

Church Website - summary

Free-grace.org.uk continues to get several hundred visitors a day from many different countries. The most popular page on the site is the weekly bulletin that is now read by several thousand each week both on our own site, and also on the sermonaudio.com site. The daily Bible reading plans and information about the church history is continuing to be popular.

Examples of some recent comments and contacts from the church website

Title: The Psalm of the Cross - Speaker: Mark Gladwell

Text: I love your messages. What depth, what passion. The sufferings of Christ preached with such clarity and power. Thank you for being a great blessing!

Location: Hanover, Indiana

Beloved brother in Christ - *I am pastor Gona Caleb of Andhra Pradesh state South India I have been servant our lord Jesus Christ for the past 15 YEARS, I have 2 small churches, I saw your church website today, i am really amazing your activities and your messages it is wonderful, i am so happy to hear in your online gospel messages, i am 50 years old age, I am working among tribal people, I have a team of 10 co-workers we are all spreading gospel message in there end times. We all cover about 15 villages in addition to the slum areas as industrial areas. and villages I take Jesus to unreached areas. Where the majority of population is hindus.*

The number of our sermons that each country has downloaded this year.

UNITED STATES 14,852, CHINA 10,355 UNITED KINGDOM 1,660, CANADA 1,143,
AUSTRALIA 513 GERMANY 178 NETHERLANDS 153 SOUTH AFRICA 139
SINGAPORE 136 NEW ZEALAND 125 FRANCE 106 CZECH REPUBLIC 96
INDIA 94 PHILIPPINES 93 ISRAEL 79 KOREA, REPUBLIC OF 71
BRAZIL 57 MEXICO 36 ROMANIA 34 HONG KONG 32 JAMAICA 22
THAILAND 22 NORWAY 21 JAPAN 21 POLAND 20 SOUTH KOREA 20
INDONESIA 19 SWITZERLAND 17 FINLAND 17 ITALY 15 IRELAND 15
NIGERIA 14 SPAIN 13 SAUDI ARABIA 12 MALAYSIA 12 BARBADOS 10
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO 10 COLOMBIA 10 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES 10

Under 10 BELGIUM ,

DENMARK, TAIWAN, KENYA, UGANDA, GHANA, NEPAL, URUGUAY, RUSSIA,
BULGARIA, PANAMA, KAZAKHSTAN, MAURITIUS, PUERTO RICO, NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS, NAMIBIA, ETHIOPIA, VIETNAM, BAHAMAS, BAHRAIN,
VENEZUELA, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, LEBANON, AUSTRIA, ESTONIA, ETHIOPIA,
SWEDEN, JORDAN, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, EGYPT, ZAMBIA, QATAR, ST KITTS
& NEVIS, GUATEMALA, GUYANA, IRAQ, BELARUS, DOMINICA, GRENADA,
MACAO, MALAWI, PORTUGAL, BERMUDA, BURUNDI, CAYMAN ISLANDS, CHILE,
VIRGIN ISLANDS (US), ZIMBABWE, UZBEKISTAN, OMAN, SLOVAKIA, ST
VINCENT & THE GRENADINES, SENEGAL, LESOTHO, EL SALVADOR, ECUADOR,
MICRONESIA, LATVIA, MADAGASCAR

Growth is illustrated by these figures :

Downloads Sept 2006 2399

Downloads Sept 2007 4738

There is a huge amount of solid Bible Teaching available on the internet, let us pray that Christians in oppressed societies may be led to such material.

Free Grace Baptist Church 202nd Anniversary

& Pastor's 5th Anniversary

Annual Church Report

I have the joy of bringing this brief report to you on the occasion of the church's 202nd anniversary and our Pastor's 5th Anniversary. We remind ourselves at the very beginning of this review that it is our Lord's church, His work and His gift of an undershepherd. To slightly paraphrase an old hymn – we say:

Your mercy our God

Is the theme of our song!

