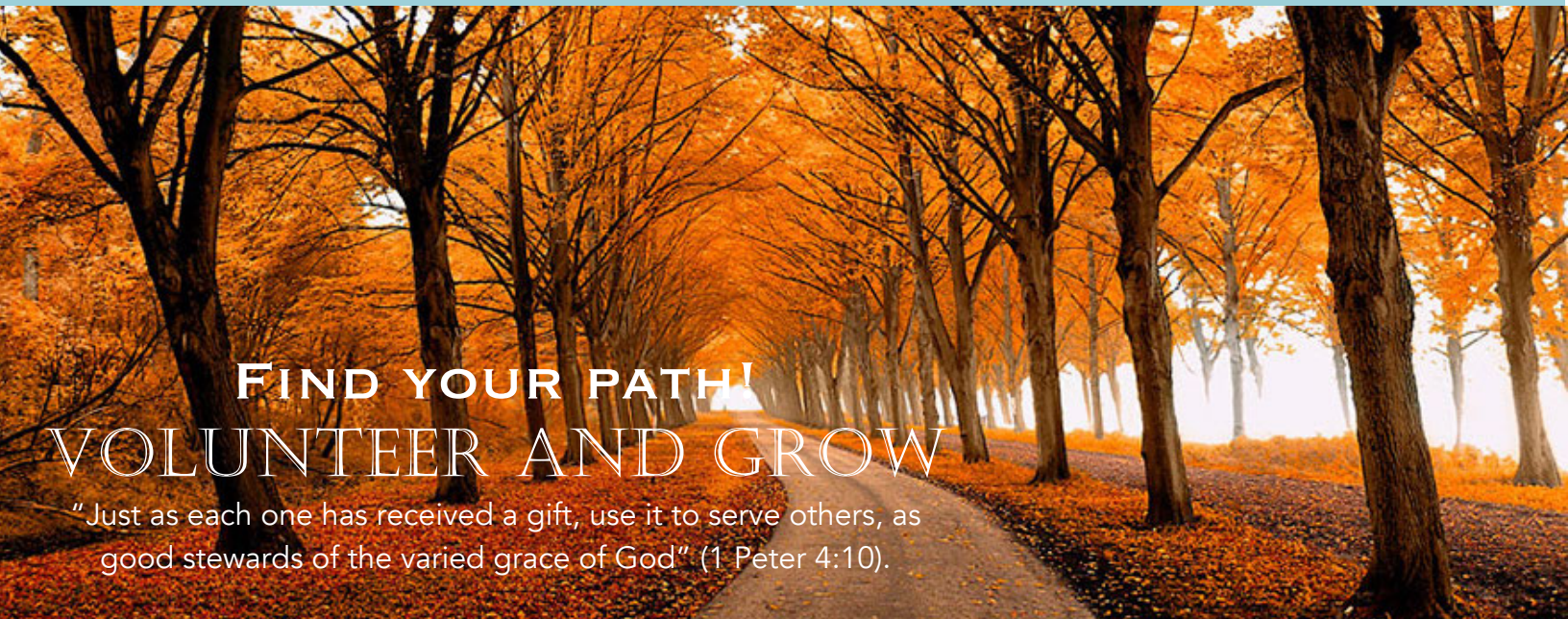




# FAITH



## FIND YOUR PATH! VOLUNTEER AND GROW

"Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God" (1 Peter 4:10).

### The Growing Body

Spiritual Growth is like a community project with the essential elements only found within the environment of Christ's Church. Paul condemns the Colossians who delight in ascetic practices, such as severe self-discipline and abstinence on religious bases. He explains the problem with behaving ascetically: "He doesn't hold on to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with growth from God" (Colossians 2:19).

Paul connects the head of the church, Jesus, to the body of Christ, which together nourishes members, promoting growth. God causes spiritual development through ligaments and tendons which are nourishment channels. Paul expounds in Ephesians: "From Him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building up itself in love by the proper working of each individual part" (Ephesians 4:16).

Our bodies are dependent on the proper functioning of individual parts. Jesus builds *His* whole Church (Matthew 16:18) by fitting together distinct parts, according to His will. The Spirit instills each member with unique gifts (1 Corinthians 12:11), while pastors, teachers, and evangelists equip saints with "the prophetic Word made more sure" for the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:12, 2 Peter 1:19).

