

PRAYmissions

Wayne and Ellen Patton in Brazil

Fleeing Brazil: The story of us packing and departing our home is like something out of a disaster movie. Thursday March 12, the USA started to close its borders. Then the Holy Spirit prompted us to book the last direct flight out of Belem to the USA leaving on Wednesday. The rush to pack suitcases came next. Friday, Wayne traveled to purchase tickets from a travel agent with what cash he could get that day, with final arrangements to be completed Monday. By Monday, our flight had been cancelled and rerouted to the big city of Sao Paulo. That same Monday the airline announced that it was closing down operations and canceling international flights. Our travel agent confirmed that our flight was still operating, but in a week flights would be suspended. While all this was going on, countries all through Latin America were closing their borders, with no warning. The news from the USA was just as crazy. We made the flight from Sao Paulo to Fort Lauderdale that took off 11pm Wednesday. On Thursday, Brazil closed its land and sea borders, and our state ordered all businesses closed with shelter in place order. We got out just in time. Then the USA issued a *Do Not Travel Order* to any foreign country. So here we stay.

Now Locked Down: Arriving in Dayton, Ohio, on Sunday, we found that there was a stay at home order. Only we do not have a home, but by the grace of God, friends have opened their home to us as a temporary place to stay with a comfortable foldout couch to sleep. We are not sure what is next, so please pray for us as we are living out of our suitcases with no place to call home. The coronavirus crisis has left us in an awkward position. We are still working for the Mission and need your donations desperately! As you know, the US government is giving bailout packages, but we are overseas workers, so we will not qualify for assistance. Our ministry is not over as questions from Brazilian leaders still pour in over our cell phones as to what is next. We plan to be with the Mission at least to the end of the year. So please keep the financial support coming in as we are locked down in Ohio.

What We Left Behind: As in numerous states in the USA, people are mandated to stay at home. The same is true in Brazil, but this has not stopped our small church from meeting in their homes. They are gathering as families study the Word of God. Numerous families have sent photos and videos of the families singing together, studying their Bibles, and praying together. Please keep them in prayer as they weather this time of isolation restricted to their homes. As for our house, a family from the church is now living in our home, keeping it safe from thieves and feeding our dogs that will keep them safe. Please **pray**. **Pray** for us as we are living out of suitcases and sleeping on a fold out couch. We are seeking God's counsel as to what to do next.

See the Welcome Center bulletin board for the full missionary prayer letters.



Today's Message: *Mission Accomplished*

Today's Text: *Thess. 5:23-28*

Today's Speaker: *Pastor Bob Foote*

Great to have you at Grace!

And can't wait till we're all back at Grace again!

I & II Thessalonians

~ Exalting God, Encouraging People ~

5001 Fishburg Road
Huber Heights, Ohio 45424

www.hgccc.org

937.233.4324
gracechurch@hgccc.org

Week of April 19

Sunday

Check emails, Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/228200600551840/>), and www.hhgcc.org for online studies and more information.

Need more content—kids or adults? E-mail: pastor@hhgcc.org to join rightnowmedia.org as an HHGCC user. You'll be amazed at resources available via your internet connection. No charge to you to use.

Keep praying as God has his hands on all of us. Let us know how we can help you help your neighbors.

Stewardship Report

Weekly Goals

Local Budget: \$6,090
Missions: \$894

Received April 12

Local Budget: \$4,880
Missions: \$615
Love in a Bag: \$50
BURO: \$10



Hot Investment Tip for You: Invest in the Great Commission. To give to our missionary teammates through GCC, mark your offering “Missions” (check memo or donor envelope). Dollars given without designation are used for our local outreach and operating budget.

Want to receive GCC's email prayer updates and ask for prayer? Then visit GCC's website, hhgcc.org (see QR code at the right). Use the contact us link at the bottom of the main page under “Our Church.” Consider joining the “announcements” group at the same time to have access to GCC's inclement weather cancellation information. You may also check out our Facebook page.

Annual Day of Prayer is May 7, 2020 We are encouraged to give thanks and to turn to God in prayer and peaceful meditation.

Volunteers: From time to time, the church has minor fix-it projects requiring skills in carpentry, electricity, plumbing, equipment repair, and landscaping. If you possess any of these skills and would like to volunteer your time and talent, please call John Miller 937-667-3642. If we don't have volunteers, we will have to hire outside personnel. Thanks!

Online giving fees: Some have asked about fees for the our online giving. If you want to underwrite the cost of online giving Debit/Credit card is 2.9% plus \$0.30 per transaction and the ACH/Checking is 1.0% plus \$0.25 transaction fee. Thanks for asking, and for your willingness to give.



Church workday has been postponed. Watch here for updates. You can sign up by emailing gracechurch61@gmail.com once we reschedule. Thank you for your willingness to keep our church beautiful.

Next Week:

Text: 1 Thess. 1:3-12



RightNow Media describes itself as “the Netflix for Christians” complete with Bible Study materials and Christian entertainment for adults and children. GCCers can join for free! Send an email to pastor@hhgcc.org to receive and invite to RightNow Media and receive “the keys” to access the site. Apps are available for many devices.

Amazon's charitable giving program, “Amazon Smile,” lets you make your same Amazon selections with one slight change. When you shop through Amazon Smile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Grace Community Church of Huber Heights. How do you get started? Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-0735648> and support us every time you shop.

Prayers: We extend our sympathies and prayers for the family of John Greschl father to Jerry (Dianne) Greschl and Kay (Pete) Smith. Services were held with immediate family last Friday in Dayton.

Update from Karen Foster: Easter greetings from Camp Bethany! Travels went smoothly. I'm now hanging out for 2 weeks of recommended self-quarantine in the Loudonville, Ohio area with my coworkers the 5 Carmeans, Olivia the Carmeans' short-termer who was in Cameroon and Christy Carmean's dad who picked us up at the airport in Washington, DC. It's peaceful and pretty. The lodge is available for rental groups throughout the year except for summer kids' camp season, FYI. We're blessed to have gotten wifi internet access this week and I was able to get a new phone number (Contact church if you want to contact me). A joyful celebration of Jesus' resurrection to you all. God's helping us focus on Him and not just on our fun among ourselves this year, right? Easy for me to say; I'm in a group of eight.

About Us

Purpose

Grace Community Church exists for God—for His praise and purpose and to display His character and compassion.

We are to worship Him, grow to be like Him, and encourage others to believe in and follow Him

(See: Eph. 3:20; John 15:8, 16; Col. 3:17; Matt. 28:18-20)

Pattern

- Cultivating people with a growing love for God and His truth.
- Rejoicing in our worship.
- Strengthening our families.
- Encouraging each other with words, prayer, and actions.
- Actively reaching our world near and far.



QR: Hhgcc.org

College of Elders

Bob Dawson
Bob Foote
John Miller
Mark Mohler
Steve Oder
Jerry Root
Ron Sheranko
Barry Wideman

Staff

Senior Pastor: Bob Foote
Children's Ministry: Terri Campbell
Communications: Tiffany Richter
Facilities Care: Lela Sims
Facilities Maintenance: Mike Sims Sr.