



# Grace News Today

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## *“Faith alone in Christ alone”*

Greetings from your dear friends and missionary partners at Grace Evangelistic Ministries! We consider it a great honor and a privilege to be co-laborers with the Most High God!! And again, who are we that the Almighty God, the self-sufficient One, has considered us worthy to serve in His Kingdom? Without any debate, we are merely mortal servants, totally submerged in His marvelous grace.

One does not have to be alive for very long on this earth to realize just how mortal we really are. I was only slightly surprised, when looking for a synonym for the word "mortal," that the first word in the list is "earthly." That word right there explains a lot. Earthly: Bound to this earth; of this earth. Sounds kind of final, doesn't it, like we have an enormous weight to carry around all the time. But the Lord didn't leave us alone or without hope. He told us to carry His burden because it is light (Matt 11:30). He tells us to look to Him rather than to things on earth (in Colossians 3:2). In Isaiah 41:10 we are told to not anxiously look at the things all around us (which can be very discouraging)! We are given promise after promise and told to concentrate on Him to keep us from getting bogged down in the quagmire of this world—almost like telling someone on a very high precipice to not look down! If they were to look down, they would become dizzy and fall.

We at GEM are so grateful that our Father didn't leave us alone and helpless! We rely on His promises, daily. Also, we are humbled by the many prayer partners that He has provided (all of you) who offer requests, relentlessly, on our behalf. We are thankful for the financial support in order to be able to fulfill the Great Commission...making disciples and spreading His good news, the grace gospel of faith alone in Christ alone. Thank you for lifting us up to the Father in prayer. We have

so much to be thankful for. At times, our hearts fill with gratitude over the simple fact that He is our Father—though there's nothing simple about that! It is our desire, at GEM, as well as yours, I'm sure, that many more will come to call him Abba, Father (Galatians 4:6) before it's too late.

Thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ's substitutionary death on our behalf, we are no longer bound to this earth via the first birth, but destined to heaven via the second birth. Those who have believed in this one fact have been turned from one course and placed on the other, and we want to share this good news whenever and wherever possible. But, it doesn't stop there. God has given us the wonderful privilege of growing in grace and knowledge of Him...to renew our minds with His thoughts! However, we are only able to keep our eyes on Him, and not on the things of this earth, by the power of the Holy Spirit. No amount of human effort on our part could make this possible, let alone continual.

The Lord Jesus Christ not only left His word by which we transform our thinking, but left us a Comforter, a Teacher to make us understand the things of God and to enable us to follow His mandates. So, before we go any further in our study of Joseph, we need to ensure that we are in fellowship and on "teaching ground" as it were, by the only means provided for us in I John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Once again, may I point out the fact that God has done all the work to bind us to Himself and life with Him forever. At the same time, He provided a way for us to not get bogged down in this business of living and functioning on earth day by day. All we have to bring to the table is our appetite! "O taste and see that the Lord is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!" Psalm 34:8.

## **WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT**

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

As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, as long as you are learning and applying His Word on a daily basis, you will enjoy God's maximum security. It's that simple. It boils down to this: There is no system of sophisticated weaponry, no act of terrorism, no attack by Satan—visible or invisible—that can pass unnoticed by God's security and get to you without His sovereign endorsement! Not now, not then, and not ever! He is your Shield (Genesis 15:1)! However, if you have been hit by the enemy's flaming dart, do not fear. Relax. Because God, who allowed it to pass through His sovereign security, is at work right now on your behalf! Again, nothing gets by God without His knowledge. There is absolutely no reason to fall apart, or hit the panic button, or retreat to self-pity—the "why me syndrome." Instead, listen to His words that are sweet to the taste:

"[Happy] is a man who perseveres under [adverse circumstances]; for once he has [passed the spiritual test], he will receive [super abundance of blessing in time, and] the crown of life [in eternity], which the Lord has promised to those who **love Him** [those who have acquired spiritual capacity]" (James 1:12).

James puts it this way: "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials [when the adversities of life hit you hard], knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance [through application of doctrine] have its perfect result, that you may be [fully equipped] lacking in nothing" (James 1:2-4). In fact, what Paul wrote fits perfectly: "And we know that God causes all things [pleasant and unpleasant situations] to work together for good to those who **love God**, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). God knows exactly what He is doing in your life; and while you may not be able to fathom all of it, one thing is crystal clear: There is absolutely no such thing as bad luck or an accident in God's plan, because God can blend the bad with good to come up with extraordinarily marvelous results! Essentially, we can face a seemingly bad situation and expect the good that will follow. Such is our awesome God!

Here's the apostle Peter's take on this subject: "But to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exaltation" (I Peter 4:13). Finally, the apostle Paul put it this way: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4). Hence, we should rejoice in each and every event in our lives—pleasant or unpleasant, for our Father is at work on our behalf 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year! Allow Job's confidence in God to be yours: "But He knows [what I am going through]; when He has [tested] me, I shall come forth as gold [way better than before!]" (Job 23:10). And no matter what, always remember God's promise: "I will strengthen you, **surely I will help you**, surely I will uphold you with My [integrity]" (Isaiah 41:10c).

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

(John 8:32).

## DOCTRINE OF GRACE

*Taught by Reverend Moses C. Onwubiko*  
Lesson 18

(Continued from volume 31, Lesson 17)

### JOSEPH IN THE GRACE FURNACE OF SUFFERING

If you'll recall, we dissected varying degrees of suffering in volume 28, plus we noted that God's grace includes not only a cozy and blissful experience but also going through a furnace of suffering. On the one hand, being purged in the furnace of suffering is inevitable for any believer who is a recipient from the wellspring of God's blessings in time and eternity future. There are no two ways about it! It was inevitable for Job (Job 1, cf. 42:12-16), King David (Psalm 23), the apostle Paul (II Corinthians 11:23-33; cf. II Timothy 4:6-8), and our Lord Jesus Christ for that matter! Yes, the Lord Himself went through the most intense furnace of suffering the world has or will ever know!!

