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“Faith alone in Christ alone”

Greetings to you from your partners at Grace Evangelistic Ministries. We do not hesitate to approach God's throne with gratitude in our souls for His **faithfulness** toward us and for His marvelous provisions of grace. Everyday we witness how our Heavenly Father provides for this ministry, which He has deposited into our hands. And that is not an exaggeration. Again and again, He demonstrates that He is the One who under girds all our activities. We don't want to lose sight of the fact that all the credit is due Him; yet we realize it would take a million years to express our full gratitude! We remain unwavering in giving our reverence and praise to the Lord!

Ordinarily, one would think that the events of September 11, 2001 would have caused this ministry to close its doors. Actually, the reverse has happened and therefore proves that **Grace Evangelistic Ministries is God-established!** And if God delays or cancels the provision for His work, then it's time to go fishing! In spite of historical events, many doors have sprung wide open for our evangelistic meetings this year, almost double that of last year. The Lord's provision continues without missing a beat! How could one not stand in awe of the One who has called us to represent His Kingdom to the lost and dying world? Your faithful support helps us to fulfill the Great Commission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations [without discrimination] . . . teaching them [new converts] to observe all that I commanded you [the whole realm of Bible doctrine]" (Matthew 28:19, 20a). Indeed, it's a great privilege and an honor to be sanctified vessels in His Service. We have nei-

ther earned, nor deserved to be where we are today; and that's the truth.

Many thanks to you, our partners, for continuing to allow our Heavenly Father to channel His financial blessing through you to Grace Evangelistic Ministries. Thank you also for your unwavering dedication to uphold the ministry in prayer. We are eternally grateful for your commitment to this ministry! Our souls are super-charged with joy over your partnership with us. We can't measure the cost of your sacrifice, but God can! And that's what counts. Paul expressed it best: "[We] thank [our] God in all our remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in [our] every prayer in view of your participation [through your prayer and generosity] in the gospel from the first day until now. For [we] are confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will [bring it to completion] until the day of Christ Jesus. And [our] God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:3-6; 4:19).

As the waves of this life toss us back and forth, we encourage you to hold tenaciously to sound Bible teaching. This is accomplished by giving first priority to learning, thinking about, and applying this Bible doctrine. Bible doctrine is the anchor that provides tranquility of soul, contentment in life's ups and downs, true happiness, and capacity to enjoy His blessings in time and eternity. In light of this, it's heartbreaking that many believers have yet to discover that Bible doctrine is the only SUPER GLUE (manufactured by God) that will hold believers

together in this chaotic, evil and damaged world. The truth of the matter is that the perception and application of Bible doctrine have benefits beyond measure! No wonder King David cried, "O taste and see that the Lord is good . . ." (Psalm 34:8a). The author of Psalm 119 wrote, "How sweet are Thy words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (119:103). Whatever is sweeter than honey must be sensational!

Only a handful of believers have discovered the sweetness of God's word. The others are busy like bees buzzing back and forth in pursuit of the details of life. Unfortunately, the high price they pay is a life lived without the rich fruit of God's Word. We are saddened by their futile attempts to gain happiness and we pray to our Heavenly Father that many will wake up to see the relevance of Bible doctrine! All the while, His arms are open wide to welcome anyone who makes a fresh decision to prioritize Bible doctrine—while there's still time. So if you have not yet made that decision, we encourage you to do so today. Of course your decision is between you and the Father who purchased you with the precious blood of His uniquely born Son, Jesus Christ.

The focus of Grace Evangelistic Ministries remains unchanged. We endeavor to utilize the omnipotent power of the Holy Spirit and the dynamic power of God's Word to bring maximum glory and honor to God. We recognize that in His mercy we have been given the privilege of bringing a message of hope to both unbelievers and believers. Thousands of unbelievers across the globe have come to

embrace salvation by faith alone in Christ alone. Also, many believers have accepted the challenge to make Bible doctrine the top priority above all else. As a result, we continue to receive letters from around the world expressing appreciation from those who have been blessed through this ministry. To God alone, we stand in salute!

As you may already know, Grace Evangelistic Ministries does not solicit funds, neither do we take up offerings on the Crusade grounds, nor do we charge for any of our materials. We believe that the financial support of believers and churches is a matter solely between the individual and the Lord. We truly believe that God has called us to do His work and that He will provide for His work as long as we stay under His direction. One missionary beautifully put it this way: *God's work done in God's way will have God's provision.* Nevertheless, we yearn for your intercessory prayers as we seek to serve His purpose and to glorify Him to the maximum! It's in our Father alone that we have rooted and anchored our trust.

Dear Heavenly Father,

We pause to pray for every partner, church, and affiliate of Grace Evangelistic Ministries. We thank You that You continue to sustain them daily in Your mercy. We humbly pray that You, O God, would continue to bless them as their souls prosper—that their purse would never be empty as they team up with us in Your service. We ask that You would make clear to all of them the critical importance of Your Word so that they will be consistent in their perception and application of it and giving it the highest priority.

Father, we are grateful that You are using this ministry to make the work of our Lord Jesus Christ and His doctrine known to the entire world. We ask for Your guidance in identifying opportunities to make the gospel known. We pray for those who are already advancing in Your plan and

humbly thank You for protecting them from the evil one as they fulfill Your plan for their lives.

Our merciful Father, like King David we ask You to "direct the hearts of Your children to Thee" so that there would be a revival in the United States of America, such that has never happened before, and that there would be an surge of unbelievers responding to the gospel of grace through faith alone in Christ alone.

Our loving Father, may we be constantly reminded of the reason we are here on this planet earth. May we keep reminding ourselves that it's not all about us but all about our Savior—His efficacious sacrifice on the cross two thousand years ago. May there be a thirst and a hunger—a thirst to be involved in personal witnessing—a hunger to pray and support missionaries—to serve Your purposes such as never before. May this God-made great country, USA, Your client nation, never look back as it plows the fields white with harvest. Father, may we once again be showered with Your mercy and grace. Last, but not least, may this ministry continue to serve as a channel through which You are honored and glorified. All of this we humbly ask with a broken heart, in Christ's Name. Amen.

"The Lord of [the armies] is with us; the God of Israel is our fortress" (Psalm 46:7).

Forever baptized in the oasis of His matchless grace,

Moses C. Onwubiko

President; Grace Evangelistic Ministries

THE GOOD NEWS

When our Lord Jesus Christ was on the cross, He had you on His mind. All sins, including those you have not yet committed, were poured out on Jesus Christ, and He was judged for each and every one in your place (I Peter 2:24). The penalty has already been paid. He endured the judgment for all the sins of the world to pave the way for you to have eternal life through faith in Him. No

matter how sinful you have been, you can be forgiven and your slate wiped clean by God. How? By telling God right now that you are believing in His Son, Jesus Christ. The moment you do this, you share God's eternal life forever. The Bible says, "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31). "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31). Will you believe in Him today? Or will you reject Him? The decision is entirely yours.

WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Unquestionably, you are living and operating in the enemy's territory. Scripture makes it clear that Satan is "the god of this world" (John 12:31). Thus our Lord took cognizance of the fact that "you are not of this world" and prayed for your protection (John 17). But, what does the truth that "Satan is the god of this world" mean to you? It means that you are operating in a hostile environment. In his rage, Satan has become fierce—outrageously insane—and he, "...prowls like a roaring lion, seeking someone [a careless believer] to devour [to tackle; to put out of action]" (I Peter 5:8). What a relief to know that "...greater is He who is in you than he [Satan] who is in the world" (I John 4:4 cf. II Kings 6:8-17). The good news is that you are totally encapsulated by the wall of fire (Zechariah 2:5) as you live and operate in his territory. Satan knows that God has provided you with the maximum security that Heaven can offer (Job 1:10)! That should be your solace! That's the beauty of God's amazing grace!

As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, as long as you are learning and applying His Word on a daily basis, you will enjoy God's maximum security. It's that simple. It boils down to this: There is no system of sophisticated weaponry, no act of terrorism, no attack by Satan—visible or invisible—that can pass unnoticed by God's security and get to you without His sovereign endorsement! Not now, not then, and not ever! He is your Shield (Genesis 15:1)! However, if you have been hit by the enemy's flaming dart, do not

fear. Relax, because God, who has allowed it to pierce through His shield and pass His sovereign security, is at work right now on your behalf! Again, nothing gets by God without His knowledge. There is absolutely no reason to fall apart, hit the panic button, or retreat to self-pity (the "Why Me?!" Syndrome). Instead, listen to His Word, which is sweet to the taste: "[Happy] is the man who perseveres under [adverse circumstances]; for once he has [passed the spiritual test], he will receive [super abundance of blessing in time, and] the crown of life [in eternity], which the Lord has promised to those who **love** Him [those who have acquired spiritual capacity]" (James 1:12).

James put it this way: "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials [when the adversities of life hit you hard], knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance [through application of doctrine] have its perfect result, that you may be [fully equipped] lacking in nothing" (James 1:2-4). In fact, what Paul wrote fits perfectly: "And we know that God causes all things [pleasant and unpleasant situations] to work together for good to those who **love** God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). God knows exactly what He is doing in your life even though you may not understand it all. Know this for sure: there is absolutely no such thing as bad luck in God's plan—God can use any situation to bring about His extraordinarily marvelous results! Essentially, we can look at a seemingly bad situation and expect the good that will follow. Such is our awesome God!

Listen to the Apostle Peter's encouragement: "But to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exaltation" (1 Peter 4:13). Finally, the apostle Paul put it this way: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4). Hence, we should rejoice in each and every event in our lives, whether it is pleasant or unpleasant, because our Father is always at work on our behalf. Allow Job's confidence in God to be yours: "But He knows [what I am going through]; when He has [tested] me, I shall come forth

as gold [way better than before!]" (Job 23:10). And no matter what, always remember God's promise: "I will strengthen you, **surely I will help you**, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand [integrity]" (Isaiah 41:10c).

“You shall know the Truth and the Truth shall set you free”

(John 8:32).

DOCTRINE OF GRACE

Taught by Reverend Moses C. Onwubiko
Lesson 13
(Continued from volume 26 Lesson 12)

A REFLECTION ON THE LIFE OF JOSEPH —A MAN OF GRACE

INTRODUCTION

Joseph was one of only a handful of Old Testament winner-believers. There is no question about it, he was a grace-man. But, before we embark upon our journey into Joseph's spiritual heritage, we need to pause to ask some vital questions and to take a look at some of the Old Testament heroes. We will also re-examine our own spiritual lives to see if we are glorifying God as the ancient believers did, or if instead we are retrogressing in this dynamic time of man's history. First, we need to address an important question: why do we have the completed Canon of Scripture today?

WHY THE BIBLE?

The apostle Paul explains it this way: "Now these things...were written [in all of Scripture] for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come" (1 Corinthians 10:11; cf. Romans 15:4). The Bible is our divine dictionary and it contains a reservoir of spiritual solutions for every human problem and need. It is the mind of Christ and it contains God's revelation of the Godhead and His plan for time and eternity. Without these truths, man wanders in darkness. The Psalmist put it beautifully: "Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path" (119:105). Indeed God, in His marvelous grace, has provided for us a history of both losers and winner-believers, so that we can avoid the mistakes of the losers and come

out as winners by applying the divine principles of the winner-believers. It is that simple.

We can rightfully say that it is for our benefit that God breathed His Word into the minds of the human writers of Scripture and by His Holy Spirit enabled them to exhale in writing. And through His providence He has safeguarded His Word until this very day. For instance, in the eleventh chapter of the book of Hebrews, we read, "By faith Enoch [a man of our nature] was taken up so that he should not see death... (v. 5). By faith Noah...became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith (v. 7). By Faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed...he went out not knowing where He was going (v. 8). By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life... (v. 11). By faith Moses, when he was born refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter...**considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt**; for he was looking to the reward (v. 25, 26). By [means of Bible doctrine residence in his soul] Abraham, when he was tested, offered Isaac...He considered that God is able to raise men from the dead... (v. 17, 19). By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones" (v. 22).

The writer of Hebrews was not alone; James revealed that, "Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, and it did not rain for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the sky poured rain, and the earth produced its fruits" (James 5:17, 18). The list goes on and on—the list of the Old Testament winner believers!

THE CHALLENGE

"Therefore, since we [the Church Age saints—believers who have super abundance of spiritual wealth] have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance [every distraction], and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1).

We often ponder what this Church Age would be like if the great men of the Old Testament were alive today. We know that what makes this time in history so unique is the fact that we have the completed Canon of Scripture. But

not only that, for the first time in man's history, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit have elected to make their abode in the bodies of regenerated believers. That's right—the Creator indwelling His creation! These men of the Old Testament had little to work with and yet they glorified God to the maximum, with the result that their names were recorded in the Holy Scriptures. Considering the unique time in which we are living, it is imperative that we consider the words of our Lord: "From everyone who has been given much, much shall be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more" (Luke 12:48). We have been entrusted with much, and God requires much from us! We have no excuse; if the men of the past who had so little glorified God to the maximum, how then shall we live who have so much?

Now we are ready to examine Joseph's life. In our study we will look at the following topics: Joseph's historical background, his physical and spiritual births, his grace promotion, his rugged journey as a slave to Egypt, God's providence in orchestrating every event in his life, his doctrinal application in Potiphar's household, his unfair imprisonment, divine rescue, discernment in preparation for the famine that hit the world in his generation, his encounter with his brothers who conspired to kill him, his grace-orientation, and the expression of doctrine in the hour of his dying grace.

