



1. *"The words that were around him mattered to Elvis."* Graceland Tour Guide. Elvis had two quotes hanging on his office walls: "The Man who Counts" by Theodore Roosevelt; and "The Priceless Gift" written as birthday gift for his daughter Lisa Marie Presley. What are the words that are around you? Words that surround GGCC include John 1:14 and Acts 1:6-8. (Elvis traveled with two books a Bible and the phonebook.)
2. John 1:14. The content and the form are important. "Word" –content. "Flesh" –form. GGCC is called to hold true to the word that was, is and will be; while the form can change allowing us to adapt to the ever-changing culture.
3. 15 years is to be celebrated!
 - a) We give thanks for the journey through various facilities: Batterberry Primrose Academy, the storefront in Lone Tree, and Rock Canyon High School.
 - b) We give thanks for the staff who have served amongst us: Randy Rigby, Ryan Peacock, Rebecca Huft, Stephanie Baker-Bowen, and Nancy Nickoley.
4. The Word has been in the GGCC neighborhood: "fear not" through our transitions.
5. Claudia Larson will be transitioning from her position at GGCC and into her retirement ministry on December 31, 2019.
 - a) In this 15th anniversary of GGCC we celebrate Claudia, Roger and Kyle Larson!
 - b) Stockdale Paradox: "We don't always know when, where, or how, but we will be just fine."
 - c) An email will go out to all the GGCC mission partners this afternoon.
 - d) Claudia and Pastor Dave will make personal calls upon some of our partners to assure them GGCC will be stable in the post-Claudia world.
 - e) On April 28, 2019 we will permanently go to one service to simplify hospitality.
 - f) Claudia's main focus in her remaining 10 months of professional ministry will be equipping, affirming and solidifying unpaid leadership in her ministry areas.
 - g) We will be calling an unpaid pastoral care team together to assist Vikki Luce and myself.
 - h) There is no replacing of a Claudia Larson. We might hire a part-time admin to allow Vikki Luce and myself to focus more on programmatic ministry.
 - i) "Mission Creep": where do we need to perhaps stop some things that we do not need to do anymore?
 - j) The Word is around us. Christ is in the neighborhood.
6. The Word's around us - Acts 1:6-8:
 - a) Jerusalem—local: Rock Canyon High School
 - b) Judea—regional: The Gathering Place, Open Door, Extreme Community Makeover, Confluence Ministry
 - c) Samaria—national: Hopewell Baptist Church in Rienzi, MS; Booneville, MS Boys and Girls Club.
 - d) Ends of the Earth—international: Love Light and Melody, Nicaragua.

- e) Much of what happens in the world is short term and disposable right now. CONSISTENCY, being with the other for the long haul has been of value in our partnerships. “Every board meeting they ask me, will those people in Colorado keep paying our rent here in Mississippi, and I say, “Yes they have no plans to stop.” Angelique Jumper, Executive Director, Booneville, MS Boys and Girls Club.
- f) Rev. Larron Jackson wrote an article for the American Baptist Regional Magazine on the ministry of GGCC titled, “Modeling the Message of the Master.” Copies available.

7. Worship:

- a) We give thanks for a legacy of leadership: Randy Rigby, Ed Edwards, Dave Edwards, Jake Edwards, Micah Edwards and various guest musicians. Thanks be to God.
- b) Numbers. If we were larger, more focus would be required on inner infrastructure (politics).
- c) Sunday morning is a portion of the number. Beverly Jensen and Terry Herzog’s funerals are part of the number. Peter Mayer’s house concert is part of the number. God is touching lives beyond what we often see.
- d) ***We will go to one Sunday service at 10:00 am on a permanent basis starting April 28th.**
- e) We are no longer a Sunday is the Sabbath for all culture. We live in a 24/7/365 culture that calls upon us to be flexible and maneuverable, offering other options. Let us be in prayer about what this might look like.
- f) We give thanks for the vision of leaders like Ron Mitchell to get the Word out to the world through the Streaming ministry. Up to 25 people view each service that is streamed out via our website or Facebook. Thank you, Ron and the Stream Team. Thanks to Ron and Terry for the quality media support they provide for worship each week.
- g) On February 17th, we had 8 people speak/preach. We will continue to develop leaders who are gifted to proclaim the gospel. I will remain the lead preacher at GGCC. We will look for others who have the giftedness and call to serve on occasion. “The light within you must remain brighter than the spotlight upon you.” Actor Chris Pratt, words to live by for the humility of the preacher.

