



# Grace News Today

VOLUME 33  
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2004

An Outreach of Grace Evangelistic Ministries, Inc. • P. O. Box 17246 • Nashville, TN 37217-7246 • (615) 365-0015

## *“Faith alone in Christ alone”*

Greetings from your friends at Grace Evangelistic Ministries and co-laborers in His Vineyard. We've ended another year and look forward to what the Lord has for us to do in 2004. We stand ready to give testimony of His Son and of His faithfulness wherever He provides the opportunity. We thank you for your continued support and prayers that give "feet" to our mission to present Jesus Christ to as many as will listen. Thank you for joining us in holding His Word forth as a torch on a dark path to the many who are lost for eternity and those who need deliverance in time as well. God has revealed everything we need in order to have HOPE in this dying world, and it's all written down for us to learn and then to live what we learn. That brings HOPE and direction to many in this confusing time we live in.

Moses, Gloria, Debby, Richard, and Bob have just returned from a trip to Africa where many were given the grace message of salvation by faith alone in Christ's finished work. Many received HOPE from God's Word and were challenged with the importance of giving number one priority to daily Bible study. One pastor was overheard saying, "Our eyes are opened!" after hearing Moses present a lesson called, *"Renovating Your Mind"* at the conference in Jos. Debby told us of one person who rose before dawn and by candlelight studied God's Word before daily activities could get in the way. Let's remember to keep all these believers in our ongoing prayers, especially that they will continue to have the freedom to study and worship the way so many of us take for granted.

The intention of this newsletter is to impart some small part of God's Word to you and to emphasize that His Word is the most impor-

tant thing in life, far above any other activities we might enjoy. When we get ready to do something for fun and relaxation – like watching a movie or reading a book – we make sure that the lighting in the room is just right or that the volume on the television is loud enough. When we read, we don't want a glare on the page or when we watch a program, we want to be able to hear the dialogue. Some of us like to have a glass of water nearby or a favorite soft drink. Most preparation is done without much thought, sort of mechanical. When we prepare for work, we make sure that we have lunch money, car keys, enough gas to get to where we are going, (and some of us have to make sure both socks are the same color). If these rituals are so important and so routine in the inconsequential things of life, is it not far more important to be aware of and familiar with the spiritual mechanics necessary before approaching God's Word to study and before we approach God's Throne in prayer? A fine doctrinal pastor, Clay Ward, recently put it like this: "If God is not real, then nothing matters, but if God is real, nothing else matters."

Our Father not only revealed everything He wants us to know in the Scriptures, but He provided the mechanics—a way for us to stay in fellowship with Him and learn of Him. In order for the Holy Spirit to teach us when we listen to Bible doctrine, we must be in fellowship with Him through the spiritual mechanics of 1 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." You could compare this to talking on the telephone. I have to pick up the phone and dial a number if I'm to be connected. We confess (name) our sins to God the Father (only) in order to be con-

nected to Him (in fellowship). Just as I could not invite you to dinner if you were not on the receiver to hear my voice, similarly, if we are not in fellowship, God will not hear our requests, nor can the Holy Spirit circulate doctrinal information in our souls.

So let's pause and utilize this wonderful grace provision the Lord has given us, whereby we simply name our sins to Him in order to be restored to fellowship. Please, also, join us in thanking Him for making the latest missionary journey possible and for the opportunity and privilege of advancing the Gospel, and then, Moses will give us a...

### **WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT**

**"But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator...And He who formed you..., 'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! When you pass through the waters; I will be with you, and through the rivers, they will not overflow [Hebrew *shataph*: wash off, swallow up, or drown] you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior..." (Isaiah 43:1-3).**

Verily, we live in a shattered world; and there's no doubt that 'Satan is the god of this world!' We are in his territory as trespassers and sojourners! Because we are not of this world, our Defense Attorney, the Lord Jesus Christ, offered this heartfelt prayer to God the Father on our behalf "Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son...I manifested Thy name to the [believers] whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; **Thine they were...** And I am no more in the world;

and yet they themselves are in the world... **Keep them...** I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. **They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world**" (John 17:1-16). There you have it clearly written in the infallible Word of God! We are citizens of Heaven; and Satan is 100% a non-heavenly citizen. The truth of the matter is that you are God's possession—the 'pupil of His eye.' That's right, you are God's property; He has purchased you for His glory, and there's nothing Satan, or anyone else can do about it. I mean absolutely nothing, and Satan knows it. How certain are you of this truth?

Have you grasped the Scriptural meaning and the magnitude of this dynamic phrase: "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27b)? Let me ask this question with emphasis... Do you know that God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit have their abode in your body, right at this very moment? It's also important to be able to answer these pointed questions: Is God the Father sinkable? Can a flame scorch God the Son? Can the Holy Spirit sustain fire? I cry out loud, NO! If not, then how dare you think that the vessel in which They dwell (you) can sink or be scorched while They are residing in it? Now let's go back to the book of Isaiah chapter 43, quoted above, and analyze this soul-stimulating, passage.

Agreeably when it comes to our salvation, provision, and protection, it's always God who initiates the first move, and so we read, **'Do not fear for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name; you are Mine!'** My friend, what else do you need? Isn't this statement powerful enough to bring solace to your soul and to seal off your pipeline to cowardliness? Fear is the believer's worst nightmare and paralyzes the arsenal of Bible doctrine in your soul and causes your spiritual rocket launcher to malfunction (prayer and application). It robs from the Holy Spirit, 'the sword of the Spirit!' It causes you to lose sight of who you are in God's plan. It makes you forget what it means to be in union with Christ. And above all, it disarms you of your iron grip on

the doctrine of God's sovereignty! Its fatal effect is that it shuts off the memory center in your soul and makes it impossible for you to think. It totally blinds you from viewing your world through the high-powered binoculars of the infallible Word of God, or from having any divine viewpoint. That's why 'Do not fear' is the first thing God says in Isaiah 43:1. Here, He intends to communicate pertinent doctrine to His people Israel, and the first thing He does, is to bring their fear of uncertainty under control.

