

# Grace News Today



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## *“Faith Alone in Christ Alone”*

Greetings to our beloved partners in grace who have held us up to His throne as we have taken His gospel near and far. You may not be standing by our side, but you are standing at the foot of the Throne of Grace where it counts, making petitions for our safe journey! Once again, the Lord has answered those prayers and returned us with news about those who have recently accepted Christ as Savior and greetings from many who warmly welcomed G.E.M. and continue to grow in Grace in our absence.

God’s Word was welcomed in many places much like a cold drink of water would be on a parched tongue. It was indeed humbling to see all the gratitude to the Lord as realization of what they had been saved from dawned on their lovely faces. We ask that you remember these members of our family in Christ in your continued prayer support.

We have many letters to share with you and reports from G.E.M. in Asia and Africa, and we are excited to present, in this issue, a new study about a man of God who thirsted after knowledge of God, a man after God’s own heart. But, first things first! Just as the Old Testament priests could not approach the Holy of Holies, where God was present, with sin on their souls, nor can we the Church Age believer-priest. Our Heavenly Father thought of everything! Not only did He provide our Salvation, He equally designed a plan just for us – a perfect plan tailor-made for imperfect man! Knowing that we would continue to sin after

salvation and throughout our lives, He thought of a way we could be cleansed over and over again, as often as we need to be! 1 John 1:9 we read, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”. A Grace Way—The only way with God.

### WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

My friend, where are you? Possibly out there in your sick bed, or in a hospital bed in pain, or you just learned that you have cancer or one of the so-called incurable diseases. Perhaps you just lost your job, or it may be that you are suffering from an unjust treatment, either from your boss, spouse or anyone for that matter. I can’t tell exactly where you are or what kind of experience you are having right now, but does our heavenly Father know your exact location and what you are going through? You bet He does! That’s all that matters!

King David said, “Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in the Sheol, behold You are there [the Omnipresent One]. If I take the wings of the dawn, if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, even there, Your hand will lead me, and Your right hand will lay hold of me. If I say, ‘Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, and the light around me will be night,’ Even the darkness is not DARK to You, and the night is as BRIGHT as day. Darkness and light are alike to You [what a God!]. For You didst form my inward parts [embryonic and fetus formation]; You wove me [anatomical structure] in my mother’s womb” I will give thanks to You, for I am wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works.... Your [Omniscient eyes] have seen my unformed substance; and in Your book they were all written, the days that were ordained for me when as yet there was not one of them” (Psalm 139:7-18). You are ‘wonderfully made’—the ‘Pupil of God’s eye’! You are the object of His unshakable love! You ought not to forget that!

Simultaneously, in eternity past, God knew every minute detail with regard to your life! His knowledge included your physical and spiritual births, and your day-to-day spiritual journey. As the Master Choreographer, He designed your spiritual journey factoring in all the bumps and potholes that you will encounter along the way, and He knows the purpose of each bump and pothole. And as the Champion, the Supreme Navigator knows how to perfectly navigate you around or through this unavoidably rugged trail. You can’t hit a bump by accident, for there’s no accident in God’s plan!

Are you suffering from cancer? You ought not to panic. As long as you are making intake and application of God's Word your number one priority, cancer or any kind of disease is powerless to shorten 'the days that were ordained' for you in eternity past—not even by a 1/1,000<sup>th</sup> of a second (v. 16)! However, if you've been hit with a monstrous disease, fear thou not, for your heavenly Father has authorized it, for the development of your spiritual capacity that you may receive super abundant blessing in time and in eternity to come! You may ask, "Why can't God use other means, other than this disease I can't even pronounce to assist me in the development of my spiritual capacity?" Aha, isn't He your Maker and the Omniscient One who knows what works best? Of course He is!

God knows exactly what He is doing in your life, so let's not give Satan a cause to give a champagne toast in victory. We make his day when we complain or moan and groan! That's his purpose—to make us miserable! We can choose to break his Champagne glass and frustrate his plan by applying Bible doctrine on a consistent basis. Thus, you and I can be still and say like Isaiah, "But now, O Lord, You are our Father, we are the clay, and You our potter." (Isaiah 64:8). *Make me and mold me while I am waiting—still dead like a lump of clay.* You can take Job's seat and think doctrine through like he did thousands of years ago when he rationalized doctrine in his soul, "But He knows [what I am going through], when He [not Satan, not my suffering—But when He—God] has [tested] me [—when my suffering is over], I shall [emerge] forth as gold" (Job 23:10). Job's confidence in his God reached its climax when he made that statement, and so it ought to be true of you when you reach similar doctrinal conclusion!