8. Discipleship:

- a) Men’s group
- b) Community women’s group
- c) Daily texts
- d) Prayer team
- e) Daily devotions
- f) Intergenerational Ministry
 - i. Lent Midweek Supper & Worship March 13-April 10
 - ii. This doesn’t mean we don’t have any youth or children’s ministry
 - iii. Everything we do is intentional spiritual formation for all generations
 - iv. Tools and resources for faith formation are shared
- g) Partnership events (such as the Center for Contemplative Living)
- h) Annual GGCC Advance
- i) ***One-time events/studies** will be a priority going forward.
- j) ***A new Small group /huddle** is perhaps ready to be formed.
- k) ***Congregation-wide Book Reading**, a great one to start with might be, *The Great Spiritual Migration* by Brian McLaren.

9. The Theology of Finances: A victory was won that you had nothing to do with. Celebrate the victory. Your life and generosity will be transformed. God is “generous.” John 1:14
- a) “The last thing converted is the wallet.” CS Lewis
 - b) None of us has any money: Young families are just getting started. Middle-aged families are paying for their kids’ college/weddings. Retired families are on fixed incomes. None of us has anything—but God has given us everything!
 - c) 70,000 in the red in December was pushing us. You kept the faith! God was faithful! Gifts came in because people trust the mission. Gifts came in because people have faith in a visionary God who provides.
 - d) Give thanks to God that GGCC finished 2018 in the black (even).
 - e) Participants within GGCC need to remain faithful stewards. We need to keep growing other income streams.
 - i. A non-GGCC participant gave \$700 toward the recent Booneville trip
 - ii. \$17,500 was raised at the June Peter Mayer concert for RTB in large part from non-GGCC participants.
 - iii. A major yearend gift of \$30,000 came from a family that did not worship at GGCC in 2018.
 - iv. Larron Jackson is exploring the possibilities of the NFL Alumni Association and the Atlanta Falcons Alumni hosting a golf fundraiser for the Booneville Boys and Girls Club. GGCC is a catalyst of the Holy Spirit for such things as this.
 - f) “If we can do it, God is not in it.” Bill Easum.
 - g) Discussion is underway with Claudia regarding a special offering in her name designated for a specific initiative during this 15th year of our life together.
 - h) We are grateful for Theresa Cope and all her sweat and hard work as our unpaid bookkeeper (in addition to her full time paid job!) Thank you Theresa!

10. The Future:

- a) Give thanks for 15 years and trust God is with us going forward.
- b) “Retirement is not mentioned in the Bible.” Leonard Sweet.
- c) Pray for Roger and Claudia’s retirement ministry.
- d) Pray for GGCC’s leadership. Vikki and Terry Luce, Ed and Kristie Edwards, Dave and Judy Edwards, Theresa Cope, Courtney and Lawanda.
- e) Thanks to my family, Amy, Amanda, Cole, Dane/Kelly, and my dad Milt.
- f) I am considering taking July off from preaching to take some Sabbath time. If we take care of ourselves, we live longer and the joy of Jesus is more apt to be found within us.
- g) Pray for GGCC.
- h) Pray for all whom we are called to relate to in the Kingdom of God.
- i) CONSISTENCY. Thank for you sharing in the consistent mercy and love of God.

11. If you have any questions let me, Vikki Luce, Claudia Larson or a GGCC leader know.

12. “Fear not”, trust in the words Christ has placed around you. Let us continue to boldly follow Christ into the world!