



# Ministry Matters

## Saving Grace Bible Church

ISSUE #4: SEPTEMBER 2022

ELDER QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

### Launching SGBC Home Groups

As you know and have been hearing in both pulpit and fellowship group announcements for months now, SGBC Home Groups were launched this summer. For many of us, the concept of home-based Bible study and fellowship groups is a familiar one, but even so it's helpful to take a moment and explain the ministry philosophy that forms the foundation for all that we do.

Saving Grace Bible Church is a teaching ministry because we recognize our responsibility in Ephesians chapter 4 to equip believers for service and to grow and mature them in the faith. But that critical work doesn't happen only on Sunday mornings. Home groups provide a smaller and more intimate setting where believers can interact and encourage one another in the truth, bear one another's burdens, lift one another up in prayer, and deepen relationships through genuine biblical fellowship.

Home groups also give us unique opportunities to raise up new teachers, as men who desire to teach learn how to handle the truth, lead others, and minister on a personal level. In preparation for this, our pastoral team has taken men from both the GraceLife and Sojourners fellowship groups and have been instructing them in the fundamentals of expository preaching and biblical leadership.

Home groups that launched out of the Grace Life fellowship group are studying, "The Christian Home" by Paul Shirley, and are led by Bobby Doyle, Michael Ernsting, Ben Steiner, and Nick Camacho. The two groups launched out of the Sojourners fellowship group are studying, "The Holiness of God" by RC Sproul and are led by Doug Emmett, Carl Pignotti and Joe Gearo.

The best way to join a home group is to attend either the Sojourner's Fellowship Group at 9 am on Sunday mornings or the Grace Life Fellowship Group at 10:45 am on Sunday mornings and speak with either of the pastors over those groups.

### Missions Committee Update



SGBC's missions committee meets regularly to discuss possible projects to support and to review updates from our current SGBC-supported missionaries. If you would like to know more about the missionaries we support, please see Joe Gearo or see our church website.

### Pastor Marc's Update: Ministry in Argentina and Work on His Book on Forgiveness

Pastor Marc may have taken a break of several weeks from the pulpit this summer, but he kept up as busy a schedule as ever. As he usually does in June, Marc flew to Argentina to minister at the Pastor Training Center near Buenos Aires, Argentina. However, a new project awaited him at his return, and that was spending concentrated time working on a book that tackles the critical topic of forgiveness. This important book examines the commonly held notion of "conditional forgiveness" with biblical clarity, and helps us form a biblical framework for reconciliation as part of the process of mending relationships harmed by sin. His completed manuscript is now in the hands of editors. More details to follow in the months ahead.



The Bulwark Team is led by Russ McManamy, a lieutenant in the Sarasota County Sheriff's Department. Russ has been a faithful member and servant of SGBC for many years, teaching in children's ministry and helping in other ways around the church. He was tasked by the elders a few years ago to lead a "reboot" of our Bulwark Team, with the intent of giving direction to issues of campus safety. The Bulwark Team is currently staffed by 14 ministry servants, and you can regularly see them in the sanctuary and in the hallway on Sunday mornings and weekday evening for studies and events.

The Facilities Team (pictured above) is led by Damon Zuchelli, one of our deacons here at SGBC. As a deacon, Damon has served faithfully and well in multiple areas, but graciously stepped forward when the call was put out to find someone to lead the effort to care for the physical plant issues on campus. This small but hardy team of men handle everything from painting and minor repairs, to changing AC filters and figuring out how to affix acrylic signs on pulpits (long story... it's for the Ekklesia conference!)

To all those who serve on the Bulwark and Facilities Teams, and indeed to all of you who serve the body of Saving Grace Bible Church, we thank you for the tireless and important work that you do. We know that you serve without desire for recognition or applause, but please know that you always have our love and appreciation.

### New Elder Candidates

One of the joys of a growing ministry is seeing God raise up additional men to lead the church. Carl Pignotti and Doug Emmett have served the church faithfully over the years in many ways and were recently nominated for consideration to join the elder board.

Since that time, both Doug and Carl have been meeting with the elders to work through their understanding of biblical doctrine and assess their call to eldership. Both men will be presented to the congregation this month as elders of Saving Grace Bible Church.

### Spotlight on Serving: The SGBC Facilities and Bulwark Teams

One of the great privileges of body life is serving the saints, and as a new and recurring feature in the Ministry Matters Newsletter, we'd like to draw your attention to some of the groups and serving opportunities that may not be as well-known to some of you as others are.