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Within a modern American context, it is needful to be reminded that we cannot function in isolation. Like a human body, individual members of Christ's body are interconnected. American individualism struggles against Christianity's collectivistic spirit. Americans "find themselves" by themselves; they do not want to be beholden to anyone.

However, Christians owe a debt of love (Romans 13:8) and have an obligation to "bear one another's burdens, [to] fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). In His farewell discourse, Christ commanded His Disciples to fulfill this law: "I give you a new command: "Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another" (John 13:34).

It is this love that flows between the members of the body of Christ. Shortsighted and secluded, we disrupt this flow, believing we can survive by ourselves. But we are commanded to love and be loved, which involves regularly gathering, interacting, and serving one another. Paul explains in Ephesians 4:15, "but speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head—Christ."

The love of Christ is demonstrated and received while exercising our spirit-empowered gifts. These spiritual endowments facilitate our love and service to the body and mold us into the image of Christ, the Head. No matter the gift (Matthew 25) the Spirit grants each member (1 Corinthians 12:11), each one is designed to benefit Christ's body and to engender growth before He returns.

A passion for expanding God's kingdom is an identifying characteristic of true believers. In acts of love and words, we exercise our gifts to others. With purpose, we assemble to "watch out for one another to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

A consequence of 2020's pandemic resulted in many Americans waking up to the Church's indispensability. It is in our assembling that we are equipped for ministry (Ephesians 4:12) and where we communicate truth in love to one another (Ephesians 4:15).

"Not neglecting to meet together" is step one. Unified, the body develops; each member utilizing individual God-given gifts contributes to the whole. The church in Thessalonica exemplified oneness. Praising the Thessalonians, Paul states: "We ought to thank God always for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, since your faith is flourishing and the love each one of you has for one another is increasing" (2 Thessalonians 1:3). Modeling, he urges them to continue steadfastly: "May the Lord cause you to increase and overflow with love for one another and for everyone, just as we do for you" (1 Thessalonians 3:12).

While we exercise our faith and love to other members, Christ's body flourishes. Therefore, speak and act as those who will be judged by the law of liberty (James 2:12).

Join me at the BBQ & Ministry Fair  
this Sunday, August 28  
@ 5 p.m.



"Within a modern American context, it is needful to be reminded that we cannot function in isolation. Like a human body, individual members of Christ's body are interconnected. American individualism struggles against Christianity's collectivistic spirit. Americans "find themselves" by themselves; they do not want to be beholden to anyone."  
—Pastor Caleb

*"Pay careful attention, then, to how you live—not as unwise people but as wise—making the most of the time because the days are evil. So don't be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is...be filled by the Spirit: speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music with your heart to the Lord...submitting to one another in fear of Christ" (Ephesians 5:15-21).*



# CIARAN AND LILIAN HOLDEN



Mercy Ship's mission statement is: To follow the 2000-year-old model of Jesus by bringing hope and healing to the world's forgotten. In regions where resources are scarce, a state-of-the-art floating hospital ship delivers medical aid and the Gospel to the people surrounding the coast wherever the ship docks.

Ciaran and Lilian Holden have worked with Mercy Ships full-time since 2000. Ciaran serves as the director of marine operations. He oversees the technical operations of the Africa Mercy and the Global Mercy, the two hospital ships owned by Mercy Ships. These operations include maintenance of the ship's equipment, systems, hull, and

technical staffing; safety management; and certification to ensure compliance with all national and international regulations for shipping. Lilian is in home-support ministry. She enjoys her role as a homeschooling mom and serving "hugs on a plate" to visitors from all around.

Crew members on the ship volunteer their time and talents and pay their expenses. Their programs include training local professionals, providing new medical tools and resources, renovating facilities, and more.

[ciaran.holden@mercyships.org](mailto:ciaran.holden@mercyships.org)

"Teaching the next generation about the Lord is one of the most important ministries at Faith Community Church. Our goal in Children's Ministry is to assist parents in training their children in God's ways so they can learn to love and serve Him."

