
GOOD NEWS
an advent missions initiative

Grace Covenant Family,

Christmas is a season when we remember one of the most extraordinary truths of our faith: *God came near.*

The angel announced the birth of Jesus as "good news that will cause great joy for all the people" in Luke 2:10. That Good News was not meant for one place, one people, or one moment in history. From the very beginning, God's heart has been for the world.

And that story is still unfolding.

This Advent, we want to invite you to look beyond the familiar scenes of Christmas and see how the hope, peace, joy, and love of Jesus are still becoming tangible in people's lives today.

Over the next four weeks, we will meet people and churches across the **MENACA region** and see the Good News at work in very different ways: hope taking root in the life of one woman, peace being created in a place of refuge, joy finding a home in a growing church, and love moving outward toward the nations. We will also have opportunities to **serve locally** and live out the Advent themes in a way that impacts our community.

These are four different stories, but together they tell one larger story — the story of a God who came to us and now sends us to the world.

Keep this booklet handy and review it as we walk through Advent together and unpack the stories within. My hope is that this booklet does more than inform you. I pray it helps all of us enter Advent with open hearts — ready to pray, ready to serve, ready to give, and ready to "live sent" wherever God has placed us.

Because the Good News did not stop in Bethlehem.

It's still going.

Zach Burris
Senior Pastor

One Region - Four Stories

All four stories in this Advent journey come from a part of the world that Grace Covenant has intentionally chosen to engage: **MENACA**.

WHAT IS MENACA?

MENACA stands for Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia. Stretching across dozens of nations and cultures, this region is home to a high concentration of the world's unreached people groups—people with little or no meaningful access to the Good News of Jesus. Islam is the predominant religion across much of the region, and in many places the local church is small, emerging, or facing significant challenges. Yet God is at work.

This Advent, we'll see that work through four stories:

Week 1 - HOPE | Turkey
One Woman
Hope in Her Hands

Week 2 - PEACE | Tajikistan
One Place
A Place for Peace

Week 3 - JOY | Kazakhstan
One Church
A Home for Joy

Week 4 - LOVE | United Arab Emirates
The Nations
Love Goes

ONE WOMAN → ONE PLACE → ONE CHURCH → THE NATIONS
Four stories from one strategic region—each showing what can happen when the Good News takes root.

Hope in Her Hands

ONE WOMAN • TURKEY



Sometimes hope begins with something surprisingly small.

A ball of yarn.
A new skill.
A seat around a table.

For many Roma women in Turkey, opportunity can feel limited by stigma, economic exclusion, and expectations that leave little room to imagine a different future.

But each week, women gather to learn, create, and work together. They receive materials and training to make handcrafted products they can sell, creating an opportunity to earn income for themselves and their families.

And while their hands are busy, something deeper is taking shape. Friendships grow. Trust develops. Women who have often felt overlooked are seen and valued. And through genuine relationships, conversations about life, faith, and Jesus begin naturally.



That is why this is about more than yarn.
It is about dignity.
Opportunity.
Relationship.
Hope.

Advent reminds us that our present circumstances do not have the final word. At Christmas, God came near—and because He did, something new became possible

.

This Advent, hope is being placed into her hands.

Put Hope in Her Hands

The yarn *matters*. The training *matters*. The income *matters*.
But together, they create something even bigger: opportunity, dignity, relationship, and space for the Good News of Jesus to be shared naturally.

THIS WEEK'S GOOD NEWS GOAL

$8,000

Together, we can help provide the materials, training, transportation, and ongoing ministry that make these weekly gatherings possible for Roma women in Turkey.

YOUR GIFT AT WORK

$40

Provides enough yarn to make approximately 10 pairs of socks.

$100

Provides transportation to weekly gatherings.

$500

Helps train a woman to start her own microbusiness.

$1,000

Supports the creation of a small business for the first year.

Use this QR code or visit gracecovenant.org/give to send your gift today. Select "Advent Missions Initiative" as your "Giving Type".

