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“Faith alone in Christ alone”

Greetings from your dear friends and missionary partners at Grace Evangelistic Ministries! As we stand at ease before the platform of His amazing grace, we joyfully give thanks and praise to our heavenly Father for His faithfulness toward us and His marvelous provision of grace.

Everyday, we witness the way He looks after His unworthy servants and provides for this unique ministry, which He alone has established. May we never lose sight of the fact that whatever He does for, and through this ministry, is a matter of His awesome grace. We can only attribute our success (yours and ours) to Him alone.

Suffice it to say, only an arrogant believer would boast in order to cause others to believe his own hard work explained the success of a ministry, or a business, or life in general. In fact, any believer who embraces this thinking is bathing in a pool of arrogance and drying his face with the towel of blindness toward the grace of God. This person is ignorant of, or has forgotten, how God dealt with King Herod Agrippa I (grandson of Herod the Great) when he assumed God's glory. In light of Herod's assumption of God's glory and its resultant consequence, Luke wrote, "On an appointed day, Herod, having put on the royal apparel, took his seat on the rostrum and began delivering an address to them. [His appearance was so impressive and his message so powerful that] The people kept crying out, 'The voice of a god and not of a man!' And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him [why?] because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died" (Acts 12:21-23).

The truth of the matter is that God cannot and does not share His glory with anyone. The prophet Isaiah explained this perfectly: "I am the Lord, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another" (42:8). Here, at Grace Evangelistic Ministries, we have truly come to grips with the fact that we have no reason at all to even try grabbing God's glory. He is, after all, the One who called us and opens doors for us to serve Him.

Equally, He is the One who provides us with health, finances, and all the logistics for us to fulfill His plan. Where is the room for us to glorify ourselves? Rather, we ditto king David's praise to God: "[Yours], O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion... both riches and honor come from You... in Your hand is power and might; and **it lies in your hand to make great** [or cause one to excel] and to strengthen everyone" (I Chronicles 29:11-12).

As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we implore you not to fall into the temptation of grabbing God's glory. We should constantly remind ourselves that whatever achievement comes to us is a matter of who and what God is—a matter of His undiminished grace.

The letters that we receive continue to encourage and overwhelm us. Our joy multiplies exceedingly because we have learned that thousands, worldwide, are turning to our Lord Jesus Christ through faith alone in Christ alone. Also, we note that many believers are beginning to respond to the challenge to grow in grace

by learning, and making application, of Bible doctrine the highest priority in their lives. God's work in this ministry is truly yielding dividends to His glory. As we receive these letters, we don't hesitate to give the praise to our great God, who does all the work. It's really an honor and a privilege to watch Him perform! To Him alone we stand speechless in salute and reverence of His majesty!

We want to pause and thank all our missionary partners in the Lord Jesus Christ, including local churches, who have allowed God to use them in supporting us financially so that we may fulfill the Great Commission—His divine command: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations [without discrimination]... teaching them [new converts] to observe [the whole realm of Bible doctrine]" (Matthew 28:19-20). Also, we remain most grateful to those believers who relentlessly, and routinely, lift us up before His throne. The results of those prayers are astronomically beyond comprehension! We are witness to the impact of your supplications both at home and abroad as God opens more doors for our ministry. We don't hesitate to adopt the apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians and make it our own to you: "[We] thank [our] God every time [we] remember you [our partners]. In all [our] prayers for all of you, praying with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it unto completion until the day of the Lord. And [our] God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:3-6, 4:19).

As a missionary organization, embracing accurate gospel information (faith, plus or minus nothing—faith alone in Christ alone) and sound Bible teaching, we can assure you that our objectives from the onset remain the same. We seek always to ensure that our method of operation remains strictly grace-oriented. Our first goal is to evangelize unbelievers with a clear and concise gospel of grace message. As follow-up, we assist those who have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ with their spiritual growth by providing them with sound doctrinal teaching in literature and audio tapes. Also, we seek to identify men who are positive in exercising communication gifts that God the Holy Spirit has bestowed upon them. We help them get into a seminary with sound Bible teaching where they can learn to accurately divide the Word of God with which to feed others. We strongly believe that God uses prepared pastors to augment the growth of positive believers, thereby bringing glory and honor to His holy name.

Grace Evangelistic Ministries never solicits funds. We believe that financial support from believers is solely a matter between an individual and the Lord. We have no doubt that the Lord has called us to do His work and that He will also provide as long as we stay under His direction. Do we solicit prayers? **You bet we do!** And, we humbly ask that you continue to remember us in your prayers as we seek to do His will and to glorify Him to the maximum. It is in Him alone that we have anchored our hope...so accordingly, we pray:

Dear heavenly Father,

We pause to pray for each partner, church, and affiliate of Grace Evangelistic Ministries. We thank You that You continue to sustain them daily out of Your mercy, meeting their needs as they arise. We ask that You would make clear to each of us, the critical importance of Your word, with the result that each will

make consistent learning and application of Your word to their life the highest priority.

Father, we thank You for using this ministry to make the work of our Savior and Your doctrine known to the world. We ask for Your guidance in all that we do. We pray for those who are advancing in their spiritual life, and humbly pray for their daily protection and provision as they fulfill Your plan for their lives.