—Clint McClure  
Children's Ministry

"The purpose of the Women's Ministry at Faith Community Church is to give glory to God by **evangelizing** women to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, **educating** them with the Word of God, **equipping** them to reach and teach others, and **encouraging** them to be godly women."

—Bev Gonda  
Women's Ministry

"Our worship team ministry at Faith exists to reflect God's glory while serving our congregation in corporate worship each week. We have a diverse group of people who use their gifts and hearts to serve the Lord through music and fellowship. When choosing the music we sing, we consider if the lyrics are biblical and focused on the Lord, then we offer our heart expression to God."

—Les Counts  
Music Ministry



Using spiritual gifts to serve the body of Christ.



# Waste a Year?

by Brad Norman

I was blessed to grow up in a Christian home in Minnesota. My parents became saved as young adults and were on fire for the Lord when I was born. I remember regularly attending worship services, prayer meetings, and Bible studies with them from a young age. One day when I was about six years old, I was sitting in my bedroom and playing on the floor. I suddenly began thinking about what would happen to me when I died. I recalled my parents telling me I had already trusted Jesus to save me. But I couldn't remember doing that and wasn't sure if I was saved.

I stopped what I was doing and prayed to the Lord in my heart. I admitted to him that I was a sinner and asked him to forgive me. I told him that I believed Jesus had died on the cross to pay the penalty for my sins. I repented and put my faith in Jesus alone to save me from eternal punishment in hell. When I finished praying, my doubts immediately faded, and I felt a sense of relief. I knew I was saved and would spend eternity with the Lord in heaven.

Since that time, God has given

me a passion for his Word that is constantly growing. I loved learning Bible stories in Sunday school and memorizing Scripture in Awana. My parents homeschooled me through high school and taught me using a Bible-based curriculum. They generously provided the funds for me to attend a conservative Christian college and study electrical engineering. I enjoyed taking various Bible classes as part of my college curriculum.

In one of my Bible classes, the professor challenged the students to consider getting a one-year Bible certificate after graduation. He said the worst thing that could happen to us is that we would waste a year of our lives getting to know God better. That statement ignited a strong desire in my heart to attend seminary.

After graduation, I moved to southern California to attend The Master's Seminary. A few years later, in 2005, I joined the staff at Faith. By God's grace, I have completed two seminary degrees since then. It's a joy to serve the Lord at Faith and help others develop a passion for God's Word.



Brad Norman  
Christian Education and  
Assimilation

## Don't miss out!

Here's the fall lineup of classes where you can develop a passion for God's Word. They are listed by title, teacher, and time.

### Fundamentals of the Faith

Steve Smith  
Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

### Evangelism

Pastor Josh Kornoff  
Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

### Church History

O.J. Gibson  
Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

### The Book of Revelation

Pat Killian  
Sunday, 11 a.m.

### New Testament Greek

Brad Norman  
Monday, 6 p.m.

### Bible Survey

Brad Norman  
Wednesday, 6 p.m.

### Systematic Theology

Brad Norman  
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

## MOURNING TO JOY

Have you or someone you know recently lost a loved one? Are you struggling each day with depression, loneliness, and questions? Are you trying to move on but are stuck?

GriefShare is a new 13-week class filled with Bible studies, insights, articles, journaling, and most importantly, the blessings of

meeting with others going through similar circumstances.

David Eberhard will lead this life-strengthening time.



[faithtoyou.com/info](http://faithtoyou.com/info)

# The Spiritual Gift of Giving

Jesus talks about money more than faith and prayer combined. He uses money as a tool to reveal our true hearts' priorities. He tells all believers to share their time and money with the church and others. Paul teaches us that some believers receive the spiritual gift of giving. These believers recognize God's blessings and respond to those blessings generously, sacrificially, and cheerfully from their resources without thought of return. Let the verses below challenge us as we examine our hearts on how to serve the Lord.

*"Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work. As it is written: He distributed freely; he gave to the poor; his righteousness endures forever" (2 Corinthians 9:7-8).*

*"Now as you excel in everything—in faith, speech, knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love for us—excel also in this act of grace" (2 Corinthians 8:7).*

BBQ & MINISTRY FAIR  
August 28, 5 p.m.  
@ Faith

- Spend time with children.
- Meet and greet people.
- Create videos.
- Decorate and arrange.
- Sing a song.
- Ache for the lost.
- Host a party.
- Teach the Bible.
- Enjoy crafts.
- Drink coffee.
- Set up chairs.
- Give monetary gifts.
- Keep others on track.
- Write note cards.
- Drive a car.
- Pray.