Regarding Christ's unequalled suffering, the author of the book of Hebrews wrote this, "Although He was [God the] Son, He learned **obedience through the things He suffered. And by being perfected [refined] in this way**, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who [trust in] Him, and He has been designated by God [the Father] as high priest in the order of Melchizedek" (5:8-10 Net Bible). The truth of the matter is, that we might go through a furnace of suffering, but our Lord went through hell on earth to be our substitute! That alone ought to cause the reverence in your soul to expand and to glow by the light of God's majesty. Paradoxically, it goes without saying that to be forewarned is to be forearmed. We can say, with confidence, that the saturation of Joseph's soul with God's Word was all he needed to go through the furnace with flying colors. That's all we need too!

**JOSEPH IN PRISON:** Often when things are rugged, a believer is likely to ask, "Why me? Why am I in this predicament?" And yet, when things are running smoothly, no potholes in the road, only a handful of believers (grace-oriented ones) ask, "Why should I be the object of God's blessings?" With this in mind, we are all set to visit Joseph in jail and watch how he applies the doctrine resident in his soul:

In Moses' account we read, "Now it hap-

pened one day that he [Joseph] went into his house to do his work, and none of the men of the household was there inside. And she [Potiphar's wife] caught him by his garment, saying, 'Lie with me!' And he left his garment in her hand and fled and went outside. When she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled outside, she called to the men of her household, and said to them, 'See he [my husband—Potiphar] has brought in a Hebrew to us to make sport of us; he came in to me to lie with me, and I screamed. And it came about when he heard that I raised my voice and screamed, that he left his garment beside me and fled, and went outside.' So she left his garment beside her until his master [her husband] came home. So she spoke to him with these words, 'The Hebrew slave whom you brought to us, came in to me to make sport of [rape] me; and it happened as I raised my voice and screamed, that he left his garment beside me and fled outside'" (Genesis 39:11-18).

What a fabricator she was—a good one too! But, unbeknownst to her, her very own accusation, in essence, laid the groundwork for Joseph's promotion through the grace furnace of suffering—where he would be purged from all impurities of arrogance, prepared and strengthened in grace-orientation and humility, prior to receiving the fulfillment of his dream! Though it won't be an easy road, Joseph stands to gain much from the wisdom and the grace of God who vindicates those who suffer unjustly because of their stance in Yahweh!

Potiphar's reaction to his wife's complaint were decisive and swift! "Now it came about when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spoke to him, saying, 'This is what your slave did to me,' that his anger burned [Hebrew: Charah = *to be incensed; or to glow with anger*]. So Joseph's master took him and put him into the jail, the place where the king's prisoners were confined; and he was there in the jail" (v. 19, 20). Satan scored another victory. Or did he? In the heat of the moment, it appeared so! It's interesting to note that Potiphar had two options... one was to have Joseph hanged, which would have prevented the fulfillment of his dream. The other was to throw him in jail. God's Providence always prevails and in light of this, he chose the later.

Ironically, the same God who never stopped directing throughout Joseph's entire ordeal of being thrown into a pit, being sold to the



Ishmaelites, and enslaved in Egypt, was the very God who prepared a table of grace for Joseph in prison. "But the Lord was with Joseph and extended kindness [unmerited favor] to him, and gave him favor [or Hebrew: *chen* = *grace*] in the sight of the chief jailer" (v. 21). We have said it before, but let's say it again, with the words capitalized, italicized, highlighted, underlined, and with double exclamation marks! ***THERE IS NOTHING LIKE A BELIEVER BEING THE OBJECT OF GOD'S GRACE!!*** There is nothing like it—ever!!!

Conversely, I wish you could see my eyes fixed on your eyes in love, as I make this solemn statement: **No created being—human or angelic, no circumstance, no amount of propaganda, sickness, suffering or Satan-engineered assault is capable of ending God's plan for your life as long as you are on course! Period.** You may say to me, "Moses, you really don't understand the enormity of my suffering." You are absolutely right! The only One who knows, for sure, is the Omniscient God! That's all that matters!! And the truth of the matter is that He never promises us, anywhere in Scripture, that our Christian journey will be a bed of roses; however, He does promise, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU" (Hebrews 13:5c). It's that simple!

The evidence of His promise is found in King David's life: "For David, *after* he had served [executed] the purpose [Greek: *boule* = *will or decree*] of God [for his life] in his own generation, fell asleep [died], and was laid [buried] among his fathers, and underwent decay" (Acts 13:36). This verse of Scripture authenticates our claim. God never took His eyes off His servant David—not even for a moment—He was always there with him, through all the ups and downs—rugged roads and even in the 'valley of the shadow of death'—God was right there with him—24 hours a day—7 days a week—until he fulfilled God's plan for his life to the last letter! That's true for us too—the 'pupil of His eye'—He will never let go of us until we have fulfilled His will for our lives. That's the meaning of God's sovereignty!

God shielded King David from every scourge of the evil one until his job was done; and only then, did God call him home. I don't know about you, but as for me, when God's purpose for my life is complete, I don't want to spend another second on planet earth. So my friend, there are no two ways about it,

if you really understand this truth, there should never be a reason for you to panic, even when the storms of life threaten to toss you overboard. We are now ready for the next installment of Paul's statement: "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) as its truth applies to Joseph. In fact, we'll see in our study that Joseph made a statement which actually parallels Romans 8:28 when he unveiled himself to his ill-willed and unscrupulous brothers.