Also we pray for the United States of America. We know from the doctrine in our souls that this great nation is on the brink of maximum divine discipline, a punishment that will result in loss of her special status as God's representative to the whole world. We recall Your message to the Northern Kingdom of Israel when it was a client nation centuries ago: My nation is destroyed from lack of knowledge of doctrine. Because you have rejected the privilege of knowing doctrine, therefore I will reject you from being a priest to Me. (Hosea 6:4).

We realize that we are in a period of great danger; therefore, as Your children, we humbly pray that there may be a great Biblical revival in this country. We pray that believers in the Lord Jesus Christ might recognize their failure and become aware that perception and application of accurate Bible teaching are the only solutions we have to combat terrorism, escape recession, and enjoy maximum blessing from You. In turn, we pray that this will result in many opportunities to present the true gospel message of faith alone in Christ alone to unbelievers— young boys and girls, men and women—who could then turn to You for eternal life.

Our merciful Father, God of righteousness and justice, we know that we are bringing destruction on ourselves by failure to fulfill our spiritual obligations, growing in grace and becoming a light that shines in a world of darkness. We recognize our culpability and realize that if we were

destroyed as a nation, today, You would be totally justified in every sense of the word; however, we are extremely grateful that in Your mercy, You have been patient with this nation. Father, we do not ask for what we deserve—total annihilation—but for what we do not deserve, Your grace and restoration of our nation to its glamorous state. All of these we ask in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

Your partner in the work of our heavenly Father,

Moses C. Onwubiko

President; Grace Evangelistic Ministries

WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

It's true that we live in a fallen and a shattered environment and that Satan is god of this world (John 12:31). And, it's an undeniable fact that this present world is in a great and unprecedented turmoil, leaving fear in its wake in the souls of many believers in the form of loss of employment, loss of a loved one, poverty, broken marriage, terminal illness, just to name a few.

The truth of the matter is that your fear makes Satan's day, so that he and his minions raise their champagne glasses in a toast, while the elect angels hang their heads in disappointment! Satan works around the clock to knock the command post of spirituality out from under your feet, dropping you into a deep well of fear and apprehension! Our heavenly

Father outright rejects any attempt on your part to blame Him for your frightened state: "For God has not given us a spirit of timidity [*Greek: Deilia = cowardice, or fearfulness*], but of power [through the Omnipotent of the Holy Spirit, and God's Word] and love and discipline" (II Timothy 1:7).

The good news is that when you saturate your soul with sound Bible teaching, and apply God's Word consistently, fear is replaced with courage and courage is strengthened with confidence. Equally, when you, through God's Word, see your position in Christ, and have a grip on what this means: "...for anyone who touches [plunders or harms] you touches the pupil of his eye" (Zechariah 2:8), you will certainly wave GOODBYE to fear. Of course, knowing who is in the pilot's seat goes a long way in quenching our fears.

Imagine the whole planet earth, with all its ugliness including your personal suffering, as a Boeing 777 jet. Inside the cockpit is our faithful God the Father, the Captain; Jesus Christ, the Co-Pilot; and in the main cabin is the Holy Spirit, the Flight Attendant. What a Crew! Now picture it cruising at a high altitude of 99,000 ft. and with lightening speed. As you envision this, the questions that come to mind are these: Is God an able Pilot? Is He capable of stabilizing our planet-jet in case of sudden engine failure? Or is there such a thing as engine failure with God? Is He an Omniscient God who foresees all weather conditions? Does He know our flight pattern? Here is the BIG QUESTION: Is this planet-jet in danger of crashing while God is in the pilot seat? Does He know your seat number? Let's zero in on your very life. Who's your pilot? Does God have what it takes to fly you home safely? Consider a similar scenario: Can a boat sink with the Lord on

board? Not a chance!

"And on that day, when evening had come, He said to them [His disciples], 'Let us go over to the other side. And leaving the multitude, they took Him along with them, just as He was; and other boats were with Him. And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up. And He Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, 'Teacher [or Master], do You not care that we are perishing?' And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Hush, be still.' And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. And He said to them, 'Why are you so timid [why did you hit the panic button—have you forgotten Who is in the boat with you]?' How is it that you have no faith?' And they became very much afraid and said to one another, 'Who is this, that even the wind and sea obey Him?'" (Mark 4:35-41). Invariably, their question revealed their ignorance of who Jesus Christ really is—the unsinkable One!

Truly, we can use any of these analogies to drive our point home: In the second analogy, the disciples were faced with a dilemma, and instantly hit the panic button. They watched our Lord demonstrate His credentials, as Messiah, through miraculous deeds, such as cleansing the leper (Matthew 8:3, 16) and casting out demons, to name just a few and yet were frightened to death when they were face-to-face with life threatening situations—a simple test to their understanding of who God the Son is. Why were they fright-

ened? Because they failed to recognize that the Creator—the unsinkable One—was on the boat with them, and come what may, their boat would never capsize with Him aboard!