Right now, take a deep breath and wring out the anxiety and fear from your soul. Shake it free of the uncertainties of the future, and drink from the fountain of His Word: "When you pass through the [troubled] waters [of this life] I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not [swallow] you [up]. When you walk through the fire—[when the pressures of this life close in on you from every side], you will not be scorched. Nor will the flame burn you [I guarantee it!]" (Isaiah 43:2). What a promise! Read it again. We were never told that there wouldn't be troubled waters along the way. God never said there'd be no storms to contend with. Instead, He gives us some amazing promises, and He will make sure that you are not consumed by unpleasant experiences! He said, 'I will be with you...you will not be scorched!' So my dear friend, you need to take your eyes off your suffering with all its twists and turns and concentrate on God's promises! You ought not to waste your time and energy measuring the size of your suffering. Rather, begin to meditate on the immeasurable height, length, width, and depth of God's faithfulness! That's the beauty of our heritage in Christ Jesus. As long as you are adjusting to His justice, and are growing 'in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,' you will never be left out in the bitter cold! Period.

**"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 19

(Continued from volume 32, Lesson 18)

### THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

As we endeavor to wrap up this awe-inspiring doctrine of grace with focus on Joseph, we consider it vitally essential to study God's faithfulness. Ironically, many theologians and Bible teachers argue over many doctrinal issues in Scripture, such as the doctrine of the *Eternal Security of the Believer*<sup>1</sup>, simply because of their shallow comprehension of God's faithfulness. They rationalize that God would respond in kind if a believer fails God, while ignoring outright Scriptural passages like this one: "It is a trustworthy statement: For if [or since] we died with Him we shall also live with Him; if we endure [may be we will or may be we will not, but if we execute God's plan for our lives], we shall also reign with Him; if we deny Him [fail in our spiritual life], He will also deny us [eternal reward, cf. I Corinthians 3:11-15)]; if we are **faithless** [Greek *apisteo* = disbelieve, without faith, or unfaithful] **He remains faithful** [He will keep His promise to raise the unfaithful believer on the last day to eternal glory, cf. John 6:39, 40]; for He cannot [shall not and will not] deny Himself [become unfaithful or allow your failure to draw Him to your level of unfaithfulness!]" (II Timothy 2:11-13). These so called theologians humanize and reduce God to something base! On the contrary, God's faithfulness is as solid as the Rock of Ages and our behavior pattern cannot change that. On the other hand, what throws more light on the beauty of God's faithfulness is His Veracity. In other words, God's faithfulness depends on who and what He is, and not on anything else! His faithfulness underscores His essence.

What I would like you to do for the sake of illustration is to visualize God's essence as an Automobile Engine with a gazillion parts. Of course, you do not need to be an automobile expert to comprehend this analogy. Picture parked in front of your garage, your favorite car, perhaps a BMW 780i just delivered from the manufacturer and you ask your mechanic to replace your brand new

<sup>1</sup> Onwubiko, *Eternal Security of the Believer*

BMW Fuel Injector with an old defected one, and then try cranking the engine. Your car won't start, because fuel cannot be successfully injected to the engine! You see, it takes only one wrong part to ground your exquisite vehicle! That's how the essence of God works. If God should negate His Word or fail to fulfill a promise—just once, His Veracity, a component of His essence would be in limbo, and so would His entire Being. This is why His faithfulness is glued to His Veracity—they are inseparably united. Passages that deal with His faithfulness in keeping His Word tend to jump out of the page as we study His Word, naturally, because our entire hope depends on His faithfulness! Joseph's hope of becoming a Prime Minister rested on God's faithfulness, as does our confidence in appropriating His promises in time and eternity to come! Now we are ready to examine our anchor—His faithfulness.

#### **GOD'S WORD: THE ANCHOR OF HIS FAITHFULNESS**

Isaiah, the prophet, put it beautifully: "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of God stands forever" (Isaiah 40:8). This is a good passage to begin our doctrinal exposition. Isaiah, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit reiterates what we have been discussing with regard to God's faithfulness to His Word. The Psalmist sang the same stanza as Isaiah: "Forever, O Lord, Thy word is settled in heaven" (Psalm 119:89). Another way of saying it is this: "When God speaks, all human or angelic discussions are over!" Because God's Word is perfect, it's no longer a matter of debate, review or amendment. It will stand just as He wishes.

The Prophet Isaiah further affirms... "The Lord of hosts has sworn saying, "Surely, just as I have intended, so it has happened and just as I have planned so it will be" (Isaiah 14:24). Elsewhere he wrote, "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so shall My word be which goes forth from my mouth. It shall [can] not return to Me empty without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:10 & 11). God keeps His Word despite varying circumstances. So let me tell you this, no fail-

ure on your part, no circumstance, no sophisticated weaponry, no disease is capable of shortening, or altering God's plan for your life—not in the slightest! That's the quintessence of the splendor of God's integrity! We have already seen the truth of this doctrine in our previous study; nonetheless, when we reach the climax of this work, we will come face-to-face with the sobering truth concerning God's faithfulness. Joseph's dreams regarding his elevation to a higher rank came to fruition in spite of all the hurdles, heartaches, unfair treatment, and imprisonment as a slave. But before we go any further, let us use some premises to demonstrate God's faithfulness to His Word and perhaps raise your confidence in His Word by a notch or so.

**Premise No. 1. RAINBOW—A REMINDER OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO HIS WORD:** Immediately after the flood in Noah's day subsided, God made a covenant with him and to all generations. In Genesis we read, "Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying, 'Now behold, I Myself do establish My covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you; of all that comes out of the ark, even every beast of the earth. 'And I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the waters of the flood, neither shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth. And God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all successive generations. I set My bow [rainbow] in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of covenant between Me and the earth. And it shall come about, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the [rainbow] shall be seen in the cloud. And I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh'" (Genesis 9:8-15).

I don't know about you, but as for me, each time I see a Rainbow in the sky, I praise God for His awesome wisdom and the beauty of the firmament of His handiwork. But more than that, it reminds me of the unsurpassing faithfulness of God. And, now, as I study the Scripture, with a greater insight into God's faithfulness, I can vividly recall, from when I was growing up, how we would conclude that there wouldn't be any more rain once a

rainbow was sighted. At that time, we didn't have meteorologists to give us weather forecasts, but a rainbow in the sky was our only indication that there would be no rain that day! Give or take some years, it has been more than 4,000 years since the flood, and yet Rainbows still appear to remind us that God's covenant with Noah still holds true, despite Global warming! God keeps His Word! That's the beauty of His faithfulness! And it's marvelous to behold!

