

April Burgess



Raised in a Catholic home, I knew of God and of the virgin birth of Jesus, but I did not know God. I was lost to a world of people-pleasing and perfectionism; seeking my identity and worth in others and in what I did. This took me down a long, dark road right through a failed marriage to single motherhood. It was my second husband who first placed a Bible into my hands. For years I read God's Word, as I continued to struggle. But God. Isaiah 55.8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. At age 36, I responded to the Lord, repenting of my sins, asking to be forgiven. There was no more denial of Him but simply a posture of surrender. No longer enslaved to my sin, only walking into the light and hope of Christ. Freedom in His gift of abundant abiding grace by faith alone. Praise the Lord! All glory and honor is His!!

What lifegroup are you involved with & why is that important to you?

I am in the Huggins lifegroup. Amidst trials, temptation, affliction, and great loss throughout the years, I've learned to treasure Christ more as I walk life out within a small group. I've come to understand what accountability looks like, and I've found true godly encouragement, as I await for Christ to complete the good work in me. My lifegroup has been a shining light in a somewhat dark world this year. I am so thankful for His good and perfect gifts! His people!!

Where do you serve at The Grove Tampa & what do you love about that?

I was serving in Grove Kids and enjoyed it thoroughly but that's been put on hold with COVID-19.

Share your ministry passion.

It's always been in encouraging fellow sisters in Christ and loving on children. I do have a passion for travel and serving the Lord among the nations.

What is a favorite or recently meaningful verse(s) for you?

"In Him we live and move and have our being." Acts 17.28 "Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow."
James 1.17

Jane & Rachel Carter



Jane

As a child I realized the consequence of sin was to be separated from God. Thankfully, God allowed for a clear understanding of salvation, based on what Christ accomplished on the cross. As I've grown and matured as a person, my understanding of the value of living a god-honoring life has increased.

What lifegroup are you involved with & why is that important to you?

I participate in Dan and Teri Claassen's Lifegroup. It is my gateway to church membership and participation in body at The Grove.

Where do you serve at The Grove Tampa & what do you love about that?

Being a greeter is such a great way to meet new folks and continue to build relationships.

Share your ministry passion.

In no particular order: music, organization, greeting

What is a favorite or recently meaningful verse(s) for you?

Matthew 11:28-30

Rachel

When I was 7, sitting on top of the washer, I told my mom that I wanted to become a Christian. She asked me why. What I understood was simple enough. I knew that Jesus Christ had died on the cross for my sins and I needed to repent and follow him. Through prayer, I asked God for forgive me of my sins and to come into my heart. Something my seven year old self couldn't articulate was the influence of a lady named "Miss melba". Because of her example, I saw how much God mattered. I knew that, if I wanted to live my life in that way, I had to ask God for forgiveness and place my trust in Him. To make a public declaration of my faith, I was baptized Sunday, November 18, 2012 (13). All throughout my life there have been examples, where I have heard, seen, and felt how exactly how tight God holds on to His children. I am thankful for the pain, joy, suffering, and peace He puts in my life to draw me closer to Him. May the arms of the Almighty King hold me fast till the end of my days.

What lifegroup are you involved with & why is that important to you?

I am part of the Huggins's life group. To me it is important because that is a place that God has put me to grow. Learning about Christ and one another through this life group has been a joy, I'm thankful for all of our participants.

Where do you serve at The Grove Tampa & what do you love about that?

Currently I serve with the youth. The opportunity to lead, listen, help, encourage, and love on these kids is so special to me and I'm grateful for the opportunity!

Share your ministry passion.

Sharing the truth of God's word through genuine relationships.

What is a favorite or recently meaningful verse(s) for you?

Isaiah 40:28-31

Steve & Sandy Jaeb



Steve

I am trusting in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of my sin and His righteousness imputed to me so that God can justly adopt me into His family.

What lifegroup are you involved with & why is that important to you?

Gebhards Lifegroup. I really enjoy the close fellowship that we have in Christ.

Where do you serve at The Grove Tampa & what do you love about that?

Right now I serve in security and the Rapid Response Team. I am also a Lifegroup apprentice.

Share your ministry passion.

To see people come to Christ and grow and mature in Him

What is a favorite or recently meaningful verse(s) for you?

Galatians 2:20 is a great reminder of how important it is that I am in Christ and that I live my life, whatever I am doing, by faith in Christ.

Sandra

I grew up in a church environment where biblical teaching was a part of everyday life and commitment to Christ was fostered so I am unsure exactly when I turned from my sin and trusted Christ as savior. Because of God's kind grace,, relying on Christ alone for salvation and desiring to live my life to magnify Him have been core beliefs for years and I have seen Him steadily help me grow in faith and obedience over time.

What lifegroup are you involved with & why is that important to you?

We are in the Gebhards LG. It provides a regular meeting time to get to know others Grove families socially, emotionally and spiritually to be able to build relationships to support and encourage one another

Where do you serve at The Grove Tampa & what do you love about that?