Here is the truth of the Bible: God, the Captain; the co-Pilot, our Lord Jesus Christ; and the Cabin attendant, God the Holy Spirit, indwell you. If you really knew what this entails, you would have a grasp of what it means that the Creator of the universe indwells your mortal body, and there would be no room in your soul to entertain fear of any magnitude, or to fret when the storms of life rocks the vessel of your being.

Here is my own take on this issue: If God has a plan for my life, and He does... If He is my Master Choreographer, and He is... If He is the Faithful and Sovereign One, and He certainly is... If He is my Shield, and surely He is, then there is no circumstance, real or imagined, no group of people, no accident, no plan of the enemy is capable of executing anything that would disrupt God's plan for my life. Joseph's brothers, in our study, had a first-hand lesson in this when they tried to derail God's plan for his life! Consequently, as the turbulence of life agitates me in all facets, my soul is securely fastened to His Word: "And behold, I am with you [Moses], and will keep you wherever you go... for **I will not leave you until [My plan for your life comes to its fruition!]**" (Genesis 28:15). That's my solace, and it ought to be yours as well. There's no situation powerful enough to end God's plan for your life as long as you are on course—Heaven bound!

Often those who have personally believed in the Lord Jesus Christ thunder with an affirmative "Yes" when asked would you go to heaven if you were to die today? And when you ask them, what gave you

the assurance? They fire back, "God's Word!" In other words, they take God's Word at face value!! They may even cite some Scriptural verses to prove their conviction. My question is, if believers can have such confidence in God's promise concerning eternal life, why can't they have the same confidence in His other promises, such as, "I am with you *always*, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20b); "...I will help you..." (Isaiah 41:10); "...I WILL *NEVER* DESERT YOU, NOR WILL EVER FORSAKE YOU" (Hebrews 13:5); or "...WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM *WILL NOT [AND CANNOT]* BE DISAPPOINTED" (Romans 10:11), and many other promises like these when the storms of life threaten to tear them apart? So my dear friend, regardless of what you are experiencing, anchor you trust in His promises, and "In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (I Thessalonians 5:18). By and large, when you count on Him, you 'will not be disappointed' in whatever predicament you might be—that's His promise! It's that simple. So stay on course, and trust that He knows what He is doing in your life.

“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 17

(Continued from volume 30, lesson 16)

GOD NEVER LEAVES HIS CHILDREN ALONE

It's fitting that we should pause here, and take a close look at God's faithfulness toward His children—including the subject of our study, Joseph. Ironically, it's inconceivable

that you as 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. It seemed as if He had forgotten Joseph, from the onset of the plot to kill him until he was sold into slavery. Nonetheless, Joseph was solidly aware of the continual presence of God, even in his slavery! There's not a chance in a million that He'll take His eyes off you, ever! That was true in Joseph's case, as we will see in our study. 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 the beauty of His amazing grace—that's the rock of the Bible!

In the course of our study, we will see how Joseph, who never saw even one page of the Bible, reflected this verse when he made himself known to his brothers who sold him into slavery. In fact, when you are armed with knowledge and confidence that the all-wise God—the able One—is at the helm of your spiritual journey, the phrase "God knows what He is doing in my life" becomes your motto!

We have, in this age, so much to be thankful for! We have the written Word of God; we have the filling of the Holy Spirit (and the indwelling of the Trinity); we are able to go to God in prayer every time we need Him and every time we want to express gratitude to him. We don't have to scrimp and save to buy animals for sin offerings. That's only a partial list! The fill-in-the-blank assignment you were presented with in our previous newsletter can be asked again... "To whom much is given _____" It can't be emphasized enough that God expects you to use His grace provisions to handle everything that Satan hurls at you!

Sometimes, our situations seem to get the best of us and hope flies out the window, but if we remember to "walk by faith and not by sight" (II Corinthians 5:7), then an extremely important lesson has been learned. If these adverse situations never happened, we would have no need to turn to our Father for help.

In essence, you could say that our worst days are our best days, if we are found clinging to Him. When it comes to God's promises, we have everything to gain, because "... *NOT THE SMALLEST LETTER OR STROKE SHALL PASS AWAY FROM [GOD'S WORD] UNTIL ALL IS ACCOMPLISHED*" (Matthew 5:18).

Ironically, these words were not yet penned in Joseph's time; and yet, spiritually, he was victorious. In the final analysis, His promise that you "Shall never be put to shame" should mean to you that no matter how dark your circumstances may look, no matter what your present quandary, even if it seems that all hope is gone as it did for Joseph when he was at the mercy of his brothers, God cannot, should not, and will not fumble His promise! So take a deep breath, lean back and reassure yourself in light of His promise (His veracity), 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! Now we are set to examine Joseph's promotion against all odds.

JOSEPH'S GRACE PROMOTION IN SLAVERY

Here we observe the first installment of "...We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who **love** God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). We begin our study of this segment in Genesis chapter 39 verses 3 and 4:

"Now his master [Potiphar, the Egyptian officer] saw that the Lord was with him [Joseph] and how the Lord caused all that he did to prosper in his hand. So Joseph found favor in his sight, and became his personal servant; and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he owned he put in his charge."

