



# Grace News Today

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## *“Faith alone in Christ alone”*

Greetings from your partners and missionary friends here at Grace Evangelistic Ministries. There is no question about it, the activities and many successes we have witnessed in this ministry continue to baffle us as the work spreads like a wild fire with remarkable and astonishing results—many doors are being opened in places we did not expect—even Pentecostal Councils are giving us their platforms for disseminating the grace gospel of faith alone in Christ alone. Many around the world are embracing our message—resulting in the glorification of God. That’s not all...thousands of copies of our publications have been republished and distributed worldwide. Our African headquarters in Jos, Nigeria can hardly keep up with the daily demands for literature and Bible doctrine taught by Colonel R.B. Thieme Jr., Prof. Onwubiko, Pastor Rick Knapp, Pastor Joe Griffin, Pastor Clay Ward, and other sound doctrinal communicators.

We cannot recall a day that has gone by without witnessing how God alone undergirds and provides for this ministry made up of unworthy saints! Despite our unworthiness, God has surrounded us with His amazing grace. It’s astonishing that He uses such creatures to funnel His spiritual blessings. When we fail, He is ever present to remind us that His grace is more than sufficient. He has never let us down—not once!

That goes for you, too, our friends and fellow partners in His Service. There’s no failure on your part that’s too great for His matchless grace. You may say to me, “I have failed God miserably.” But I say, “We all have”—including those who are proficient in hiding their failures. We are all by-products of the Old Sin Nature—that’s why we fail frequently and sometimes miserably. So, when God the Holy Spirit alerts you to your failure, quit resorting to self-pity, remorse, and promises to do better. Instead follow a few simple steps: Quickly get up, pick up the pieces, and isolate the sins that brought about your failure;

confess them like King David did after he committed adultery and murder (II Samuel 12:7-9): “I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord;’ And You forgave the guilt of my sin.” (Psalm 32:5). Similarly, the apostle John tells us, “If we confess [acknowledge or cite] our [known] sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our [named] sins and to [purify] us from all [sins of ignorance or those we’ve forgotten]” (I John 1:9). This is the quintessence of the completeness of the grace of God—when He forgives, He forgives our guilt too! So say good-bye to guilt, and stay on course as we move shoulder-to-shoulder en route to the high ground of spiritual maturity—an arena where the potential to glorify God to the maximum abounds!

The apostle Paul knew the importance of continuing forward in our spiritual marathon, rather than looking backward: “Not that I have already obtained it [his super-sized blessing], or have already become perfect [mature], but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of [my blessing in time and eternity] yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind [not allowing my past failures to get in my way] and reaching forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:12-14). Paul was focused on the objective when he asked, “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Therefore I run in such way, as not without aim; I box in such a way as not beating the air; but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified” (I Corinthians 9:24, 26-27).

“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of

witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, [locking] our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of [Bible doctrine], who for the joy set before Him endures the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God, for consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose [hope]” (Hebrews 12:1-3).

And so, to our prayer supporters, words are inadequate to express our gratitude to you for the time you spend lifting us before His throne. Thank you for sharing in His Service prayerfully and financially. Indeed all honor and adoration are due Him! We know that the Lord will richly reward you here on earth and then in eternity. I’m reminded of a question that was once asked of Charles Spurgeon, one of the greatest servants of the Most High God, “What is the secret behind the success of your ministry?” He humbly answered, “My people pray for me.”

Our attitude concerning financial support is unchanged: We do not solicit funds. We believe that the support of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and churches are a matter between Christ’s ambassadors and the Lord. Yet, we’ve no doubt that the Lord has employed us; conversely, we firmly believe that He will provide for His work as long as we remain on His course. On Him we slam our trust!

“And lo, I am with you **always**, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20b).

“The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Israel is our [shield]” (Psalm 46:7).

Keep in touch.

Forever gripped in His matchless grace,

**Moses C. Onwubiko**  
President; Grace Evangelistic Ministries

## WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Ironically, it's inconceivable that a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ would think that God the Father is unaware of, or that He has forgotten you even for a moment. There's not a chance in a million that He'll take His eyes off you, ever! In fact, God had you personally on His mind when He uttered this promise: "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, I WILL NEVER FORSAKE YOU" (Hebrews 13:5c). Repeat: No matter what, God will never, ever take His eyes off you. Not then, not now, and not ever, even if you wanted Him to! That's a fact of the Bible!

Satan may deceive you into believing that God is finished with you; he will point to this or that situation to drive his lies home. He may point a finger at your many unanswered prayers, or at how long you have suffered in life. He may even parade memories of peers, who have done well in life, before your mind's eye to induce you to self pity—the "why me?" syndrome. You ought not to entertain his lies for a second—for he is the inventor of lies and an intruder in our spiritual lives. Our Lord revealed Satan's true colors when he said, "He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not [cannot and will not] stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies" (John 8:44b).

In contrast, God knew everything about you even before you were born. Our Father knew every scratch, every heartache, stomach virus, disappointment, loss of employment, your pain at the loss of loved ones, all circumstances you would ever face. King David was aware of this truth and said, "O Lord, You have searched me and known me, You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. Even before there is a word on my tongue, behold, O Lord, You know it all. Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Your [Omniscient book] they were all written, the days that were ordained for me, [my allotted time on earth] when as yet there was not one of them (Psalm 139:1, 4, 16).