**Premise No. 2. ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE—A DEMONSTRATION OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO HIS WORD:** God made an unconditional covenant with Abraham, when he was 75 years old, to bless the world through his progeny. In Genesis chapter 12 we read, "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; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you [anti-Semitic], I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (v. 2, 3, cf. Galatians 3:8).

God's unique grace covenant with Abraham appeared to be in limbo for over two decades because Sarah, his wife, through whose womb the catalyst of God's promise would emerge, was barren (11:30)! Yes, barren at age 65. To compound the matter she was at the peak of her menopause. Simply put, her situation seemed to be a huge, impassible barrier; and as a result, God's faithfulness was in the test tube stage. Lo and behold, 25 years later, God lifted all the barriers and Isaac, the vehicle who set the stage for the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham, was born (21:2, 3)! You may think that Abraham's situation was an isolated incidence. On the contrary, this type of situation, with its obstacles, which one would think would prevent the realization of God's promise, wasn't the last.

Indeed, Isaac had similar experiences with his own barren wife (25:21); nevertheless 20 years into his marriage, God's faithfulness resounded like a loud bell and twin boys were born to him, bringing great joy (v. 24)! You read it correctly! Twin boys were born to him and his wife Rebekah after 20 years of marriage! I am telling you, nothing intrigues me more than following the trail of God's faithfulness in action—it's a fun experience! It's spectacular! It's exquisite! That's right—it's sensational! And so

through Jacob, Isaac's son and third Patriarch, the nation Israel was carved out— 430 years from the time God first made the promise to Abraham! But that's not all the promise to bless the world through Abraham's seed (Galatians 3:8, 9, 16) was yet future. Invariably, it took many century years from the inception of God's promise to Abraham, Jesus Christ, the Seed of Abraham was born! And the Israelites still await a future in God's plan. Their very existence, despite satanic assaults, points to God's faithfulness. In fact, one Bible expositor aptly summarizes it like this: "The proof of God's existence is in one word—Israel!"

**Premise No. 3. ISRAEL'S UNREST—A REMINDER THAT GOD KEEPS HIS WORD:** *"Moreover, the Lord will scatter you among all peoples;...Among those nations you shall find no rest, and there will be no resting place for the sole of your foot..."* (Deuteronomy 28:64, 65). This passage prophesizes national divine discipline, experienced periodically by Jews throughout their history. The final blow came in A.D. 70 when Judah, the last Jewish priest-nation to God, was destroyed as our Lord prophesied (Luke 19:34-44). Today, Jews are scattered all over the world. And we are acutely aware of their corporate suffering worldwide. God keeps His Word. Often anti-Semitism confronts them, and we note that this is a terrible evil. God is capable of handling all discipline. Those who arrogantly try to help Him—through anti-Semitism or any other system—will find themselves objects of discipline as well. What we strive to underline here is that God's Word in Deuteronomy is still being fulfilled till this very day!

**Premise No. 4. THE WOMAN'S INDESCRIBABLE PAIN IN LABOR—A REMINDER THAT GOD'S 'WORD IS SETTLED IN HEAVEN':** We don't really know for certain how long it has been since God pronounced judgments on Adam and his wife Eve, but conservatively, it's plus or minus 7,000 years. God's judgment was swift: "To the woman He said, 'I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth, in pain you shall bring forth children'" (Genesis 3:16)! My friend, can you show me a woman in all of human history that delivered a baby without experiencing pain? The truth of the matter is that, today, women who give birth even with pain-numbing assistance, such as the epidural, still scream like hell in their labor! And

women who are put to sleep or given spinal for a C-Section, experience tremendous pain upon waking and for weeks afterward. God keeps His Word!

**Premise No. 5. THE VIRGIN BIRTH REVISITED: A DEMONSTRATION THAT GOD'S WORD IS INFALLIBLE:** Simultaneous with the pronouncement of judgment the Lord announced the Virgin birth of Jesus Christ: "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel" (Genesis 3:15). Several thousand years went by without any sign of the fulfillment of this unique promise. The promise was prophetically reiterated in the book of Isaiah: "Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign: Behold a virgin will be with a child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel" (7:14). One would think that Isaiah's promise was right around the corner, but it took approximately 700 years for that promise to be fulfilled (Luke 2:6, 7). Repeat...nothing intrigues me more than tracing the wagon trail of God's faithfulness in action—it's a fun experience! It's spectacular! The Scriptures are literally littered with demonstrations to His faithfulness to His own Word, and we can go on and on with Scriptural premises; however, that will cause a deviation to our study. But wait! A sixth premise is in order to reach our conclusion.

**Premise No. 6. GOD'S PROMISE IN THE TEST TUBE: CAN HE BE FAITHFUL TO HIS WORD?** "And behold, 'I am with you, and will keep you wherever you go...; for I will not leave you ['NOR FORSAKE'] you until I have done what I have promised you" (Genesis 28:15). We have seen God's faithfulness to His word in premises five through six, and are forced to conclude that come what may, God will not let go of you until His promise to you is fulfilled to the last letter, for "With God all **things** are possible" (Mathew 19:26). The deductive conclusion is that the sixth premise is as good as the subject: GOD, based on His Veracity! In addition, God's faithfulness to His Word was true in Abraham's case as well as with Isaac and Jacob respectively. And undoubtedly, the same faithfulness that pursued Joseph's great grandparent, Abraham, was the very faithfulness that Joseph buried his hope in. We are almost ready to pay tribute to God's faithfulness in promoting Joseph to Egypt's

first Hebrew Prime Minister! But before we do, let's examine some principles.