JOSEPH'S HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Joseph, the first son of Rachel, was the eleventh of Jacob's twelve sons (who became the leaders of Israel's twelve tribes). Joseph later became the leader of the two northern tribes, namely, Manasseh and Ephraim. Jacob fathered Joseph when he was living in his father-in-law's household in Padan-aram (Genesis 28:1-2; 30:22-24). Joseph was his father's favorite son for a number of reasons. First, he was Rachel's first son, the wife whom he loved dearly. Secondly, he was the son of his old age—he was 90 years old when he begot Joseph. (37:3). *The father's favoritism was shown in his gift of a coat of many colors. The coat was probably a token of rank indicating that it was his intention to make Joseph the head of the tribe; and it naturally aroused the envy of his elder brothers. Their ill will was increased when he somewhat imprudently told them two dreams he had which*

*were suggestive of his future greatness and their subservience to him.*¹

Moses' account reads this way: "Now Israel [Jacob] loved Joseph more than all his sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a varicolored tunic. And his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms" (Genesis 37:3,4). Talk about vipers! We shall see how his brothers mixed their envy, jealousy, and malice into one evil concoction—one that fueled a high-powered rage toward Joseph! They probably wished that he had not been born! Apparently they were all believers in the Lord; if this is so, what loser-believers they were! To top it off, the flames of hate were fanned when Joseph told them his two dreams—which were suggestive of his divine promotion and superiority over the house of Jacob.

JOSEPH'S SPIRITUAL BIRTH

There is no doubt that Joseph was a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, as He revealed Himself to him. We know that salvation in every generation is always by faith alone in Christ alone. Adam and Eve received their salvation through faith in the Lord. Abraham, Joseph's great grandfather, was saved in the same manner (Genesis 15:6), and likewise, Noah: "By faith Noah . . . became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith" (Hebrews 11:7). The list abounds. The issue is not if Joseph was a believer or not, but when exactly he became born again? We do not know for sure; however, it is apparent from Scripture that he was already a believer as a young man.

THE SOURCE OF JOSEPH'S SPIRITUAL FOOD

For one thing, Joseph did not have the Canon of Scripture. However, the Bible tells us that God revealed Himself to ancient men through various means. In the book of Hebrews we are told that, "God, after He spoke long ago to the Fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways . . ." (1:1). The Greek word *pol-umeros* is rendered "many portions" in the NASB and is translated "in many different ways" in the NET Bible. God conveyed doctrinal information through dreams, visions, stars and Angels. We do not need to go into great detail, for all we need to know is that God, in His fair-

ness, provided Joseph with enough information to grow spiritually. His father, Jacob, was also very instrumental in teaching him.

JOSEPH'S DOCTRINAL ORIENTATION

Jacob knew from his father Isaac about the Scriptural principle: "Train a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he shall not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). That is the way he brought up Joseph in the Lord. Abraham taught Isaac divine principles, who passed the spiritual baton on to his son, Jacob, who then passed it on to his children—Joseph being one of them. Joseph became very positive to the teaching of the Word of God, which his father taught him daily, as we shall see later. He made **perception** and **application** of God's Word the highest priority in his life; he moved rapidly in spiritual growth from babyhood, to adolescence, to adulthood.

Joseph's spiritual life and success is a reflection of what we now have in the book of Joshua: "This book of the law [the whole realm of Bible doctrine] shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then [God will] make your way prosperous, and then you will have [true] success" (1:8). Doctrine in Joseph's soul converted his human viewpoint into divine viewpoint. Paradoxically, Joseph did not even have the first book of Moses to read, let alone the completed Canon of Scripture. Nor did he have a trained pastor available; he only had his father as a spiritual mentor!

As for us, what do we have today? We have the indwelling of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and His enabling power. And that's not all! We have, for the first time, a completed record of God's Word in its original languages—Aramaic, Hebrew, and Greek. We have pastors who are trained in systematic theology who are experts in dissecting God's Word. We also have local churches and Bible doctrine in literature form and sound Biblical truth as taught by R. B. Thieme, Jr., and others on audio and videotapes. The list does not end here! We are blessed with audio and video tape players in our homes—and our automobiles are equipped with them as well so that we can listen while driving. The list of grace assets is inexhaustible! We have it all! "To whom

¹ Tenny Merrill, *Pictorial Bible Dictionary* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1963), 448

much is given... ", you bet, much is required! We can never exhaust God's grace; this will become evident as we study the life of Joseph.

GOD'S GRACE VISITS JOSEPH IN A DREAM

In volumes 15 and 16 of "Grace News Today", we thoroughly examined the Lexical Aids (Greek Dictionary) of the New Testament's definition of grace. While it is not necessary for us to exegete the definition again, we consider it helpful to restate it to refresh our minds in preparation for our exposition of Joseph's life. The definition of grace is the following: *A favor done without expectation of return, absolute freeness of the loving kindness of God to men finding its only motive in the bounty and free heartedness of the Giver; unearned and unmerited favor.* Before we dive in, I consider it of paramount importance to pause here and dogmatically insert this statement: the acid or litmus test of your comprehension of grace is if you can honestly conclude that **whatever** comes your way in this life **totally** and **unequivocally** passes through the pipeline of God's grace. **And I mean everything!** It includes, but is not limited to, your physical and spiritual births, the permanent indwelling of the Godhead, spiritual gifts, eternal security, divine discipline, and tailor-made sufferings for blessing, good health, and even poor health! Even the fact that we were born to this unique age of multitudinous grace tools is not by accident or mere chance.

You may be puzzled and say, "What does poor health have to do with grace?" The truth of the matter is that poor health is in the category of "all things" that uses to bring about intrinsic good (Romans 8:28). Job was a perfect example of this. After Job had suffered immensely, "...the Lord restored the fortunes of Job... and the Lord increased all that Job had twofold... the Lord blessed the later days of Job more than the beginning... And after this [his unspeakable suffering] Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons' grandsons, four generations. And Job died, an old man and full of days" (Job 42:10, 12, 16-17). You see, if God's grace had not permitted for Job to suffer, he would not have enjoyed super abundance of blessing in time much less in the eternal state. He lost everything, including his health, before he got it all back twofold with a crown of glory on his head and everlasting stars on his shoulders!

You may be asking, "Why do we need to suffer before we can be blessed abundantly?" The answer is in one word, **capacity**. Spiritual capacity is like **refined** gold, which always goes through a furnace. We read in Isaiah, "Behold, I have refined you... in the furnace of affliction" (48:10). And James added, "[there is no need to complain, mew or groan when you are hit with adversity. Rather,] Consider it all joy, my brethren [a potential candidate for superb blessing], when you encounter various trials... and let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect [with capacity that can enjoy everything in life]" (1:2-4). For example, if you are hit with a severe illness, your condition can bring maximum glory to God if doctrine is resident in your soul and you choose to utilize the grace assets. Joseph was no exception as the object of grace, for God opened his eyes in a dream and showed him the portfolio of blessing and future promotion in his life! And, Joseph had not done a thing for God; that's right—not a thing! That's the quintessence of grace. The fact that Joseph never earned or deserved his future promotion will serve as a bedrock upon which we will build other doctrines of grace in this study.