That's just the first chapter of your life! God,

in His matchless grace, orchestrated an action-plan for every problem you will ever face! In fact, God the Holy Spirit inspired the apostle Paul to let us know that "No [testing] has overtaken you but such is common to man; and God is faithful [today, tomorrow, and the day after next tomorrow], who will not allow you to be [tested] beyond what you are able [to handle], but with the testing will provide a way of escape" (I Corinthians 10:13). That's right! He promised to provide a way out of any predicament through His cordon of grace provisions, beginning with His infallible Word and the ability to utilize it through the energizing power of the Holy Spirit. This promise is good 24/7 for those who are learning and applying His Word, and thus advancing to the high ground of spiritual maturity. The apostle Paul had the advancing believer in mind when he uttered these words: "And we know [we should know] that God causes all things [all suffering included] to work together for [an intrinsic] good for **those who love God**, [the advancing believers] to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Job, **who loved God to the maximum**, understood this concept without ever seeing a page of the Bible: "He knows [God is concretely aware of the magnitude of my suffering], when He has [tested me—mixing my good moments with my suffering; When He is done], I shall [emerge in glittering splendor] like gold[!]" (Job 23:10). What's the difference between you and Job? He had very little spiritual assets at that time, while we have an abundance in our time. You have the indwelling of the triunion God. Job did not. You have the completed canon of Scripture while he saw not a page; yet, he emerged victoriously! With that in mind, you are challenged with the assignment to fill in the blank: "To whom much is given. . . ." It boils down to this, God expects that you use His grace provisions, God the Holy Spirit and the dynamic power of the Word of God, to handle everything that Satan fires at you!

The BIG question is, are you where God wants you to be—doing what He wants you to do? If your spirit bears witness with His Holy Spirit that you are following His game

plan for your life, relax; God has everything under His control! Surely, He is at the helm of your suffering. In your situation, it may seem that all hope is gone, but always remember who is in charge—the El-Shaddai—the ever-able God. So, my friend, always remember that when it comes to God's promises in the Bible, you have nothing to lose. But God has everything to lose, for His veracity—a component of His essence and integrity—is at stake! Satan and his minions are closely monitoring God to see whether He will falter or slip up on any of His promises; however, there's not a chance!

Indeed, our Lord's Word deserves to be capitalized, highlighted, italicized, and underlined: "**FOR TRULY I SAY TO YOU, UNTIL HEAVEN AND EARTH PASS AWAY, NOT THE SMALLEST LETTER OR STROKE SHALL PASS AWAY FROM [GOD'S WORD] UNTIL ALL IS ACCOMPLISHED**" (Matthew 5:18). Here you have His promise sticking out—and glaring at you. In the final analysis, this is what His promise that you "shall never be put to shame" should mean to you: No matter how dark your situation may look, no matter what your present predicament, even if it seems that all hope is gone, God cannot, should not, and will not falter on His promise! So take a deep breath, lean back and reassure yourself in light of His promise that come what may, He will see you through. This is the confidence of those who love God—those who have reached, or are advancing to the higher ground!

**“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 16

(Continued from volume 29, lesson 15)

### JOSEPH AND HIS FAITHFUL GOD

We have delineated in detail why believers suffer. And, Joseph's experience (from being thrown into a pit to being sold to the

Ishmaelites as a slave, then resold to Potiphar and to his subsequent imprisonment) was no different from what we have learned. Clearly, Joseph never deserved all this suffering, nor his promotion to a place of honor as we will see. As we go deeper into our study, we will demonstrate how Joseph's familiarity with God's grace became the backbone of his mental attitude. But above all, this study will make it possible for us to trace, footprint by footprint, the invisible God as He monitored every circumstance surrounding Joseph. God, the faithful one, walked ahead of him, and transformed every dilemma in Joseph's life into intrinsic good that moved Joseph (and us) to stand in awe and reverence of His majesty!

At this juncture, I want to remind you that the main thrust of this study is to explore Joseph's grace-orientation and call to your attention that Joseph's God, also your God, is always with you in every situation in life. And before human creation, He determined how He would convert your suffering into blessing. But listen, these blessings are for those who love God—those who are on a steady upward move to the mega gate of spiritual maturity—the gate of maximum glorification of God. The Scripture is crystal clear on this issue: "And we know that God **causes** all things [including Joseph being sold into slavery] to work together for good **to those who love God**, and to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). We are almost ready to go, but first let's examine the *source* of Joseph's grace orientation:

### JOSEPH'S SUPERSTRUCTURE OF GRACE-ORIENTATION

I believe that Joseph's recognition of the order of primogeniture in his father's household—being the eleventh of twelve sons—is more than likely the foundation of his grace-orientation! Humanly speaking, the idea of him having authority over his family would have been an absurd notion, but that's exactly the case, for God revealed to him in dreams that his parents and siblings would be under his leadership. He probably wondered, "why me?" an important question in the life of a believer when asked in humility. Had he

been the firstborn, it would not have mattered a great deal. But the eleventh!

My question is this, of all the people in the world, why are you the object of God's grace? King David asked the same question: "What is man that You are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?" (Psalm 8:4 NIV). The apostle John had the same idea, "See how great [how awesome, how inexpressible] a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the children of God[!]" (I John 3:1a). Here's another question for you: Down deep in your soul, do you recognize God's grace in relation to who you are and where you are right now? You may say to me, "Moses, I have worked so hard all my life to be successful." Really? Who gave you the stamina—the energy to strive for success? Or you may say, "I was born a genius; that's the key to my success." Sure, you were born a genius, but do you know that there are thousands of geniuses in hospital around the world battling with cancerous brain tumors? Give me one good reason why you are not one of those bedridden patients? So the bottom line is that you are what you are simply because of His grace—no more no less. Until that truth is branded onto your soul, you are not grace-oriented. Coming to grips with this truth, I believe, was a catalyst in Joseph's grace-orientation. What's your catalyst? Your so great salvation? Or the thought that God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit indwell your mortal body? What is it? Or better, what are they?