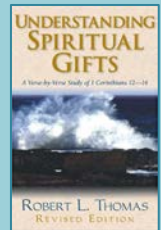
This list goes on and on and on.  
Where can you serve the Lord in the body of Christ?

BBQ & Ministry Fair  
August 28, 5 p.m.  
Don't miss out!

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS?



Don Stephens, a Colorado farm boy, is an unlikely hero. And turning a decrepit ocean liner into a floating hospital seems improbable at best. Yes, that is precisely what happened 25 years ago. Because of the efforts of Stephens, his fleet of ships, and his "navy" of volunteers, thousands worldwide have experienced healing of body and spirit. Mercy ships embody the great commission and demonstrate what God can do with a few willing hands and determined spirits.



Robert L. Thomas looks at our God-given spiritual gifts and helps us understand them in light of God's Word. He deals with the issues concerning the source, purpose, and nature of the spiritual gifts that will give the reader new insight into how their gifts can be used for God's glory and service.



Studying, meditating, learning, & growing in the God's Word.



## WHERE DO I FIT?

These verses at the right helped early church Christians know how to live so that their lives (both individually and collectively) would glorify God. It also offers three insights for us today.

### (1) God gives believers spiritual gifts.

Peter uses the Greek word “**χάρισμα**” for gift. Peter believes our spiritual gifts are reflections of God’s “**grace**” (**χάρις**). Matthew Henry notes in his commentary on this verse, “whatever ability we have of doing good, we must own it to be the gift of God and ascribe it to His grace.”

What matters is not what gift each person has received, but that followers of Christ have each received a gift that reflects God’s grace. Thus, we all participate in the Kingdom because we all have a unique role; all are equally important.

### (2) We use our gifts to serve others.

Peter tells us that we are to use our gifts to serve others. The twelve disciples were exhorted to do the same in Luke 22:24–27. We must follow Christ’s example and be “servants to all” (Mark 9:35).

To function as the healthy Body of

Christ,” we need to know the gifts, know our gifts, and use our gifts.

### (3) Our faithfulness reveals God’s grace.

When we serve others wherever we are, God’s grace is illustrated to those around us in many ways. When we don’t use our gifts, we miss out on the privilege of participating in God’s work.

Paul exhorts Timothy to “fan to flame” the gift he had received (2 Timothy 1:3–6). We, too, must fan to flame our gifts by learning, growing, and serving in His Kingdom. We will be found faithful like Timothy, his grandmother, Lois, and his mother, Eunice.

God has given us each spiritual gifts to be used to serve others. By doing so, God’s grace is made known to the world through us.

So, where do you fit in? How are you using your spiritual gifts? Do you know what your gifts are? Check William McRae’s book Dynamics of Spiritual Gifts. If you have more questions, talk with Brad Norman, Director of Education and Assimilation at Faith Community.

## Spiritual Gifts

*“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms” (1 Peter 4:10).*

*“For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he should think. Instead, think sensibly, as God has distributed a measure of faith to each one. Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another. According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts: if prophecy, use it according to the proportion of one’s faith; if service, use it in service; if teaching, in teaching; if exhorting, in exhortation; giving, with generosity; leading, with diligence; showing mercy, with cheerfulness” (Romans 12:3–8).*

*“Equipping the saints for the work of the ministry, to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God’s Son . . .” (Ephesians 4:12-13).*



Family, friends, teams, playing, laughing, & singing.



# So Many Ministries and Areas to Grow

God longs for us to grow close to Him. We can do this in many ways, but two stand out: study His Word and be a servant to all.

You are invited to assess your spiritual gifts, talents, and learning styles to consider what opportunities you are ready to serve the Lord.

If you have an idea for a new ministry, contact Pastor Caleb to discuss it.

Talk with Brad Norman if you are interested in teaching a class or Bible study.

Want to participate in an upcoming class? Listen for announcements or check out [faithtoyou.com/info](http://faithtoyou.com/info).

Awana is always looking for loving men and women to listen to the children's verses.