JOSEPH'S DREAM

First, let us examine his dream, and then we will deal briefly with the biblical doctrine of dreams. In Moses' account, we read, "And he [Joseph] said to them [his brothers and parents], 'Please listen to this dream which I have had; for behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and lo, my sheaf rose up and also **stood erect** [Hebrew: **Natsab**]; and behold, your sheaves gathered around and **bowed down** [Hebrew: **Shachah**] to my sheaf.' Then his brothers said to him, 'Are you actually going to reign over us? Or are you really going to rule over us?' So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words" (Genesis 37:6-8). Yet this was only the first of two dreams. Let us dissect this first dream.

Joseph's dream contained two vital Hebrew words that warrant our attention: *Natsab* and *Shachab*. The New American Standard Bible translates the Hebrew word *natsab* as 'stood erect.' The verb has different meanings though. It can be rendered, 'to be firm,' 'to be planted,' 'to establish,' or 'to be in a place of authority.'

Thus, we can translate the above verse this way: "...lo my sheaf was **planted**..." It's important that we use the word 'planted' because Joseph did not erect his own sheaf, nor did the sheaf erect itself. Someone planted it, and that Someone is God. Translating it in this manner, therefore, highlights **God's grace** in Joseph's future as a ruler. And humanly speaking, by the virtue of dynasty and primogeniture, Joseph had no chance, for he was the eleventh son! That's right. The eleventh son! His eldest brother (Reuben) would have to rule first, then when he died, the next oldest brother would succeed, and so on until the throne reached Joseph. Joseph would have to live to be at least 200 years old before he would rule! So by human viewpoint standards, he was out of the picture as a ruler; but by divine viewpoint and God's grace policy, he was "in like flint"—unearned and unmerited favor.

The second Hebrew word is *shachab*. This Hebrew verb occurs 170 times in the Hebrew Old Testament. Generally it was used to communicate a sense of worship, more specifically to bow down, to prostrate oneself (in homage to royalty) as an act of respect before a superior being.² Among other things, it can also mean 'to do obeisance.' In ancient times, it was customary for the citizens of a state to bow down to their kings whether in an assembly or one-on-one. Now, we can translate these two verses: "And Joseph said to his siblings, 'Please listen to this dream I had; for behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and lo my sheaf was miraculously planted in an erect position; and behold, your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf.'" (Genesis 37:6,7). Notice that Joseph played no part in either making his sheaf to stand erect or causing his brothers' to bow in homage to his. **Grace** clearly POPS right out of this picture. Now, we are poised for his second dream.

JOSEPH'S SECOND DREAM: "Now he had still another dream, and related it to his brothers, and said, 'Lo I have had still another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars were bowing down to me" (v. 9). The second dream gets even meatier. Now even Joseph's parents are involved in paying homage to him! The sun and the moon represented his parents and the eleven stars represented his brothers. His father, Jacob, became agitated and sharply

² Lexical Aids to The O.T. 7812

rebuked him, "...what is this dream that you have had [what's this silly dream all about]? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?" (v. 10)? Jacob used the Hebrew word *gaar*, the strongest for rebuke. It is the same word the Lord used to rebuke Satan in the New Testament. Despite Jacob's stern rebuke, "his father kept the saying in mind" (v. 11c). Let us for a moment imagine that Joseph's dreams were fulfilled the next day. Try to list seven qualities that he had which gave him advantage over his eleven brothers and his parents. How many did you list? Are you now beginning to see God's handprint of grace on Joseph's life? The same is true about you as you begin to relate to Joseph's life and see God's grace in your own past, present, and future. With this in mind, we are ready to study the concept of dreams briefly.

DOCTRINE OF DREAMS

We need to begin this doctrine with six principles.

- i. All individuals dream regardless of whether they are normal or abnormal, believer or unbeliever, moral or amoral.
- ii. The Scripture is silent as to the cause of dreams.
- iii. Modern psychology has thrown some light, though dim, as to the cause of human dreams.
- iv. In the past, God communicated through dreams to a select few from the line of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Genesis 28:12; 37:5,9), and to some outside His chosen family, like Abimelech and Nebuchadnezzar (Genesis 20:3; Daniel 2:1-45).
- v. Today, God speaks to us through the mind of His Son, Jesus Christ, in the written Oracle of God (Hebrews 1:3; Cf. I Corinthians 2:16).
- vi. Therefore, a believer should be careful to not draw any conclusions from his dreams, or make a big deal out of them. We will deal with this principle much later in this discussion.

Dreams in general may be associated with certain human physiological functions, such as cortical centers. Many dreams can be traced to the state of mind before one sleeps, or *due to some physical disorder such as poor digestion or circulation, improper ventilation or heating, or an uncomfortable position.*³ That's how far we

will go with regard to the source of dreams. We are more interested in the Scriptural connotations. We begin with the primary question, how much of a role did dreams play in the Canon of Scripture? The second question is, should believers in this dispensation (the Church Age) pay any attention to dreams?

THE ROLE OF DREAMS IN SCRIPTURE

The word "dream" occurs 74 times in all of Scripture, including 67 times in the Old Testament and seven times in the New Testament—and these seven references are found only in the book of Matthew. In general, in the Old Testament, dreams play only an insignificant role except in the books of Genesis and Daniel where there are abundant references to them.⁴ Our Lord Jesus Christ and the Church Age apostles did not speak of dreams at all, which underscores their insignificance in the New Testament.

DREAMS IN THE CHURCH AGE

The next question is, can believers today pay any attention to dreams? God is Sovereign, and He can accomplish whatever He wants and whenever He wants as long as His plan and integrity are not compromised. However, since we have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the infallible Word of God, and since revelation outside of Scripture no longer exists, it is completely unnecessary for God to speak to us through dreams. You may say, "Well, I have had some dreams come true." The issue is not a matter of experience, for Scriptural truth is not measured by experience. Whatever experience you have had concerning dreams ought to remain personal and need not be magnified. And we are reminded in the Bible that, "God **after** [in the past] He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many ways [*pol-umeros*—including dreams, angels, etc.] in these last days [i.e. underscoring a shift in His vehicle of communication] has spoken to us in His Son [from Christ's incarnation to the completed Canon of Scripture], whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world" (Hebrews 1:1, 2). I think that we would do well, and not err, if we follow in the footsteps of our Lord and the apostles who never once made any reference to dreams. This doctrinal insight brings us back to Joseph and the significance of his dreams.

INTERPRETATION OF JOSEPH'S DREAMS

We need to establish two fundamental principles in the interpretation of dreams. One principle of interpretation seems quite evident: when a symbol is in the natural realm, the interpretation is in the natural realm as well. When Joseph dreamed of the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowing to him, his brothers immediately knew they referred to their father, mother, and each other (Gen. 37:9-11). Secondly, when the symbol is in the human realm, as in Daniel 7:8, which says, "eyes like the eyes of man and a mouth speaking great things," the interpretation is in the spiritual realm.⁵ As the study progresses, we come face-to-face with the fulfillment of Joseph's dreams and how God showered him with grace *from the crown of his head to the soles of his feet*.