- God is absolute Righteousness, and in Him there's no shred of evidence of unrighteousness.
- Faithfulness is a component of God's Veracity. God's holiness demands, that He be ever truthful to His Word; His faithfulness to that effect underscores this truth!
- Unfaithfulness in all its many facets is a sin, and if God could be unfaithful, even once, God would no longer be the God of the Bible, and we might as well forget His promise of our spending eternity with Him in heaven. But what a relief to know that He is always faithful, amidst the false teachers who lobby for Him to cast carnal believers into the Lake of Fire.
- A believer needs to rest assured that God keeps His Word when we claim any promise in the Bible such as, "Cast your burden upon the Lord, and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be forsaken" (Psalm 55:22), or "But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator...And He who formed **you**..., 'Do not fear, for I have redeemed **you**; I have called **you** by name; **you** are Mine! When **you** pass through the waters, I will be with **you**, and through the rivers, they will not overflow [Hebrew *shataph*: wash off, swallow up, or drown] **you**. When **you** walk through the fire, **you** will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn **you**. For I am the Lord **your** God, the Holy One Of Israel, your Savior...'" (Isaiah 43:1-3).
- Consequently, we are not to panic or faint when God delays responding to His promises; for He knows exactly what He is doing.
- In the final analysis, God's ultimate purpose for your life will be fulfilled in its totality.
- Therefore, no believer can be snatched out of this world without appropriating God's purpose for the believer's life: "For David, **after** he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep [died], and was laid [or buried] among his fathers, and underwent decay" (Acts 13:36).

With the above principles buried in our right lobe, we can now move forward to answer the question, did God respond in kind when Joseph failed? We shall allow our doctrinal exposition to give us the answer. And so we begin, "Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him" (Genesis 40:23). But before we answer our question

"on the table," we need to know why the cupbearer forget to mention Joseph to Pharaoh? Was he suffering from Amnesia or Alzheimer's disease? Of course he wasn't. Rather, the time wasn't right, and Pharaoh had nothing to offer Joseph at that point of time. But above all, Joseph had two more years to go in the grace furnace of suffering, which we have thoroughly delineated. God would have to teach him, perhaps the most difficult but important lesson—total RELIANCE, total TRUST in God in every circumstance of life. After all, that's the marrow of God's blessing.

In this regard, the prophet Jeremiah proclaimed, "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose trust is the Lord. 'For he will be like a tree planted by the water [of the Word of God], that extends its root by a stream, and will not fear when the heat [of Egyptian famine or today's economic recession] comes; and its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit" (Jeremiah 17:7, 8). The Psalmist sang, "O Lord of hosts, how blessed is the man who trusts in You!" (Psalm 84:12. Without question, total relaxation of soul and absolute confidence in God in all facets of life is the pillar of spiritual maturity!

And so God, in His abundance of grace, had to leave Joseph in the jail so that he could appropriate God's blessing to the maximum! Let me restate a question I've asked before: Which would you choose: Being in the grace furnace of suffering for seven years in order to develop spiritual capacity for maximum blessing in Heaven, or no grace furnace of suffering and no blessing? Whichever choice you make defines who you are in God's ultimate plan of the ages! And so we are ready to see how God, in His **proper time**, rescued and promoted Joseph in a foreign land. Who said that God doesn't have a marvelous sense of humor?

### JOSEPH REMEMBERED

As we study the final installment of "*We know that God causes all things to work together for good, to those who love God, and to those who are called according to His purpose*" as it applied to Joseph, I would like for you to pause and make a mental list of Joseph's life's experiences. Think about what he went through up until this hour.

Let's put on our spiritual glasses and look at God's signature of grace and faithfulness to His Word written on every page of Joseph's life. Can you see God signing His name to your life? Grace! That's what it's—grace!

We continue, now, where we left off in our last volume: "Now it happened at the end of two full years that Pharaoh had a dream" (Genesis 41:1a). We are not interested as much with the content of his dream as we are with what happened thereafter, although we shall make reference to it where it's applicable. What we know from Pharaoh's dream is that he was profoundly distressed. "Now it came about in the morning that his [Pharaoh's] spirit was troubled, so he sent and called for **all** the magicians of Egypt, and **all** its wise men [with assurance that he would receive the interpretation]. And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them to Pharaoh" (v. 8).

Coincidence? Oh no! It can't be! It was God working behind the scene because His appointed time has arrived. Yes, the perfect time! "Then the chief cupbearer spoke to Pharaoh, saying, 'I would make mention today of my own offences...we [the chief baker and I] had a dream on the same night, he and I; each of us dreamed according to the interpretation of his own dream. Now a Hebrew youth [Joseph] was with us there, a servant of the captain of the bodyguard, and we related our dreams to him, and he interpreted our dreams for us. And it came about that just as he interpreted for us, so it happened; he [Pharaoh] restored me in my office, but he hanged him" (v.9 11-13).

I can hardly control my joy as the Holy Spirit illuminates my mind to behold the awesome glory of our able-God—the God of surprises! Again, I say...When we truly understand that God is in charge and is the Chief Choreographer of human history, we can jump for joy when suffering of any magnitude hits us right between our eyes! We can be assured that God has entered His factory where HE CRANKS AND GRINDS ALL THINGS TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF THOSE WHO LOVE HIM. He works on our behalf and is busy mincing and compressing our suffering and soon will surprise us with His splendid, finished product that will compel us to shout, Wow! What a

Manufacture we have!

"Then Pharaoh sent and called for Joseph, and they hurriedly brought him out of the dungeon [Hebrew bawr = cistern]; and when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came to Pharaoh. And Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'I have had a dream, but no one can interpret it; and I have heard it say about you, that when you hear a dream you can interpret it" (v. 14, 15). What an opportunity for Joseph to grab a little bit of God's glory for himself. But did he? "Joseph then answered Pharaoh, saying, 'It is not in me, **God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer**" (v. 16). Talk about humility! He never lost focus of the fact that God was doing all the work in his life! Invariably, the light of what the apostle Paul said in first Corinthians 15:10, "For by the grace of God I am what I am" could be seen as it glowed like embers in Joseph's right lobe! We want to ask, "Joseph can we make your spiritual life our own?" Of course we can! All we need is to indulge ourselves in God's Word under the mentorship of the Holy Spirit and apply His Word diligently to our lives!

In spite of Joseph giving God the credit, Pharaoh still related his dream to Joseph and waited for the interpretation. "Now Joseph said to Pharaoh, 'Pharaoh's dreams are one and the same; **God has told to Pharaoh what He is about to do**" (v. 25). Indeed, God staged the scene in order to fulfill His promise to undeserving Joseph. It's prudent that we pause and examine some principles:

- God is in charge of human history—your sufferings are not in charge, nor are your circumstances in charge—God alone is in charge!
- God controls all circumstances, and He uses every episode to accomplish His overall plan for your life.
- No matter what device Satan tries to use against you, God is poised and ever ready to cause a sensational result for your own good!
- So, there's absolutely no reason to fret, or hit the panic button when suffering or the storms of life threaten to rock your vessel.
- Therefore, as long as you are heavenly minded, God will see to it that at the end of your suffering, He will give you a reason to look back and smile!