Special days like Christmas and Easter need lots of hands.

The homeless at Grace Resources receive a meal from Faith members on the third Friday of the month.

## “Serve the Lord with gladness”

— Psalms 100:2



## BIBLE STUDY BASICS

### Who

are the main characters? Who wrote the passage? Who is talking? To whom?

### What

is happening? What are the major ideas or teachings?

### When

did the event take place? When did it happen? When was it said?

### Where

does the passage take place? Where will the event happen?

### Why

was this passage written? For what purpose?

### How

is the truth revealed? How was the action accomplished?





*"Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his face always" ( 1 Chronicles 16:11).*

**Pray as the Spirit leads:**

- \*Grace Bohannon's mom and family with the death of Grace's dad.
- \*Walt Rankin's mother, Eleanor, is recovering from a stroke.
- \*Gino, a relative by marriage of Nikki Pencille, has stage 4 stomach cancer with less than six months to live. Pray for salvation for him and others in the family.
- \*Dora Railsback's nephew Scott (51) had a major stroke and is paralyzed on his left side.
- \*Jeannette Isles's husband died.
- \*Norma Lopez's daughter-in-law Yolanda has ovarian cancer.
- \*Dennis and Angelica want to continue caring for his mother, Ofelia, and face challenges.
- \*John Beery is recovering from a shoulder replacement.
- \*Jim and Mary Thurber's oldest son is recovering from a heart attack.
- \*A friend of Sara Butler, Christopher Sanchez, is recovering from neck surgery.
- \*Melissa Oliver asks for prayer for her unsaved family members.
- \*Robert has Stage 4 lung cancer.
- \*Baby Jordan Ludwig has ongoing health challenges.
- \*Baby Emmerit Porter needs healing.
- \*Rosie Taylor's friend Marleen has blood cancer and begins chemo in October.
- \*Caesar Coons has liver cancer.
- \*Ken Hill asks for prayer for his dad's salvation.
- \*Sara Butler continues with radiation and gives praise that her tumor has shrunk.

- \*Natalie Kidman's husband David has a brain injury from a bike accident and needs salvation.
- \*Sharon Dison is recovering from recent brain surgery.
- \*Linda Schuman's overall health and her future heart surgery.
- \*Collette Espino is having an arduous recovery from covid.
- \*Kyle Smith has medical needs.
- \*Aron Carle's friend Cecilia is in a coma. Aron has back problems.
- \*Caesar Coons Sr. has liver cancer.
- \*Lynn Grandinetti is bedridden with lung and heart issues.
- \*Mike and Carol Macy's son Caleb will need extensive surgeries because of an injury to his eye and head.
- \*Mennie Martin's husband Hobart suddenly passed away.
- \*Lani Carle has stage 4 cancer and needs salvation.
- \*Carolina Hernandez's grandma, Juana, has increased pain and preparing to go to heaven.
- \*Sue Cull's mother is declining rapidly.
- \*Pray for encouragement and blessings for the pastoral, ministry, office staff, elders, deacons, and members and friends of Faith.
- \*There are many ministries at Faith. They each need prayer to reach people for Christ.
- \*Praise God for many answered prayers.

If you would like your prayer needs to go out to church members immediately, contact Laura Cox: [prayer@faithtoyou.com](mailto:prayer@faithtoyou.com)

**UPCOMING\***

Sunday, Aug. 28  
BBQ & Ministry Fair  
5 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 31  
Adult & Youth Choir  
Begins

Monday, Sept. 5  
GriefShare begins  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 12  
Faith Bible Institute Begins  
6 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 16  
Trail Life Info Meeting  
6:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 16  
Grace Resources  
4-7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 17  
McKeever Mormon  
Seminar  
9 a.m.-Noon

Saturday, Sept. 23  
AV Fair Outreach

Oct. 7-9  
Women's Retreat  
Money due Sept. 1

Friday, Oct. 14  
Anthem Growth Year  
Fundraising dinner  
5 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 21  
Grace Resources  
4-7 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 27  
Awana Fall Festival  
6 p.m.

\*[Faithtoyou.com/info](mailto:Faithtoyou.com/info)  
661-267-2200

The Christian Standard Bible is used  
unless otherwise indicated.



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