FINAL THOUGHT

We are reminded that our position in Christ is grace all the way. The apostle Paul wrote, "But by His doing [minus anyone's effort] you are in Christ Jesus..." (I Corinthians 1:30a). God is perfect and His work is perfect. God the Son purchased you (I Peter 1:18, 19)—a perfect transaction. God the Holy Spirit sealed you (II Corinthians 1:22)—a perfect sealing. God the Father keeps you saved by His power (John 10:29)—a perfect security. God provides salvation in grace. We have nothing to add. We are the objects and beneficiaries of His grace forever.

Heavenly Father, as we come to the end of this doctrinal exposition, we pause to praise you because of who You are and for what You are accomplishing in our lifetime. We thank You for the awesome privilege and honor of being recipients of this fantastic Church Age doctrine. We are grateful to You for preserving Your written word so we can have a better understanding of Your amazing grace. Father, we are aware that we live in an unprecedented time of human history and the history of the United States of America; please shield us from the evil one as we advance to the high ground of spiritual maturity.

We pause also to pray for President George W. Bush, that You clothe him with wisdom so he can continue to make good decisions and lead this client nation to God in the right direction. We pray for all those in the armed forces. We pray

³ Orr James, *International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia* (US: 2002), 875

⁴ *Ibid.*, 875

⁵ Tenney Merrill, *Pictorial Bible Dictionary* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1963), 224

that You would continue to give them protection and victory both at home and abroad.

Our dear Father, once again, we pray for those who are supporting Grace Evangelistic Ministries and are serving Your purpose through this ministry. We humbly ask for Your continued provision for each of them. Above all, may all of us, who are positive to doctrine, arrive at the Evaluation Seat of Your Son with great joy. Father, we thank You for answering this prayer, in Christ's name. Amen.

"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling [losing your salvation], 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" (Jude 1:24-25).

JOSEPH'S RUGGED JOURNEY AS A SLAVE TO EGYPT:

To be continued—(Volume 28—lesson 13)

PROGRESS REPORT

Our purpose is to inform and bring you up-to-date about what God is doing for and through this ministry. Our hearts are filled with gratitude and thanksgiving for His indelible work. When you approach His throne in prayer, please

remember Grace Evangelistic Ministries. Praise Him for His work through us; our work is nothing apart from His grace.

USA

Demand for our publications continues to grow. Many of our partners have joined us in the distribution of our materials to positive believers. Our mailing list gets larger by the week, causing us to stand in awe and reverence of the Almighty God for what He is doing.

OVERSEAS

- We currently support pastors teaching doctrine in the churches we established in Africa until they become financially independent.
- Right now, we have six men that we sponsor at GEM's recommended seminaries in Africa. Dozens more are on the waiting list.
- Today, our mailing list includes addresses from Australia, Canada, China, Croatia, Germany, India, Philippines, Scotland, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Cameroon, C'ote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Gambia, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The list grows as

God directs and removes linguistic, racial, cultural, and geographical barriers to make Himself known to those who seek to know Him. We consider it a great privilege to be His instrument in spreading the gospel and doctrinal truths.

NEW PUBLICATION

By the grace of God, we have published a new book: Focus on Christian Marriage for both married and unmarried believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. This publication is a reply to many questions we encounter about marriage as we travel from coast-to-coast. We believe that this book will help everyone who wants to understand the spiritual battle that rages on in marriage. More than that, it will enlighten everyone who aspires to glorify God in marriage. What does the Bible mean when it says, "Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave His life for her?" Or "Wives, be submissive to your own husbands as to the Lord?" These two mandates carry equal weight and are explained in this book.

Our stand with regard to financial policy remains the same: The book is free. We do

The Overview of Grace Evangelistic Ministries

Grace Evangelistic Ministries is incorporated in the State of Tennessee as a nonprofit, non-denominational, sound Bible teaching missionary oriented Christian organization.

Our Mission: In obedience to the command of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.....

"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15)

WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:

Objective #1

Evangelize unbelievers with the simple, grace gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will depend solely on the sovereignty of the Holy Spirit to make the gospel clear without resorting to gimmicks or imposing our personal views on others. We must present the gospel, but leave the decision "to believe in" or "to reject" Christ to the hearers.

Objective #2

For those who choose to believe in Christ, we will seize the opportunity to assist in the following ways:

- a. Help them form Bible study groups;

- b. Provide them with doctrinal materials, including recorded Bible lessons and literature, enabling them to fulfill the command: "As newborn babies desire the sincere milk of the word [sound Bible doctrine] that you may grow thereby." (1 Peter 2:2);
- c. Where possible, assist them in establishing their own local churches;
- d. Help them select pastors who teach sound Bible doctrine; and
- e. As the Lord makes funds available, provide financial assistance until they are self-supporting.

Objective #3

Because those who have responded to the gospel will become unfruitful if they are not exposed to sound Bible teaching, we will seek out or establish theological seminaries to prepare indigenous pastors. Their training will be consistent with Paul's mandate to Pastor Timothy to "study to show yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth." (II Timothy 2: 15)

Objective #4

As the need arises, we will send doctrinally motivated, short-term and long-term missionaries to minis-

ter to newly formed groups and churches.

Objective #5

We will use literature and other media to reach and nurture those to whom we cannot minister in person. To minimize expenses, we will establish overseas centers for audiocassette duplication of recorded Bible lessons and reproduction of doctrinal literature. In keeping with our grace policy, individuals and groups will never be charged for these materials.

Objective #6

Offer humanitarian assistance as the Lord provides and directs us. This may include, but is not limited to:

- a. Provision of used and/or new clothing;
- b. Provision of food;
- c. Provision of medicines and medical care; and
- d. Assist Grace Evangelistic Ministries associates as necessary.

Objective #7

Prepare periodic newsletters, which include Bible exposition and testimonies, for distribution to our associates by mail and the Internet.

not charge for books or any other material that is of spiritual value. We do not solicit funds; your contribution to this ministry is solely a matter between you and the Lord. Every believer has the privilege and honor to contribute to the work of this ministry as we endeavor to bring maximum glory to our heavenly Father. This is a grace ministry.

OUR MISSIONARY TRIP TO CANADA

We are totally amazed at how God is using this ministry! We do not have any doubt that He is the only One who runs this ministry. Unquestionably, it is a great honor to be in the front seats to witness His work through Grace Evangelistic Ministries. The report we received from Moses is very encouraging. It shows that this ministry is truly serving its purpose—the glorification of God to the maximum.

HOW WE GOT TO CANADA: Our Heavenly Father continues to take us to many different places—giving everyone the chance to hear the message of hope. God initiated the open door to Canada through a missionary in Gambia who benefited from Moses' conference in Gambia last November. He was so excited about the spiritual enlightenment he experienced that he contacted the Canadians who had previously hosted him as a visiting missionary to see if they would host the Reverend! He is already arranging for Moses to visit other countries, especially in Africa and the United Kingdom. God continues to amaze us!

