

April 28, 2024



South Grandville Church

SPOTLIGHT

Connect - Equip - Reach

Pastor's Perspective: Grace and Resurrection Part 3

My hope is that these stories invite you to become more acquainted with Grace Elaine Brouwer, whom I love. I should have titled these series of articles as “mornings with Grace” because most, if not all, of these talks I had with Grace were mornings over coffee.

I've known Grace for 21 years. I remember when she and I first met, she battled cancer and had a knee replacement back-to-back. Before the surgery on her knee, she had struggled with constant pain that she identified as a 7 on a scale from 1 to 10 (10 being the highest amount of pain). The knee needed to be replaced due to an old injury from a motorcycle accident. Her pain from the cancer was also around 7-8. This woman was well-acquainted with pain from the age of 28 years. She was 61 at the time I met her. Being a hospice nurse, she did not allow the consistency of her pain to stop her from doing what she loved.

Grace began treatments for her cancer, and she got the knee surgery. She lost all her hair, and a significant amount of weight. Through it all she kept her sense of humor. Certainly, as time went on, she felt fatigued. She needed help with basic things. She often felt nauseated. She did not like being still and recuperating on the couch. She suffered in so many ways. She would say that she could understand and deal with the physical pain. But she was not prepared for the mental, spiritual, emotional, and psychological suffering involved with going through cancer treatments and knee surgery.

“Memory is cruel. And lying here I feel so useless. I am so aware of my ‘little-ness’ and hate myself for being this way. Pain I can handle, but all my defenses are down. It is my memory of all the worst moments in my life that keeps flashing in my mind, especially when I am tired and sleeping.

I never expected this level of anxiety. I have never been more tired in my life. All my energy goes towards trying to stay awake, then physical therapy, then using whatever is left to not think about evil, depressing thoughts. I am sure that this suffering is not just my own mind doing it. I think the devil is attacking me. So often I feel too weak to fight. I just want to give up. The only thing keeping me going is Christ. How can other people do this without Him? I just don't get it.”

Grace thought that pain kept her company when alone. Sometimes pain was an advisor and like a bad friend, it stayed around when it was unwanted.

“Pain, depression, and anxiety are like characters or spirits that speak to you. Don't listen to them. Don't believe them. They lie.”

My wife and I didn't understand. Being young and naïve we didn't have a grasp of the wisdom that Grace had learned through experience.

Here is what Grace said,

“Fear, pain, anger, depression and anxiety are all involved in spiritual warfare.”

This was the first time I had heard anything like this before.

She went on, "They lie to you. When you're in pain, it's like someone telling you, "No one understands."

I said that might be true though. I don't understand how much pain you're in right now. I have never experienced it.

"Yes, that's true. But it is subtle. I understand that you don't understand, you're young, what do you know? But pain tempts me to think, you don't care because you don't understand. Pain makes me think things that I wouldn't think if I were healthy. For example, pain tempts me to think, "no one understands", it's like saying no one cares about you. I know that is not true. The devil twists the truth. Scripture teaches me that Christ loves me, no matter what. Scripture also says, he knows me and understands my pain perfectly. He understands it better than I understand my own pain. He knows my mentality, personality, and physicality perfectly. He knows me. Because that is true when pain says to me "no one understands", it is the devil trying to get me to feel worthless. If he can trick me like that, then he thinks he has me. If he can trick me, then I switch from depending on truth to depending on feelings. Through my feelings he can easily manipulate me, which is why he wants me there. But truth is not found in feelings. Truth is Christ. Pain and depression will contradict my Lord. I must learn not to listen."

Listening to the voice that says, "no one understands" and any other lies of the devil, will pull you away from Christ but also from others.

Your temptation is to think, "no one understands" about others as well. This also contradicts scripture. It is true you don't understand my pain. But I know Christ is in you. His Holy Spirit has made you, His temple. If scripture is true, then I know that in your flesh you don't understand my pain. But Christ and His Holy Spirit do understand my pain. Which means you have the capacity in Christ through the Holy Spirit to empathize with me in some spiritual way even if distant. You may not experience what I have, but you can also know me to some degree. Otherwise, you wouldn't be sitting here with me listening to an old woman."

Grace laughed and held my hand. She sipped some coffee and then fell asleep.