We are almost ready to see God's grace and faithfulness toward Joseph in action, but before that, let's observe Joseph's interpretation of Pharaoh's dream.

#### **GOD ENABLED JOSEPH TO INTERPRET PHARAOH'S DREAM:**

And so we read, *"The seven good cows are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are one and the same. And the seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, and the seven thin ears scorched by the east wind shall be seven years of famine. It is as I have spoken to Pharaoh: 'God has shown to Pharaoh what He is about to do. 'Behold, seven years of great abundance in all the land of Egypt; and after them seven years of famine will come, and all the abundance will be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine will ravage the land. So the abundance will be unknown because of that subsequent famine; for it will be very severe. 'Now as for the repeating of the dream to Pharaoh twice, it means that the matter is determined by God, and God will quickly bring it about [!]'"* (Genesis 41:26-32).

Can you see what is really going on here? First, God orchestrated a 14-year long program for Egypt, which consists of seven years of prosperity and seven years of famine. Secondly, He caused Pharaoh to have a dreadful dream about this unique agenda; and thirdly, He shut down the reasoning faculties of all the magicians and wise men of Egypt and caused them to freeze up, temporarily, so that they couldn't decipher Pharaoh's dream. And fourthly, He healed the chief cupbearer of his Amnesia, which caused him to forget to mention Joseph to Pharaoh as Joseph had earlier requested. And finally, Joseph, the doctrinally prepared believer, was summoned to rise to the occasion, which he did with elegant humility and poise. God's Sovereignty is underlined in the last part of verse 32! God determined the matter. God will bring it to pass! It's that simple! This clears the table for us to briefly discuss God's Sovereignty.

**THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD:** One day, we shall devote a whole book on this most distorted doctrine in all Scripture! Unquestionably, quite a number of theologians have butchered this unique and transcendent doctrine, thereby causing unwitting believers to err. Make no mistake about

it, John Calvin, one of the church Reformers, and a most respected believer, was one of the pioneers who set the tone for his followers, the Hyper Calvinists, to embrace his teaching and go overboard with it to the exclusion of human volition in believing in or rejecting Christ. These teachers buried God's justice outright and built the Super structure of His Sovereignty over the tomb of His justice. His justice can't be buried! It won't work! It hasn't worked! It will never work! Not now, not then, and not ever! By and large, the sound doctrine of God's Sovereignty demands that God's Justice must always be in balance with His Sovereignty anywhere and anytime the doctrine is taught. The backbone of this doctrine is split in half:

- God can do whatever He decides according to His eternal council, anytime—anywhere—as long as it does not jeopardize one speck of His essence.
- God, by His own sovereign decision, determines how He will prepare and use the vessel of honor to His glory and, consequently, use the vessels of dishonor—the wrath of man to praise Himself.

Invariably, if we truly have an iron grip on the above two principles, there could never be a bone of contention regarding this awesome doctrine. Take for instance, in dissecting the first principle just stated, God has what it takes to send an unbeliever to the Lake of Fire, but He is limited because that's a slap in the face to His justice—a component of His essence! Sadly, that's what many teach. John Calvin called it 'a horrible doctrine' and yet defended it as a sound doctrine. They teach that unbelievers are spiritually depraved, and are incapable of seeking God; and reject out-and-out that the freewill of man co-exist with divine decrees. No question about it, man's freewill is under the watchdog of the Sovereignty of God. And God is ever ready to **over rule** the freewill of man when it runs head-on with His divine decree—that's the meaning of God's Sovereignty! That's God's design! It's true that man is totally depraved, but what bothers me is the teaching that he is not able to yearn for the true God. This kind of teaching is totally irreconcilable with Cornelius' experience.

In Acts, Luke tells us, "Now there was a certain man [an unbeliever—totally depraved]

in Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, a devout man, and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the Jewish people, and prayed to God continually" (10:1, 2). Here was an Italian man who had reached God consciousness and sought Him with every fiber of his being. In light of this verse, it's apparent that an unbeliever is capable of wanting a relationship with the true God. The Ethiopian eunuch in Philip's day had a similar experience. He sought God, and God sent the evangelist Philip to meet him as he hungered to know God (Acts 8:25-38).

Ironically, some people who teach God's Sovereignty in the framework of Calvinism often use the Pauline epistles to the Romans to justify their teaching. In his letter we read, "You will say to me then, 'Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will? On the contrary, who are you O man, who answers back to God? The molded product cannot say to the molder, 'Why did you make me like this,' can it?" (9:19, 20). Simply put, the construction of the text demands a no answer!

Alright, then, is the Apostle Paul teaching the doctrine of God's injustice in this passage? In light of that, he asked a question, "What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? The Apostle cried out, 'May it never be!—God forbid it!' (v. 14). Earlier in the context of the whole book, he vehemently pointed out in Romans chapter two, verse eleven, **"For there is no partiality with God."** Incontestably, this is a known truth. Whatever Paul delineated, either here to the Romans, or to the Ephesians (6:9), or even to the Colossians (3:25) aligned with this unambiguous truth of the Bible (2:11)! Any other teaching, or interpretation, be it human or angelic that collides with this truth is not of God, "for God is not a God of confusion" (I Corinthians 14:33a). In my observation, verse 21 of Romans nine is the heart of the entire passage: "Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use, and other for common use?" Of course he does! So this verse brings us to the second principle as previously mentioned.

*"Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and*

earthenware, some to honor and some to dishonor. Therefore if a man [by means of his volition] cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel of honor, sanctified, useful to the Master [God] prepared for every good work" (II Timothy 2:20, 21). It's obvious, particularly in verse 21, that human freewill is involved. Although, doctrinally, this passage applies to believers, we can use its principle to shed light on our subject. We are acutely aware that God knows all that there is to know, past, present, and future. He knows our records from the onset of eternity past to our birth and beyond (Psalm 139). To the prophet Jeremiah, God declared, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5). God, in His justice and Sovereignty, made equal provisions in all respects and leaned back to watch how every creature would act, based on His **foreknowledge** (Romans 8:29), His plan is drawn and revealed in time.