The letters to the seven churches in Revelation reminds us that in writing such a report we can only view the church from a very human perspective and that God's assessment of us and the past year of service is what really deserves our prayerful attention. Through God's grace this past year has been a happy year of united service for our Lord. Like most other churches we have known many encouragements but also sadness, disappointments and real challenges. We are really blessed with the faithful and systematic ministry through our pastor. We are so grateful to God for the gifts He has given him and the daily grace to undertake the ministry. While we cannot report any baptisms this year, we know

that under the ministry of His word God is doing His work of preparing His people for works of service in the days ahead. During the year we took delivery of the New Christian Hymns. Our Grace Hymn books and the original Christian Hymns were beginning to get quite untidy despite the excellent work of our friend Stan in regularly binding damaged copies. We recognise that we are going to need a supplement! The new edition is an excellent collection. There are some excellent and worthy new additions which have proved to be a great blessing. However, some hymns that have been a great blessing to God's people in the past are missing.

A year in view

Last Christmas we were again invited back to "David Coffey Court" sheltered housing complex, to lead a carol service for the elderly residents. We had good attendance at our special services over the Christmas period with a few of our contacts from our mid-week activities attending. We would love to see more taking up such invitations. Most of the church were again involved in the Easter Holiday Bible Club when once again we reached around 50 children. This year the talks were given by Daniel, Sarah and Pastor. We had our annual trip to Westbrook Bay and had many families from the various clubs join us. This was a great opportunity to get to know some of our contacts. During the summer we were heavily involved as a church in various childrens' camps. Ralph and Sarah were able to help, and take some of our younger children to a week's "camp" at Winchelsea, organised by Hamilton Road Evangelical Church.

Officers, helpers and campers also went to two of the Christian Camps in Wales held at Tywyn. Ralph had been asked to take on the overall leadership of an additional camp at the Tywyn site. This new camp saw many wonderful answers to prayer, for which we thank our God. Our Harvest Thanksgiving Family service was well attended, however, the special evangelistic evening with B.B.Q. and video was not so. We hope next year to bring this earlier in the year.

Ongoing service

The church continues to recognise our total dependence upon the Lord for any blessings that we desire to see for His glory. We meet every Lord's Day morning for prayer before the day's ministry, we meet once a month on a Tuesday morning for prayer particularly for revival and we meet every Thursday for prayer and Bible study. We pray that such meetings may not become mechanical but that the whole church may always know the burden of the Spirit for prayer.

Our Sunday School work has grown of recent months with one or two of the families sometimes staying on to the morning service. Our midweek outreach meetings are still very encouraging. Our "mums and Tots" group on a Wednesday morning is fully subscribed; the childrens' hour for years Rec – yr 3 meets at 3.45 on a Wednesday and regularly gets around 20 of the 27 children registered. The Kic Club for years 4, 5 and 6 children meets at

6.45p.m and has had to close registration at present with around 30 children on the register. F.O.Y for secondary age children meets on a Friday at 7.30p.m. The leaders approach this work in total dependence upon God and bible teaching is given at each activity. Recently both the KIC club and the FOY has had to cope with quite challenging behaviour from a minority of youngsters. Please pray that much wisdom will be given in dealing with such issues.

In addition to the youth work, there is a Ladies' meeting on a Thursday afternoon which is evangelistic in intention. We pray that we will be able to encourage other mums to come into this meeting.

We still meet on the last Saturday morning of each month for prayer and open air preaching and tract distribution. We praise God for this wonderful opportunity and for several of our young men who assist with ministry on this occasion.

Today we also remember the Lord's gracious provision of our pastor, Mark Gladwell. The welcome services were held on 12th October 2002. The Lord has been very gracious to our brother and to the church as he has been enabled by the Spirit to open up God's Word to us and to preach the gospel most clearly. This year major studies have included series in Mark's gospel, the Psalms, Ephesians, Romans 8 and Leviticus.

We extend our thanks again to other brethren who have ministered to us over the year.

The use of the Church Website has continued to grow. We have had friends visit the church as a direct result of finding us on the "web". But most encouraging of all has been the knowledge that this ministry is proving to be a blessing to many. We attach a summary at the end of the report.

We have sought to maintain a practical ministry of compassion. Gifts at Harvest went to Fegan's homes, and a collection to the work of Christian Compassion Ministries in the Philippines.

We really appreciate the fellowship and support of the South East District Churches. As we continue to regularly bear you up in prayer, so we would ask you to pray for us