**JOSEPH'S SECOND PROMOTIONAL INSTALLMENT IN JAIL:** Nothing is more intriguing or quite as splendid as watching God's faithfulness and His plan for us unfold and bloom like spring flowers along a dusty trail. It's quite awesome to see—there's nothing like it! That is why God's faithfulness is a major part of our study, and it is essential to examine it closely. But first, let's try to imagine Joseph's situation in prison: "And the chief jailer committed to Joseph's charge all the prisoners who were in the jail; so that whatever was done there, he was responsible for it" (Genesis 39:22). You read it correctly—he was **in charge!** This was God's way of saying to Satan, "In your face—I am competent to convert My children's suffering into blessing—anytime, anywhere—even in a prison!"

It's soothing to know that God is at the helm, especially in times of suffering, and far more comforting is that He has supreme veto power when something doesn't align with His plan for your life. Satan is acutely aware of this, but are you? If you are, then why hit the panic button when turbulence threatens to rattle your world? Of course, it's a normal physiological response for adrenaline to rise when something sudden happens, but we ought to stabilize in a flash by latching onto Scriptural promises such as, "... The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What will man [or Satan for that matter] do to me?" (Hebrews 13:6). Or, "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). That's just what Job did when his foundation crumbled beneath him: "But He [the omniscient One] knows the way I take [why I am experiencing such turbulence]; when He has tried me [when this storm is over], I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10).

Now let's back up a step and look closer at

Genesis 39 verse 21 which states, "But the Lord was with Joseph, and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer." Joseph was totally helpless in his dank prison cell. He couldn't bail himself out, nor could he escape—even if he wanted to! But in this dilemma, he was paid a visit by our Father's unfailing grace. God didn't immediately deliver him like He could have, but rather He caused him to be appointed second in command to the chief jailer! In a sense, a harder task than a miraculous deliverance! Think about it. Who said that God doesn't have a marvelous sense of humor? You see, God is capable of rescuing you from your predicament, just as much as He is capable of promoting you in the midst of it. But the very marrow of the verse we are studying is that God is the subject of each action:

- God was with Joseph (v. 21a)
- God extended kindness to Joseph (v. 21b)
- God gave Joseph favor [or grace] in the sight of the jailer (v. 21c).

The Lord does all the work—underlining the principle of grace. And there's no question about it. The very moment Joseph had a firm grasp of the truth that apart from God he would amount to nothing, his grace-orientation shone all about like bright moonlight. This is true of any believer who has an ounce of humility. When you inventory your life in light of God's grace, you understand that were it not for His grace, you wouldn't even be alive or be who you are today. This is the moment when truth begins to jell in your soul.

Chapter 39 ends with these amazing words, "...the Lord was with him [Joseph]; and whatever he did, **the Lord made [it] to prosper**" (v. 23). Literally, God was responsible for Joseph's every success even in the most adverse circumstance! Let me put it this way, God actually unleashed His shower of blessing upon Joseph—undeserving no less. Joseph's awareness of this Truth was the foundation of the super-structure of his spiritual life and the fountain of his grace-orientation. That same Truth ought to deflect ballooned-pride and cause us to look at our achievement under the high-powered microscope of God's grace.

### JOSEPH'S ULTIMATE PROMOTION

We need to assemble together the accumulation of events that propelled Joseph to be the first Hebrew-slave-appointed prime minister

of Egypt. Putting the pieces together is essential because it will throw more light on the work of the able, the "I know what I am doing" God! Keep in mind that Joseph's ultimate and long-awaited promotion is the third and final installment of, "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).

Interestingly, the same Providence that presided over the boy-prince in Jacob's house, and shaped and guided his course, is the very one "causing all things [including imprisonment] to work together for [Joseph's awesome] good." We have heard Romans 8:28 quoted a thousand times, but does its Truth really circulate properly in our souls? Does its meaning register in the computer of our souls? When things go sour in our lives, can we unequivocally interpret the experience in light of this awe-inspiring verse of the infallible Word of God? I mean, when we rationalize our suffering, do we THINK in terms of divine viewpoint—that God knows what He is doing with our earthen vessels? Spiritual life, you know, is nothing but THINKING! THINKING! THINKING! We cannot emphasize this Truth enough! It's not what you do; it's what you think. Action is merely a by-product of one's thoughts! As we come to the end of this expositional teaching, we will see how Joseph rationalizes his entire experience from the onset of his brothers' callous action of selling him to the Ishmaelites as a slave, to his promotion as the prime minister of Egypt. So we begin with the setting.

**GOD WORKS AT BOTH HELMS TO BRING ABOUT HIS ULTIMATE PLAN:** We know that God is the Master Choreographer of human history and definitely the Mastermind in the planning. He knows when and how to use circumstances—pleasant and unpleasant—to accomplish His overall plan for our lives. In fact, when we have an iron grip on this phenomenal concept, we will say good-bye to whining and mewing over our bitter experiences. We'll slam the book shut before we sing the "Why me" song. And there's no doubt about it, when this Truth arrests our thinking we'll be most relaxed inside and out just like Joseph—even in the midst of great turmoil. Yes, great turmoil.

The truth of the matter is that we cannot be winner believers apart from having a thorough understanding of God, His perfect

plan, and His way of doing things. We as believers often hit the panic button when suffering hits us between the eyes. This is because of our idiotic and stupid forgetfulness of Who is at the helm at both ends of our spiritual journey. We can learn how heroes of the past handled adversities. Job is a perfect example for our study; his soul was soaked in the river of God's Word as it was available to him in his day, through dreams, visions, and angelic teachings. He had a systematic comprehension of God. He understood, hands down, about God's omniscience, and far more fascinating, he had confidence in His God (Job 23:10). When Job was bombarded with severe suffering, he retreated to the bunker of doctrine in his soul and took cover with his bunker sealed off with a Pigeonhole of divine viewpoint. He viewed the outside world and his circumstances through this Pigeonhole! As suffering in its ugliness pressed so hard on him, he had no choice but to let divine viewpoint leak out of his soul! "But He knows [what I am going through; He knows why I am in this predicament]; when He has tried me [when he has tested the doctrine in my soul], I [am confident that I] will come forth [or shine] like gold" (Job 23:10).