We are now poised to follow Joseph's footprints on his rugged and shackled journey to slavery in Egypt.

### THE PLOT TO KILL JOSEPH:

In Genesis, Moses wrote, "Then his brothers went to pasture their flock in Shechem. And Israel [Jacob] said to Joseph, 'Are not your brothers pasturing the flock in Shechem? 'Come, and I will send you to them.' And he said to him, 'I will go.'" Joseph, an obedient son, marked with humility, submitted freely to his father's authority. So Joseph set out from the valley of Hebron, to search for his brothers not knowing exactly where he would

find them. He went to Shechem, and having combed the vicinity to no avail, God intervened. Thus we read, "A man found him, and behold he was wandering in the field; and the man asked him, 'What are you looking for?' And he said to him, 'I am looking for my brothers; please tell me where they are pasturing the flock.' Then the man said, 'They have moved from here; for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.' So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan'" (37:12, 13, 15-17). Was it an accident that Joseph found a man who directed him to his brothers? Or was God behind the scene causing all things to work together for good as His plan for Joseph unfolds? The later is the case—God was behind the scenes causing the man to be at the right place and at the right time—there are no accidents in God's plan! Joseph's wandering in the bush searching and finding his brothers sets up the next event—a plot to kill Joseph.

"When they [his brothers] saw him from a distance and before he came close to them, they plotted against him to put him to death. And they said to one another, 'Here comes the dreamer! 'Now then, come and let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; and we will say, 'A wild beast devoured him.' Talk about hatred, theirs was beyond the boiling point. 'Then let us see what will become of his dreams!'" (vv. 18-19). They wanted to put an end to Joseph's chance of ever usurping authority over them. I have said it previously in our study, but it warrants repetition: These carnal believers erroneously thought that they could stop God's plan for Joseph. What a backward thought that was! Let me spell it out: No human being, no circumstance, no satanic attack, or any sophisticated weaponry, is capable of disrupting God's plan for your life. And if that's not sufficient, let me say it in another way: No one has ever been able, is able now, or will be able in the future to thwart God's pre-determined plan for you as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. The same facts applied to Joseph. He knew that; but the question is do you?

Unbeknownst to Joseph's brothers, God started the ball rolling in a sequence of events

that ultimately would bring His promise to Joseph to its fulfillment. The Scriptural truth that God uses the wrath of man to praise Himself (Psalm 76:10) will soon be evident in our doctrinal exposé. For now, Joseph's siblings have one objective in mind—to get rid of their younger brother. Their evil plot was jubilantly accepted by all but Reuben, their elder brother. Once again, underlining God's Providence, Reuben was at the right place at the right time. Actually, God would use Reuben to foil their plot. "But Rueben heard this [plot] and rescued him out of their hands and said, 'Let us not take his life.' Reuben further said to them, 'Shed no blood. Throw him into this pit that is in the wilderness, but do not lay hands on him'—that he might rescue him out of their hands, to restore him to his father" (Genesis 37:21-22). They quickly bought Reuben's idea of throwing him to the pit.

In the course of our exposition, we'll look at the bigger picture—the panorama of a God-orchestrated unfolding of events which uses every bad experience, every divisive way to enable Joseph to eventually develop spiritual muscles or capacity for life, and above all to teach him the principle of grace—grace through the furnace of testing.

"So it came about, when Joseph reached his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the varicolored that was on him; and they took him and threw him into the pit. Now the pit was empty, without any water in it' (v. 23). God knew all this in eternity past and had there been any water in the pit, Joseph could have drowned, or could he? What followed was chilling: "Then they sat down to eat a meal" (v. 23a). Yes you read it correctly. They reclined to eat without any guilt hanging over their heads, probably even had a chuckle or two over their own "cleverness." In spite of their colossal crime, no one choked on their food or drink—once again, grace is underlined.

You may wonder, "How dare they sit down to eat while their brother who brought them food was in the bottom of a pit—what's wrong with their conscience?" Good question. Each one except Reuben, and perhaps

Judah, had what I call a decayed conscience. The status quo of their spiritual life was bankrupt. Their dastardly deed paints a picture of a believer who has refused to fill his soul with Bible doctrine, which permeates the thinking and later spills out into their behavior.

The point is, when you, as a believer refuse to apply God's Word on a consistent basis, sooner or later, you will develop a decayed conscience, and there's no evil practice under heaven that you would *not* be incapable of doing. King David's callous, sinful act was a perfect example. He committed murder! You say, "Well, he did not personally commit murder." On the contrary, his indictment from the Bar of Eternal Justice proved otherwise. Thus the prophet Samuel wrote, "Why have you [David] despised the word of the Lord by doing evil in His sight? You have **struck down** Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed [murdered] him with the sword of the sons of the Ammon" (II Samuel 12:9). That's pretty grave! Isn't it? We are talking about one of the greatest believers—"a man after [God's] own heart" (I Samuel 13:14).

Let me be emphatic about this, when you take your spiritual life casually, there's no evil deed that you cannot consciously or unconsciously be involved in—the author included! Trust me on this; we are at the mercy of the Old Sin Nature when we take a break or relax in our spiritual life. I know of a case where a fellow believer tried to hurt another believer, physically. This kind of spiritual maladjustment ought not be; but sadly, it does exist. In light of what Joseph experienced, James' words are brought to mind, "What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you [believers]? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust [for what someone else's has] and do not have; so **you commit murder**" (4:1-2a). Let me underscore these words: When a believer forms the habit of taking in God's Word on a daily basis like Joseph's brothers did, under the mentorship of their father, and neglect its application, sooner or later taking in Bible doctrine becomes a ritu-

al without reality. Consequently, the believer becomes vulnerable—a vessel for all kinds of evil deeds.

