

Waylon Clemmons begins ministry at Grace Fellowship Church

“My desire for the people of Grace Fellowship Church is for them to be a people of the Word and a people of prayer. That’s what makes disciples. That’s what makes a healthy Body. We need to have unity--no divisions. We need to be open to one another.” - Waylon Clemmons

Waylon Clemmons’ training for ministry began at the age of twenty when he attended the Teen Mania Honor Academy in Garden Valley, TX for a one year internship. When he returned to Berea (KY) Baptist Church, his home church, he served as an interim youth pastor until going with Teen Mania to Central America and Africa for the summer.

He returned to Kentucky and traveled full-time, filling pulpits several times a week until December, living from house to house. It was in one of these churches that he met his future wife, Natalie.

After helping another church, he learned a trade. He was anticipating missionary service overseas and felt that knowing how to frame houses would be a valuable skill. He worked in this field about a year, until June 2004—and also focused on his relationship with Natalie!

In December 2004, Waylon and Natalie were married. They lived in Berea for eleven months and then moved to Richmond, KY, receiving temporary custody of a newborn baby girl for six months until her mother was able to care for her. During this period Natalie and Waylon both worked for a Christian coffee shop and Waylon served a partnership of two churches, Madison Community Church and The River, as youth pastor and worship pastor.

In January 2007 they headed north to Bloomington, MN to Bethany College of Missions. Teen Mania had a relationship with this school and a wealthy family paid their tuition. Their first year they took courses in Bible and missions.

Then their son Judah was born in June 2008, a 3½ pound premie who faced complications of three surgeries in thirteen months. Levi, born in September 2009, was also premature. Thankfully, both are healthy today.

As studies continued, Waylon served Bethany as a volunteer mentor for students. The Clemmons were prepar-

ing to go to Thailand for internship, but Judah’s medical problems prevented this. Instead, Bethany hired him as Coordinator of Mobilization. This position entailed recruiting, overseeing the traveling team, and outreach in the city.

He met Ned Berube and learned about the Alliance for Renewal Churches when Ned was his preaching and teaching professor. Last winter Waylon visited ARC Pastor Marek in Poland. “While I was there, I felt the Lord wanted me to pastor in the States sooner than I had thought,” Waylon comments. Back in Minnesota, he was surprised when Ned asked,

“Have you ever thought of pastoring? Jerry King is resigning.” Waylon attended the ARC Conference in Toledo. He preached at GFC—and the rest is history.

He has transferred his Bethany credits to Liberty University and will be working on line to complete his courses.

And what about Natalie?

Natalie is an Ohio girl. Raised in Arcanum, a town of 2000 near Dayton, where she was born, “the Lord got my attention through dreams. As a junior in high school I saw myself bowing at His feet. I knew I needed forgiveness but otherwise, I knew next to nothing. My atheist dad gave his life to Jesus at the same time I did and is still in that same Church of the Brethren!” Her parents had divorced when she was one year old.

Natalie attended Miami University for her freshman year, then transferred to the University of Kentucky where she received a degree in psychology. She was a member of Campus Crusade for Christ and experienced much healing through an Ocean City beach mission. She also went to Uzbekistan with Campus Crusade and to Haiti in 2003 with Waylon.

Natalie has worked as a physical therapy tech, a waitress, and her favorite job: an activities director in a nursing home. She especially loves old people, perhaps reflecting the close relationship she had with her grandparents.

Natalie admires Waylon “because he reminds me of the Apostle Paul: so much zeal, conviction, courage--it oozes out of him. I admire his teachability and how quickly he will confess his wrongs.”

Waylon admires Natalie “because she is the most selfless person that I know. That stretches me more than anything. She is the most phenomenal listener! And those big brown eyes...!”



Update from Japan

CELESTE LASER

I am doing great! School is going really well, and I am enjoying teaching. Yesterday I ran a 3K race with a few of my closest friends here. I am definitely going to do it again next year...

My day usually starts at 9 a.m. when I go into the office to plan lessons for elementary schools. I work at the English school instead of at a junior high. We teach at local elementary schools until around noon and then we come back to eat lunch. I get to eat lunch in my apartment, and I have a couple of hours to go to the grocery store, the post office or catch up with people at home. Then I go back to the office at 2:30 and plan for classes. Most days I teach three classes from 4-8 p.m. Then I go home, make dinner, read and go to bed.

The English school is a two minute walk from my apartment. Cooking is going better. Today I made banana bread for my 7th grade girls. Victory! (I don't cook Japanese food very often. In fact, I don't really like a lot of it. My favorite would have to be Onigiri--seaweed stuffed rice balls, or sushi. I miss cheese!)