CARRY HOPE THIS WEEK

Partner with the Neighborhood Care Center:

Angel Tree: Provide Christmas gifts for children from under-resourced families in our community.

Snow Angel: Provide local seniors a christmas gift basket to brighten the season.

Scan the QR code for more Info

PRAY

Pray that Roma women would experience dignity, opportunity, meaningful relationships, and open doors to encounter the hope of Jesus.

A Place for Peace

ONE PLACE • TAJIKISTAN



Where do you go when life suddenly falls apart?
When home is no longer safe.
When you are in crisis.
When you simply need somewhere to breathe.

In Dushanbe, Tajikistan, a local church has become that kind of place. People come through its doors to worship, find community, receive care, and—when needed—find temporary refuge. For someone facing crisis, peace can begin with something as simple as knowing there is somewhere safe to go.

But the church has more people to serve than it has room to serve them. Upstairs, an unfinished second floor holds the **possibility of something more:** space for children, shelter for vulnerable people, and rooms where leaders can be trained to care for others.
Advent reminds us that peace is more than the absence of conflict. Biblical peace points toward wholeness, safety, restoration, and belonging.



At Christmas, Jesus came near and announced that God's peace had entered our broken world.

In Dushanbe, that peace is becoming a place people can walk into.

This Advent, we can help make room for Peace.

Make Room for Peace

This church is already welcoming people in crisis, caring for families, and creating a place where people can encounter Jesus.
Finishing the second floor would allow that ministry to reach even further.

THIS WEEK'S GOOD NEWS GOAL

$44,000

Together, we can help transform unfinished rooms into spaces where children can learn, vulnerable people can find refuge, and leaders can be equipped to care for others.

YOUR GIFT CAN HELP MAKE ROOM

$50

Helps create a welcoming space for children.

$100

Helps prepare a safe room for someone experiencing crisis.

$500

Helps equip a space where leaders can be trained and discipled.

$1,500

Helps complete one larger portion of the second-floor expansion.

Use this QR code or visit gracecovenant.org/give to send your gift today. Select "Advent Missions Initiative" as your "Giving Type".

PRACTICE PEACE THIS WEEK

Make Room for Someone

Peace often begins with hospitality. Invite someone who may be lonely, overwhelmed, or simply in need of encouragement into your home for a meal, dessert, or hot chocolate. It doesn't have to be elaborate.
Simply make room.

PRAY

Pray that this church would continue to be a place of safety, restoration, and belonging—and that everyone who walks through its doors would encounter the peace of Jesus.

A Home for Joy

ONE CHURCH • KAZAKHSTAN



Joy is not the absence of uncertainty.
It is the confidence that God is still at work in the middle of it.
Years ago, Jesus changed the life of a man named Thomas. His story did not end there. Today, Thomas pastors a vibrant community in Almaty, Kazakhstan, called Joy Church.
Walk through its doors and you'll find far more than a Sunday service. Children are learning about Jesus. Young people are growing in their faith. Disciples are being formed. Leaders are being equipped. People worship, pray, share meals, build friendships, and discover the same Good News that first changed Thomas.

But there is uncertainty.

Joy Church does not own the building it has called home for years. And because churches in Kazakhstan must have a legally recognized place to gather, losing this location could disrupt far more than a meeting space. Now, the church has an opportunity to purchase its home and keep these doors open for the future.



The night Jesus was born, the angels announced "good news of great joy for all the people." (Luke 2:10)

That Good News is still bringing people together.
Still changing lives.
Still building His Church.
This Advent, we can help give Joy a home.

Keep the Doors Open

Joy Church has an opportunity to purchase the building it has called home for years.

THIS WEEK'S GOOD NEWS GOAL

$85,000

This is more than buying a building. It is helping keep the doors open for worship, discipleship, children, young people, leadership development, and future generations.