You and I need to have such an attitude regarding suffering; and we need to have it more often! In light of this concept, an important question about our spiritual success has emerged: As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ who are growing in grace, do we truly rejoice when suffering knocks at our soul's door? Whenever we don't, we fall short of glorifying God. We are commanded in Scripture to, "Consider it all joy [rejoice!]...when [we] encounter various trials [or suffering] (James 1:2). We are told that our endurance will bring forth a marvelous result and super-abundance of unsurpassed blessing in time and eternity (vv. 4, 12). Joseph was aware of this doctrinal truth and because of this, he remained composed even in prison. True, he slipped off, but just for a moment. This clears the floor for us to enter another divine chamber of God's, in order that we might have some insight into His Providence.

**GOD'S PROVIDENCE IN ACTION:** "Then it came about after these things [Joseph's imprisonment and promotion in prison] the cupbearer [a palace official who serves wine at the king's table] and the baker for the king of Egypt offended their lord, the king of Egypt. And Pharaoh was furious with

his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker. So he put them in confinement in the house of the captain of the body-guard, in the jail, the same place where Joseph was imprisoned" (Genesis 40:1-3).

Was it a coincidence that these two men were sent to the same prison where Joseph was jailed? Or was it on account of God's Providence that works behind the scenes? We have seen how God uses every circumstance in our life to accomplish His purpose. What we might call a disaster is a tool in the hand of God, for "God causes all things to work together for the [awesome] good of those who love Him." You may recall what happened in Shechem when a man found Joseph wandering about looking for his brothers (Genesis 37: 15, 16). This same man had overheard his brothers talking and directed Joseph to them. Coincidence? No! God's Providence caused the man to be at the right place at the right time! Was it mere chance that the Midianite traders happened to pass by just when Joseph's brothers had changed their minds and decided to sell him as a slave rather than leave him in the pit? (v. 28). Was that coincidence too? No! No! No! There are no coincidences in God's plan!

While God is not the source of evil deeds, He sure knows how to use them to His advantage! Tell me, do you think that Joseph's brothers would have sold him to the slave merchants if they had foreknown that they were sending him to a place where he would become a prime minister? Of course not! Tell me, again, If Satan had known that Job's blessings would double after he wiped him inside out, would he have attempted to obtain permission from God to torture Job? That's incongruous and unthinkable for the enemy of our progress to go that route! He couldn't have! Here is the supreme question: Tell me one more time, would Satan have fought relentlessly to have the Lord Jesus Christ crucified if he knew that Christ's spiritual death on the cross would result in unlimited atonement? No! No way! Not in a gazillion years! So my friend, when suffering strikes you where it hurts, do not fret, for God is poised, waiting to surprise Satan with a sensational outcome! That's the Truth of the Bible—it's the quintessence of God's incomprehensible grace! In a nutshell, it's God's perfect timing that the king's cupbearer and the baker not be decapitated or hanged. Rather, that they would share the same quarters with Joseph. Why is this significant? One of them will serve as a link

between Joseph and the Egyptian king as we will see later on. Talk about Providence!

**JOSEPH PORTRAYS HIS HUMILITY-ORIENTATION:** Continuing in Genesis, we read: "And the captain of the bodyguard put Joseph **in charge** of them, and he **took care** of them; and they were in confinement for some time. Then the cupbearer and the baker for the king of Egypt, who were confined in jail, both had a dream the same night, each man with his own dream and each dream with its own interpretation. When Joseph came to them in the morning and **observed** them, behold they were **dejected** [Hebrew: *za 'aph = sad or morose*]. And he asked Pharaoh's officials who were with him in confinement in his master's house, 'Why are your faces so sad today?' Then they said to him, 'We have had a dream and there is no one to interpret it'" (40:4-8a).

We've defined humility as state of mind in which one regards himself as "Mr. Nobody of any significance" and easily and joyfully submits to any appointed authority.<sup>1</sup> Joseph's humility-orientation is clearly seen in his attitude toward those under his authority. Remember he was in charge of the prison inmates while being an inmate himself. Interestingly, the English Bible doesn't do enough justice in translating the Hebrew verb *sharath*. The translators rendered it 'took care' (40:4). It does mean to *take care*, but more than that it means, *to attend, to serve, to wait on, or to minister to*. It denotes a *high level of service rendered to important people or royal officials*. This term, which occurred 96 times in the Hebrew Old Testament, was used on many occasions to depict servitude in action. It was used as **service** provided by a household worker (I Kings 10:5); Elisha was said to have **ministered** to his master Elijah (I Kings 19:21); King David's servants **waited upon** him (I Kings 1:15); in the same manner, Amnon had a valet who **served** him (II Samuel 13:17). The word is always used as a servant of a higher rank.

Joseph had the opportunity to show off his arrogance to the inmates under his authority,—after all, he was the boss! Rather, we see another side of Joseph—we see something so precious and attractive in him—humility. No wonder many Bible commentators maintain that Joseph was the foreshadow of Christ. We will explore this near the

end of our Biblical exposé. Joseph literally served them as though he was their household servant, which is similar to what our Lord did for His disciples. Now we can begin to tap further into the chamber of Joseph's soul and behold the beauty of amazing grace.