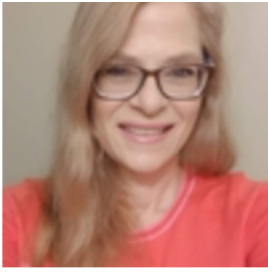
Life Group leadership training/discipleship- love going deep with ladies to apply God's word to the joys and challenges of life Children's Pre-K - helps The Grove facilitate discipleship opportunities with the parents by meeting the caretaking needs of their kiddos

Share your ministry passion.

Discipleship/teaching - walking along side sisters in Christ to build up the body of Christ through the understanding and wise application of God's word

What is a favorite or recently meaningful verse(s) for you?

Because intend toward timidness: Jude 24 & 25 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.



Ruth Lentz

I understood my need to repent and have Jesus save me from my sin when I was six. Through the years since, God has been faithful to hold me in His care, even when I was faithless. All the circumstances of my life, from enjoyable to deeply painful, have been used by God to grow me in the knowledge of Himself and His grace. I pray that He will help me to finish well.

What lifegroup are you involved with & why is that important to you?

I am in the Hennings LifeGroup. Love the fellowship, caring, and encouragement to grow that comes from the relationships here.

Where do you serve at The Grove Tampa & what do you love about that?

I LOVE the greeting ministry. Welcoming the regular members and meeting the visitors is a joy! God has created me as a people person and this allows me to start a connection with many folks, with the hope that deeper relationships will develop. I have also volunteered for Grove kids though I haven't actually served there yet.

Share your ministry passion.

One on one discipleship.

What is a favorite or recently meaningful verse(s) for you?

1 Chronicles 16:11 "Seek the Lord and His strength, seek His presence continually."

Erica Lentz

I was saved when I was 15 through my Parents' divorce. my mom was really struggling to trust the Lord, and he just took care of her. I saw his GREAT love for us, saw how helpless I was and asked the lord into my heart. The Lord continues grow and sanctify me through his word and life.



What lifegroup are you involved with & why is that important to you?

I'm "part" of the Gebhards life group, or maybe was. My work schedule change. I'm really missing being there!!! The Mid week get refocus on Christ was really encouraging! being with people who wanted to see me grow, and to hear how people are walking with the lord in so many different ways was amazing and encouraging!

Where do you serve at The Grove Tampa & what do you love about that?

I'm serving in nursery. It's an honor to care for children. Getting to invest in the kids, being a light and an example of Christ love to little hands and hearts!!

Share your ministry passion.

I don't currently have one. But looking forward to the lord leading my path I better discover how I better server Him.

What is a favorite or recently meaningful verse(s) for you?

Isaiah 12:2 2 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD Himself, is my strength and my defense ; He has become my salvation."

Mike & Sarah Martens



Mike

I believe that Jesus came from heaven to save me from hell. I want to show the world what a Christian should be and make more Christ followers.

What lifegroup are you involved with & why is that important to you?

I'm in Paul and Jaime. I feel like a Christian should have a group to share day to day stuff with

Where do you serve at The Grove Tampa & what do you love about that?

I recently joined the welcome team as a greeter.

Share your ministry passion.

I want to build houses for people in need

What is a favorite or recently meaningful verse(s) for you?

Romans 8:28 and we know that for those who love God all things work together for good.

Sarah

I believe God sent His Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin so that if I believed on Him, I could be counted righteous and live in eternity with my Savior. I have fully committed my life to Jesus and daily walk in His grace. My prayer is that He makes me more like Himself each day and gives me a heart for the lost.

What lifegroup are you involved with & why is that important to you?

I am in Paul & Jaime's LifeGroup. LifeGroup is important to me because I know I can trust my brothers and sisters there to encourage me, challenge me, and run the race to eternal life with me.

Where do you serve at The Grove Tampa & what do you love about that?

I recently joined the welcome team as a greeter.

Share your ministry passion.

I love to encourage people and brighten their day.

What is a favorite or recently meaningful verse(s) for you?

Romans Chapter 5

Gregory Winters



I attended a Baptist church with my parents from the time I was an infant, but I rebelled against the Lord most of my childhood and teenage years. The seeds planted in those early years led to my repentance and I trusted Christ to save me while in high school. Although I was lazy, I did have an interest in bible reading and study as a young Christian. The knowledge of God through the scriptures and gratitude for the sacrificial/substitutionary death of Christ on my behalf lead me to desire growth, and it sparked a devotion to Him that has endured my entire life.

What lifegroup are you involved with & why is that important to you?

Rockin Awesome Lifegroup led by Kurt Gebhards. Our group is characterized by believers with a desire for growth and a genuine love for Christ and each other. The fellowship is truly awesome

Where do you serve at The Grove Tampa & what do you love about that?

I am currently helping with the signs before/after Sunday services. I am willing to serve wherever I'm needed.

Share your ministry passion.

I have a passion for discipleship and worship service accompaniment.

What is a favorite or recently meaningful verse(s) for you?

But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to Fall on Him. Isa 53:5-6