Sadly, there are thousands, if not millions of believers today, who have been going to church or listening to Bible doctrine for years, and yet do not have a clue as to what living a spiritual life is all about. They think that the spiritual life is simply taking in God's Word on a daily basis. These make it a point of going to Bible class whenever the door for class is opened, or to listen to Bible doctrine electronically. Needless to say, taking in doctrine on a regular basis is just one side of the spiritual life; and if the other side (its application) is neglected, the believer unconsciously becomes a time-bomb waiting to explode with its fragments flying in all sorts of directions.

Now, let's get back to Joseph in the pit. "And as they [Joseph's brother] raised their eyes and looked, behold, a caravan of Ishmaelites was coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing aromatic gum and balm and myrrh, on their way to bring them to Egypt. And Judah [the ancestor of the humanity of our Lord—**grace** highlighted] said to his brothers, 'What profit is it for us to kill our brother and cover up his blood? 'Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; for he is our brother; our own flesh.' And his brothers listened to him" (Genesis 25b - 27).

Before we examine Joseph's journey as a slave, we need to see how his brothers planned to deceive their father. "So they took Joseph's tunic, and slaughtered a male goat, and dipped the tunic in the blood; and they sent the varicolored tunic and brought it to their father and said, 'We found this; please examine it to see whether it is your son's tunic or not.' Then he examined it and said, 'It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him; Joseph has surely been torn to pieces' (37:31-33). Here Jacob was deceived point blank. About forty years or so had passed; and yet Jacob continued to reap the fruit of his own deception. Remember, he deceived his aged father Isaac and thus received the blessing due Esau (Genesis 27).

We are reminded again, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also [certainly] reap" (Galatians 6:7). God keeps His Word! This prepares us for the next long-awaited portion of our study.

## JOSEPH'S RUGGED JOURNEY AS A SLAVE TO EGYPT

In Moses' account we read, "Then some Midianite traders passed by, so they pulled him up and lifted Joseph out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. Thus they brought Joseph into Egypt" (Genesis 37:28). The moment the transaction was completed, Joseph was on board the grace train of suffering, destination: promotion and honor<sup>1</sup> While en route to Egypt, Joseph groaned and whined all day long, saying, "Lord, my father Jacob taught me about Your integrity—that You are the Almighty God full of grace and mercy and truth is Your belt. Where then is Your power? What about my dreams? You could have thundered from heaven and stopped my brothers when they were contemplating selling me into slavery! Why not send fire from heaven and consume these slave merchants? Why am I in this shameful condition?"

Does this quagmire of complaints reflect Joseph of the Bible? No—not at all! Does it reflect your life as you walk down similar roads of suffering? Naturally, we speculate as to what must have been going through Joseph's mind as he walked the long, grueling road in shackles from Dothan to Egypt. One might wonder, "was he disoriented as a believer?" There's no clue in Scripture to suggest that he was. Or did he lose focus on the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? No—we don't think so. On the contrary, his spiritual lifestyle—his mental attitude when he finally arrived in Egypt—proved that he was much in focus. I believe he was poised, and perhaps was meditating on his father's testimony of God's faithfulness: "And behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for **I will not leave you until I have done what I promised you**" (Genesis 28:15) was fresh in Jacob's soul and in his son, Joseph.

How can we be sure that Joseph looked beyond his immediate situation? Well, scripture is our source of truth and we read, "And Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am about to die, but **God will surely** take care of you and bring you up from this land [Egypt] to the land which He promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and to Jacob.' Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, 'God will surely take care of you, and you shall carry my bones up from here'" (Genesis 50:24, 25). Here you have it in writing. Joseph was looking beyond the immediate circumstances. You should too. He knew that God had a plan of grace for his life, that God is in charge, and that God would ultimately work things out for his ultimate good. Such confidence is a true mark of a mature believer, or a believer who is close to maturity. With a peek into Joseph's right lobe, the following principles have developed:

- God, the All-powerful, has what it takes to ensure that none of His Words or promises go unfulfilled—not even a stroke. We are deeply aware that a promise is as good as the integrity of the one who makes it. We know that God's integrity has no equal—it is flawless—it is the pillar of His being—whatever He promises, count on it, He will deliver. It's that simple.
- God is not bound by circumstances; rather, He's outside it and in total control. God knew in eternity past how He would use every circumstance to accomplish his over-all plan for your life. So what you may call a tragedy is actually what God would call a vehicle that carries His long-range plan for you. Joseph's experience was no exception and a perfect example!
- God is not the author of calamity, but He knows how to work with every calamitous situation to produce a marvelous result.
- God monitors every minute detail and controls your present as well as your future, while weaving unpleasant and pleasant experiences into a splendid and beautiful tapestry of perfect result!
- God's strategies and tactics are incomprehensible by our finite minds—a God who will stand by while His Son is wished dead, arrested, judged, nailed to the cross—a God who will stand by while Joseph is

wished dead, thrown into a pit, and sold to the Ishmaelites as a slave—a God who will stand by and watch your life flip upside down! No wonder He said to Isaiah, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts higher than your thoughts. **For as the rain and snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth, and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it"** (55:8-11).

