

March 2023

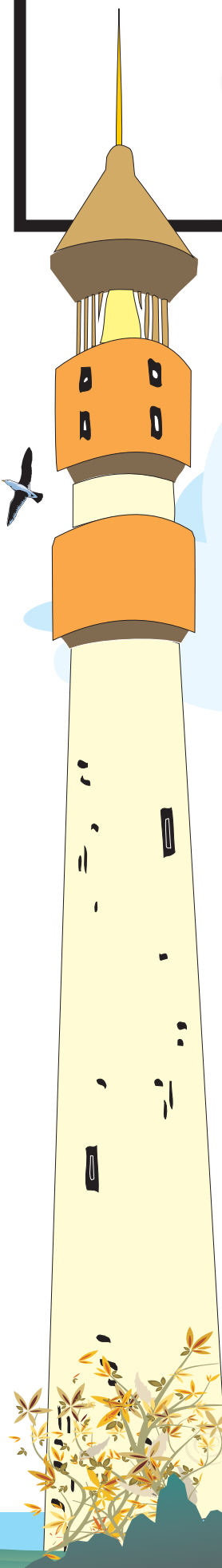
# The Lighthouse

## We Need More Light

Rev. Shannon K. Philio, Assistant Pastor

Walk in the light as God is in the light (1John 1:7). On Sunday, March 12th, Mississippi will once again “spring forward” one hour at 2 a.m. Be careful. If you forget, you will miss either Sunday School or worship. Mark your calendars now. This forwarding of clocks one hour will allow more light in the evening. We Americans crave more light. We demand more light. But does this longing for more light apply to our spiritual lives? Jesus says in John 8:12, “I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but have the light of eternal life.” Psalm 27:1 says, “The Lord is my light and my salvation.” Do you crave for more of this Light? Do you demand more of this Light? To receive more light on March 12th, we will move our clocks forward one hour. What are you willing to move in or out of your life to receive more of the Light of the world, more of Christ? Do you even recognize a need for more Light in your life?

I love Eliza Hewitt’s hymn “More About Jesus.” “More about Jesus would I know. More of His grace to others show. More of His saving fullness see. More of His love Who died for me. More about Jesus let me learn. More of His holy will discern. Spirit of God, my teacher be. Showing the things of Christ to me. More, more about Jesus. More, more about Jesus. More of His saving fullness see. More of His love Who died for me.” Eliza Hewitt had an unquenchable and insatiable thirst and desire for more Light in her life. As a moth drawn to a flame, so too all of us should be drawn daily to the Light. Just as a plant



must have light in order to live, so too all of us need the Light in order to live spiritually. I was a Maternity Ward chaplain years ago while in the military. I noticed that newborns with jaundice were placed under a special blue light that would break down the bilirubin which causes the eyes and skin to turn yellow. As Christians, we all need Light therapy to help us to break down and put to death sin in our lives and also to help us to think, speak, and act as becomes God's children. We all must have more Light in our lives.

I am reminded of that great quote from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. which says, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness. Only light can do that." The apostle John reminds us in 1 John 1:5 that God is light. In our battle against Satan, the world, and the flesh, I hope you recognize the great necessity of receiving more Light in your life to dispel the darkness, and I pray you are doing everything you can to receive more of Jesus. In Philippians 3:8, the apostle Paul wrote that he considered everything a loss that he might know Christ more, that he might receive more Light. Everything a loss. Do you consider everything a loss that you might receive more of the Light of the world?

So, I am going to ask you again to put on your thinking caps and answer the question, "What do you need to move, like moving the clocks forward one hour, in or out of your life to receive more Light? The Lord tells us in Ephesians 4:22-24 to "put off the old self, which belongs to our former manner of life when we were unbelievers and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of our minds, putting on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." In this day and age of cultural depravity and worldly darkness, I hope you acknowledge that we all need more Light, not just in the macro, meaning the church overall, but in the micro as well, meaning yourself. I hope you see the necessity of receiving more of Jesus, the Light of the world, in your life now. Christian pastor and theologian John Piper, author of Desiring God, writes, "The light of Christ is the brightness of God shining on the retina of the human soul." Receiving more Light, writes Piper, is essential. I hope you join me in praying, "Lord, I need more Light. Lord, I must have more Light. Jesus, I need more of You now."