## ABIDE Youth Camp and Jr. High Retreat



The annual ABIDE youth camp was held the week of July 10th this year, and SGBC sent Pastor Nick Foerster and 26 students along with a small cadre of youth leaders to help with small group discussion and other ministry duties. Pastor Jon Anderson (formerly a staff pastor at Grace Immanuel Bible Church and a professor at the Jupiter campus of The Expositor's Seminary) was the key speaker, and this year's theme was "Heaven and Hell". As always, the camp was a time of focused expository teaching with the goal of helping teens think carefully about the truth and encouraging them to evaluate their spiritual condition and claims to faith according to Scripture.

Also, for the second year in a row, Pastor Nick also took SGBC middle school age students on a 2-day retreat on July 25th and 26th. The theme this year was "Foundations for Life" and was attended by 15 students and 4 youth leaders. Like ABIDE though on a far smaller scale, the junior high retreat focuses on intensive teaching and personal discussion and discipleship to help young students think critically about the faith, the truth, and the ideas and philosophies of the world around them.

## Coming Up In October: The SGBC Ekklesia Conference

Our first annual Ekklesia Conference will be held Friday October 14th through Sunday morning October 16th. Our topic this year is "Suffering", and we will hear not only from pastors Marc Wragg, Eric Borgstrom, and Nick Foerster, but also from Pastor Matias Buldain from the Pastor Training Center near Buenos Aires, and from our special guest speaker, Dr. Lance Quinn of the Expositor's Seminary in Jupiter. Pastor Rusty Duckworth and Dr. Dan Kreider from GIBC will be handling the music for this year's conference.

Response to this first annual conference has been overwhelming with available seats filling up fast, and nearly a third of our attendees coming from out of town. If you plan on attending the Ekklesia Conference, please don't delay!

Conference admission is \$65/person, with on-campus lunch provided on Saturday afternoon. You can register on the church app under the "sign up here" tab, or on the Ekklesia Conference website: [www.ekkleciaconference.org](http://www.ekkleciaconference.org).

## Keystone Property

As most of you know, Moretti Ministries (MMI) purchased 10.4 acres of land on East Venice Avenue between Jacaranda Blvd and River Road at the end of February this year. Due to our relationship with MMI, they agreed to hold the land for us until such time as SGBC was able to purchase.

Good news- SGBC was able to purchase the land from MMI, and we closed on August 26th. Part of the purchase is a 2400 square foot home in the southeast corner of the property, and that is currently being remodeled as office space for our staff, meeting space, and classroom space for our seminary students. Details will be presented to the congregation at a Sunday evening business meeting later this month.

## Building Renovations

In our last newsletter, we said that three factors were driving our need for a remodel of our children's wing: 1) We are a steadily growing body of over 400 people, 2) 40% of those persons are under 18, and 3) We need to make our current building suitable for our anticipated ministry needs over the next several years.

Though the 10 acres on East Venice Avenue will provide ample space for our future ministry, we still face the challenge of making our current building suitable for our present needs, and for our anticipated needs over the next several years.

Space is the greatest limiting factor, and those limitations are most keenly felt in our children's and student ministries. To make room for an ever-expanding population of children and youths, pastors Marc and Eric have given up their church offices so these can be used for Sunday school classrooms. Some interior remodeling will be necessary to make these office spaces suitable for their new uses. These renovations began on August 22nd, and should be mostly completed in time for the Ekklesia Conference in October.

## Ministry Updates

Parents, please take note: when planned building renovations are completed, our ages 3-5 children's Sunday school class will be transitioned to ages 4-5 only, and nursery will then be ages 0-3.

Do you desire to serve the body but aren't quite sure where to plug in? Email the church office at [info@sgbc.me](mailto:info@sgbc.me), or fill out this online serving form. We have multiple areas of service where you can use your gifts!

As always, if you have any questions or would like to communicate your thoughts to church leadership, please contact any of our staff pastors and elders, call the church office at 474-1905, or email Colin Jordan at [colin@savinggracebiblechurch.org](mailto:colin@savinggracebiblechurch.org)



Keep in touch: If you're a member or regular attendee and haven't yet downloaded SGBC's phone app, you can download it for free at either the Apple Store or Google Play. It's a great way to keep in touch with prayer requests, body life, and access great teaching! Just use the QR codes below to fill out the form to be added to the private messaging groups on the phone app.

## Current Picture of Keystone Property Progress