The highlighted words (from God) ought to produce a bedrock of confidence in His faithfulness! For He has said, "He [anyone] who believes [or anchors his trust] in Him [should not, cannot, and] will not be disappointed" (Romans 9:33b). So the bottom line is this, if you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, who is advancing to the high ground, no matter how bleak your situation may appear, look beyond that and see the light at the end of the tunnel. The Psalmist sang it beautifully, "Weeping may last for the night, but a shout of joy comes in the morning" (30:5). What we need to bury in our souls is the fact that God's FAITHFULNESS TO HIS WORD is bigger than your dilemma;—"I will help you" (Isaiah 41:10) is the verdict. He will not fumble!

- God in His matchless grace has the monopoly on converting any tragedy into a better outcome—way better than you can imagine! That explains why the all-wise, all-powerful God stood by and watched the slave transaction between Joseph's brothers and the Ishmaelites. He knew that when all is said and done that He would weave that catastrophic situation into a long-range plan for him—a plan that would stagger expectations—including his dubious siblings. So my friend, if you truly

<sup>1</sup> Grace News Today, volume 28, page 4

understand the God of the Bible, there should be no room in your soul to manufacture the self-pity-syndrome—why me? Rather, in your unpleasant circumstances, you will joyfully give thanks to the Father who is at work on your behalf 24/7; thereby fulfilling the command, "In everything [pleasant or unpleasant] give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (I Thessalonians 5:18).

- Consequently, every tragedy in your life has been earmarked in eternity past and God will intertwine it to align with His Will: "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God" (Romans 8:28a). With these principles written on the tablets of our souls, we are ready to examine the next event in Joseph's life, as the chapter on Hebron closed and a new one opened in Egypt.

### JOSEPH IN THE HOME OF POTIPHAR AS A SLAVE

"Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the bodyguard, bought him from the Ishmaelites, who had taken him down there" (Genesis 39:1). Now we meet our all-wise, all-knowing God as He stood still and watched while His obedient servant was resold to Potiphar. In the next verse, Moses of the ancient tells us, "And the Lord was with Joseph, so he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian" (v. 2). Joseph had every reason to be bitter toward everyone including God—after all, no member of his family or ancestor had ever been in slavery; he had every reason to whine and complain. He was removed from his father who taught him God's Word without ceasing. He had every right to question God about his dreams. But that wasn't the case. Rather, in the heat of the moment, he was composed and maximized the use of doctrine in his soul. He was acutely aware that God knew what He was doing, and armed with that reassurance, peace in his soul was inevitable.

Ironically, when you are in a bad situation, which is not of your own doing, what do you do? If hell were to empty itself on you today, how would you handle it? Suppose you are

laid off from your job, or the object of injustice and everyone is against you and your friends have deserted you, or that all doors have slammed in your face, how would you handle the situation? How you handle daily adversities in your life mirrors your spiritual growth. This concept disarms those who think that spiritual life is measured by how many years a believer has been on Bible doctrine, or by how much doctrine one knows. Make no mistake; your ability to apply God's Word under pressure to every exigency in your life is the only spiritual measuring-device available to the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. There are no two ways about it. As for Joseph, he was relaxed in his master's house!

Another thing we are told in verse two is that "the Lord was with Joseph." That has been one of the major themes in the Bible—the Lord being with us; and yet, Joseph never saw a page of Scripture! Sometimes I wonder where he'd be, spiritually, had he lived in this most dynamic age in the history of man—when everything about God has been revealed, His plan and the right procedure for execution of the spiritual life is inscribed in the Holy Bible—a time when every believer has been "Blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 1:3b).

The phrase "the Lord was with Joseph" in our passage (Genesis 39) deserves attention. First of all, "the Lord was with Joseph" characterized God's grace toward the young man—another building block in the erection of Joseph's grace-orientation structure. Secondly, the phrase is an idiomatic expression that warrants careful examination. We have similar expressions throughout Scripture. For instance, the Prophet Isaiah recorded God saying, "I am with you," and "Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand" (41:10 a, d); "For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His" (II Chronicles 16:9); or "Lo, I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20b). We don't debate that some of these phrases like, 'The eyes of the Lord,' and 'The hands of the Lord,' and so on, are language of accommodation—explaining God's deal-

ings with man in a language we can comprehend. But more than that, they are idiomatic expressions; and that's how we'll handle our subject—"The Lord was with Joseph."

"THE LORD WAS WITH JOSEPH": If we take this phrase at face value, it has no meaning—"The Lord was with Joseph"—doing what? So here is the break down of this idiomatic axiom. The phrase constitutes:

- **Protection:** Joseph had guardian angels by his side 24/7. The Psalmist wrote, "For He [God] will give his angels charge [duty] concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. They will bear you up in their hands, lest you strike your foot against a stone [or lest you have fatal injury]" (91:11-12; cf. Hebrews 1:14).

Experientially, we are monuments to God's faithfulness with regard to His protective game plan. Personally, I have had eight nasty and close calls—auto accidents—the last one was a head-on collision with a drunk driver. Several times, I have come face-to-face with death, and yet was rescued each time. Talk about guardian angels—talk about grace!

- **Provision:** "The Lord was with Joseph" includes God's daily provision for Joseph. Undoubtedly, Joseph learned about Abraham's experience on his way to sacrifice Isaac—and he assured his confused son, Isaac, that "God will provide" (Genesis 22:8a). And king David garnished God's faithfulness when he affirmed, "I have been young, and now I am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, or his descendants begging bread" (Psalm 37:25). The apostle Paul put it beautifully: "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely [or graciously] give us all things" (Romans 8:32). I like to explain this concept this way: If someone were to give you 100 blocks of pure gold, worth a million dollars, for free, would it be hard for the person to provide an empty box to carry them in?