We have previously examined the phrase "the Lord was with Joseph" which is synonymous with: "For you have found favor in My sight" (Exodus 33:17a). There's nothing like finding favor in God's sight—Period. It's too wonderful for words to be the object of His favor—grace in action! Simply put, the Lord

literally caused everything Joseph laid his hands on to prosper—preparing him to be a candidate for promotion—in slavery for that matter! Before we proceed, we need to back up a notch, and review one of Joseph's dreams: "For behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and lo, my sheaf rose up and also stood erect, and behold your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf" (Genesis 37:7). I don't think Joseph had any illusion regarding the meaning of his dream. If there was any doubt of him usurping authority over the family of Jacob as his dream implied, his second dream wiped out that skepticism. Joseph's father also had no illusions for he reacted to Joseph's second dream with sharp rebuke: "What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?" (v. 10b). What we have is God revealing His plan to Joseph when he was seventeen years old (37:2). What was not revealed was the timeframe in which all this would occur. Rarely does God give a timetable for His promises.

GOD'S TIME: We have often heard the cliché, "*God's time is the best,*" but the question is how often does this truth register in our souls? It's necessary that we spend a little time on this segment of our study. As the Holy Spirit sheds light on the God of "perfect timing" and on His faithfulness, we implore you to relate its truth to your own life, for that's the reason we labor to bring God's Word to your table. Biblical accounts have forced us to conclude that God is not in the fast-food business—zoom in and zoom out with your food in 15 seconds or less, or your food is free—guaranteed! Rather, He is the God of "a right time." The sooner we understand that, the better off we will be. I believe that Joseph had a grasp of this concept, for he must have known how long it took for Isaac to be born and Jacob, respectively.

It's of paramount importance, that you bear this in mind: The all-wise God has never been in a hurry with His plan, and we should fall into rhythm with His stride—following Him footstep by footstep—never getting ahead. Sometimes, it takes more than a few

years, even decades, for Him to make a new footprint; however, we should be patient, for He knows what lies ahead. More than that, He knows exactly what He's doing.

In the Pauline epistle, we read, "For while we were still helpless, at the **right time** [Greek: *kairos: times at which certain fore-ordained events take place*] Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6). Elsewhere we read, "But when the **fullness of the time** came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law" (Galatians 4:4). Consider Genesis 3:15 when God made a promise to provide a Savior for the whole world, which was fulfilled around 4 B.C., but it took several thousand years before it to come to pass!

Here is another case to consider: "Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you; and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing'" (12:1-2). This promise was made to Abraham when he was 75 years old, and it wasn't fulfilled until his 100th birthday—twenty-five years later! The birth of Isaac was just a catalyst in reference to God's promise to Abraham. When Isaac, the Patriarch was born, God made him the same promise: "Sojourn in this land and **I will be with you** and bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham. And I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed" (26:3-4). When Isaac was 40 (Genesis 25:20), he married Rebekah, a kinswoman from Mesopotamia (Genesis 24:10). But guess what? Rebekah was barren. The promise of a nation *appears* to stall here. It took another 20 years before God would make another footprint—Jacob the third Hebrew patriarch was born (25:20, 26)! That's right—20 years! We can write a voluminous book on God's timing, but suffice it to say, it took approximately 430 years before a nation was carved (Galatians 3:17).

DINING WITH STYLE IN GOD'S RESTAURANT

We've said it before and will say it again, God is not a fast food joint where you grab a burger to go; neither is He a short-order-cook you can shout out to: "Hold the onions!" Rather, He is a Gourmet Chef like no other, better than even those at the Ritz Carlton and such. He prepares delicacies agreeable to any connoisseur's palate. Most of us who have dined in a sit-down restaurant ought to have an idea of how long it takes to serve a good and delicious meal—much longer than in a fast food restaurant. I can think back to when I was a kitchen manager during my secular studies; therefore, I know first-hand the average time it takes to prepare an appetizing and mouth-watering meal. Similarly, God took time to cook up Joseph's promotion which He revealed in two separate dreams. So my friend, sit back and relax while your Father prepares your meal. You might find several appetizing things on the menu such as, promotion, provision for a new job, or for the healing of your infirmities, an abundant social life, or answered prayers. A believer may ask, "How much longer do I have to wait?" The length of time is God's prerogative. And, while He doesn't give us any clues, one thing is for certain: God will unequivocally act at the proper time—never too soon—never too late—simmered to perfection.

You may ask, "Why is it that the Almighty God, the Sovereign and Omnipotent One, who can do all things, anywhere, anytime, move in such a seemingly snail's pace when it comes to His plans for our lives, or when it comes to answering our prayers?" That's a good question, and you are not alone in asking it; many in Biblical times asked similar questions. For instance, Habakkuk lamented, "How long, Lord, must I cry for help?" (1:2a NET Bible). And King David asked, "How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me?" (Psalm 13:1). From Job's lips we hear, "Behold I cry, violence! but I get no answer; I shout for help, but there is no justice. He has walled up my way that I cannot pass; and He has put darkness on my paths" (Job 19:7, 8). Think about these Bible heroes, for they are the cries of the feeble—men with flaws.