February 03, 2023

**From Grace Academy in Dehradun, India**

Dear Co-Partners,

Greetings in the matchless name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It's a pleasure connecting with you all again through this Newsletter. I am thankful to God for helping each one of you for your support and prayers for the work and ministry at Grace Academy.

It is marvelous to see the work of God in the life of the school and in all of its activities. Truly God has been faithful to us and has led us every morning by showing the way for the day. As I look back, I am simply amazed and filled with awe and wonder of His work.

This is not simply a report of facts and figures, but a testimony of the Lord's doing and it is Him who has blessed the labour of our hands and to Him be all honor and glory.

**The 32<sup>nd</sup> Student Council Investiture Ceremony** of Grace Academy for the year 2022-23 was held on the 27th of August 2022.

The solemn occasion was marked by expressing gratitude to the outgoing student council which was followed by the introduction of the newly inducted Primary School and Senior School Student Council. Proud parents placed badges on their children and the principal led the Council members to take the oath of office for their new responsibilities.



In October we were able to send the school students class wise on **Educational Trips** to various educational & knowledgeable institutes eg. Forest Research Institute, Regional Science Centre, Solar Energy park, Oil Museum, etc.

**A Book Exhibition** was held in the school to inculcate the habit of reading books among the students. All the classes had a chance to visit the exhibition.

**Anti-Bullying** information through power point was given to the students during the assembly. Students took pledge for not bullying or being bullied by others.

**5<sup>th</sup> Dr. David G. Fiol Inter-School Debate Competition** was held at Grace Academy. Eight schools had participated in the competition which was based on the modified Cambridge Format.

**On the 14<sup>th</sup> of November, Children's Day** was Celebrated with much enthusiasm. Teachers had put up a very meaningful program that included two action songs, two skits, brief talk and birthday song for Principal Sir. Students were treated with goodies. After the break time a basketball match between classes XI & XII girls, football match between classes XI & XII boys and cricket match between the staff and the students were held. These matches were thoroughly enjoyed by the whole school.

Grace Academy marked its 32<sup>th</sup> Annual Day on 20th December 2022. Ushering in the season of joy, the instrumentalists and the Senior Choir made a symphonic presentation which was music to every ear. The theme of the occasion was *Rejoice* and keeping with it, the Primary students rejoiced in song as the Nativity was presented by the tiny tots. The little songsters of the Primary

choir also added to delight of the audience with a musical medley. The Hindi play *A Satire*, highlighted the message that unbridled ambition leads to disaster. The comic timing of the actors left the audience in splits. As the school wraps up for the winter break, the Staff Choir gave credit to God for his grace and mercy during the year by singing *Little is Much when God is in It*. India is a land of diversity. Highlighting our vibrant nation, the Senior girls presented folk dances before a captivated audience. Hilarious mimes were interspersed in the event as entertainment breaks.

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After winter break the school reopened on 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 and Class X & XII students appeared for the Practical Public Exams. These students will be appearing for the Theory Public Exams starting from 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 and we look forward to your prayers for them as they will be going to another school as a centre for this exam. Our school has also been appointed as a centre for this exam and children from three different schools will be coming to appear for the Public exam at our centre.

**We will solicit your prayers for :**

1. Class X & XII students appearing at the Public Exam starting from 24<sup>th</sup> February to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023.
2. For the Lord to provide us committed staff for the following posts w.e.f. 01<sup>st</sup> April 2023: Vice-Principal (Administration), Vice-Principal (Academics), Activity Coordinator, PGT-Maths, PGT-Political Science), TGT-Hindi, TGT-English, Male Receptionist cum Clerk.
3. Various construction projects and for the Finances: Junior School and Senior School Library, Staff Room, 02 new Class room, Maths Lab & Composite Science Lab.
4. For unity and Christian witness of Staff & students of Grace Academy.
5. For God's Grace to strive to achieve the Vision & Mission of Grace Academy.

