



greg the preacher

Preaching Christ Publicly with Courage, Compassion & Clarity!

2019 Ministry Newsletter

When I was a kid the grown-ups would always say, "Enjoy your youth, because when you become an adult, time goes by so fast." Well, now I'm the grown-up & I hate to say, "They were right!" Time just flies & it doesn't seem to be slowing down or waiting for me to catch up. In Psalm 90:12 Moses prayed to God saying, "...teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." Moses by this time was an old man & knew that time waits for no one & so rather than asking

God to stop the clock, he asks God to teach him to focus on the time he's got & be wise. I would imagine that "new year's resolutions" are our imperfect way of trying to number our days & gain a heart of wisdom, because when we reflect on the past year we can't help but think on the could've, should've, would've's of our lives. For 2020, as always, I need God's wisdom to narrow my focus & invest in the things that bear the greatest fruit & bring God the greatest glory. 2019 for us had many challenges, changes & blessings. This time last year I broke my wrist & it took 3 months to heal. Angela lost her grandma in spring & her dad

this past summer. In June I got the flu & pneumonia which lasted 2 months while we moved from Garner to Clayton, NC. And recently Jonathan cut his leg open to the bone & had to go to the hospital. On a more positive note, last Spring we finally adopted our foster son Rylan. We've seen a growing number of women chose life rather than abortion for their babies outside abortion clinics. New lives are being changed by the Gospel, Christians are desiring to meet up for discipleship & new opportunities have opened to train & equip in evangelism & apologetics. Thank you to ALL of our supporters!

"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap if we do not lose heart." -Galatians 6:9

Merry Christmas!



ANIMAZEMENT & GALAXY-CON

I love going to events that draw crowds of youth that never go to church. What a privilege it is to reach these young people. The young lady in the picture was named Grace & she never knew what her name meant. She allowed me to share the amazing GRACE of God with her in the Gospel & left pleasantly educated and encouraged. At the end of the night the police officer working that corner said he was shocked at how long the kids stood around to talk & listen & would even raise their hands to ask questions as if it was a school classroom. I wasn't shocked at all, because I've learned through experience that even though they aren't reaching out to Christians or churches for answers in the normal course of their lives, they do secretly want us to reach out to them and answer their questions. And that's why when we show up at their events, they'll gather for hours asking questions and listening for good answers. Jesus said, "GO out & preach..."

CAMPUS OUTREACH

God is working on the college campuses. As you can see from the cover picture, for some, not all, there is a genuine interest in getting answers about God, morals, meaning, the Bible, Jesus, the after-life,

world religions, science & faith, and on and on. A huge part of the college outreach I do is "apologetics."

Apologetics is being able to give reasons for why the Christian faith is true. God uses these reasons to open unbelieving minds & soften unbelieving hearts to the truth of the Gospel. Apologetics do not save, but they do help to "make straight the way of the LORD." Some call apologetics "pre-evangelism." The Apostle Peter said, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense (apologetic) to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with humility and reverence..." 1 Peter 3:15 This encouragement is for every believer & not just the evangelists.



MICHAEL THE RAPPER

Michael grew up in a Christian home, went to a Christian school & in high school became an atheist. This is unfortunately a common story I hear on college campuses. A couple years ago I met Michael as he would listen to our preaching & Gospel conversations before he & some of his friends would set up to do some free-style rapping on the campus. We eventually became friends. Early this year he started reading his Bible and seriously seeking God. We met every week for months one on one, he got powerfully born-again & then got baptized last Spring. (Top Picture) His heart filled with a passion to share Christ, & he eventually got up & shared his testimony & the Gospel at the very campus where he was previously an atheist. (Bottom Picture) Praise God! We still meet regularly for discipleship, & I'm very encouraged about his future in Christ. It is so rewarding to see lost souls repent, receive Christ & remain walking with the Lord. Please pray for Michael as he discovers God's will for his life.