To help shed some light on Romans 9:21, and for the sake of illustration, let's divide the entire human race in two, believers and unbelievers. They are all under God's Sovereignty and He as the Potter has the right and power to use any vessel as He pleases. By choice and by His pleasure, He can elect to use a believer beyond measure for His own glory. Since it is His decision, we have no right to question Him. The contrary is true, also, He can choose to use an unbeliever, whom He foreknew would never believe in Christ, for His glory. He can raise up this individual as He did Pharaoh and use the person to demonstrate His power to the world (vv. 17, 18). God reserves the right to use whom He chooses and to any length. A believer can pray to the heavenly Father to be used for evangelism, but that's up to God the Holy Spirit to decide who will get this gift (I Corinthians 12:11).

Now, we can go back and read Romans 9:16 and 18 with great insight: "So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy... So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and hardens whom He desires." God could have used any other unbelieving king other than Pharaoh, but for reasons secret to Him He used Pharaoh (an unbeliever) and hardened his heart until He was finished with the

display of His majestic power to the world! The truth of the matter is that God can control and change one's heart at will, but cannot cause one to sin (James 1:13), or to reject Christ as Savior and then judge the individual. Calvin says He can, under the umbrella of God's Sovereignty. He called it a 'horrible doctrine', but I call it a ridiculous doctrine! Indeed, if we look closely at this brief exposé, the doctrine of human freewill shall never be a contested one! Now, we are ready to see God's handiwork as He was working behind the scenes to bring His eternal purpose for Joseph's life to fruition.

### JOSEPH'S GLORIOUS AND LONG AWAITED PROMOTION

It's of paramount importance that we recap what we've studied and perhaps note one or two principles in preparation to witness Joseph's grace promotion and decorations. We have diligently followed Joseph from his father's bosom to the pit, where his brothers intended to leave him to die, and from the pit to slavery and imprisonment, and then face-to-face with God's appointed time. Obviously, it seems we can't say it enough, God uses prepared vessels in all ages, and He knows which School of Suffering can best arm each believer with maximum preparation for life with super abundance of capacity to enjoy God's blessings. For Joseph it was Egypt! Let me ask you this, did you know that it was God's plan for Joseph to attend this School of Suffering in Egypt? Let's look to Scripture for the answer. In the Psalm we read, "He [God] sent before them [the family of Jacob] Joseph, who was sold as a slave. They [the Ishmaelites] afflicted his feet with fetters. He himself was laid in irons; until the time His word came to pass, the word of the Lord tested him" (105:17-19).

So whenever you find yourself in an awkward situation, quickly take an inventory of your soul to see whether you have deviated from making perception and application of God's Word the highest priority on your scale of values. If, and only if, you are on course, you can cheer for God has visited you with a glorious future. That's what James had in mind when he wrote, "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete [with superior

capacity], lacking in nothing" (James 1:4). He added, "blessed is a man who perseveres under trial [School of Suffering]; for once he has been approved [graduated with Summa Cum Laude], he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to them that love Him" (1:12). You might be asking, "Moses, how much longer do I have to wait?" That's a question that no human being can answer. As for Joseph, he was in the Egyptian School of Suffering for – thirteen years! But our solace is that as our Father, who knows what He's doing prepares us in His grace, when He's finished, He will elevate us to a place of honor!

### JOSEPH IS PROMOTED TO THE OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER

(To be continued in the next issue—volume 34).

## 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

(November and December 2004)

**THE GAMBIA** - Reported by Darlington Elekwa, Africa Chapter President  
An enthusiastic crowd met Darlington and Moses at the airport. The Gambia is a 95% Muslim country; and yet, there wasn't any trouble bringing in everything needed. God is surely behind us. On the first night of the conference the freeing effects of the grace message could be seen in the eyes of the attendees. Immediately, they started looking for tapes. No wonder Satan attempted to stop Moses from traveling.

God provided a bigger hall for the conference yet it was packed to the maximum. Some one commented that it would be impossible to conduct a seminar for two straight weeks with only one speaker with-

out boring people. But each day as we gathered for the study of God's word, we kept witnessing positive volition coming back!

Many attendees were Christian converts from the Muslim faith. These converts were very enthusiastic and said they had been in darkness and for the first time, they knew what it was to be in the light. Some tourists attended either through invitation by friends or out of curiosity. We trust the Lord will make them light bearers of the Grace gospel, taking it back to their various homelands.

The Gambian church is growing very rapidly. Rev Moses spelled out in clear terms what church leadership in a new testament setting should be and encouraged the Gambian Church to adopt this from the outset. This year, our main focus has been on the beauty of spiritual integrity with lessons in spiritual metabolism, stressing, doctrinal orientation, grace orientation, etc. The Africa chapter president then spoke on mental attitude dynamics stressing the renovation of your mind. Our hotel room, like always, remained a rallying point for those who have questions and other issues.

The general assembly of the Church met for a Question and Answer session, which went really well, and there were so many questions that they continued on another day. The testimonies are too numerous to relate them all. The results are truly amazing. We owe it all to God, and we are grateful to all who support us in prayer.

**SIERRA LEONE CONFERENCE** - Reported by Pastor Tayo Arikawe

No doubt, God is up to something in the continent of Africa!! This year, 65 churches were represented at the conference. Moses spoke twice daily, first to the Pastors and Church workers and then to those who anxiously gathered each day long before we arrived at the venue, the Atlantic Hall of their National Stadium.

One pastor in attendance said he had never seen God's word presented in this manner in all his many years of ministry. He was so grateful that all he could say repeatedly was "God will bless you, I mean it. God will really bless you people, please come back to my

country." Another pastor from Liberia attended all the sessions. He hopes GEM will take the same Gospel of Grace to Liberia where he feels this teaching will certainly revolutionize the Church.

The spokesman for the pastors' committee expressed profound gratitude for the teaching of sound Biblical truth. They invited us to return next year and plan for us to visit the second capital city. There, we can address hundreds of pastors who could not attend last year. Everyone was grateful for the several hundred doctrinal books that we were able to distribute. Some Pastors formed a group to begin meeting to keep the grace message alive.

