

Grace Fellowship Vision 2004

Grace Fellowship is privileged to be located amidst some of the most beautiful scenery in America. God's good work is evidenced all around us. Yet we are surrounded by people who do not know Jesus. We are surrounded by people who are not aware of the sacrifice Jesus has made for us, and of the gift He offers to us. Many of these people are looking in the wrong places for solutions to their problems. God does not want any of these people to perish, and neither do we. We want to partner with God to make Grace Fellowship a church who reaches out to people, helps them connect to God and one another, and equips them to live out God's plan for their lives.

We will be a church which impacts 500 lives for Jesus in the next 10 years. God has made it clear to us that we will not realize this goal if Grace Fellowship is a church building in Absarokee. Our church must not be a building, but a mobile team of Christ followers dedicated to building genuine relationships with people. We must go where the people are, find areas of shared interest, invest into their lives, and teach them about Jesus. We will develop ways to allow geographically dispersed people to come together in community groups based on a variety of themes, shared interests, and a common desire to pursue God. All of our community groups will share the same core values, and goals. We will not allow cliques to develop, but will relentlessly insist that all of our community groups be evangelical.

We will maintain a global perspective while impacting our community. We will send out five national and international missions teams in the next 10 years. These teams will be well trained, have strong leadership, and be able to share Jesus in a way that's relevant to that community. We will return from these missions trips with testimonies which we will share with the church, to motivate, teach and encourage.

We will be a church which is intentional about bathing all ministries in prayer. We will have a prayer team to take a lead role in teaching us how to pray. Every ministry will have a prayer element. Prayer will not be an afterthought or a last resort. Rather, prayer will be foundational to all we do. We will pray with excitement and expectations of God's response. In our prayers, we will strive to quiet ourselves and hear God's leadings. By making prayer a focus, we will not lose perspective or focus. We will never be about buildings or programs. We will love people because God loves people. We will love God because of who He is and what He has done for us.

We will be a church which demonstrates faith in action, and love for people by regularly serving our neighbors. We will help those with needs, hold each other accountable for consistently being a light for God, and find ways to naturally share our faith. We will raise leaders and organize ourselves to be able to quickly respond to emergency needs, and be able to efficiently find needed skill sets for special needs. We will serve out of love, avoid being manipulative, and be intentional about making Absarokee and the surrounding communities better for having Grace Fellowship as a neighbor.

We will develop leaders and curriculum to train our members to be self-sufficient in becoming increasingly God-sufficient. We will empower our members to live a life of learning: about God, about sharing their faith, about who God has made them to be, about God's plan for their lives. We will be a church which does not depend upon Sunday messages for their weekly teaching, but study and grow throughout the week. We will keep our training fresh by using guest teachers, the arts, and multimedia. We will seek to bless other congregations by making our training available to other churches.

We will be known for having God-centered worship. We will strive for excellence in offering songs up to God with Biblically sound lyrics, and a musical style most attractive to those coming to pursue a relationship with Christ. Our musical style will be chosen for its evangelical effectiveness rather than for our own personal preferences. Our worship will extend to the arts, and to our very lives, as we apply the Biblical principles that make it clear worship is not just about music. We will be a church where the Holy Spirit is active, and evident.