God has done the most—releasing and judging of His Unique Son, so your daily

provision is nothing as far as God is concerned. The Lord Himself calls to your thinking, "Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; and they have no storeroom nor barn; and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds—[you who possess God's righteousness and His life-eternal]" (Luke 12:24). It boils down to this: As long as God's plan for your life is in operation, He is under obligation to provide everything you need to serve His purpose. The other side of the coin is that He may not give you what you want to accomplish your own agenda. For often, when we accomplish our own agenda, it drifts us off course from God's agenda. In a nut shell, when it comes to your daily provision, listen to His Word: "For this reason, I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, as to what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, as to what you shall put on" (Matthew 6:25a). The provision may be delayed, but by and by it will come. This prepares us for the next item.

- **Supervision:** God was constantly monitoring Joseph's daily affairs, ensuring that every unfair circumstance was woven right into blessing. This is true for you; God will never take His eyes off you—EVER (Hebrews 13:5)!
- **Guidance:** Divine guidance is a big part of "The Lord was with Joseph." Divine guidance is God's monopoly, so in some-way and somehow He will guide you as long as your soul is not clouded with the details of this life to the extent that you can't dictate His guidance. His promise to guide you is apparent in Scripture: "For such is God, our [awesome] God forever; He will guide us until death" (Psalm 48:14); or 32:8: "I will instruct you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you." So, God guided Joseph in all his endeavors; on the other hand, God ensured that in the final analysis, He alone was magnified. In fact, what God accomplished through Joseph drew attention to Him alone. This is evident in our next increment:

- **Success:** God is the source of true suc-

cess in life. You see, when you are the beneficiary of the idiomatic expression, "God is with [you]," success in all your endeavors becomes distinguished. The nature of your success will indeed baffle everyone—believer or unbeliever—because God will be the One causing your success. Accordingly, in Genesis we read, "And the Lord was with Joseph, so [as a result] he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian. Now his master saw that the Lord was with him and saw that the Lord caused all that he did to prosper in his hand" (39:2, 3). Finally, this brings us to the last installment in our subject.

#### **FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE GUARANTEED:**

This means that nothing can shorten your life until God's plan for your life is fully accomplished. Hardship does nothing but strengthen it—tears of sorrow do nothing but water it—and suffering in all its ugliness does nothing but provide you with capacity to enjoy it. And so we read, "And behold I am with you, and will keep [or protect] you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you" (Genesis 28:15). Also, king David's timely death, amidst his ups and downs and varying degrees of suffering, further brings our last point to light: "For David after he had served God's purpose in his own generation, fell asleep [died], and was laid among his fathers, and underwent decay" (Acts 13:36). With this truth settled in the assembly room of your soul, we are poised to take a look at the next grace promotion for Joseph.

#### **JOSEPH'S GRACE PROMOTION IN SLAVERY**

*(To be continued volume 31—Lesson 17)*

#### **FINAL THOUGHT**

We are reminded that our position in Christ is by 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)—eternal transaction. God the Holy Spirit sealed you (II Corinthians 1:22)—eternal sealing. God the Father keeps you saved by His power (John 10:29)—eternal security. God provides salvation in grace. We have nothing to add. We are the objects and beneficiaries of His grace forever.

"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).

#### **SPIRITUAL HUNGER IN AFRICA**

There is a tremendous hunger in Africa, not for food as such, but for the truth. Would you make it a burden to pray routinely, that God would graciously provide them with enough doctrinal materials on tape and literature for those who are starving for sound Bible teaching? That this ministry would never lack in quenching their spiritual thirst to know and have rapport with the Living God!

#### **HERE IS THE TRUTH**

##### **THE DOCTRINE OF KENOSIS**

Did Christ in His humanity ever use the attributes of His Deity? For centuries this question has baffled many theologians. Some have shed light on the subject while others have erred in their interpretations. One of the rules of Hermeneutics or Biblical interpretation is to allow Scripture to answer questions about Scripture—comparing verse with a chapter—chapter with the whole Bible. Equally, it's not enough to interpret a verse without the context of the chapter and, consequently, without the bigger picture—the context of the canon of Scripture.

What is kenosis? It's a Greek word, which means 'emptying.' Thus, kenosis is a theological term for the 'self-emptying of Jesus Christ in which he took the form of a slave or servant

to accomplish the work of salvation through his death and resurrection.<sup>2</sup> Better, it's Christ's restriction of the use of His deity in His human nature. We say this because Christ's two natures, namely deity and humanity, remained intact in His incarnation—without a crossover—deity functioned as deity and vice-versa. What has confused many is that when one scrutinizes Scripture dealing with kenosis, one discovers that often, His words and actions reflect that of deity. However, if we look at it this way: God has the ability to utter words as does the Holy Spirit and the Uniquely born Son. Conversely, there are two voices, that of deity and that of humanity in the God-Man. Our task is to ascertain through Scripture which voice has spoken.

We are also challenged with the task of determining the acts of His human nature and His deity, respectively. These tasks at hand ought not to pose any problem, but unfortunately it has! What one needs to do, under the Mentorship of the Holy Spirit, is to examine the Lord's words and deeds in the light of the work of man or deity. Above all, the primary question a student of the Bible should ask is this: Why did Christ come in a human nature and not angelic? In an effort to examine this doctrine through the grace God afforded me, I want to underline one principle: Jesus Christ in His humanity did not use any attributes of His deity, thus highlighting the principle of kenosis. There is no such thing as partial or limited kenosis. Kenosis simply means He didn't use any of His divine attributes in His humanity—He 'restricted' the use of His deity. It sounds redundant, but it's necessary to get the point across before we begin to dissect this unique doctrine of the ages. Scripture tells us that Christ took the form of a slave. So we begin in Philippians...