We wish to thank you for your love, prayer and support towards the work and ministry of Grace Academy in this part of the world.

In Christ,

**Benjamin Newton**  
**Principal**



# Prayer and Praise

Jody Collinge

February 21, 2023



Acapulco

## Travels: (Dios mediante--Lord willing)

- March 19-23 To Orlando, FL for Response Team Training with the Child Safety & Protection Network
- March 23- To CHSC in Texas

## Prayers and Praise

1. Most important! Parts of Kenya have been suffering a severe drought and food shortage. Jo writes, "I just got a very distressing call from Garissa. This call came after I had already sent the prayer requests and updates. I am told that the disabled women, the elderly and the sick went to the house that normally hosts me during my trips there this morning and asked for me. Their cry is to see me, and for food, water and medication. These are Muslims looking for hope from a Christian. I know we are all struggling as a country but my heart is so touched and I felt helpless but the Scripture in Matthew 9:35-38 came to my heart. I pray to the Lord to send workers and I will be a voice to tell others about these people."

Jo continues, "I am touched to go see them and pray with them soon and share about Jesus. I am told the condition of some are not good and might not live for long." Jo plans to visit them to "buy relief food for them from the stores nearby, pray and share Christ with them and maybe take some to hospital who need urgent attention." If you feel led to give toward this, send gifts to <https://palmministries.com/wordpress/your-contributions-make-our-work->

[possible/](#), designated for Jo Kijabe.

2. I enjoyed an overnight visit (with long bus rides!) to visit a friend in Acapulco. We spent time together with her family and saw the cliff divers.

3. Our online Bible study with teens is nearly finished with Elijah. Let me know if some of your girls (ages 9-15) would like to join us in April for Esther.

4. This is a busy time of year with many projects and trainings. We are getting ready to put out a new edition of our CHE training materials, with a CHE USB and an update of our materials online ([www.chenetwork.org](http://www.chenetwork.org)). I will also be teaching Children's CHE at a CHE Internship in Ghana--but no, I won't go this time; I will just give some online training.

5. Many people are suffering right now--in Turkey, in Syria, in Ukraine, in Russia, in many countries where Christians are persecuted, and with transitions and traumas. Pray for the love of Christ to penetrate into dark areas.

6. A correction--the cabin in Texas belongs to CHSC, on their mission property. They have started working on the foundation. Pray that the cabin will be a blessing to missionary families and to me.

7. Missionary kids are also at risk for abuse of different kinds. In March, I will go to Orlando for response team training with the Child Safety & Protection Network. Thank God for his provision of a plane ticket.

8. Thanks for your prayers for the Zihuatanejo ministries. Pray for a pastor to come alongside Ron with Ixtapa Christian Fellowship and for new house parents for Talita Cumi. And thank God for their faithful service over many years.

Thanks for your prayers, your encouragement, and your support. Let me know how I can be praying for you.

With love in Christ,

*Jody*

# BIRTHDAYS for MARCH



**James Moseley 3rd**

**Eloise Gryder 9th**

**Pat Pennell 15th**

**Lenny Glidewell 20th**

**Gabbie Bowden 24th**

**Jim Selig 26th**



## Dates to Remember for March

March 1 Ladies Circle at 9:30 am in the church parlor

March 4 Men's Breakfast at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

March 5 Communion in the morning worship service

March 12 Daylight Saving Time begins, spring your clocks forward 1 hour

March 12 Monthly Luncheon after the worship service. Please bring a dish to share

March 19 Communion in the evening worship service





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[firstpresbiloxi.org](http://firstpresbiloxi.org)

First Presbyterian Church of Biloxi is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America. To learn more about the PCA, log on to [pcanet.org](http://pcanet.org)

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### Church Secretary

Kim Clark	228-374-6880	info@firstpresbiloxi.org
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