Another puzzling question is, where was God the Father when the Perfect Lamb of God—the God-Man Jesus Christ, who on the Cross of Calvary, screamed out, "O My God, I cry by day, but You do not answer; and by night, but I have no rest" (Psalm 22:2)? Of course, our Lord's cry was heard...but not until the right time: After He had received the judgment of our sins (then and only then). In light of this, here's the way I see it: If God delayed answering the cry of the Lord Jesus Christ, the "radiance of His glory, the exact representation of His nature" (Hebrews 1:3a), then invariably, there's nothing in Scripture to suggest that our situation should receive a rapid V.I.P. response.

So to answer your question, there are many reasons why God takes His time in implementing His program for us—which includes answering our many prayers. Some of the reasons (listed below) are deducted through rigorous studies of God's Word and spiritual growth, while others are not revealed to us. In light of this, the following five reasons have surfaced:

- i. To wait until all hurdles that could interfere with the outcome of whatever good thing God may have coming your way are removed.
- ii. Another reason is to test the level of your spiritual growth—by determining whether your trust in God will dwindle even in the darkest time of your life.
- iii. To show you that God is a God of extreme measures—He shows up when all hope is gone.
- iv. Another reason could be that He is waiting for you to develop spiritual muscle or capacity through daily intake of His Word and its application (Acts 20:32).
- v. In the case of the timing of the Rapture, it is revealed in Scripture that "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9).

Whatever the case may be, we embrace the words of Jeremiah: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare [or for your betterment] and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope"

(29:11). God's grace calls for Him to give you the best; so be patient when He delays the details of your life.

Joseph was no exception! We are now ready to examine Joseph's first promotion while in slavery. "Now his master saw that the Lord was with him and how the Lord caused all that he did to prosper in his hand. So Joseph found favor in his sight, and became his personal servant over the house, and all that he owned he put in his charge" (Genesis 39:3,4). Talk about God's Providence—talk about grace! The same God who safeguarded and superintended Joseph in his rugged journey from an empty pit (where his brothers abandoned him to die), all the way to his slavery experience in Potiphar's house, is the very God who promoted him in the dark moment of his life! Yes, God promoted him in his slavery—in a foreign country for that matter! In light of this, three important observations have surfaced:

- Joseph displayed an awesomely relaxed mental attitude throughout his awkward experiences, for he looked unto God who never fails! In all of Scripture, there's no shred of evidence that he whined, mewed or murmured. He knew that come what may, God would see him through. How? He didn't know how; he just believed that God is faithful and able—that's all that counted—that's all God wants from anyone—trusting Him, even in the darkest moments of your life.
- Joseph's spiritual lifestyle was an excellent testimony to one and all. The apostle Paul was thinking along that line when he wrote, "You are our letter...known and read by all men" (II Corinthians 3:2). It's apparent that Joseph's master was impressed and made him General Overseer of the affairs of his household! Of course God was working behind the scene.
- Nothing gets in God's way when it comes to His overall plan for your life, just as in the case of Joseph! He uses every circumstance—good or bad—in bringing His plan for you to its marvelous fruition! Give and take,

these observations have initiated two lessons:

1. Invariably, Joseph's super structure of grace-orientation was solidified in his undeserving promotion. Think of it, one would have expected to be ill-treated as the lowest on the rung, and bossed around, and to have to work around the clock. Rather, he was treated with dignity—as Royalty—what a deal! We have often heard that grace-orientation is the quintessence or epitome of spiritual growth. But how does it come about? It comes about through learning God's Word, applying it, spiritual advancement, experience, and reflections of God's grace toward you! All these five components are essential if one is to become truly grace-oriented. In order to augment our teaching on grace, particularly as it applied to Joseph's lifestyle, it's vital that we examine each component accordingly:

• **LEARNING GOD'S WORD:** Intake of God's Word is a prerequisite to the establishment of grace-orientation. As you relentlessly avail yourself to the teaching of God's Word, sooner or later your right lobe becomes saturated with comprehension of who and what God is—His game plan and policy of grace. Through knowledge of His Word, you come face-to-face with the reality of Christ's sacrifice and suffering on your behalf—and in no way deserving any of it! The more your soul is saturated with His Word, the more you are armed with the realization that apart from God's grace, you would have nothing of value in life. Once that's concretely understood, the erection of the super structure of grace-orientation is just around the corner.

• **APPLICATION OF GOD'S WORD:** Application is the other side of learning. Without application of God's Word, an arsenal of doctrine in your soul stands to condemn you at the evaluation seat of Christ. You fight the spiritual battle that rages in your soul with total reliance on the strength He alone provides; and on the other hand, as you apply the truth of God's Word to your circumstances, spiritual growth becomes a reality.

• **SPIRITUAL ADVANCEMENT:** The level of your grace-orientation depends on where you are on the spiritual growth chart. No one can become grace-oriented overnight. It takes time. As you grow under the umbrella of the Holy Spirit, you become more tolerant and patient with those who do not measure up with your norms and standards. As you count your failures in light of His grace toward you, you are able to treat others in grace—worthy or not—just as God treats you—His unworthy adopted son.

