

TrailNotes speaks to forward movement, paying attention to the “landscape” we are passing through in this trail-laced wooded hillside and valley, not to mention the world beyond. *TrailNotes* is an unfolding, ongoing journal of the people who share the trail with us and the things we’re learning and doing.

ElderTalk: It’s really not about me!

RICK WIDENER

One of my favorite verses in Scripture is John 14:12: “*Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.*”

Over the years I have tried to figure out what the “greater works” are, the ones that are more than what Jesus did. I have also talked to others, soliciting their thoughts on the subject.

Today as I write, I am pondering the deadline for this article. Could this Scripture be referring to the timing and deadlines in our lives?

Consider the big picture. Here are millions of Christians around the world depending on the Spirit of God to give us the power to do God’s will at the “right” time. Then it’s up to Him to weave it all together.

I write as an elder who knows his time is coming to the end. I am only to serve as one of your elders for a little while longer. I have often told my missionary friends as I finish my visit, “I don’t want to leave you, but I’m ready to go home.”

Over a year ago we (Grace Fellowship and Table Fellowship) began an adventure of rebuilding/relaunching GFC. Changes were made, documents written, life celebrated, and new elders installed. Did it all go perfectly? NO. Is the work finished? NO. Have we moved forward? YES.

We have installed four new elders to come alongside of Eric and me in the move forward. Again, are these men perfect? NO. Are they good elders? YES. I have worked with them

for several months and have been impressed with their teamwork and prayer consideration of the life they are sharing with you. You have made a wonderful selection in this team!

There is still a lot of work to be done at GFC. And we want to see growth, personal and corporate. We want to see more new people. We want to see Sunday School rooms full, The the list goes on and on. Most of all, we want to see growth in the knowledge of Christ and love for Him.

I have been impressed with a song lately that reminds me of one of the greatest truths of the world. It is titled “God and God Alone.” We have made changes. We have celebrated. We have made mistakes. We have been depressed. We have been encouraged. We have regrets. We have hopes. In all of these feelings, we often forget that it is God and God alone who created this universe—and this church. He used Godly men and women. But He is the one who did it.

At some point in the not too distant future, I will resign as an elder of GFC and once again become Eric’s pastoral care person and an outside resource to your elders and church. You will see God’s continued grace in and through the church. In all of this I would call on us to remember:

God and God alone

God and God alone
Created all these things we
call our own.

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Goodbye, Brazil!

PAULA YORK



Sitting on a sofa that is no longer mine, counting down the days until we board a plane to return to the U.S., trying to savor each of our remaining moments here in Brazil. I am filled with amazement, gratefulness and anticipation.

I am astounded that when I said, “Here am I. Send me,” that I would get to be part of such a grand adventure and meet and become friends with so many amazing people. I never imagined that I would see with my own eyes places that I had only ever read about or seen on documentaries. Just to think that the Lord would use my little contribution to touch and bring His light into so many lives is truly humbling and I am grateful.

I am also grateful to our friends and family who have walked beside us on our journey. Even though we were apart, your prayers, phone calls, emails and support were always like a dip in a cool stream after a long day working in the sun. I feel that many of us have become closer now than when we were living close to each other and that fills my heart with joy. I cherish the friendships that have grown between us

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It's really not about me!

(continued)

From the mighty to the small
The glory in them all
Is God's and God's alone.

God and God alone
Reveals the truth of all we
call unknown;
All the best and worst of man
Can't change the Master's
plan,
It's God's and God's alone.

God and God alone
Is fit to take the universe's
throne
Let everything that lives
Reserve its truest praise
For God and God alone.

God and God alone
Will be the joy of our
eternal home.
He will be our one desire.
Our hearts will never tire
Of God and God alone.

*Words and Music by Phil McHugh
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Friends are Precious Gifts

TERESA DEVORE

Friends are Precious gifts from our
Father Above
Bestowed upon us as an extension of
His love.
The heartfelt Warmth shared between
Friends,
Cherished and Treasured as God
Commends,
Friendship is our Father's Beloved
Design
Of Faithfulness, Devotedness, &
Affection Sublime.
Our Earthly Friendships are a mere
representative
Of our Personal & Divine Relationship,
thusly comparative;
Hence, our Sweet Dear Friendships we
will nurture with care.
We await Jesus' bidding, while our
Heavenly place He does prepare.

Teresa Channell DeVore

Progressive Picnic delights Women of Grace



Twenty-three young ladies and women participated in the Progressive Picnic on July 28. They began at Kay Vega's with a table full of splendid salads, cheeses, and more.

Then they journeyed "over the hills and through the woods" to Pam Phillips' home for the main course of delicious baked chicken salad and dinner rolls.

Their last stop was at GFC where Carol Miller shared her gift of baking. They enjoyed Carol's tasty key lime squares, carrot cake cupcakes, and peach pie in the shade on the church patio.

Women of Grace continue their Bible Study on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 on Aug. 2 and 16.

GFC Archeology!



...as discovered during a "dig" by "Professor" Jon Vega during the basketball court renovation project this summer.

Goodbye, Brazil!

(continued)

and that fills my heart with joy. I am eager to return and be able to cultivate those relationships face to face.

Even though our work here in Brazil is done, the country and her beautiful people will always be a part of me. I will say "Tchau" with tears in my eyes and a "samba" in my heart as I eagerly look forward to what the Lord has for our next adventure.