- ✓ **Indian Reservations:** Moses mostly ministered to the Aborigine Indians. He went to the interior villages in Saskatoon where they live. They are poverty-stricken and have resorted to alcoholism as a way of consolation. Moses gave the gospel of grace—faith alone in Christ alone, which many embraced.
- ✓ **Church Visitation:** Moses was also invited to some churches that rely on works for salvation. Once again, he stressed that salvation is by faith plus nothing. Many were relieved to discover the doctrine of grace and eternal security.
- ✓ **Prison Visitation:** Moses was invited to give the gospel to the prison inmates, of whom

about 98% are native Canadian Indian. Our gospel pamphlet, "Riding the Death Train," was distributed in the chapel to the inmates who came.

- ✓ **A pastor and founder of a Bible College** received doctrinal insight. It is Moses' policy to not attack anyone's personal doctrinal views; rather, he allows the Lord to reveal truth in His own timing and in His own way... and He did just that for this pastor. Incidentally, this is a man who has planted fourteen churches in Indian villages and has pastored for over three decades. He drove Moses around, covering over 1,500 miles. It was at this time that he asked Moses many doctrinal questions, all pointing back to the concept of grace. God the Holy Spirit enabled Moses to answer the questions without ambiguity. In the end, this pastor said, "I have been wrong for the past 30 years or so. How can I go back to my congregation and re-teach these doctrines?" This pastor really needs your prayers for courage. He read some of Moses' books and recommended them to his members. We left some doctrinal material from Col. Thieme, Jr.'s, *Ministries* as well as some of our own.
- ✓ **Evangelism:** God provided Moses with opportunities for personal evangelism everywhere as well as for doctrinal teachings to those who came to his suite.
- ✓ **The Missionary from the Gambia:** Throughout his stay, he daily bombarded Moses with questions and sometimes the discussion would last past 3 a.m. In the end, he said to Moses, "This whole trip is just for my benefit." Once again, **God's grace** is highlighted and the principle that He feeds anyone who thirsts for righteousness is underlined.

We have already started receiving requests from Canada for doctrinal materials. We wish to share one or two letters with you so that you can give glory to our Heavenly Father.

To Whom It May Concern:

I'd like to receive a few books that will help me in my spiritual living. I understand there is no cost.

Thanks.

J. M., Saskatoon, Canada

To brother Moses:

I am enjoying your books and I didn't know that it is easy to walk with the Lord. When I read your book, sometimes I cry. I ask myself, why have many people made walking with Jesus so difficult? I have come to know that it is not by works that we are saved. I really thank God, who has made a way for you to come, because I have been praying for the Lord to make a way for me to know Him.

Love,

Your Sister in Christ,

P. F. Canada

LETTERS TO GRACE EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

We would like to share a few of the letters we received to show you how your partnership is helping to produce dividends for the glory of our heavenly Father. As you read, please join us in giving thanks to God, for the Scripture is crystal clear concerning who is behind a ministry that honors Him: "For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).

Dear Grace Evangelistic Ministries,

I always enjoy the newsletter, which is full of doctrine that challenges, encourages and feeds the soul.

The new book on marriage, Focus On Christian Marriage, is fantastic! I pray that the doctrine it contains will make many positive and wonderful challenges in the readers' spiritual lives and marriages. This is a much-needed book on a very important and vital subject. Great job!

We are glad to be a part of your ministry through our prayers and gifts.

With Christian love,

U. S. A

Dear Brethren in Christ,

I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I came to know about you through your tract, "Riding the Death Train" [GEM doesn't know how it got into that country]. Indeed I was blessed after carefully reading through it. I was a Muslim before my conversion. My country is predominantly Muslim.

We need tracts, basic books on Christian doctrine, audiotapes and other spiritual materials to reach out to the lost.

Thanking you all in advance for a prompt and positive reply.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Mohammed, Freetown Sierra Leone

Dear Grace Evangelistic Ministries,

I received and read with much delight your publications. I thank the Almighty God for using you to enrich the world. I also want to extend sincere greetings and thanks to Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko for such a wonderful ministry.

I would also like to approach you with prayer that you may be kind enough to send me a complete set of R. B. Thieme, Jr's., tapes.

I pray the Lord will continue to empower you so that you can continue to feed the whole world with your sound doctrine.

Regard,

M. I., Bamenda, Cameroon

Dear Rev. Onwubiko,

I want you to know that God has used your ministry to be a blessing to me, because when you came to the Gambia, I was in the state of reversionism that I nearly took my own life; but thank God for the power in His Word! It was this reversionism that made me take wrong decisions to go to the Gambia. I have realized that the wrong teaching, which I was brought up with, deceived me.

Please I would like you to send doctrinal materials to me, and possibly direct me to any Bible class in Lagos where I have been since returning after your program in the Gambia.

Thank you sir.

A. B. Lagos, Nigeria

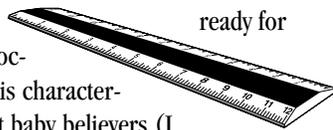
SPIRITUAL YARDSTICK

"Therefore, leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ [basics], let us press on to maturity" (Hebrews 6:1a).

The command given here is to advance to the high ground of spiritual maturity. The question is how are you advancing spiritually? There are three stages in the Spiritual Growth Dynamics:

Babyhood, Adolescence, and Adulthood (Maturity). Would you join me as we measure our spiritual growth using God's yardstick:

- ✓ Do you enjoy studying and sticking to the basics and never seem ready for



advanced doctrine? This is characteristic of most baby believers (I Corinthians 3:2).

- ✓ Do you look forward to learning new doctrine? This is true of most believers in the adolescent stage.
- ✓ Do you, under the mentorship of God the Holy Spirit, enjoy and constantly study the whole realm of Bible doctrine? If so, then you are a believer at the Mega Gate of spiritual maturity.... To be continued...

HERE IS THE TRUTH

(Continued from volume 26)

Does the believer's blessing depend on tithing? And what about Malachi 3:10? "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you [the nation of Israel] a blessing until it overflows."

In the dispensation of the Jews, was tithing related to blessing? Yes. But in the Church Age, emphatically, it is not the same!

In our previous examination of this subject we clearly established from Scripture (I Samuel 8:9,15) and Biblical history that tithing was a system of taxation in ancient times. Perhaps they chose tithing, which is 10% of one's income, because it was an easy number to compute. No one really knows how it came about, and that is not what is important. In addition, we saw that the book of Malachi was addressed to the Jews only and has no bearing whatsoever on the Church Age. Note that the apostle Paul (even when he was collecting offerings from local churches to ease the sufferings of believers in Jerusalem) never made any mention of tithing,

nor did any other apostle, for that matter (II Corinthians 8, 9). Before we embark further into this subject, let us address the following question: who is Melchizedek? Then, let us establish the doctrinal principle that the Church does not replace the Israelites—a heresy that many Bible communicators hold to be true.