**JOSEPH'S CONCERN FOR THE WELL-BEING OF OTHERS:** Unselfish concern for the well-being of other people is a major weapon in the arsenal of grace. There are no two ways about it...show me a believer who is consumed with great passion for the well-being of others, and I will indisputably show you a grace believer! The apostle Paul put it beautifully: "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; [and] do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interest of others" (Philippians 2:3,4). While Paul wrote this to the Philippians, he also set an example: "You [Ephesians] yourselves know that these hands [of mine] ministered to my own needs and to the men [his co-laborers] who were with me" (Acts 20:34). We have already delineated this Truth in our book: *Paul: A Trophy of God's Grace*.<sup>2</sup>

Joseph's attitude and concern toward others was no different than Paul's. And so Moses wrote, "When Joseph came to them [his fellow prison inmates] in the morning and observed them, behold they were dejected" (Genesis 40:6). Joseph watched them like viewing a video, after all the Greek equivalent *borao* corresponds with the Latin *video*. He was acutely concerned about their facial expressions. Joseph could have looked the other way with a who-cares-attitude, but the Scripture recorded otherwise: "And he asked Pharaoh's officials who were with him in confinement in his master's house, 'Why are your faces so sad today?'" (v. 7). He asked them with the intention, if possible, to render assistance.

"Then they said to him, 'We have had a dream and there is no one to interpret it'" (v. 8a). Joseph's heart melted with compassion, so he humbly asserted, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell it to me **please**" (v. 8b). What a man. He recognized that God is the source of everything he had—including his ability to interpret dreams! So the chief cupbearer and the baker told their dreams respectively to Joseph (vv. 9-11); and he interpreted them

accordingly. We are not interested with their dreams as such, as they don't have any bearing on our study. Nonetheless, the interpretation of the cupbearer's dream was a favorable one, while his counterpart received bad news, which hinged on his eminent death. Consequently, Joseph's interpretations came to fruition respectively. Pharaoh had the chief baker executed on the third day as per Joseph's interpretation of the baker's dream (Genesis 40:16-20). Now we are ready to examine, though not in detail, the other side of the heroes of the Bible.

**SPIRITUAL FAILURES:** I have yet to see a Biblical hero who didn't have a smudge of spiritual failure in one way or another. The Old Sin Nature, which we all wear like a jacket, is the source of our personal sins or spiritual failures. Invariably, believers who dared to slide down the spiritual quagmire hill are those who have received above and beyond super grace—those who bore the mark of spiritual greatness. You may ask, Why do they have more potential to hit bottom over other believers? (Take for instance, Job, Abraham, King David, the apostle Paul, and a handful of others.) The reason is not hidden; they are the targets of Satan's elite warriors. Conversely, while Satan may slumber in attacking baby or carnal believers, he is vigilant 24 hours a day, 365 days a year in ambushing what I call 'Gold Believers!' We know of this from Satan's response to seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who were invoking the name of Jesus Christ on evil spirits. To these men Satan replied, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who [do you think you] are?" (Acts 19:14-15). In other words, I am too busy working around the clock to bring the 'Gold Believers' down; and I don't have any time to waste on you! I go after the spiritual, grace-made giants! Another reason Satan goes after these graced-out believers is that their failures draw much attention and can be a distraction to baby believers!

We all fail. No exceptions! Often, some of us who are self-righteous, like to sit high up, on a holy chair, and become judges of those who fail, without knowing the weight of the fatality of our error! We judge while ignoring and defying, outright, all orders from the Bar of Eternal Justice not to take part in such business! Sadly, the victims of this error are babies, self-centered, egocentric, arrogant believers who are legalistic to the core. These isolate certain sins and label them 'anathema', and whoever succumbs to

<sup>1</sup> Onwubiko Moses, *Paul A Trophy of God's Grace*, p41

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, pp 61-64



any of these sins should not be worthy of eternal life. To these believers, the apostle Paul asked a stinging question, "[Howbeit!] Who are you [who do you think you are] to judge the servant of another [God's]? To his own Master he stands or falls; and stand he will [guaranteed!], for the Lord is able to make him stand" (Romans 14:4).

James, the half-brother of our Lord lamented, "Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother, or judges his brother, speaks against the law, and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but [the Law Giver, i.e. God]. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and destroy, but who are you who judge your [brother]" (James 4:11,12). Dangerously, some of us have made ourselves into small gods, and we are busybodies patrolling God's territory to judge his employees. Such a lifestyle does not reflect grace-orientation! Never has, and never will—not then, not now, and not ever! When a believer fails, no matter how heinous, the function of our priesthood requires that we lift such a person up in prayer before the throne of God's grace—interceding on his behalf. We ought not to cause other believers to sin by drawing them in the middle of gossip, maligning, judging, and ridicule. We are not to judge others because we do not have all the facts surrounding the person's failure, only God does!

A believer's failure today ought not to be a joking matter in that you don't have the slightest idea what kind of failure awaits you tomorrow. I thank my God, that He has graciously taught me a great lesson not to judge anyone, no matter what. Experience is the best teacher, they say; how true it is. I watched a very humorous commercial about people getting a daily dose of vitamins by eating cereal every morning. In the commercial, a man laughs at his friends when he sees a waiter serve many different kinds of cereal—perhaps twelve bowls for each. He ordered another brand of cereal; however, he doesn't have any idea how many bowls it will take to get his complete daily vitamins. Suddenly, the waiter returns with twice as many bowls as the others have. Seeing his own bowls, his friends burst out laughing, and his facial expression changes as he asks them, "What's funny?" Now he is asking, "What's funny?" forgetting that he is the one who first laughed at them. So my friend, don't take it lightly when your brother in Christ fails, because you have no idea what awaits you on the grounds of spiritual war-

fare! We all need grace in abundance! With this little, but necessary, digression from our exposition, we can now look at Joseph's failure.