I'm so excited that you got to see some of the Japanese people at church. It's really cool—Rebekah Stephaniuk and I taught at some of the orientations for the students going to America and we were in charge of the section on Christianity/church. We got to share the gospel before the kiddos came to America. One of the teachers on our team just told us today that one of her students came back and said that she loves Jesus! Please keep praying.

The biggest prayer request I have for our team: we are continuing to work on unity and healing from some past issues. I really miss going to church in English. I miss you all so much, and I am so excited to come home and HUG people. I'll be home from Dec. 23 to Jan. 4. It's amazing how much I've learned in these past six months about trusting and leaning on the Lord for strength, joy, and comfort.



Mr. Maki was here recently with the Japanese delegation. Here he is with Ray Nethery—"David and Goliath!"

'May the Word of the Lord be rich here'

(from Ned Berube's prayer)

Following the singing of "The Church's One Foundation," the recitation of the Apostles' Creed, and readings from the gospels and epistles, Ned Berube, president of the Alliance for Renewal Churches, examined Waylon Clemmons regarding his belief in one God, the reliability of the Scriptures, and his acceptance of the tenets of the ARC. Ned charged him to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ zealously, to be filled and energized by the Holy Spirit, to serve God's people, to receive pastoral care, to serve his wife and children, and to step back if it were deemed necessary. The congregation was asked to participate fully and to support Waylon in his new role.

Rick Widener then presented Waylon with a framed certificate of ordination to ministry, and the elders of Grace Fellowship Church received him as presiding elder/senior pastor. A time of prayer with the elders and their wives followed.

"I am overjoyed that this man is with you," concluded Ned after his sermon on Josiah, the godly young king of Israel who "sought the God of David his father."



November

- 2 Women's Bible Study, Library. 7-8:30 p.m.
- 6 Women's Brunch to introduce Natalie Clemmons 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Tell Karen Gates what you can bring. (kgates57@yahoo.com)
- 7 Waylon Clemmons preaching. Shoeboxes due. Choir practice after worship.
- 8 Final Financial Seminar. 7 p.m.
- 9 Women's Bible Study, Library. 7-8:30 p.m.
- 12 Stauffer Adoption Benefit Dinner. 5 p.m. Square Dance 7 p.m. Contact L. Caldwell, or D. McKee.
- 13} Men's Retreat with Harvest Church.
- 14} Information brochure on sanctuary back table.
- 14 Matt Godsil preaching. Shoeboxes due. Choir practice after worship.
- 16 Women's Bible Study, Library. 7-8:30 p.m.
- 21 Waylon Clemmons preaching. Choir practice after worship.
- 23 Women's Bible Study, Library. 7-8:30 p.m.
- 25 Office closed. Happy Thanksgiving!
- 28 Advent I. Waylon Clemmons preaching. Choir singing. Rehearsal after worship.
- 30 Women's Bible Study, Library. 7-8:30 p.m.

The Arkenstone

Loneliness CURT ALLEN

Years ago, my daughter Rachel moved to Columbus to take a job at a college. She was really lonely there, so my mother's suggestion was to join a church. I remember thinking at the time that my mother had never said anything dumber.

You don't need an advanced degree in psychology and a research grant to know that there's something wrong with being lonely. (The book *Loneliness, Human Nature and the Need for Social Connection* by John Cacioppo and William Patrick does an excellent job of providing that sort of background.) Chronically lonely people are frequently depressed, are more likely to have physical illness, and have fewer resources to help them make good decisions. The part of the brain that registers physical pain is very closely associated with the part that registers loneliness. But you didn't need me to tell you that.

So what has this to do with the church? Typical church-member responses to loneliness include "with Jesus, you're never lonely," "when I'm worshipping, all my problems disappear," and "you just need a spouse." All of these ignore obvious basics. Paul (who did have a relationship with Jesus) was really lonely at times; one example of Paul's loneliness is the whole atmosphere of II Timothy. Perhaps singing and dancing make you feel better on Sunday morning, but there's always Sunday afternoon, the worst time in the week for lonely people. And the presumption that no married people feel lonely and that one (and only one) friend is sufficient—well that one comes from Christian bookstore self-help books, not from either the Bible or from experience.

So what has this to do with the church? It all gets back to the question of why there is a visible body of believers at all. Americans love the idea of the hermit monks. We love the idea of the solitary person who only answers to himself/herself and never needs either help or correction. Our ideal is somewhere between the Marlboro cigarette man and Saint Anthony in the desert. But that ideal is drawn from American pop culture, not from either Christian experience or from the Bible. The plan Jesus apparently had was for believers to know and help one another—and not just for big emergencies or "spiritual" things. People really do need hugs. People really do need Saturday coffee buddies.