LOVE LIFE

Over the past couple years I've been blessed to become part of a great local ministry that has a real heart to see the various local churches of our city rise up & reach out to those going to get abortions. LOVE LIFE recognizes the strengths & weaknesses of different churches & looks to unite them in mission & give all the different gifts within the body of Christ an active opportunity to end abortion in our city. As you can see from the picture above God is using them to get saints to the frontlines of the abortion clinics to pray. Prayer is the "air support" for the battleground ministry that takes place outside abortion clinics. This year they asked me to be a local ambassador who can be called upon to speak in local churches as needed to inform them about the abortion crisis in our city & ways to end it. I'm also helping train local sidewalk counselors for abortion ministry. In 2019 my home church was able to bless 4 families in follow-up abortion care. Praise God!

ABORTION MINDED MOMS SAY, "THANK YOU!"

Sometimes moms we reach out to in front of the abortion clinics will change their mind, choose life for their baby & allow us to follow-up with them. We want to give God glory & give you thanks for your faithful support of this difficult ministry. Here are a few "thank you's" moms sent us & our team of supporters:

"I can't thank you guys enough! If it hadn't been for ya'll, I probably would've gone through with it. I kept praying that God would put up a roadblock this morning and there ya'll were... thank you so much!" -Mommy R

"Those who plant in tears shall reap in joy! He who continually goes out weeping, carrying his seed for planting, will no doubt come back again singing for joy, as they bring in the harvest."

-Psalm 126:5-6

"Thank you does not seem to suffice... I don't think there is a word that could express my gratitude. At a time when hope seemed lost, when I was broken and ready to give up on my life and destroy another life.... You were there! I thank God for you! Thanks for praying me through.... Loving me through... And blessing me through the most difficult time of my life. Thanks for renewing my faith in Christians and God. Thanks for walking out the Scriptures Matthew 25:35-36! Thank you so much. When (my baby) is older, I promise to share my testimony with her and tell her all about Garner Christian Fellowship and Greg and family!" -Mommy T

"It's a little late but you crossed my mind, I just wanna say thank you for talking with me and changing my mind about getting abortion. I'm glad I didn't get one. I can't wait till I have my son! Thank you. God bless!" -Mommy J

CANADA MISSION TRIP 2019

In November a close pastor friend of mine & his family invited me out to Price George, British Columbia to spend a week encouraging & equipping the local church in evangelism & apologetics. He filled the schedule full of preaching & teaching, podcasts, a debate, guest speaking on "Atheism" at another local church, speaking at the University group & also encouraging local pastors & elders in evangelism. It was an action packed week full of my favorite things & the church there received me with so much love that I feel like I'm part of their family. So thankful for those precious saints giving me that opportunity of a lifetime.



RYLAN'S ADOPTION COMPLETE!

We are so thankful to God that He finalized the adoption of our foster son, Rylan, this year! As many of you know, we received Rylan into our family when he was just 4 days old. He brings so much joy to our home & we can't imagine life without him. If any of you are thinking about foster care or adoption we want to encourage you to do it! There are children all over the world waiting, not for a perfect family, but for any family. Why not a Christian family? Foster care & Adoption is one way to practically demonstrate a picture of the Gospel. God chose us, paid a high price to purchase us, legally makes us His own, gives us an eternal inheritance & He is committed to loving us, not 18, 20, 30 or 80 years, but for all eternity! Pray about it.



Prayer Requests:

- Disciplined focus for 2020 ministries
- Unity, love & peace in the home



Greg, Jonny, Rylan, Angela & James

Please Join Us:

All support is tax deductible & can be given to us at:

Garner Christian Fellowship

P.O. Box 744

Garner, NC 27529



*Please make a note to "Greg Stephens/Evangelism" with support.

You can also give electronically by going to:

www.garnerchristianfellowship.org/give/

Click on "Evangelism Donation." Thank you!

www.gregthepreacher.com