MELCHIZEDEK

It is believed by some that Melchizedek was the Lord Himself. Nothing could be further from the truth, as we will, through God's grace, demonstrate. He typifies Christ—no more and no less! In Genesis 14:18-20, we read, "And Melchizedek [human] king of Salem [or Jerusalem], brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said blessed be Abram [or later Abraham] of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth. And blessed [praise] be [to] God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand..."

To solve this problem, we need to answer only one question: Who is God Most High possessor of heaven and earth, in our passage? The Lord Jesus Christ. How do we know that? Because He is the only member of the Trinity who created everything and He holds the universe by the power of His Word (Hebrews 1:3). The Scripture supports the claim in John chapter one: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (v. 1)... And the Word became flesh [Jesus Christ] (v. 14). All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him **nothing** came into being... (v. 3). In Colossians, Paul wrote, "He [Christ] is the image of the invisible God (1:15a)... For by Him **all things** were created, both in the heavens [including Angels] and on earth [including Adam and Eve], visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created by Him and for Him (v. 16). Now here comes the other question: If Jesus Christ was Melchizedek, why was He praising Himself? In the Bible, Jesus Christ made it clear: "But I do not seek My own glory" (John 8:50a). Therefore He is eliminated from the list of possibilities. Our final question then, is, who was Melchizedek? Like we previously established, Melchizedek was a man, for only a created being can praise the Creator.

THE CHURCH IS NOT THE ISRAELITES

People who cannot find any other reason to justify tithing in the church, often say, "Well the Church is now the Israelites." However, the Scripture says otherwise. If the Church represents the Israelites, then why did the apostle Paul refer to the church as separate from the Israelites in Romans chapter nine? He also said, "For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to **Israel** until the fullness of the **Gentiles** [the Church] has come in; and so all Israel will be saved" (11:25, 26a; cf. Luke 21:24). It is clear that the Scripture makes a distinction between Israel and the Church. The Church is very unique. When a person believes in Christ, whether he is an Israelite or a Gentile, God blends the individual into one body in Christ (Galatians 3:28). It is true that the Bible refers to believers as Abraham's children; however, only in the sense that they have one thing in common with Abraham: **Faith** in Christ alone (Genesis 15:6; Galatians 3:7). God is not yet through with the Israelites, for they have a future (Romans 9-11)!

**CHANGE OF PRIESTHOOD WARRANTS
CHANGE OF LAW** (Hebrews 7:12)

(To be continued--Volume 28)

**BIBLE DOCTRINE FOR
THOUGHT**

In our Lord's Prayer, Jesus Christ said to God the Father, "I have given them Thy Word [Bible doctrine]... **they [all believers] are not of the world**, even as I am not of the world" (John 17:14).

What's the ultimate reason as to why you are kept behind after your salvation? The answer is not far-fetched: for the maximum glorification of God! It boils down to this fact: God's **ONLY** purpose for leaving you on earth after your salvation is that you may learn His Word (I Peter 2:2) and "grow in grace" (II Peter 3:18), and thereby glorify Him in the devil's world (Romans 15:9; I Corinthians 6:20). Therefore, if your utmost goal in life as a believer is anything other than learning and applying accurate Bible doctrine on a consistent basis, sadly, your life on earth has no worth or value. Do you

live your life in light of eternity? You may wish to meditate on this question and these principles in reference to your personal goals.

GOD WILL PROVIDE

"God will provide" is the attitude of Grace Evangelistic Ministries. We do not beg for money. We believe that if this ministry is honoring to God, He will provide **EVERYTHING** necessary for its continuation. "God will provide" was Abraham's reassurance to his confused son, Isaac (Genesis 22:8). When God gives an assignment to us as His servants, He is under obligation to provide for the job. When God does not provide, it could mean one of three things. One, God may not want the job accomplished at that particular time. Two, it could mean that those who are to carry out the mission are not prepared to do so yet. Lastly, it could be a sign that God does not want to have any part of the ministry; therefore, it is absolutely foolish and arrogant for us as believers to try to devise a way to accomplish a task in the name of God when He has already rejected it. For example, when we use gimmicks to manipulate people to contribute money, we are not glorifying God. It is blasphemy on our part to think that God does not know how to provide for the work that He has assigned. Take a moment and think about the following question: When we work to accomplish a job that God has rejected, who will be glorified in the end? God? Or me?

A believer in the Lord once said, "God's work, done in God's way, will have God's provision."

**BUDGET SHEET FOR THE
UPCOMING TRIPS**

Provisions for conferences and soul winning for Christ are entirely up to the Lord. Our stand regarding financial provision remains unchanged: If God has opened these doors for our ministry, He will provide. If He does not provide, it is a clear indication that He did not open these doors, and Rev. Moses and his team would go fishing!

- ✓ Gambia: (November...)
- ✓ Dakar, Senegal: (November)
- ✓ Cameroon: (November / December)

- ✓ Nigeria: (December)

BUDGET BREAKDOWN:

- ₦ Total Airfare \$3,500.00
- ₦ Room and Board \$2,900.00
- ₦ Venue \$1,700.00
- ₦ Publicity (Radio, Banners, flyers) . \$2,300.00
- ₦ Local Transportation \$2,000.00

**REV. MOSES' ITINERARY
(JULY-DECEMBER 2002)**

- Zimbabwe (Victoria Falls) July 31 - August 8
- South Africa (Durban) August 9 - 17
- Poland August 23 - September 1
- Germany September 2 - 7
- US (Washington) September 12 - 14
- US (Houston, Sweeney: Berachah & Gulf Coast Bible Church) September 21 - 24
- US (California) September 27 - 30
- US (Nashville) October
- Gambia (Banjul) November 3 - 9
- Senegal (Dakar) November 10 - 16
- Cameroon November 17 - December 4
- Nigeria (Umuahia) December 8 - 27

**CONTAINER SHIPMENT TO
AFRICA**

Over the years, many of our associates have called wanting to donate one thing or the other. We are now accepting donations for shipment to Africa.

ITEMS NEW OR USED:

- ◇ Bibles (good versions for new converts and study tools for doctrinal pastors)
- ◇ Computers, monitors, copy machines, printers
- ◇ TVs & VCRs for tape groups
- ◇ Doctrinal literature
- ◇ Etc. (**If you have something else to donate, other than those listed, please call us.**)

Mail donations to:

**Grace Evangelistic Ministries
C/o Mr. Danny Warner
7706 Fairdale
Houston, TX 77063**

JESUS CHRIST THE PERFECT EXAMPLE OF A PRAYER WARRIOR

The God-Man, our Lord Jesus Christ, gave us a perfect example to follow. His life and earthly ministry was encapsulated in a lifestyle of prayer. Prayer occupied a place of singular importance in His own life and teaching. In time of decision and crisis He gave Himself to prayer. Thus our Lord prayed when He was baptized (Luke 3:21,22); when He chose the twelve disciples: "As it was at this time that He [i.e., Jesus Christ] went off to the mountain to pray and He spent the whole night in prayer to God [the Father]" (Luke 6:12,13); when He was transfigured (Luke 9:29); when He was engaging in sustained and exhausting service: "And in the early morning, while it was still dark, He arose and went out and departed to a lone place [for privacy], and was praying there" (Mark 1:35-39); when He called forth Lazarus from the grave (John 11:41); when He was burdened for Simon Peter (Luke 22:31-32); when He faced betrayal, execution, and divine abandonment, and thus the Scripture recorded: "And He withdrew from them [i.e., His disciples] about a stone's throw, and he knelt down and began to pray... And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground" (Luke 22:41,44). He prayed when He thought of His disciples and their future ministry (John 17) and before His physical death (Luke 23:46). Therefore, if you are a believer who finds it difficult to spend a time with our heavenly Father, sin no more. "Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you" (1 Samuel 12:23).