Church Announcements:

- **This Sunday** we look forward to witnessing the professions of faith of Jaida Jenkins and Avery Netz. Pastor Rod is beginning a new sermon series, "Victory in Christ". The first message is based on Isaiah 43:18-19. Following the service please plan to stay for a short Congregational Meeting to vote on the slate of nominees for Council.
Singing Hims Concert TONIGHT: The annual Spring Concert of the Singing Hims will be here at South Grandville this evening at 7PM. A handbell choir called Joyful Notes will also be featured during the concert. Join us for an uplifting evening of praise!
- **This Thursday, May 2, 7PM - National Day of Prayer:** South Grandville will once again host a prayer service where we will be bringing the needs of our community and the world to our loving Father. Please plan to gather with us at 7PM this Thursday!
- **Next Sunday, Sunday May 5:** Pastor Rod will continue our "Victory in Christ" series with a message from Romans 2:4; we will also observe Ascension Sunday. During the worship service we plan to draw names for one Elder and two Deacons to serve on Council from the names approved the previous week.

- **Potluck Lunch - Sunday May 19:** There will be a congregational Meeting and potluck lunch following the worship service. More details in the coming weeks.
- **Council:** The Council presents the following names for the congregation's approval on April 28 to serve on Council. The names proposed are:
 - For Elder or Deacon - Toby Heberly, Brian Reed, Nate Remijn, and Keith Sikkema.
 - For Deacon only - Dan Bannister and Collin Wilson.

On May 5, as part of the worship service, we will draw the name of one Elder first from the approved names for Elder and then two Deacons will be drawn from the remaining names plus the Deacon only names.

- **Ministry Team:** The Ministry Team met Monday night. The main order of business was to complete the work on the 24-25 Ministry Plan for South Grandville. A proposal was completed to be presented to the Council at their May 6 meeting and then presented to the congregation at a congregational meeting on May 19 following the morning worship service.
- **Elders:** Pastor Rod will be representing Classis Grandville at Synod this year (June 14-20). Synod starts at the end of the week we are having VBS. This means he will have a very busy month of June. The Elders have requested that he use one of his optional two non-vacation Sundays off per year after Synod to allow him to catch up on his work and family. This is the schedule we anticipate, Lord willing:
 - June 9 Pastor Rod plans on preaching, then participating with VBS, and then start his work at Synod,
 - June 16 Pastor Cedric Parsels will preach and Pastor Rod will work all week at Synod
 - June 23 Missionary Steve Holtrop will preach. Pastor Rod will work but not prepare a sermon.
 - June 30 Pastor Cedric Parsels will preach.
- **VBS Snack Donations Needed:** We are collecting donations for snack items for VBS. There is a board in the narthex with fish cut outs. If you are able to help by providing an individually wrapped snack item listed on one of the fish, we would appreciate it. Those items should be placed on the shelf below the tv in the narthex by May 12. If you have any questions, please contact Kristina Netz.
- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** The Deacons offer this volunteer opportunity to be a part of helping churches around the world- without leaving West Michigan. Please be in prayer for volunteers to step forward, safety for travelers and for the Executive Committee as they meet. Here are the details. The World Communion of Reformed Churches Executive Committee is meeting on the Calvin College Campus May 18-22, 2024. There are about 40 international participants that need transportation to and from Gerald R Ford Airport to the Calvin College campus. We are looking for drivers that will transport committee members for arrival and departures. All transports will be scheduled and drivers will be provided with individual details for each pick-up. Your support is most appreciated. Drivers needed for transport on May 17 and/or 18 and May 22 and/or 23. Please contact Juel Grevenstuk for information and scheduling. 616.893.9509 or revsmate54@gmail.com

Schedule:

Lead Pastor Rod Galindo: Phone 616-321-0277 pastorrod@southgrandvillechurch.org

Admin Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9am-12pm

Diane's Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, 9am-2pm

April Special Offering: Daffodil Ministries

April 7: General Fund, Faith Promise

April 14: General Fund, Christian Education

April 21: General Fund, Baby Pantry

April 28: General Fund, Benevolence

- **Coffee Servers:**

April 28: Gary & Sue Pipping, Kathy VandenBosch, Peggy Sonke

May 5: Steve & Brenda Zuiderveen, Tim & Pat Bosscher

May 12: Marc & Nancy Faasse, Dale & Cindy Fopma

May 19: Steve & Marla Maring, Jim & Robin Dertien

- **Bus Drivers:**

April 28: Roger Grit May 5: Roger Grit

May 12: Ed Peters May 19: Ed Peters

- **Kids Own Worship:**

April 28: Nicole Dornbos - Jesus Feeds the 5000

May 5: Mary Rozendal - Jesus Heals 10 Lepers

May 12: Linda Schroeder - Jesus Heals a Blind Man

May 19: Barb Schemper - Mary & Martha

- **Nursery:**

April 28: Cali Stob, Rosa Padilla

May 5: Christine Padilla, Maison Pipping

May 12: Tracy Mann, Ana Galindo

May 19: Kristina Netz, Aria Galindo

- **Hospitality:**

April 28: Steve & Marla Maring May 5: Jerry & Sally King

May 12: Jerry & Sally King May 19: Jim & Luanne Mellema

Calendar:

April 28: Congregational Meeting immediately following the 10am worship service
Singing Hims Concert - 7pm

May 2: National Day of Prayer Service 7pm

May 5: Youth Group 5-7pm

May 6: Council meets at 6:30 followed by Deacons and Elders

May 14: Joy Breakfast 9am @ Rainbow Grill
Baby Pantry 2-4pm

May 19: Potluck and congregational Meeting immediately following the 10am worship service
Youth Group 5-7pm

Prayer List

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Phillipians 4:6

South Grandville Prayer Line 616-532-5413 (option 4)

Requests:

- Council Members: Mike Besteman, Ed Peters, Brenda Zuiderveen, Conner Wilson
- Military: Lt Col Brian Sikkema
- Missionary of the Month: Pastor Tony & Stacey Meyer, Madrid, Spain
- Members: Elaine Marsman, Roger Berg, Fred Brunsting, Ryan Mellema

Help & Healing:

- **Betty Bengelink (1)** is home and continuing to make progress in her recovery. Pray that Christ continues to strengthen her and Larry as she regains strength to stand and walk to the praise of Christ.
- **Ed Brower (1)** Has been diagnosed with a form of lung cancer. He is in considerable pain. Pray for the Lord to provide wisdom and a plan to the doctors for Ed so that he can fully be healed and restored. Pray for the wonder-working power of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **Donna Grit (4)** continues to deal with ongoing health concerns. She is scheduled to meet with her doctors soon.
- **Pastor Will Hensen:** Continue to keep Pastor Will in your prayers. On Monday he is scheduled to receive another immunotherapy treatment and meet with his oncologist to go over his treatment plan for May and June. Pray that treatments are effective, for wisdom by the doctors, and peace for Will & Janet.
- **Nella Homan (2)** continues to progress through physical therapy. Pray for continued strength and progress in her recovery.
- **Dave and Pat Joustra (5)** recently lost Pat's brother, Ken Heim, after a protracted illness. His funeral was on April 20th. Pat and Dave would both appreciate our prayers for peace and comfort for their family in the days ahead. Also, Pat was recently released from the hospital, but is still needing to regain strength and energy as she continues to care for Dave at home.
- We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of **Bill Van Zalen**. Bill passed away peacefully to be with his Lord and Savior on Monday, April 22, 2024. Funeral services were held at South Grandville on Friday morning.
- **Judy Wolters' (5)** was scheduled to meet with her neurologist is April 25. Continue to pray for wisdom for the doctors and answers that will be helpful for Judy's back pain.

Prayers for Classis & Synod:

- The LORD says, *“I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them...”* (Ps. 91:14,15)
Give thanks for **Classis Grandville** and its leaders. Pray for guidance as together we offer pastoral care and assistance to church councils and pastors, support local ministries, and encourage new seminary students and leaders. Pray for meaningful connection with the broader body of the CRC, including Synod 2024. Pray for wisdom and direction for our churches going through pastoral and staff changes, especially Dorr CRC and First Byron Center CRC.
- **Synod:** Pray for Pastor Rod and all the other delegates who are beginning to prepare for Synod. Pray for wisdom as they study the reports and issues to be discussed.

Happy Birthday:

April 26 - Victoria Ruler

April 27 - Pat Hulsebus

April 28 - Bernie Byker, Lauren Dertien

April 29 - Jim Vos

April 30 - Judy Wolters

May 1 - Steve Maring

May 2 - Kathy Hill, Avery Netz

May 3 - Carol Wynsma

May 8 - Marla Maring

May 10 - Taylor Dornbos, Gabriel Tinney

May 11 - Barb Oosterink

May 12 - Owen Ashbay

May 16 - Lucas Netz

May 19 - Kathy Bradfield

May 21 - Doug DePuyt

May 22 - Olivia Neve

May 23 - Dana Rickers

May 26 - Ade Kaashoek, Emelia Stob

May 27 - Penny Whitaker

May 28 - James Toebes, Mark Hopkins, Mary Beavon

May 29 - Dave Joustra, Joyce Byker, Khloe Remijn

May 31 - Michel Padilla