and I didn't see any change, so I replied, "I am sorry sir, I don't have any cash on me". He then replied, "It is ok. Thank you so much for taking time to look for it". I was surprised by how grateful he was, even by the gesture of me looking for change. I went into the store and got the light bulbs, but in the process also just wanted to do something nice for that gentleman. So I got some cash back, and also bought some snacks for him. I got out of the store and walked up to that gentleman and said, "Sir, here is some money. Please get yourself some food to eat, and also here are some snacks for you." He looked at me for a second and he stood up gave me a big hug.

My point is not to say how great I am, but to draw out the point that Christmas should be about giving and the giver. To understand giving, we need to first understand there is a giver and also a receiver on

the opposite end. As human beings we are designed to give. Surveys say people who are usually more happy are the ones who give and help with the needs of others. As believer we are not only designed to give by nature, but also because we were and still are on the receiving end. We were receivers of God's salvation through Jesus who "gave" His life away to redeem us. Christmas is a season of giving because He first "gave" His life for us. Instead of anticipating gifts this year, let's think of ways we can be a blessing to others. Let's change the role of being a receiver to being a giver this year because a savior is born.

Phil Tu

FJC Worship Leader

Youth Ministries

Our students are excited for the Generation Unleashed at City Bible Church at the end of January. While they wait, some are helping me, Farrin, and Pete pick up Christmas trees for recycling to earn money for the conference. My past experiences with youth conventions have always been incredible, something we would look forward to for months—as soon as one ended we were talking about the next one.



The picture here is from our Christmas party. We played Minute-to-Win-It, had super exciting \$2 Wal-Mart presents, and I drank egg nog...not delicious.

Also, Jessica and I would like to thank everyone for all of your support and encouragement as we have prepared for our wedding and marriage. The last six months have been quite a ride—new jobs, new church, new everything—but we are finally looking forward to something solid.

Andy Reum

Youth Pastor

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year! My Christmas vacation was quite busy as well as exciting because I got married! After our wedding in Washington, Andy and I took a week off at the Oregon Coast and made it back in time to be with the youth group the following Wednesday night.

In Journey Kids, we recently finished the KidMo series FETCH, which helped the kids to recognize the ways that they can be Godly examples in their friendships with others to fetch people for God. In the new year, we will be continuing in the KidMo program with the REACH series. In this series, we will discover that the Reward for Everyone who Accepts Christ is Heaven.

We have added some new details to the Journey Kids room to help the kids feel more connected to the setting of the program. The next few weeks we will be camping with Forest Ranger Phil and learning about new Bible illustrations in the Pine Cone Theatre with Sir Reginald Duffus Esquire. Come down and see us some time!

Jessica Scott

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM

FREEDOM KIDS

Services for 3 yrs - Kindergarten

On Sunday mornings, our little ones (three years old through kindergarten age) meet together to learn, sing and play.

JOURNEY KIDS

Services for 1st - 5th graders

Kids, bring along your energy on Sunday mornings for Journey Kids! This is no time to sit back and watch... every child is an integral part of the service. Together, we're learning to worship, serve, reach out and translate what we're learning into *action* in our own lives.



M'Pact clubs for girls first through fifth grade - and - Rainbows club for preschool aged girls and boys



I hope you have had a great start to the 2015 year and that 2014 was filled with joy and fond memories for you and your family. As we begin a new year, it never fails that we all make some type of New Year's resolution for ourselves. A new year is also a great time to make resolutions for our families. Here are three ideas:

1. Attend church services regularly with your family.
"...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near." -Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV)

Children model what they learn from their parents. What better way to help your children get into the habit of attending church is there than bringing them to church regularly? It is good for children to see the importance of God in your own life.

2. Read the Bible daily with your children.
"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children..." -Deut. 6:6-7a (ESV)

Reading the Bible with your children daily is very important to their spiritual health. They cannot learn enough about God by only attending church once or twice a week

3. Talk about God throughout the day.
"You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." -Deut. 6:7 (ESV)

Talking about God during different times of the day will teach your children that God is with us all the time and that we should worship Him all day, every day. It may seem awkward at first, but if you make talking about God a priority in your family's daily life you will help instill spiritual truths in your children that will last for a lifetime.

We would also love to team up with your family and teach your children every Wednesday night at 7 pm in one of our M'pact Clubs. We have classes for 3 year olds up to 11. Hope to see you!

In His Service,
Connie Frisinger



Gaarde Christian School

It is hard to believe the school year is already half over, but the learning is not. The next few months is an amazing time of growth as students find their academic stride and blossom.

At Gaarde, students have the opportunity to grow spiritually, academically and personally in a Christ centered learning environment. In preschool, the classroom is our textbook and "toys" our curriculum. In Kindergarten, the low student/teacher ratio led by experienced teachers creates an environment for children to flourish. Elementary students are provided with the education, guidance and experiences they need to establish a solid foundation. Middle school students are challenged to think analytically about the world they live in.

As teachers and students work to stay the course, it is time to start planning for next year. Our Open House, January 29th, is a great opportunity for your friends and neighbors to experience the heart of Gaarde first hand.

Kendra Jones, Administrator

"YOUR CHILDREN, OUR CALLING"

Important Dates

- Jan 5 - School Resumes
- Jan 12 - Re-enrollment Begins for Current GCS Students & Siblings Only
- Jan 12-16 - Middle School Spiritual Emphasis Week
- Jan 19 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School, Day Care Closed
- Jan 22 - Grandparent and Special Friends' Day, Preschool T/Th 3's, AM PreK, ADK-8th
- Jan 23 - Grandparent and Special Friends' Day, 1/2 Day K, Preschool MWF 3's, 4's and PM
- Jan 23 - End of Second Quarter
- Jan 26 - Teacher In Service - No School, Day Care Open
- Jan 29 - Community Open House, 7pm
- Feb 3 - Open Registration, 7pm
- Feb 7 - Father/Daughter Tea, K-5th, 1pm
- Feb 16 - President's Day - No School, Day Care Closed

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
VISIT THE GCS WEBSITE!

www.gaardechristian.com



11265 SW Gaarde St.
Tigard, OR 97224