If Jesus Christ, a perfect God and a perfect Man spent all night in prayer (Luke 6:12-13), we the mortal believers should spend all year in Prayer!

In light of the importance of prayer,

WOULD YOU JOIN US IN PRAYER

As we pray for:

- ❖ President George Bush (For wisdom in all decision-making)
- ❖ The US (For a great revival, peace, and freedom from terrorism)
- ❖ The US military
- ❖ God to provide for the missionary work in Africa (November-December, 2002)
- ❖ The safety of Moses and his team as they travel
- ❖ Col. Thieme Jr.'s ministry and his wife's health
- ❖ The spiritual growth of the churches we formed
- ❖ Seminary students that we support (that God will equip them in every way)
- ❖ Special fund to establish a printing press for reprinting of GEM's and Thieme's publications in Africa
- ❖ Israel's protection
- ❖ His provision for three budgeted publications this year
- ❖ For the provision of many open doors in the year 2002
- ❖ Our partners (that God would continue to meet their needs)

INTERNAL REVENUE DISCLOSURE

Grace Evangelistic Ministries is a non-profit, tax-exempt, missionary organization. And under the Internal Revenue code 501-C (3), all contributions to this ministry qualify for tax-deductions.

BIBLE QUOTATION:

Scriptures cited in this work are from the New American Standard Bible (NASB). Used by permission. Words and phrases in brackets are solely the author's.

FINAL NOTE

If you would like to be on our mailing list to receive this bi-monthly issue of Grace News Today with no obligation, please write to us:

Grace Evangelistic Ministries
PO Box 17246

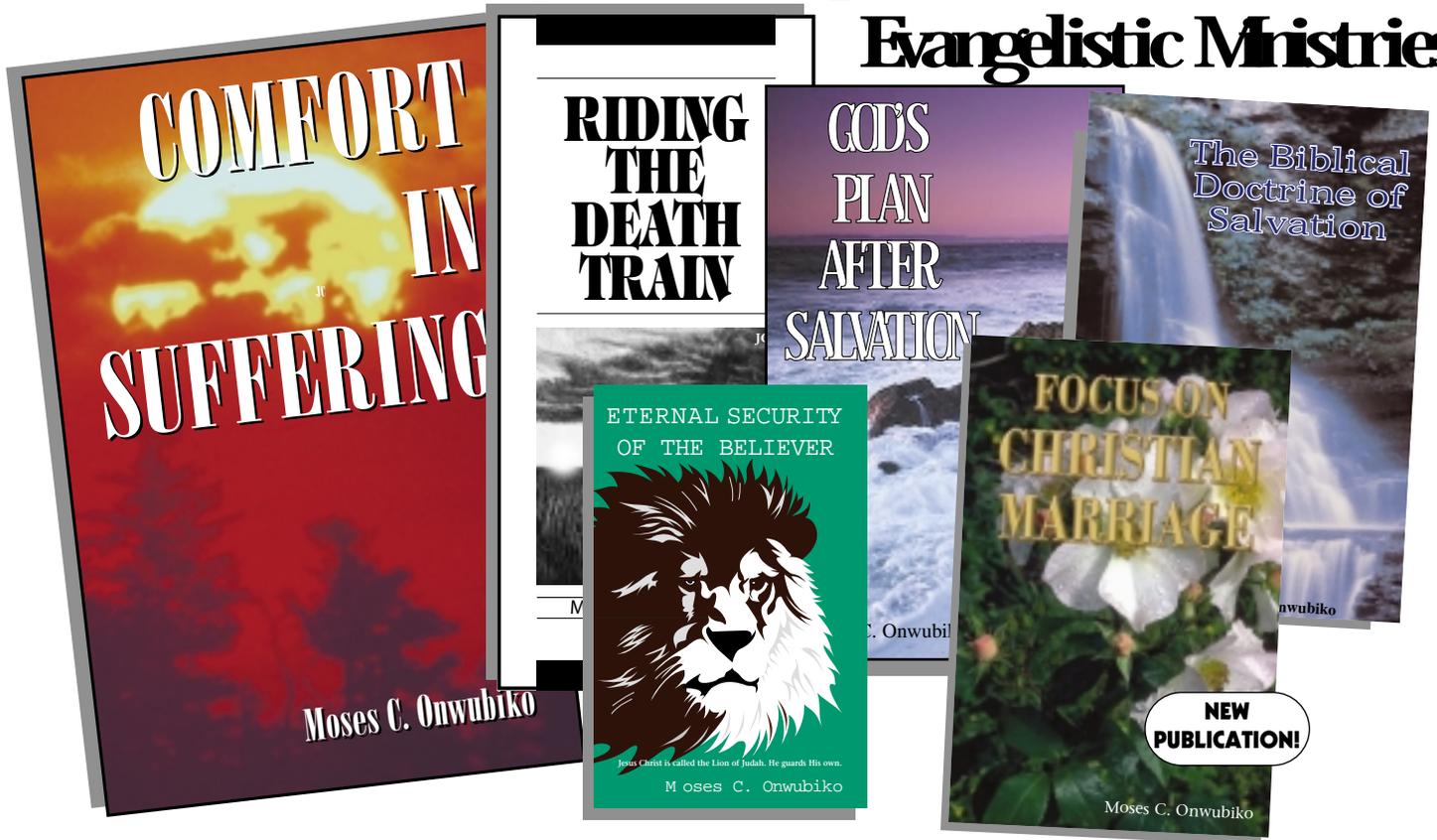
Nashville, TN 37217-7246

or call us at (615) 365-0015
or you may visit our web site

on the Internet at:

<<http://www.gracemissions.org>

Currently available publications from Grace Evangelistic Ministries



FINANCIAL POLICY

There is no charge for any material from Grace Evangelistic Ministries. Anyone who desires accurate Bible teaching can receive our books without obligation, whatsoever. God provides Bible doctrine. We wish to reflect His grace.

Grace Evangelistic Ministries is purely a grace ministry and operates entirely on freewill contributions. There is no price list for our publications. No money is ever requested. When gratitude for the Word of God and understanding of the need to reach unsaved souls with the simple grace gospel and sound Bible teaching motivate you to contribute, you have the privilege of becoming a partner with us by contributing and sharing in the propagation of the Word of God. This is a grace ministry.