



# Update from Tracy and Renee Haines

Assisting Grace Community Church in Chestertown, MD  
A Bible Fellowship Church Plant



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Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

My late Uncle Rob was a dairy farmer who put in long hours milking cows, planting and harvesting corn, barley and hay. This past summer Renee and I have spent long hours planting the seed of the Gospel. We haven't done a lot of harvesting yet but we see some of the crop ripening and with some more work and lots of prayer we pray for a harvest of souls brought into God's Kingdom. Here is an update on the sowing we've done recently.

## Tea Party

Back in May Grace Community Church had a booth at the Chestertown Tea Party. This the third Tea Party Renee and I participated in. We handed out hundreds of gospel tracts and had many gospel conversations.



## Basketball Tournament

In late July we hosted our 2nd annual Basketball tournament. This year we had seven teams, one more than last year. God blessed us with mild weather and an overcast day, which was merciful considering our basketball court is our church parking lot. About 60 people total either watched or participated in the tournament in some fashion. I shared a gospel message based on humanity being made in the image of God, which gives us value, identity and purpose. But because of sinful rebellion against God this image is broken and distorted. Through Christ we are reconciled to God and through the truth of his word we begin to see ourselves more accurately and through the Holy Spirit's power and work we are transformed more into the image of Christ.

## Small Group Ministry

Part of my responsibility as assistant church planter is overseeing Small Group ministry. We recently added four small groups giving us a total of five. One group meets at the church, two groups are going through a book on marriage from a Biblical perspective and I lead two different groups at my house. The groups I lead are going through a book called "Relationships: A Mess Worth Making." Through this study we see how God used the difficult parts of relationships to grow and refine us. We are learning that we are all broken people as a result of the fall of man away from God, but "God causes all things to work for good for those who love God, the called according to his purpose." This includes even the good, the bad and ugly of our relationships. My two groups have a good mix of people in their 20's to 60's and even though we have only met a few times, we already enjoy the fellowship and discussion.

## Preaching

At the beginning of the year James Reff and I began a preaching series in the book of Hebrews. I like to summarize the theme of that book by saying, "Jesus is better than everything, so don't stop believing in Him!" We may be tempted to give up following Jesus for various reasons: persecution, discouragement or our own sin but if we reflect on the supremacy of Jesus we will receive encouragement to keep from drifting away from God. Attached are several sermons from the book of Hebrews.

## Mercy Ministry and Shower Ministry

Recently the church helped a Single mother of five kids replace the tires on her car. Although not totally homeless this mother splits time between a sister and a grandmother and spends lots of time on the road because of her job and running kids to various events. This woman now feels safer on the road and plans to join us soon at church. We also helped another family with rent while staying temporarily at a motel. The father has since found employment. Back in March of this year a local pastor and a social worker approached our church about using the showers for some of the homeless and needy people of the area. Chestertown is low on resources to help people in need so we thought this would be an opportunity to minister to some of the physical needs of people and introduce the gospel. This pioneer ministry has been an eye opener for me. Seminary often does little to train pastors in this realm. But we have been able to minister to four different people and explain the gospel more clearly to them and help direct several more to the limited resources available.



**Who:** Anyone who needs access to a bathroom or hot shower

**What:** Grace Community church is offering free use of their bathroom including shower facilities

**Where:** **RIGHT HERE IN CHESTERTOWN!!!**  
400 Morgnec Road  
(behind Tractor Supply)

**When:** 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of every month  
3p-5p

Toiletries, towels, soap and shampoo provided



GRACE COMMUNITY  
A Bible Fellowship Church

410-778-0390 if you have questions,  
contact Pastor Trace

Thank you for your continued prayers. If the Lord leads you give to our ministry we would be very grateful. We are still in need of \$833 per month for financial support.

In Christ,  
Trace and Renee Haines

**Give at ChurchPlantingBFC.org/Donate or  
by check to Church Extension Ministries, PO Box 3534, Allentown PA 18106**