"Have this attitude [of humility] in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but [Greek: kenoo] emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being made in the likeness of a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death

on a cross: (2:5-8).

## THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS A SLAVE

[GREEK= DOULOS]

*(To be continued in the next volume)*

## BIBLE DOCTRINE FOR THOUGHT

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, [will] be compared to a wise man, who built his [unshakable] house upon the rock" (Matthew 7:24).

Unequivocally, the difference between a loser and winner believer both in time and in the eternal state is what each does with the stockpile of doctrine in his soul. When you fail, do you apply the doctrine relating to failure—isolating and acknowledging them to God, putting them behind, and forging ahead to the upward calling? Are you monitoring your life closely to ensure that it's marked with diligence in applying God's Word to every exigency in your life? I have pondered on this; you may wish to do likewise.

### Current Missionary Report

#### GHANA (March 2003):

The people of Ghana were so enthused they asked Moses Onwubiko to return quarterly. We had one week of evangelistic meetings with a large crowd each night. The response was overwhelming as we evangelized the community with the gospel of grace—faith alone, plus nothing, minus nothing—faith alone in Christ alone. We then went into basic teaching—searching the Scripture for hours—unraveling a barrage of false doctrines that have for decades served as a foothold for Pentecostalism. In the course of our studies, we also answered many questions heretofore considered contradictions to the grace message.

Of course, the meetings was not coincidental—it was God-ordained. Rev. Moses had mixed feelings going into Ghana because of the people who invited him—the Pentecostal

Council of Ghana. On the other hand, Moses knew that the missionary battle and success is the Lord's. Armed with that confidence, he accepted the invitation trusting God to use the opportunity to glorify Himself—and He certainly did!

We have traveled to many African countries, but our Ghana trip topped them all—the Lord's field in Ghana is definitely override—way override—perhaps rotten. What we saw confirmed Katie Tapping's (of Thieme Ministry) queries as to when Moses would visit Ghana! Over the years, a large number of people from Ghana have requested doctrinal material from R. B. Thieme Jr. Bible Ministries. Without a doubt the trip confirmed their positive volition!

We've come to know that many Pentecostals are not yet saved in that they depend on a work-salvation, which is no salvation at all. In addition, many latched onto that doctrine because that's all they have been exposed to. Our encounter with the people of Ghana was a big eye-opener. After giving the gospel for several days, people who have been blindfolded for years received their spiritual sights. You should have been there to witness their reaction! It was awesome, and humbling to watch God perform in the lives of these spiritually hungry Ghanaians. The scene was fantastic! We underscore the clear gospel of grace message, answering the most difficult verses in Scripture that seem to contradict grace, such as Philippians 2:12; James 2:20-24; Hebrews 6:4-6 and others. Many, including about a dozen pastors were thoroughly blessed in every sense of the word.

More than a thousand people requested doctrinal material—very encouraging indeed! We wish you could have seen them pushing to reach the man who was distributing the small amount of material that we traveled with. But what struck Moses the most was watching them get into a tug of war over the last book! Many hands grabbing the last copy, and wanting to take possession of it, was an awesome scene. That's not all! At the end of the program, when Moses came to the podium, the people of Ghana gave him a

<sup>2</sup> West Dictionary of Theological terms (1996—Mckim Donald)

heartfelt and long, standing-ovation, which he humbly channeled to our God, who did all the work! Then the leaders urged him to conduct a program for them on a quarterly basis! Of course with Moses' schedule that's a little bit too much. But, what an expression of their positive volition!!

### **JAMAICA (April 2003):**

This was our initial expedition into Jamaica. Pastor Dennis Ejila (the Gambian resident who invited Moses to Canada last year) introduced him to his former Pentecostal associates. Pastor Frank Rosewelt (who invited Moses and Dennis to his church) is a Pentecostal minister who speaks on national television. Meetings were held in his church on Montego Bay, where we presented a gospel of grace and taught the real doctrine of salvation. The pastor acknowledged that God had sent us. The highlight of the meeting was when the pastor's wife came to the podium—a place she had no business—that's another issue. Nonetheless she made a striking comment. She said, "Indeed, when a believer without God's word in his soul is controlled by the Holy Spirit, the result is nothing but emotion!" Moses said to himself, "Gee am I missing something?" Many of the

Pentecostals are beginning to get the message—do away with works and embrace grace!

We experienced positive responses everywhere we spoke—in parking lots, in the market place, in taxis, in the hotel. Most had not really heard the gospel message clearly presented and as a result did not know how easy it is to be born again. They thought that their bad deeds had condemned them to hell. On one occasion, Moses asked a man whether he would go to heaven if he were to die this moment? He was honest and said, "No, I think I will go to hell." Moses asked him why? He told him that he had done a lot of bad things. He was thinking in terms of works-salvation. Of course, he was amazed to know that salvation has nothing to do with our works. In the end, they were grateful to receive the grace message that there was nothing they could do to be saved. Our contacts are anxious for us to come back and hold a citywide crusade in 2004!

### **GOD'S PROVIDENCE ON THE PLANE— Kenya minister**

What we have witnessed so far in this ministry has thrilled and tickled us to death!

Every time we are reminded that God is the One causing things to happen and amazing us with His wondrous work. The Lord has done it again—this time BIG!

On Moses' return from Ghana to the U.S., our God, who is full of humor astonished him one more time: Moses was a little bit exhausted when he boarded the plane. His seat number was number 17A; however, after putting away his luggage, he sat in the wrong seat—18A. He only discovered this when he arrived in Detroit and looked at his boarding pass. Was it a mistake or the handiwork of God, the Master Choreographer? Let's find out: Just a few minutes after he sat down, came a man who is perhaps in the late fifties or early sixties, and sat next to him. Moses greeted him.