Purchase Price: **$450,000**
Already Raised: **$280,000**
Matching Pledge: **$85,000**
Our Goal: **$85,000**

EVERY GIFT IS DOUBLED

A generous donor has pledged to match every dollar given toward the remaining need—up to $85,000.

Give $50 → $100 toward the goal
Give $100 → $200 toward the goal
Give $500 → $1,000 toward the goal

If we raise $85,000 together, the match provides the final $85,000 needed to fully fund the purchase.

Use this QR code or visit gracecovenant.org/give to send your gift today. Select "Advent Missions Initiative" as your "Giving Type".

SHARE JOY THIS WEEK

Go Christmas Caroling

Gather your family, friends, or small group and bring Christmas joy to your neighborhood. Scan the QR Code for a list of Christmas Carol Lyrics.

PRAY

Pray that Joy Church would have a permanent home and remain a strong Gospel presence in Kazakhstan for generations to come.

Love Goes

THE CHURCH • UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



God's love never stays where it is received.
It moves.
From person to person.
From city to city.
From nation to nation.

The United Arab Emirates is made up of seven Emirates, including places like Dubai and Abu Dhabi, and it is home to millions of people from across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and beyond.

Today, four small but growing Foursquare churches are helping people encounter Jesus, become disciples, and grow into leaders. The vision is to see vibrant, Gospel-centered churches established in every Emirate.

But the story may not stop there.

When someone encounters Jesus in a place where the nations have gathered, the Good News can travel with them—to their families, their communities, and even their home countries.



That is how love moves.
This Advent, we have seen hope placed into someone's hands. We have seen Peace become a place of refuge. We have seen Joy find a home.
And now we see what Love does.

Love goes..
At Christmas, God's love came near to us in Jesus.
And His Good News is still going to the world.

Help Love Go

THIS WEEK'S GOOD NEWS GOAL

$18,000

Your generosity helps provide for leadership travel, meeting spaces, youth gatherings, leader development, and new church-planting initiatives.

YOUR GIFT CAN HELP LOVE GO

$50

Helps support ministry gatherings and outreach.

$250

Helps invest in leaders and growing churches.

$1,500

Helps fuel one month of ministry.

$18,000

Helps fuel the movement for an entire year.

Use this QR code or visit gracecovenant.org/give to send your gift today. Select "Advent Missions Initiative" as your "Giving Type".

PRACTICE LOVE THIS WEEK

This week, bake Christmas cookies and deliver them to someone who may be easily overlooked. Let them Know, "We see you and appreciate you!" Scan the QR code for a Moroccan cookie recipe.

PRAY

Pray for the leaders and churches serving throughout the UAE—that disciples would grow, new leaders would be equipped, new churches would take root, and the Good News would continue moving from person to person and nation to nation.



Practice Locally

The Good News is not only something we support around the world. It is something we live right where God has placed us.

This Advent, practice Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love in simple ways with your family, friends, neighbors, or group.

HOPE — SEE SOMEONE

Partner with the Neighborhood Care Center to share hope with children and seniors this Christmas.

Angel Tree: Visit the table in the lobby to sponsor Christmas gifts for children from under-resourced families in our community.

Snow Angels: Brighten the season for our senior neighbors by providing a Christmas gift basket filled with treats. There are 100 spots available. Deliver baskets to Neighborhood Care Center by **December 4th.**

Scan the QR code on page 4 to sign up

PEACE — MAKE ROOM

Invite someone who may be lonely, overwhelmed, or new to the area into your home for a meal, dessert, coffee, or hot chocolate.

Simply make room.

JOY — BRING JOY

Gather your family, friends, or small group and go Christmas caroling in your neighborhood. Scan the QR Code on page 8 for Christmas carol lyrics.

LOVE — GIVE GENEROUSLY

Bake Christmas cookies and deliver them to someone who may be easily overlooked. Let them know: “We see you. We appreciate you.”

Engage Missionally

LIVING SENT CONTINUES LONG AFTER ADVENT ENDS

Throughout the year, there are opportunities to join what God is doing across the street and around the world.