• **EXPERIENCE:** It goes without saying that *experience is the greatest teacher*. Often, the way God deals with your bitter experiences in life, and comes to your rescue, contribute a great deal in adding bricks to the structure of grace-orientation in your soul. I don't know about you, but as for myself, my life history is flooded with all sorts of experiences—some were pleasant, others were anything but pleasant. Your live experiences certainly call for looking back upon God's grace that sustained.

• **REFLECTION ON GOD'S GRACE TOWARD YOU:** As you run back and forth through the chambers of your soul, meditating on the many facets of God's Word, your experience, and God's grace action in your life, you are compelled to treat others in kind. The apostle Paul did exactly that when he narrated his rugged experience (I Corinthians 11; II Timothy 3:11). No doubt, it was from the wealth of a soul's meditation and reflection that John Newton inspired this song:

*Amazing Grace...how sweet
the sound, that saved a
wretched like me...I was lost
but now, I am found...was
blind, but now I see!*

Throughout this study, we will see how all these components shaped Joseph's grace thinking for good—he was left in the pit to die, but was rescued; sold into slavery but was promoted; jailed but was elevated. Let me put it this way, whatever you face in this life is either by God's orches-

tration or by God's permission, for your overall well-being. But you have to keep your spiritual eyes open so that God the Holy Spirit will direct your every step. Now for the second lesson:

2. The second thing we learn from Joseph's promotion is that God can bless His children in whatever circumstances they find themselves. He demonstrated this concept when He caused Joseph to be promoted with a V. I. P. badge on his arm while he was a slave in Potiphar's domain. It's true that Joseph proved himself to be intelligent and trustworthy, but ultimately, God is the source of all that he had! This gears us up to look at what follows next:

JOSEPH'S TEMPTATION AND TESTING: Temptation, as we know it, is not the same as testing. Testing is of the Lord, while Satan is the source of temptation. James in his epistle enlightened us when he wrote, "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God, for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone' (James 1:13). Moses, of the Old Testament, shined some light on testing when he recorded God's Word: "...I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion everyday, that I may **test** [in Hebrew, the verb *nacab carries the idea of testing the quality of someone*] them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction'" (Exodus 16:4).

It's interesting to note that this combo—temptation and testing—is from ancient time. We first became aware of this concept in the Garden of Eden where God planted a tree of knowledge of good and evil to **test** Adam and Eve's obedience to His mandate (Genesis 2:16,17). Satan followed immediately with temptation to counteract God's desire—obedience to His Word. This is what happened to Joseph! He passed the mental test, which began with his being left in a pit to being sold as a slave to Potiphar in Egypt. With his success came promotion, and with promotion came an ambush from Satan. Word of advice: When you have a period of success, as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, this is not the time to be over-jubilant. Rather, it should be a time to guard your soul, for the

enemy lurks just on the horizon, poised and ready to attack! Before we embark on Joseph's temptation, we need to examine the result of his promotion:

"And it came about that **from the time** he [Potiphar] made him overseer in his house, and over all that he owned, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph; thus the Lord's blessing was upon all that he owned, in the house and in the field" (Genesis 39:5). Potiphar's blessing truly illustrated the concept of blessing by association. Joseph's grandfather was equally blessed. And, so we read, "But Laban said to him [Jacob], 'If now it pleases you, stay with me; I have divined that the Lord has blessed me on your account'" (Genesis 30:27). Blessing by association! But, now we are ready to see what Satan had up in his sleeve for the newly promoted overseer.

"So he left everything he owned in Joseph's charge; and with him there he did not concern himself with anything except the food which he ate. Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. And it came about after these events that his master's wife looked with desire at Joseph, and she said 'lie with me'" (39:6,7). Joseph had what a lot of women would die for: intelligence, grace-orientation, humility, integrity, and respect. To top it off, he was well-built and very handsome! Think of it, Joseph had this moment to steal gratification for himself; after all, he's already in slavery and who would care about the consequences? Better, he had the opportunity to act as though his future in God's plan had come to a screeching halt. But did he? We resume in verse 8 and 9: "But he refused and said to his master's wife, 'Behold, with me here, my master does not concern himself with anything in the house, and has put all he owns in my charge. There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil, and **sin against** [you? Right? Wrong! It is against] **God?**'"

Now, we see it in writing that Joseph's spiritual life was still intact! His remarkable response gave us a peek at his soul, filled with integrity. One would think that this

landmark spiritual victory would keep Satan at bay for a while. Right? Wrong again! "And it came about as she spoke to Joseph **day after day**, that he did not listen [give in] to her to lie beside her [in a sexual manner]" (v. 10). "Day after day" underlines the issue of spiritual warfare. The elect angels saluted Joseph's resistance to temptation and cheered with jubilation. On the other hand, the groundwork had been laid to send Joseph through the grace furnace of suffering for his ultimate promotion.

(To be continued volume 32—Lesson 19)

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).

AMAZING TESTIMONIES

We have come to realize that the reports we make available to you through Grace News Today is nothing less than the tip of the ice burg when it comes to God's handiwork at Grace Evangelistic Ministries! Each and every amazing thing that we see in this ministry points to one

source—God Himself!! Occasionally, we forward some of these amazing testimonies and photographs to those in our E-MAIL CAFÉ. You may forward your e-mail address to artile@mindspring.com if you are interested in receiving future testimonies, special prayer needs and perhaps pictures of our meetings.