They became acquainted right off the bat. Moses gave him the gospel pamphlet—"Riding the Death Train." The man began to read it right away. After reading some pages, he turned and said to Moses, "This pamphlet is so little but yet packed with such a powerful message." He then told Moses his name—Alex Owuoth, a Bishop in Kenya. He has to-date opened 162 churches—that's

## ***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:

- Provision of used and/or new clothing;
- Provision of food;
- Provision of medicines and medical care; and
- 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.

right 162! And that his central local church holds between 4,000 and 5,000 people. That's not all. He told Moses that his major problem is in finding a person who can teach truth to his people. Furthermore, he has been praying all his life for God to connect him with someone to teach his people. How relieved he was that God has finally answered his prayer at last.

Moses promised to send him a box of "Riding the Death Train," and "God's Plan after Salvation." He was overwhelmed with joy! Moses told him that he would be coming to Kenya sometime in the Fall. He said that if Moses' schedule permits that he would love for him to minister to his people for as long as Moses wants. When Moses' wife, Gloria, heard the testimony, she said, "That's like catching a big fish in the net!" Moses is keenly aware of the amazing things the Lord is accomplishing and what he has witnessed so far is totally unfathomable!

Pastor Naboth is our contact person in Kenya. He found Rick Hughes through his web site and Rick introduced us to him. We have been communicating with him and sending him books and tapes.

**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 sixteen pastors teaching doctrine in the churches we established, or the churches have adopted grace teaching.

✓ Right now we have eight seminary student-pastors that we sponsor at GEM's recommended seminaries in Africa.

✓ Today, our mailing list includes addresses from Australia, Canada, China, Croatia, Germany, India, Pakistan, Philippines, Scotland, Switzerland, United Kingdom, West Indies, Cameroon, Cote' d'ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Gambia, Kenya, Nigeria, Togo, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, just to name a few. The list grows as our partners pray for open doors and as God removes linguistic, racial, cultural, and geographical barriers to make Himself known to those who search for Him. We consider it an awesome privilege to be His instrument in spreading the grace gospel and doctrinal truth.

**LETTERS TO GRACE EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES**

*Dear friends at GEM,*

*I find the "Grace News Today" issues a great source of blessing and encouragement. To let you know, about a week ago I had a spell with my illness that left me completely without energy; and in the middle of the night I picked up vol. 27 July-August 2002 and had a blessed time. The words of encouragement section was truly used by God to refresh my thoughts on the Rom. 8:28 truth, that God knows exactly what He is doing in my life even though I may not understand it. And then in the teaching of Joseph and the message about tailor-made suffering for grace blessing. Thanks be to God for His wise and perfect plan and to GEM for doctrinal truths to believers.*

*It is such a privilege to know about your work and pray for your place in the plan of God.*

*The believers in Africa come alive to us through your publications, the news letters, and e-mail via Debby Hagar—it's a means of making doctrinal friends that we'll probably never meet until we are with Christ. What unspeakable joy we have in store for us, and how valuable to keep our eyes on our spiritual treasures available through doctrine.*

*My heart overflows with thanksgiving to God.*

*Encapsulated by His power.  
M—U.S.A*

*Beloved brethren,*

*Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you for the great job you are doing. May God bless you!*

*I was so much blessed when a friend of mine loaned me her book "Comfort in Suffering." I read it again and again with great pleasure, and I received an insight and was helped over many issues. Really, I would be more than grateful if you can send me my own copy, including other publications you may have. The book has truly blessed me more than words can express!*

*May God bless you for your wonderful work.*

*With love,  
S. D—Zimbabwe*

*Dear sister Debby,*

*I found the books (you sent to me) to be quite inspirational, with sound doctrine and based on fundamental truth of Christ Jesus. We would love to read even more. These books were in fact the best means of breaking knowledge of Rev. Moses and we have found depth in Thieme's writing. We are kindly requesting you to send us audio tapes as well.*

**Pastor N—Kenya**

*Dear Moses C. Onwubiko,*

*Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you very much for the books, which you sent to us. Our desire is to introduce your teaching to the people in our community. Please give us a permission letter to translate your work in our language.*

*Please pray for us, for we desire to invite you for teaching a seminar in the near future.*

**Pastor M. K—Pakistan**

**REV. MOSES' ITINERARY (JANUARY-JUNE 2003)**

- January-February . . . . .U. S. A.
- March 14-27 . . . . .Ghana
- March 28-April 4 . . . . .U.S.A.
- April 5-14 . . . . .Jamaica
- April 15-June 2 . . . . .U.S.A.

- May 10-13 .....Berachah Church  
Houston, TX
- May 23-26 .....Grace Doctrine Church  
St Louis, Missouri
- May 31-June 1 .....Grace Bible Church  
Frankfort, Indiana
- June 3-13 .....(Conference) Grace Bible Church  
Aba, Nigeria

## 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.)**

**Houston, Texas is our shipping depot; therefore Mail donations to:**

**Grace Evangelistic Ministries**  
% Mr. Danny Warner  
7706 Fairdale  
Houston, TX 77063  
(Please do call us should you need receipt for your donation for tax purposes)

## 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
- ❖ 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)
- ❖ Israel's protection
- ❖ For the provision of many open doors in the year 2003
- ❖ Our partners (that God would continue to meet their needs)
- ❖ Freedom for the gospel message in Iraq

## 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 not part of the text.

## 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.