**JOSEPH'S FAILURE:** First of all, nowhere in all of Scripture are we told that Joseph was a perfect believer, or anyone else for that matter. Momentarily, Joseph switched from divine viewpoint to human viewpoint. So we read, "Then Joseph said to him [the chief cupbearer], 'This is the interpretation of it [your dream]: the three branches are three days; within three more days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office; and you will put Pharaoh's cup into his hand according to your former custom when you were his cupbearer. **Only keep me in mind when it goes well with you, and please do me a kindness by mentioning me to Pharaoh, and get me out this [jail] house.** For I was in fact kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing that they should have put me into the dungeon" (v. 12-15).

Without any doubt, Joseph really missed the spiritual mark at this juncture. All along, throughout his adverse experiences, as we have previously studied, he was focused on God, who in His grace rescues the righteous—those who suffer injustice. But here he really snapped! The word translated 'kindness' is the Hebrew *chesed*. It means kindness, but more than that, it's the attitude of good will, favor, and love, which contains mercy, or grace in action. Joseph inadvertently placed himself under a divine curse, or discipline that would last two more years. He fainted and slammed his trust on man, which carries punitive action from the Bar of Eternal Justice: "Thus says the Lord, 'Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and make flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from the Lord'" (Jeremiah 17:5). The Psalmist echoed Jeremiah's words with a song, "Do not trust in princes, in mortal man, in whom there's no [deliverance]" (Psalm 146:3). Joseph failed miserably when he switched his trust in God to man. He whined and mewed about his unjust treatment. Job did the same. Remember our job is not to say, "Joseph, how dare you switch your trust in God to man?" We do not have a clue as to the magnitude of his suffering, just as we don't have a clue about Job's. The good news is that God has, and judges graciously. You may be tempted to call one a loser, while in God's evaluation he's a winner! No question about it, Joseph clearly failed God at this point. But the BIG QUESTION is, did God fail him?

Stay tuned, because when this question is answered in conjunction with a brief study of God's faithfulness, I am sure that a tangible understanding of grace will hit you between the eyes!

## 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 iceberg 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](mailto:artile@mindspring.com) if you are interested in receiving future testimonies, special prayer needs and perhaps pictures of our meetings.

(To be continued volume 33—Lesson 20).

## HERE IS THE TRUTH

(Continued in volume 31)

## THE DOCTRINE OF KENOSIS

**CHRIST'S RESTRICTION OF THE USE OF HIS DEITY IN HIS HUMAN NATURE:** We have already delineated the issue of Christ restricting the use of His Deity in His human nature. We noted that the apostle Paul point-

ed this out when he wrote to the Philippians, saying, "Who although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, "But **emptied [restricted]** Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death even death on the cross" (Philippians 2:6-8). Again, either He used His Deity in His incarnation or He did not. There are no two ways about it. There is no such thing as partial restriction in Philippians 2:6, this is exactly the point we want to drive home. The question stands: Did Christ in His humanity ever use the attributes of His Deity?

We have already laid the groundwork by showing that Christ, the last Adam, was a real live human being with flesh and blood; the Scriptural support abounds. As a Man, He increased in wisdom (Luke 2:52), grew in stature (Luke 2:52), experienced hunger (Matthew 4:2), was tired (John 4:6), thirsty (John 4:7), and wept (John 11:35)...an expression of human emotion. As God, those experiences were foreign to Him. Invariably, it was necessary that He become a true human being so that His qualification as a Witness in the prosecution phase of the appeal trial of Satan would be unquestionable. Satan would not go back to the court room, and say to God the Father, "I told You so or that no human being can subject himself to God's authority without God's bribery." Christ Himself defended this Truth, when He said, "I can do nothing on my own [accord]...I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me" (John 5:30). We now have another chunk of evidence to add to our arsenal of Truth.

**RELIANCE ON HIS FATHER'S WILL AND PROVISION:** The phrase "I Will" emphasizes what one can do by *'will power.'* On the contrary, Jesus Christ relied on, and utilized to the maximum, two power sources throughout His earthly ministry. We will come to these dynamic Powers later on. Suffice it to say, this solemn statement, which our Lord made in John 5:30 is seen throughout His earthly ministry. He began His ministry by consulting His Father in prayer (Luke 3:21, 22); when He chose His disciples, He asked God for guidance (Luke 6:12,13); He prayed to the Father when He was engaging in sustained and exhausted service (Mark 1:35-39); when He called forth Lazarus from the dead, He looked to the Father for a miracle (John 11:41); when He was burdened for Peter, He couldn't say, 'Alright, Peter, Satan has obtained permission to twist your spiritual momentum, you need

not to worry, for I have everything under control.' Rather He prayed to the Father on Peter's behalf (Luke 22:31, 32). When He faced betrayal, execution, and divine abandonment, He looked to the Father for strength (Luke 22:41,44). That's not all! When He thought of His disciples' future ministry, He lifted them up in prayer to the Father (John 17).

Some one may ask, "What about those miracles that Jesus Christ did, didn't He do them by the power of His Deity?" No. He performed those miracles through the power of the Holy Spirit, or better, God the Father wrought those miracles through Him to attest to the unbelieving Jews, that Jesus Christ is truly Whom He claimed to be—the Messiah! In Acts we read, "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a Man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourself know" (2:22). Even Nicodemus acknowledged that when he said to Jesus Christ, "...Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with Him" (John 3:2). You say, "Well, there were many occasions when Jesus Christ performed miracles at will without consulting His Father." Sure. So did the apostles, especially the apostle Paul and Peter respectively. On the other hand, He could have operated in the power of His deity; after all, He is God; however because of the reason we gave earlier, He chose to do otherwise.