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

(Continue in volume 30)

THE DOCTRINE OF KENOSIS

Bear in mind that we are examining one of the most important, yet distorted, doctrines in all of Scripture. We first need to examine the incarnation of Christ's humanity and His total subjection as a slave. In the course of our examination, we will see the significance of His human nature. And, we shall strive to answer questions as to why He became a true human being. Let's consult Scripture concerning His humanity:

"Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He [Jesus Christ] Himself likewise also partook of the same...Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things [in all likeness of human nature without the inheritance of Sin Nature] that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people" (Hebrews 2:14, 17).

In our book, Biblical Doctrine of Salvation¹, we answered the question as to why Christ became a human being. A likely probability has been presented that answers the question of the creation and procreation of mankind. It's argued that Satan appealed his sentence after his fall, and in response to that, God created Adam and Eve, which subsequently followed procreation of the entire human race. It is inferred that God created mankind with a freedom of choice to demonstrate to Satan that his rebellion against God's authority was an act of his free will. Although, we do not have Scriptural verses to document this theory, with careful scrutiny of God's Word, it seems to have merit. Scripture does reveal, however, Satan's true nature and operation. His continuous parading into the courtroom of heaven suggests that there's an ongoing case. In the book of Job, his courtroom activity is brought to light, and so we read:

"Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. And the Lord said to Satan, 'From where do you come?' Then Satan answered the Lord and said, 'From roaming about the earth and walking around it. And the Lord said to Satan, 'Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God [by means of his free choice] and turning away from evil.' Then Satan answered the Lord, 'Does Job fear God for nothing'" (Job 1:6,8,9).

"The accuser of the brethren," Satan, appeared in court with a case—prosecuting Job—based on the fact that his obedience to God was based on bribery. *"Have You not made a hedge about him...You have blessed him...You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the Land [literally, You have bribed him]" (Job 1:10).* This gives us a major clue as to an ongoing court case in heaven. Satan seeks to demonstrate that no created being is capable of responding to God apart from God's orchestration, and he took his plan to the Garden and deceived Eve into becoming his first victory, and then Adam.

¹Moses C. Onwubiko

What Satan didn't know was that God had a bigger plan that involved a legion of witnesses. The Lord Jesus Christ, the "*last Adam*" (I Corinthians 15:45) was the first on the witness stand for the prosecution. So if the first Adam was of flesh and blood so was the last one. This sets the stage to show that it's necessary for Christ to function as a true human being in His incarnation.

(To be continued in volume 32)

BIBLE DOCTRINE FOR THOUGHT

"Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they [unbelievers] are white for harvest... Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together" (John 4:35,36). "Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but [sadly] the workers are few. Therefore, beseech the Lord of harvest to send out workers into His harvest'" (Matthew 9:37). What was a great source of concern for our Savior 2,000 years ago ought to be our concern today! It boils down to this: Do you care for those who are perishing? You may pause and meditate on this.

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

We would like to share some of the letters that have been sent to us. As you read these letters, please join us in giving thanks to our gracious God who does all the work: "For it is God who works in you to

will and to act according to His good purpose" (Philippians 2:13).

Our purpose in sharing these letters with you is to show you that your partnership in financial and prayer support for this ministry is indeed producing dividends for the glory of our merciful God.

Dear Grace Evangelistic Ministries,

I write to thank God for using you to cause a change in my life and others who came across your publications. Your doctrinal materials have changed a lot of people for good and likewise myself. God showered His grace upon me when I was reading one of your publications. The moment I finished reading it, my life took a "U" turn. I responded to the message and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior. I need more doctrinal books to help me grow spiritually.

Thank you so much.

Yours truly,

Lagos, Nigeria

Dear Sister Debby,

Thanks a lot for your good service to us as a family GRACED by His grace here in Africa. For a long time, I have wanted to share with you the profound benefits that we attained through the teaching toolkits and training materials you sent us last year. This package bore in us a thirst of starting Grace School of Ministry for Africa, through which we would gather these deep Bible teachings, synchronize them out, and make them available to distant churches in Africa. For such a long time, I have studied Col. Robert Thieme's teachings and found so much depth in them that I felt God Himself talk to me. Many pastors who managed to read one book from the kitty came back for more and others who can read English cried for translations to be made. Again, when I read Rev. Onwubiko's books, I saw in them the gift

and mind of God as expunged through Thieme's teaching coming out quite audibly. Many pastors are now waiting to hear it from the horse's mouth when Rev. Moses visits next month.

The books and teachings available to us, though little as they may be, have brought to our ministry a new cutting edge and dimension. The testimony and book written by Rick is also a clear pointer of how far one can come from regular strongholds of life to be a much useful minister of sound Bible doctrine. We are expecting Rev. Moses with a lot of expectations to see how the Grace Fraternity can assist in making this message reach many of those who still wallow in the snares of the enemy.

Thank you.
Pastor O. N.

Kenya

Dear Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

After reading the contents of "Grace News Today," volume 29, I am well clarified on many questions in life and in the Bible.