Indeed, the Lord is doing all the work and using GEM to bring the grace message that will certainly revolutionizes the whole of Africa; it has already begun!! The harvest is ripe, but there are few laborers. Let's keep praying that the Lord of harvest will send laborers into His vineyard.

#### **LAGOS CONFERENCE** – Ohi Alofokhai

The Lagos conference had two sessions each day. The doctrine of Grace was taught and related to our so great salvation. The message came loud and clear for any willing to hear.

I invited a young man to the conference. During our conversation his friend stopped by so I also gave him some books and a handbill. The friend was astounded saying, nobody had ever given him free books. The young man I invited never showed up, but his friend not only came early each day, but he came with a tape recorder and recorded all the messages.

#### **REPORTS FROM NIGERIA** - Debby Hagar

##### **JOS**

The 4th International Pastors Conference in Jos was "the place to be." The venue was full to overflowing though we again increased the size of the hall. Word has spread and many came to garner more of this doctrinal grace Bible teaching.

Books were distributed to those who participated for all five days - as long as supplies

lasted. The Greek Key Bible was the most sought after award. I can't tell you what it is like to see a grown man kiss his new Bible and hold it close. There is so much that can only be perceived by the look in the eyes, the tone of voice, and the body language of these men so grateful for the truth and the tools to help them get more.

Gloria and Debby taught a large auditorium full of kids for three days. Excitement filled the air as the program ended with a Christmas Play.

#### **AMABA** in Isuikwuato Local Government Area:

This was Moses and Gloria's village. We had marathon days with Moses teaching in the morning for two hours, Debby and Gloria teaching the children in the afternoon, and Moses held a crusade in the evening.

When you say the crusade field, we Americans think of Billy Graham and a stadium. Think of a literal field - where the tall grass has been burned so we can walk on it. As the sun sets the villagers walk with chairs upside down on their heads - carrying their own seats.

The clear message of Salvation by faith alone in Christ alone was given in English and translated into Ibo, the native language. Those who have left the pagan culture are tied up in churches of false doctrine and tradition. The pastors responded to the truths put before them. We left with the promise to return next year.

#### **ABA**

Fifty Pastors from Jos followed us to the Conference in Aba. They made the long day's journey because they wanted more of this teaching. Many others from the area filled the hall each night. A group of Pastors were so enthusiastic about getting this truth out to their own southern areas that they formed a group. They plan to meet to see best how to digest and disseminate these truths.

Gloria and Debby again gave the Children's program in three locations and held the Christmas Play. The Play was a group affair. Charlotte Siegmund loaned us her script.



Fantastic puppets were lovingly made by Grace Doctrine Church, and the cast was filled by Odi and Lizzy Alofokhai, Ngozi and Grace Elekwa, Bob, Richard, Williams, and Solomon. Every person within shouting distance was enlisted in the ensemble cast.

In all locations, we continually told them of you, the unseen warriors, who knew of them and held them up in prayer. They were quite amazed and most grateful. We give thanks to God for the positive volition in Nigeria and for the safe journey for all.

### GRACE LAND

An entourage of all interested parties visited the recently acquired property that will be the future headquarters of GEM Africa. Richard Hays, an architect walked and measured the land from the survey with Nigerian architect Ido Cookey. Dr. Landon Onyebueke, Chairman of the Board of GEM U.S., met us there for this long awaited and momentous occasion. Everyone marveled at the natural tropical beauty of this virgin land and was overwhelmed with the "more than we could think or imagine" provision of the Lord. We met and prayed about the careful stewardship and development of the land. Please join us in prayer as we give thanks to our Father and ask for guidance.

### OBSERVATIONS ON NIGERIA - Bob Friedrich, Tetelestai Church (U.S.A.)

Believers in Africa: The trip to Nigeria was an eye opener from the moment we stepped off the plane in Lagos airport till we boarded the flight home. My mind is still digesting the things I saw and heard. I have many fond remembrances of the people I met. Many have studied sound Bible doctrine for years - some for over 20 years. These isolated individuals knew a few others who were also positive to the rightly divided Word, but have never seen their right pastor.

While at the Jos conference, I met Pastor Tayo (pronounced Tie-oh) from The Gambia, who was recently ordained by Grace Evangelistic Ministries (GEM). His story is indicative of the positive volition I found while in Nigeria. Tayo had attended church in Nigeria for eight years but found his soul was not at rest. One day, at a market, he bought a book by Col. Thieme which caught his attention. He was so taken by its contents that he read it straight through. He

went back and acquired all the material he could. He then found a Christian library with a complete set of Col. Thieme's books and spent many hours pouring over them. With this small stack of material, he started a Bible study group. He moved to The Gambia but was rejected by the church establishment which in this country is 95 percent Muslim; however, he was faithful to share sound doctrinal teaching with the few people in his periphery who had been positive for years (that's YEARS without ever having face to face teaching!) Then through the providence of God, he met Darlington, the president of the African Chapter of GEM. Darlington, also a scientist, was appointed to a position in the Nigerian consulate in The Gambia. When he declined the position he was advised he must take it or go to jail. He accepted the invitation as God's geographical will and set out for The Gambia.

Darlington looked for a sound Bible church to attend. One Sunday morning, he noticed a man walking by his hotel carrying a Bible and dressed in a western style suit. When Darlington asked if he was on his way to church the man said "yes," and he was the pastor. Darlington attended his church and spent time with him and his fellow pastors discussing various points of doctrine. They rejected Grace teaching, but they passed the Bible study material Darlington gave them on to Tayo. Tayo contacted GEM and met Darlington. Moses now has a yearly conference in The Gambia that has attracted many to God's Word, Tayo's study group has grown into a church with Tayo as the Pastor/Teacher.

More Positive Volition: While waiting for our plane out of Lagos, I decided to wash up before the flight. The attendants live off the tips they receive but I had no money to give them. So instead I gave each a copy of Moses' book, Comfort in Suffering. By the time I returned to my seat, one woman was already reading her book. I was amazed, and for the next 45 minutes, she didn't put the book down even once. This was the response whenever we handed out books or tracts. The Nigerians didn't put them in their back pockets or in a briefcase to read later, nor did the book leave their hands until they had opened it and read for some time. The major lesson learned was that what I have right now is God's provision for me. A positive side of having a limited tape

order is that you have to study what you have on hand and read your Bible.

