

## Grace Bible Church's, *Journey into Christmas*, to Retire After 31 Years

*It is with a heavy heart that Grace Bible Church Dallas (GBC) announces the retirement of its Journey into Christmas program after 31 years of hosting the live nativity walkthrough.*

The goal of "Journey" was to share the story of the birth of Jesus with those who may not have heard it previously through touring a set of scenes featuring live actors. For many years, it brought in about 1,000 people over one weekend in December. Church attendees performed a multitude of roles including actors, seamstresses, set designers, greeters, directors, bakers, face painters, camel wranglers, tour guides, and much more. GBC is grateful for every person who has either attended or played a role in making Journey into Christmas a special tradition over the years.

The decision to retire the program was not made easily or flippantly. Over several months GBC leadership and key stakeholders gathered to pray over and discuss the current state of church programming. Those involved in the decision desired to ensure this retirement was the best path forward for the church.

While there was no doubt about Journey's significance and the importance of its message, GBC learned through surveys and questioning attendees that the event was no longer serving its primary purpose as an outreach program. This data and the recognition of increased demands on our church community's time and effort around Christmas as compared to 31 years ago were contributing factors in the decision.

GBC's leadership is seeking other ways and carefully analyzing future opportunities for meaningful community outreach during the Christmas season. The hope is that you will attend one of their other Christmas events in 2024 and anticipate a new tradition in 2025. The church will continue its mission in Dallas and beyond to EQUIP the saints with the Word, to ENGAGE believers in the world, and to EXALT God together.

*Grace Bible Church was founded on March 24, 1954, as a church focused on studying the Bible, teaching its truth, and sending missionaries to spread the gospel.*

*Seventy years later, and still in our original location in the heart of Dallas, we continue to hold fast to the ministry focuses our founders had in mind. With a multi-generational congregation, traditional and contemporary worship services, world-class Bible teaching, and a deep commitment to partnerships with people making a difference at home and around the globe, Grace Bible Church continues to fulfill our God-given purpose to glorify Him by making disciples.*