*(To be continued in the next issue)*

#### **HERE IS THE AMAZING GOD-ASSEMBLED TEAM**

(We urge you to routinely lift them up in prayer before His throne)

Undoubtedly, here at Grace Evangelistic Ministries, we have become accustomed to using these phrases: *"This is amazing!" "This has got to be God's handiwork!" "Wow!" "No doubt, God is doing something in this ministry!" "I'm telling you, God is cooking up something big!"* Moses often says, if you meet Naboth Otukho of Kenya, (East and Central Africa Director), you would unequivocally arrive at the conclusion that God brought him into this ministry; and when you see John Gumbo, of Zimbabwe (South Africa Director), you would think you've met a cloned Naboth, after all, Gumbo found our address on a piece of paper on the street. And when you meet Elija Ejila, a residence of Gambia, (the-pending European Director), you would think that

he's a camouflaged Naboth! On the same platform, when you meet the Africa chapter President, Darlington Elekwa of Nigeria, you would be compelled to shout what a point man! You need to meet Tayo Arikawe, Ohi Alofokhia, Simon Onwubiko and many more! Each has a unique and mouth-watering testimony about how God in His matchless grace brought them to this ministry!

What about here in the States—the support base of Grace Evangelistic Ministries? Invariably, when you meet Debby Hagar, you would conclude that she is a God-sent instrument for GEM. On the same wavelength, when you meet Dana Schott you would think Debby is fooling you in sheep's clothing! We are not finished yet! Amazement awaits you when you meet Nancy Northcott, Gloria Onwubiko, Julie Watterson, Ed Weidner, Suzie Overman, Suzie Dunn, Kevin Banker, and many more! That's not all! When you meet these individuals, you would think that you have been amazed enough. Not so fast, wait until you meet the GEM God-assembled Board members, the prayer warriors of this ministry, and the financial supporters—those who give generously—month-after-month. How did this grace-made team wind up at Grace Evangelistic Ministries? In four words: God brought them together!!! It's shy of an accident! It falls short of coincidence! It's God's handiwork in action! You can see why we unapologetically say **Grace Evangelistic Ministries is God-established!** So join us as we stand in awe and salute His majesty!

#### **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!

#### **MISSIONARY REPORT**

(August-September 2003)

It gives us enormous pleasure to report what God in His infinite grace is doing through Grace Evangelistic Ministries. Again and again, we have lamented and shouted aloud that God alone is the One who brings success to this ministry! The glory to the success we



have witnessed is His alone! Interestingly, it would take a thousand pages or more to report what God accomplished this year through this unworthy ministry! This is not an exaggeration! Unquestionably, we will never fully understand why He has elected to use this ministry in such an unprecedented way!

### KENYA

(August 2003)

A visit to Kenya, a country in East Africa, was Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko's first evangelistic work in that part of the world. The reports we have received both from Moses and the attendees show clearly that the conferences were a huge success. He had conferences in Nairobi, Kisumu, Kagamega, and in remote villages.

### NAIROBI

Here Moses met with a group of more than a dozen ministers who came to welcome him at the airport. On the following morning, the program commenced with full gear. Moses often leaves his hotel at 9:00 a.m. only to return around 7:00 p.m. He expounded the Scripture with clarity and perspicacity so that those who attended had little room to argue or challenge him on doctrinal issues. Sometimes he would speak for more than three and half hours non-stop stressing that salvation is faith plus nothing, minus nothing, faith alone in Christ alone! He presented the gospel and basic Truth in a most challenging manner.

### HERE ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS CONFERENCE:

- ✓ There were people from six other African countries.
- ✓ Some traveled three days by bus to come to the Nairobi evangelistic meeting.
- ✓ Immediately following the program, more than a dozen pastors formed a group for the purpose of listening to basic doctrines on audiotape.
- ✓ After the meeting one of the ministers, who preaches falsehood on a national radio, could no longer preach because he has been exposed to the Truth!
- ✓ Those who came from outside Kenya pleaded with Moses to come to their countries.
- ✓ One minister from a French speaking country who attended the program had already completed the translation of one of GEM's publications in both French and Swahili.

### KISUMU

Pastor John who pleaded with Rev. Moses to come to his town was the main organizer. Within three days he had mobilized his town! Moses traveled for about six hours by bus from Nairobi to Kisumu. When he got there

around 2:00 p.m., he asked John when the meeting would begin. John said, "Now." Moses had no choice, but to change his clothes and off he went. When he arrived at the hall, it was packed after only three days of mobilization! Again, the Holy Spirit glorified God the Father through him. Being tireless, he spoke for over three hours at a stretch and his translator began yowling, causing Moses to call for a break!

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- ✓ The teaching was well received.
- ✓ The attendees urged that Rev. Moses stay for perhaps two more days.
- ✓ One pastor testified: "I have learned so much in this meeting, more than I've learned in three years of my seminary training."
- ✓ People are eagerly waiting for Moses' next return 'God willing.'

At the end of the meeting in Kisumu, 'Bishop' Alex, the man Moses met on the airplane, who has 162 churches, picked up Moses and Naboth. He took Moses and company to cities and villages in rural areas. Moses had all kinds of enjoyable experiences, having been prepared in advance as a native of Africa. They drove through potholes, mud, and even rode on a bicycle! In some remote areas, their only mode of transportation is bicycle.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- ✓ There were people who came to the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ✓ 'Bishop' Alex confirmed that their meeting on the airplane was God-ordained!
- ✓ He invited Moses for the international conference next June!
- ✓ The 'Bishop' Alex concluded by saying, 'I know that God doesn't make a mistake. My inviting Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko is never a mistake.'

### UNITED KINGDOM

(September 2003)

When Rev. Moses mentioned to some people that he had an invitation to minister in England, the people were flabbergasted, "England!" "What's in England?" some asked. But for whatever it's worth, the invitation is part of divine planning. It appears that England has hit rock bottom and is now beginning to look for a spiritual solution. It's my assumption that England and the rest of the world are tired of religion and are now embracing a grace message with alacrity. Moses and his companions were invited to speak at the Anglican Church of England, Grace Community Church in Cornwell, and

Nigerian Church in Central London (Nigerian Church—a coincidence? We don't think so).