SERVE

Partner with local nonprofit organizations addressing real needs in our community.
Serve as an individual, with your family, or with your group.

GO

Join a short-term mission team and serve alongside trusted ministry partners around the world.
Learn. Serve. Build relationships. See what God is doing firsthand.

CONNECT

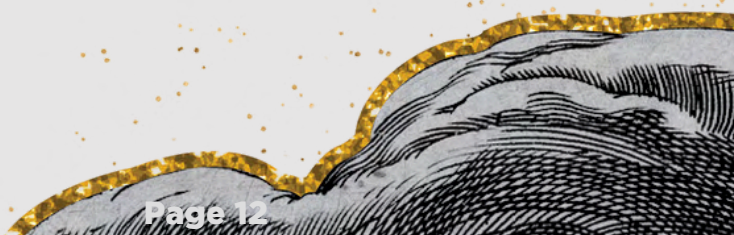
Explore the Missions Hub, the interactive screen outside Clanton Hall at the Cornelius Campus, to discover the people and places we partner with in our mission.

PRAY

Pray for workers, churches, unreached people groups, open doors for the Gospel, and places where God is already at work.

FIND YOUR NEXT STEP

Scan the QR code to explore mission teams, local serving opportunities, field workers, partner organizations, and ways to get involved. Across the street. Around the world. “Live Sent.”





Respond Personally

You have read the stories.
You have seen **Hope** take root, **Peace** create refuge, **Joy** find home, and **Love** move toward the nations.

Now take a moment to ask:

WHAT IS GOD INVITING ME TO DO?

Who can I notice?
Where can I bring Hope?
Where can I make room?
Who around me needs Peace?
What can I celebrate and share?
How can I bring Joy?
Where is God asking me to move toward someone else?
How can I live out Love?

MAYBE...

Maybe your next step is to serve.
Maybe it is to go.
Maybe it is to pray.
Maybe it is to give.
Maybe it is simply to pay closer attention to the people God has already placed around you.

MY NEXT STEP:

_____

_____

_____

The Good News has come to us.
How will we carry it?

Give Generously

GENEROSITY IS ONE WAY WE JOIN THE STORY.

You can give to GOOD NEWS Advent Missions Initiative.

HOPE – TURKEY

Goal: $8,000

Opportunity, dignity, relationship, and Gospel access for Roma women.

PEACE – TAJIKISTAN

Goal: $44,000

Completing ministry space for refuge, children, leadership development, and care.

JOY – KAZAKHSTAN

Goal: $85,000

Helping Joy Church secure a permanent home—and unlock an additional $85,000 matching gift.

LOVE – UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Goal: $18,000

Helping fuel church planting and leadership development for one year.

TOTAL GOOD NEWS GOAL

$155,000

Use this QR code or visit gracecovenant.org/give to send your gift today. Select "Advent Missions Initiative" as your "Giving Type".

Every gift helps the Good News go farther.

Please note *that all 2026 donations made in person by check or cash envelope must be received by the Christmas Eve Service; any donations made after that should be mailed or made online. Any mailed gifts must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2026.*