The final countdown ...but not really

RANDALL YORK

So we are now in our final days in Brazil. It has been an amazing journey, but our work in missions is far from over. On Aug. 2 we board a plane in Brazil, landing in FL and arriving in Ohio by Labor Day. I will be licensed and trained as an insurance adjuster, and we will reside in Columbus, Ohio. We intend to continue our work in missions, join in the leadership of IAM and hope to lead teams to the work in the Amazon providing indigenous communities with fresh water. But we also may be supporting work in Africa and Mexico as well. We intend to remain open to the leading of our Father.



Once we are on our feet in the US, any contributions we receive for missions will be used for MISSION work. We will continue to communicate about IAM and how you may participate. For now, please pray for a smooth transition. We have many loose ends that need to be addressed before we leave.

We praise God that our vehicle sold for more money than we needed to buy a car (in full) in the US. Finally, pray for our cat to be adopted.

See you soon!



August 2018

- 2** Women of Grace Bible Study 6:30-8:00 pm in the the church “office lobby” area.
- 4** Hamburger cookoff on the patio followed by church picnic. (Hot dogs provided.) 11 am,
- 3-5** Church Campout on the grounds with Life guard swimming, Fri. night through Sunday at 1:00 pm
- 5** Presiding Elder Eric Byrom preaches on Ps. 95 at 10 am.
Crossroads Church uses our facility for Baptisms.
- 6-10** 5-Day Club for children ages 5-12, 6-8:30 pm at GFC.
- 12** Presiding Elder Eric Byrom preaches on Ps. 96. 
- 16** Women of Grace Bible Study 6:30-8:00 pm in the church “office lobby” area.
- 19** Elder Robert Key preaches on Psalm 9.
- 26** Eric Byrom preaches on Psalm 10. 

Coming event: Our Community Celebration is Sept. 8 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm, You can register for this evening on Sunday August 12 for \$!2. Families: \$35. Children 10 and over are invited,

Wilma had a GREAT Time!



Wilma Phelps celebrating at a fabulous Birthday Bash on the church patio. Thanks to Nancy and Mike Solon for their help.

So did Jerry King--his 60th!



Jerry and Laura King gathered with their full quiver of grandchildren for Jerry's 60th birthday celebration

Japanese teachers go mountain climbing



American Senseis with their Japanese “tour guides” (at right) from left to right: Kaufman, Case, & Morrison



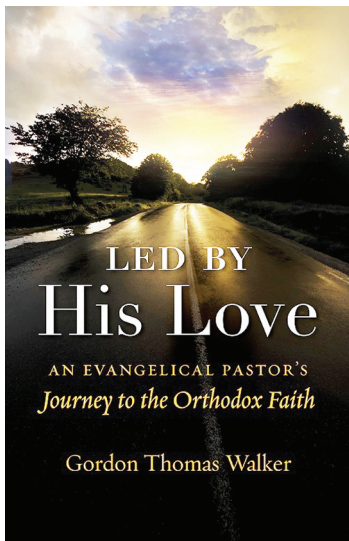
THE
PERSONAL
MEMOIR OF
GORDON WALKER
is PUBLISHED

DONNA KURTZ

“Led by His Love” tells the story of the man who started Grace Haven Farm and Grace Fellowship of Mansfield. Many of us who knew Fr. Gordon Walker and benefited from his care and teaching will want to read “the rest of the story” as told by his brother, Phillip Walker, and writer, Andrew Attaway. Much of the material came from tapes that Gordon left after his repose on July 23, 2015. He died of rapidly progressing prostate cancer eight months after its diagnosis.

His wife, Mary Sue, who suffered from Alzheimer’s disease, fell, broke her hip, and went to be with her Lord a week later. She is buried next to Gordon in the cemetery of St. Ignatius Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church, Franklin, TN “Partners in life and death.”

I especially appreciated the opportunity of learning more about Gordon’s journey after he left Grace Haven. The purpose of this book, according to its Introduction is “to explore 1) the life of Fr. Gordon Walker as he became the pastor, teacher, and leader who touched so many lives with his determined search for the New Testament Church. 2) The benefits of studying the earliest Christian Fathers’ lives and writings. 3) The extraordinary persistence required for these believers to find an entry into canonical Orthodoxy. 4) Father Gordon’s passionate commitment to Orthodox unity. 5) The blessings Fr. Gordon and others received from Orthodoxy and the benefits they brought to Orthodoxy.”



Fr. Gordon Walker in his Easter vestments in 2015



This picture of Ray Nethery and Gordon Walker is from 1971. “Led by His Love” is available online from store.ancientfaith.com and Amazon.com

Hearty congratulations to Grace Fellowship thespians in the cast of **“Newsies”**...

Kera Gardner, newsie
Justice Gardner, newsie
Bob Gardner, barber and other roles
Lexi Vega, nun and other roles
Pam Phillips, Mother Superior and other roles

Two more shows at the Renaissance: Sat. night (8/4) and Sunday afternoon (8/5). The story is developed from the newsboys strike of 1899. You will love the dancing! (A New York choreographer was brought in – 6 hr. rehearsals! One newsie is a champion Irish step dancer.) Wonderful show!

Grace Fellowship Church

365 Straub Rd East • Mansfield Oh 44903
419-526-4699 • gracefellowship01@gmail.com

Eric Byrom	Elder/Pastor
Jadaé Fox	Elder
Andy Heiningering	Elder
Robert Key	Elder
Jon Vega	Elder
Rick Widener	Elder
Rick Widener	Treasurer
Kay Berry & Karen Gates	Women
Andy Heiningering	Worship
Angel Vega	Dance
Judy Nichols	Prayer Chain
Kay Berry & Jadaé Fox	Office
Andy Anschutz	Sound/Power Point