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- ✓ Moses was detained all night and morning at the London Airport due to suspicions of his US passport. Actually, it was part of God's planning, for he witnessed to several atheists and others at the airport. As one man put it, "I believe it was God's will that the immigration officials detained you."
- ✓ Moses and company were well received in Anglican where they hammered the gospel—faith alone in Christ alone.
- ✓ The Anglican Church Reverend enjoyed their visit so that he offered to drive them to Cornwell (about 340 miles away from London).
- ✓ Moses was invited to come back next year.

### GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH:

- ✓ Moses gave a message on two types of Biblical justifications—underscoring grace in all aspects.
- ✓ Many shook hands with Moses, expressing their appreciation for his clarity on the issue of justification by works found in the book of James (2:21-25) and grace at large. Their pastor, John Gillespie, a man with a big heart for the Lord showed great hospitality for Moses and Elija.
- ✓ At the end of the program people rushed to the boxes of books that Moses brought to them. We wish you could have been there to observe their faces!
- ✓ The pastor of the local assembly, who serves on the Board of about 250 Evangelical churches, pledged to recommend our ministry to their Board members.
- ✓ Moses has been invited to speak next year at their annual convention in Cornwell.

### NIGERIAN CHURCH IN C. LONDON:

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- ✓ Moses and Elija had a three-day conference.
- ✓ Their positive volition to the Truth was awesome
- ✓ They received our publication with great enthusiasm!
- ✓ Some of them called Moses and Elija where they were lodged and expressed their gratitude.
- ✓ One woman called Moses and said, "I thank God for your coming. My two daughters were on the brink of reversionism, but your message has caused them to renew their hope in God!" What a testimony to the power of the WORD!
- ✓ Again, Moses was invited to come back next year.



Our gratitude goes to our heavenly Father, and to you who used God-given financial resources in partnership with us as we endeavor to fulfill the Great Commission: "Go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations...teaching them to observe [the whole realm of Bible doctrine]" (Matthew 28:19, 20). Thank you all, our partners, for relentlessly lifting us up before the throne of His grace.

## 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, synthesize 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't 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 bear 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**

*Dear Moses & our Friends at GEM,*

*We have been blessed by your publications and newsletter, Grace News Today, for sometime now. Thank you for your effort to not only spread the gospel, but to teach. We have shared our materials freely with many friends. Unfortunately, we are moving to another country and wish to cancel our subscription. I have checked out your Website and plan to keep up with the newsletter and upcoming publications through the Internet. We continue to support you in our prayers.*

*Sincerely*

**U.S.A**

Dear Grace Evangelistic Ministries,

I am so glad to have come in contact with your ministry. I must confess that since I met Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko, and listened to his teachings, my life has made a U turn. I thought I had arrived theologically, not until I met and heard his teachings, then I knew I was just getting started. I wonder what would I have given out as a pastor/teacher, if God had not brought me in contact with the truth communicated through your ministry? I thank God for GEM!

I am already using the opportunity for God to fulfill His plan concerning my life, and all that the ministry has invested in me for eternal purpose will never be in vain. I am confident God will use me to accomplish His purpose.

Thank you and God's blessings!

**Pastor, Nigeria**

Dear one in Christ,

I deem it a great joy to write this letter to you. Thank you for coming to Ghana and teaching us the deep things about God. I enjoyed your teachings so much. And they have made some impact in my life. You have really caused light to shine in me by putting to rest so many issues that we were confused about, such as salvation by grace alone, the eternal security of the believers and so many others.

Thank you for coming to our town—Somnya!

May God bless you.

**GHANA**

Dear Evangelist Moses C. Onwubiko,

Greetings in His name. May His grace continue to abound upon you and in your ministry. I acknowledged the receipt of volume 31 of 'faith in Christ alone', and I am enclosing herein orders for your study books.

I must report to you, that the body of Christ here in X unit is growing and particularly my present fellowship of at least twenty-five and still increasing is being nourished in the Word.

We have shared my personal copies of the books sent me, but even though they have been worn out through their use, they are still not enough to go around, hence the reason for extra orders, that they may be shared in our Cell Block.

I anticipate your favorable response and prompt shipments.

Abide in Christ and in the Power of His might.

Yours in Him  
**U. S Prison**

Dear GEM,

May the God of grace continue to bless you in the love of Jesus Christ His Dear Son and our Savior. I continually pray for you and your ministry, which you received from the Lord. Let the Bible doctrine that He has revealed to you multiply as you send them to needy people especially pastors like me.

I received your parcel to me some days ago. The parcel came at the time I needed it so much. The books you sent to me have opened my spiritual eyes to grasp good Bible doctrines. Already, I have started gaining dividends of these doctrines as I use the materials to teach in our Sunday School and even in preparations of my sermons.

Moreover, I share some of the materials with fellow pastors, evangelists, and church workers, and they show deep appreciation for the books you sent to us. These people are asking for copies of all your publications. I really want to be effective in the teaching of the Word of God.

Please remember me and the congregation of God here in your prayers. Pray that God shall prosper our work. Our sincere gratitude and thanks cannot be expressed in words.

Thank you.  
**Pastor Nigeria**

## **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.



## REV. MOSES' ITINERARY (JUNE 2003-MARCH 2004)

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

## CONTAINER SHIPMENT TO AFRICA

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

### ITEMS NEW OR USED:

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

### Mail donations to:

Grace Evangelistic Ministries  
 c/o% Dr. Tom & Nancy Northcott  
 111 Hickory Hill  
 Tullahoma, TN 37388  
 (Please call G.E.M. should you need a 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.