



# Grace Connect

News from Grace Church, Stockholm

## A word from the Pastor

In our house we were (until a few days ago) enjoying this year's World Cup. At the start of the tournament there's a great deal of hope floating about. Football is a team sport but a lot of the weight of expectation is put on the shoulders of the most talented players and occasionally those hopes get a little carried away. One South Korean journalist said this about their star player Son Heung-min, *"Korean people believe, with Son we can do anything. The existence of Son is served by giving hope to South Korea."*

That's quite a lot for anyone to deal with!

As we approach Christmas we realise that a lot was put onto the shoulders of another 'Son'. Jesus took on himself broken humanity, he took on himself all our hopes for freedom, for victory, knowing that we need someone to step in and fight on our behalf. But more than that we need someone to deal with all our disappointment hurts, dashed hopes, and previous failures (the Bible calls them 'sins'). And Jesus enters into the story to do just that.

No matter how well Son Heung-min played, South Korea didn't win the World Cup, there was ultimately no victory. Not true for Jesus, however whose existence of gives hope not just to South Korea but to the whole world.

Wishing you a hope and faith filled Christmas

*Phil*

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## A Call to Prayer

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-17).

*Prayer is an important central pillar in our Christian faith- individually and collectively as a church. It is absolutely essential to everything we do as Christians. Moreover, there is great power when the church comes together and prays collectively-this edifies and unifies us as we share our common faith. At Grace Church, we have regular online weekly prayer meetings to allow us to come together and seek the Heart of God together.*

*We asked a few people from Grace Church to share how the meetings have been a blessing to them and also about how their prayer life journey. See their responses below:*

"To pray without ceasing is one of many commands Jesus teaches. In John 14:26, Jesus says that the Holy Spirit will teach and remind us of everything he told us. So by praying together, the Holy Spirit unites our spirits and reminds us of the things we learn and confirm them again through other believers so the testimony becomes even more vital. This past week, I was burdened by a work situation and felt very fatigue. Then God spoke His words through others in prayers and I just knew what to do. Then things happened at the end of the week just as God said. Though our personal prayer time is important, there are times when we need to pray together in order to fight strongholds."~ **Grace**

"In the busyness of life, the weekly prayer meetings have been a great source of encouragement for me. Often times I manage to join the Tuesday evening prayer meeting usually after a long day at work. Yet I always leave the prayer meeting refreshed, encouraged and replenished spiritually, mentally and emotionally. Through praying with others I get reminded of who God is and more importantly I am reminded that without His supernatural help, I cannot live a life worthy of the gospel. By praying with others and seeking the Heart of God collectively my faith is strengthened as I am reminded of God's grace and goodness especially when I am facing difficult situations."

~**Kudzi**



"If I could describe my prayer life, I would describe it as learning how to ride a bicycle. When you can't ride a bicycle, it may look like a daunting task, but you start learning by either getting help from experienced riders or having some sort of training wheels and by continuing to practise. This is how I picture my prayer life, in the beginning, I felt like I was completely off or would be questioning if I was saying the right words. However, I learned through seeing and hearing my pastor, disciple leader, cell group leaders or through group prayers. Also as I read the Word of God, I learnt how to pray those Words over my life and how to pray the way Jesus asked us to pray. This did not happen overnight; it was a continual process of practising and learning from others. I really got encouraged by praying with others as they would guide me or give me input on how to pray. Now prayer has become an intimate, exciting and very thrilling conversation with God and combined with reading the Word my relationship with God has grown closer. I have become more confident in my prayers the more I learnt that it was more about who I was praying to and less not what I was praying. We pray to a living God, God who listens to our prayers, a Holy God, a Mighty God who beautifully created us. How amazing is that!" ~ **Simran**

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We hope these testimonies have encouraged you and we would love to hear your testimonies as well!

We end with a question extracted from the book *The Prayers of Many* by Mike Betts:

*"What would Grace church be like if everyone committed to praying together? What would this nation be like if we committed to pray regularly and faithfully for the same things at the same time?"*

For more details on the weekly prayer meetings or if you have any prayer requests please fill out the contact form on [www.gracechurch.se](http://www.gracechurch.se)



## People we Appreciate

*Kate and Simon*



We want to show our appreciation for Kate Almström and Simon Almström! Founding members of Grace Church, they've been here longer than most and have seen many changes in that time. We're thankful for the many ways in which they have served the church over the years- both in a leadership capacity and practically on Sundays. We're very blessed to have you with us at GC!

*Thank you!*



## Announcements

### Christmas services at Grace Church

Join us for an all together Christmas service on Sunday  
18th December!

We will have a shorter service on the 25th at  
Betlehems kyrkan at the usual time.

## Giving

### Swish

123 699 1574

### Banking

BG no: 176-2004

Swedbank:

8327-9, 924 847 006-5

**Other ways that you can give  
and contribute to the work of  
Grace Church:**

- Practical help on Sundays
- Worship
- Evangelism
- Creative gifts
- Technology
- Prayer
- Youth and Kids
- Internship

If you want to give and serve in  
any of the area's listed above  
or perhaps you have other  
gifting or interests that are not  
listed, please fill out the contact  
form on [www.gracechurch.se](http://www.gracechurch.se)

## Upcoming Events

We have various activities taking place  
this month. For more details on these  
please visit our website:  
[www.gracechurch.se](http://www.gracechurch.se)

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