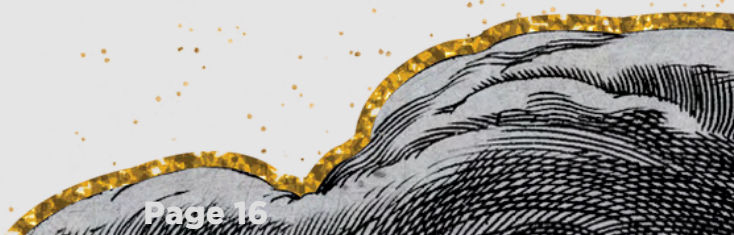
GOOD NEWS

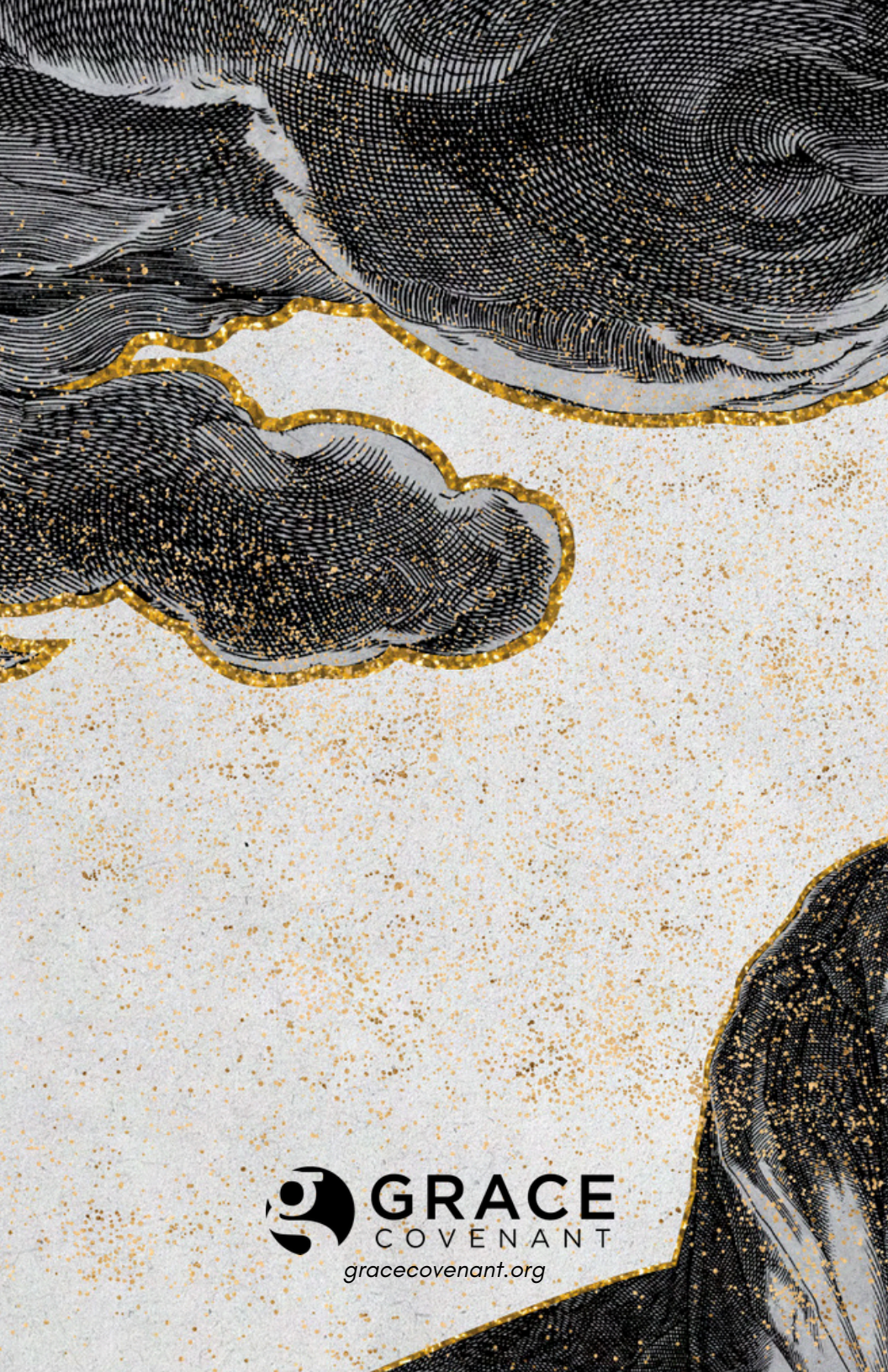
"I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."
Luke 2:10

Hope in her hands.
Peace in a place.
Joy with a home.
Love goes.
The Good News came to us.
Now we carry it.

Live Sent.

Notes





GRACE
COVENANT
gracecovenant.org