Thank you so much and may the good Lord bless your ministry bountifully.

In God's care,
J. S.
Philippines

REV. MOSES' ITINERARY (JANUARY-JUNE 2003)

- JulyU. S. A.
- August 11-September 2Kenya
- August 12 – 21Nairobi
- August 22 – September 2Kakamega
- September 3 – 18U. S. A.
- September 19 – 30U. K.
- October 29 – December 27Africa
- November 1 – 15The Gambia
- November 16 – 22Sierra Leone
- November 23 – December 26Nigeria
- November 23 – 29Lagos conference
- December 1– 8Jos ministers' conference
- December 9 – 24Amaba Crusade
- December 28 – January 2004U. S. A.
- February 13 – 27India

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

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.

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 which He has assigned. Take a moment and think about the following question: When we work to accomplish a job which God has rejected, who will be glorified in the end? God? Or me?

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

We humbly ask that you join us in prayer as we ask our heavenly Father to make financial provision for the upcoming evangelistic meetings, listed above.

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
% Dr. & Nancy Northcott
111 Hickory Hill
Tullahoma, TN 37388
(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,

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.

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

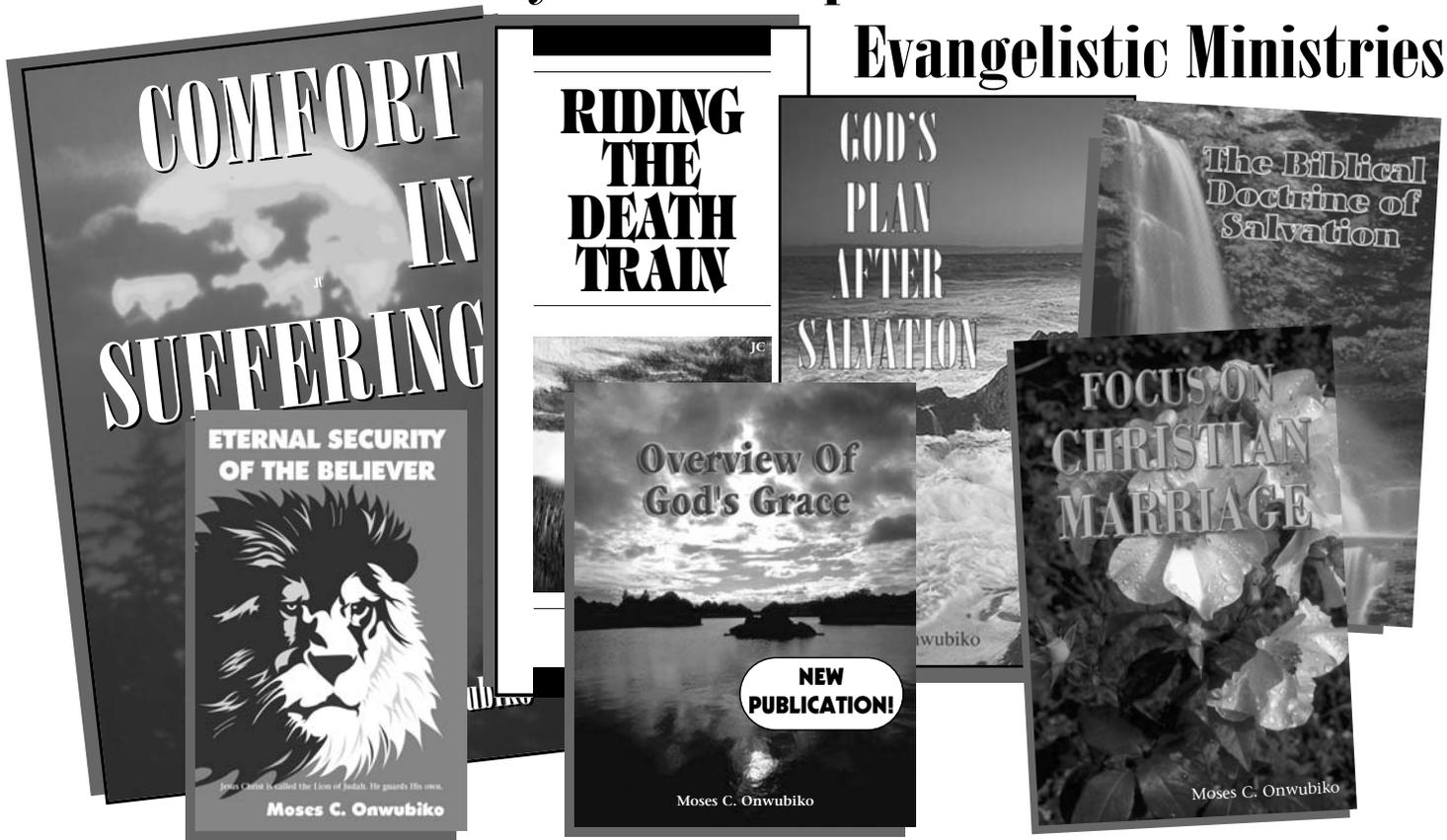
or call us at (615) 365-0015

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.