Mom's church makes a special point of welcoming strangers, has frequent coffee hours and potlucks, and has dozens of opportunities for people to participate

in the life of the church. Garden club, bowling, Bible study groups—you name it and their little church probably has it. I really shouldn't blame mom for being unaware of the Great American Marlboro Man ideal for church membership.

The harvest party—fun! GRACE FEIA

When I arrived at the Harvest Party there were not many people. But as the evening went on, more people came. We first ate, while Mr. Moore made amazing balloon hats for just about everyone.



Isabella Allen and her new hat!
(Photo by Lia Hickinbotham)

The food was delicious and various. Many people brought great food and mouth watering desserts.

Dr. Phillips graciously gave multiple hayrides to all who wanted them. I think that almost everyone had fun because I know I did.

Yorks to leave December 14...One-time funds and monthly support are still needed. Send them to *International Association of Missions*, P.O. Box 383892, Cleveland, OH 44138, or contact the church.

Stauffer Adoption Dinner Nov. 12
Spaghetti Dinner at 5 p.m. \$5 (\$15 family) followed by "Learn to Square Dance!" at 7 p.m. Proceeds will help defer the high costs of adopting Zac! Can you help or donate ingredients? Contact L. Caldwell or D. McKee.

Deadline for December *TrailNotes*:
November 20th

Bucytalent@aol.com

Introducing: Jesse Falls

After graduating from Mansfield Christian High School, Jesse Falls headed to Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. “I was interested in studying the Scriptures, and Moody had a hands-on approach. I majored in Bible with a Biblical languages emphasis.”

During the summer of 2003 Jesse went with Matt Roggio, Michael Sethi, and Nathan Tucker to Cuba. They visited the church in the small town of Uñas and renewed friendships from Barnabas Ensemble days. Following graduation from Moody in 2005, Jay Shifley welcomed Jesse to his team in New Delhi, India where his responsibilities included teaching English, learning Urdu, building relationships, and sharing the gospel. “I learned so much living in a foreign culture and through travel.”

On October 30, 2007, he left India and began a new assignment in Utah with a privately-owned business, Second Nature, where he worked with 13-17 year-olds who had emotional problems. They were anxious, depressed, and most were there against their wills.

“We would take the kids on hiking and backpacking trips. Psychiatrists would come out to where we were camping and develop a therapy plan that we would carry out. I learned just as much there as I did in India but I never planned on a career doing this—the initial commitment was six months. It would be hard to do this long term.” He spent 2½ years there, leaving in April 2010.

Currently, Jesse is living at home and studying for an actuarial career where he will be using his analytical skills and problem solving abilities. Seventy percent of actuaries are hired by insurance companies to assess risk for health, car, warranty, and life insurance. He has already passed the first examination and plans to take the second on Dec. 7. There are several levels of exams. Meanwhile he’s enjoying lots of bike rides and time with family and friends “trying not to let the studies drive me crazy.” He can also be seen playing bass on the worship team. “Grace Fellowship has been a rich experience—and that would be another whole story!”



New babies arrive!

Brennan David Coulter was born October 26, 2010 to Brian and Brandy Coulter. He joins two older sisters, Brookelyn and Brianna. Congratulations!



Zachariah James Emmett Stauffer arrived on September 2, 2010. Zac joins big sister Ali and parents Ben and Amy. Welcome!



Trail Break - Think about it: BRAD WEAVER

Around, around the earth I go;
I don't move fast, I don't move slow.
I have no beginning, I have no end.
Can't see me; but it's often hot where I tend.
What am I? (Previous answer: snow)

Grace Fellowship Church

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Waylon Clemmons	Pastor and	Nancy Solon	Dance
	Presiding Elder	Mary Lou Andrzejewski	Prayer
Larry Andrzejewski	Elder	Sue Jacox &	
Matt Godsil	Elder	Judy Nichols	Prayer Chain
Rick Jacox	Elder	Nancy Solon &	
Steve McKee	Elder	Jackie Nethery	Office
Tom Russell	Elder	Al & Becky Roggio	Greeters
John Hickenbotham	Administrator	Gary Deschner	Ushers
John Falls	Board Chairman	Deb Deschner	Communion
Mark Tucker	Benevolence	Randall York	Graphics
Cynthia Tracy	Nursery	John Hickenbotham	Sound
Angel Vega	Children	John & Donna Kurtz	TrailNotes
Luke & Anna Allen	Youth	Matt & Karen Godsil	Home Groups
Ben & Amy Stauffer	Peace House	Tom & Kathy Russell	Home Groups
Kay Berry	Women	Aaron Zhu	Treasurer &
Dan & Karen Gates	Worship		Missions