Postal delays from the U.S. to Nigeria can cause a tape order to be delayed up to six months. So these positive believers are making it on two tape orders per year. That sounds unacceptable to many of us, but they end up listening to the few tapes they have so often that they can tell you the doctrine in detail. How many people in America clamor for the next tape having only heard each tape one time? We can easily blame corruption or laziness for the slow postal system in Africa, but we must ultimately understand that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, and if all you have is a box of tapes and a Bible, study them both.

I will continue to pray that God opens doors to bring more sound teaching to the believers in Africa, but I will also pray that God inclines their minds to the little they have now and in so doing shows them great and mighty things, as He has done for me. I hope you will join me in this prayer.

## 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

God continues to amaze us and opens doors. Where do they come from? Friends tell friends. People wander into our website or those of our doctrinal associates. As

grace teaching reaches people, they join us in prayer for more open doors. As those doors open, more people are reached with sound Bible doctrine and they in turn join in. We stand in awe as we watch our God at work.

In India, four non-related groups contacted us, independent of each other, but at the same time and from the same geographical area of that vast country. God continues to lead us and open new and exciting areas to enable us to fulfill Matthew 28:19-20. Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

## USA

We are overjoyed to announce that Gloria Onwubiko is now available to help in the GEM office. Two new books on the topic of Grace were published last year, and we look forward to additional publications this year. Our mailing list continues to grow and enthusiastic partners distribute literature to their friends. We are here to be your eyes and ears into what the Lord is doing. We continue to stand in awe and be humbled by what God alone is doing for and through this ministry.

## OVERSEAS

**Sponsorship:** GEM sponsors 10 seminary students, with many on the waiting list, and 16 doctrinal churches - with several others on standby.

**Missionary Trips:** Please hold these upcoming trips in prayer. In February and March, GEM will visit India and Pakistan. This summer we will visit East Africa: Kakamega, Kisumu, Mambasa, and Nairobi in Kenya. We anticipate attendance from Goma in Democratic Republic of Congo, Kampala in Uganda, and Kigali in Rwanda. We also plan to visit South Africa and Zimbabwe. We are humbled, grateful, and amazed at doors God has opened.

**Mailing List:** Cuba has just been added to our already broad mailing list. Today the list includes addresses from Australia,

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

## LETTERS TO GRACE EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

*Dear Grace Evangelistic Ministries*

*Grace greetings from churches in Kisumu City. On behalf of church leaders and saints here, we are delighted to take this opportunity to thank you for the doctrinal seminar you held with our church leaders in the month of August. For sure the seminar was an eye opener to the church leaders here. It has enlightened us on the most fundamental and imperative doctrines of the Bible which are very essential to church age believers.*

*We realized to our dismay and perplexion that we have been building on the foundation of Christ with wood, straw and hay. We were legalistic and traditional due to sheer ignorance and we thank God for his grace. Now we can vehemently and categorically report to you that since we left the conference, we have been busy putting our houses in order. We have gone back to the Bible, embracing and cherishing grace teachings, the only truth of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*They are very happy. We thank God and daily intercede for you and GEM. It is our prayer that the Lord will rejoin us again in June next year, resuming to see the fruits of your labor. We are lifting you before the Father for your missionary trip to Nigeria.*

*Thanks and be blessed.  
Pastor Teacher, Kisumu, Kenya*

*Dear Pastor:*

*Compliments of the season!*

*I am so happy that you came to Jos to challenge us to go back to the Bible. It is God that will reward you for the marvelous work you have done to me. I've neither gold nor silver to give you but all I have for you is a big wish for a prosperous new year ahead. I am yearning to see you again in Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria.*

*Thanks a Lot  
Jos, Nigeria*

*Dear Moses:*

*"Paul, a Trophy of Grace" A fantastic book! I want to order 3 more. Thanks so much for your time devoted to this great project on grace. It is clearly understood and the doctrine is right on target. You are definitely a gifted writer under the direction of the Holy Spirit.*

*With deep appreciation  
Oklaboma, USA*

*To: G.E.M. Inc.*

*Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of the World! After reading your book on Christian Marriage my deepest concern is for others who I am acquainted with. They are striving believers in the Lord who must read your book. It is only by the moving of the Holy Spirit that I'm led to make this request because I know deep within my heart that "Focus on Christian Marriage" is timely ordained by God.*

*I'm listing people in need of this book. Here are the addresses of those who are supportive of ministries such as GEM that are built on such good soil. I also include myself, who briefly had a delight in reading the first 25 pages but had to urgently return the book.*

*Thank you so much; and may God continue to Magnify Himself through your anointed teachings.*

*Prison Inmate, U.S.A.*

*Hello:*

*Seven of Moses Onwubiko's newsletters were sent to a friend's son in Iraq. He will pass them on if they reach him. God's Word won't return void and it is exciting to think that these newsletters, so full of doctrine and encouragement, will help some military in harms way.*

*USA*

*Dear Rev. Onwubiko:*

*Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ:*

*Thank you for all the books sent to me. Those books are changing my life as I read through them. Not that alone, they are of help in our church and we are behind nourished by the word of God through your books. I kindly ask for more of your materials.*

*Zimbabwe*

*Dear Grace News Today:*

*It is the first time for me to write to you telling you what a blessing your publications are. I just came from Nairobi where I attended the Conference for east and central Africa, where I represented Central Africa. Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko taught us many things from God and gave me some books and tapes. Though little they may be, they have brought to my life and ministry a new cutting edge and dimension. I came back home renewed by the word of God, for this reason, I ask to be your partner in receiving monthly if possible your publications, books and tapes. God is lead-*

*ing me to start Grace Evangelistic Ministry in Burundi. This may answer the hunger for the true and pure Gospel both of my people and those of the Great Lakes region and all the French Countries.*

*God bless you,  
Burundi, Central Africa*

*Dear Sir:*

*This will kindly inform you that the books sent to me were properly received in good order. The books were distributed to church members and the were thankful for them. In line with this, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to your ministry.*

*Camarine, Norte, Philippines*

### 2004 GEM'S MISSIONARY ITINERARY

Jan./Feb	.....U.S.A
Feb	.....India
Feb./March	.....Pakistan
April	.....U.S.A.
May	.....Norway
June	.....Kenya

### 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 2004
- ❖ 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.

### 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.