Similarly, the apostle Paul said, "God causes all things [good or bad] to work together for good to them that love God; to those who are called according to a pre-determined plan" (Romans 8:28). The truth of the matter is that with God on the manufacturing end, you are definitely in a win-win situation! You can't lose! He has a monopoly on mixing all your suffering and turning it into a **SPLENDID** result—that will put a **BIG SMILE** on your face! So, whenever Satan hits you with suffering, God is **EVER READY** to convert it into an awesome blessing! Therefore, as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, as long as you are on course, good things will blossom from your suffering like the Lily of the valley! God's Word Guarantees it!!

And so meditate on His Word: "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing

that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result that you may be perfect and complete [with spiritual capacity for blessing] lacking nothing" (James 1:2, 4). It boils down to this: If you have been hit, consider it a privilege and honor that God has considered you worthy to sit on His Witness Seat in the prosecution of Satan and his minions. Your suffering is never in vain! It's for His demonstration to Satan, that he is a loser—it's for your blessing—it's for his glory in this unique spiritual warfare!

For that reason, my beloved, no matter what you are going through, always remember His promise to you, "Do not fear, for I am with you...I will help you" (Isaiah 41:10)—that's a promise! And then another promise, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU" (Hebrews 13:5b). If you take these promises at their face value, you ought to go to bed and sleep like a baby. And so my beloved, as you surf through the waves of suffering, I lift my prayer for your strength and stamina through the mentorship of the Holy Spirit—in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen. "You Shall Know the Truth and the Truth Shall Set You Free" [John 8:32]

## DOCTRINE OF GRACE

Taught by Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko  
*KING DAVID, A SYMPHONY OF GOD'S GRACE*

### PROLOGUE

What we are about to study is loaded with grace principle upon principle. We hope that its doctrines will cause you to become more appreciative of the riches of His marvelous grace! We can hardly wait to see what God has in store for us, as the Holy Spirit shines His illuminating light on this account. The study may not be chronologically done; however, we will rely solely on God the Holy Spirit for guidance.

At this crossroad, it is of paramount importance, as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, that you acknowledge any known sins to God before you proceed with this study. This action will give the Holy Spirit an access to your soul so He can make the truth in this work perspicuous to your right lobe! Accordingly, we have this promise: "If we confess our [known] sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to

cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I John 1:9). You may wish to pause and follow God’s instruction.

## INTRODUCTION

Let’s face it! How many times have you read or heard the word ‘GRACE?’ A gazillion times? Maybe! As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, can you remember how often you’ve dissected and pondered over the Biblical meaning of this majestic word? We did take time to define and dissect it in our previous work, the Overview of God’s Grace<sup>1</sup>. Many believers all over the world have written letters of appreciation to us regarding this book. Of course, we didn’t hesitate in giving the praise to God who has given us the grace and the wisdom to write it. On the other hand, we believe we didn’t do enough justice in our exposition! Grace is such a subject that it will take all of eternity to learn! But, if you have a grasp of it in time, it will rock your world as a Christian and cause you to face the reality of how God deals with mankind—IN GRACE IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD! When you understand that God’s grace has made all the difference in your life, you will be compelled to stand in awe and reverence of His majesty. Simply put, it will cause you to wrap yourself with a blanket of humility and a cloak of gratitude to our Great God!

Amazingly, all you need is a little understanding of God’s grace, and that will expel you as a student of Arrogance—the most dangerous and sinful course in angelic and human history, and cause you to NOT look down on anyone for any reason! So before we proceed, I urge you to meditate on the following five axioms and make them a point of reference as this awe-inspiring study develops:

- If God were to do something for you because of your goodness, wherein does grace fit in His plan for you?
- Whatever comes your way is by the grace of God, and whatever doesn’t pass through God’s grace pipeline, is not of God.
- Human viewpoint always seeks to disbar a flawed man from God’s service; but God’s viewpoint welcomes such a fellow with open arms.
- Only God has the monopoly on how to equip flawed individuals to serve Him effectively.
- ‘For by the grace of God, [man is what he is].’

Let’s face the truth. With the exception of Paul, the greatest apostle the world has ever known, and King

David, I am not fully convinced that you and I have not gotten a firm grasp on the subject at hand as we ought to. And yet, it’s the spinal structure of our spiritual life—the epicenter of God’s dealings with the human race. But, someone may ask, “What makes you think we don’t have a grip on the subject of Grace?” Asking that question alone is proof in itself. That’s arrogance in its polished state! The Bible forbids self-praise (Proverbs 27:2)! There is no clear-cut answer to the question; however, personal evaluation can really go a long way in answering it: As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, do you have the tendency to yoke fellow believers in your periphery? Do you think that your spiritual life is superior to other believers? When you hear of a believer’s spiritual failure, do you make him an object of maligning, judging or ridicule? Do you entertain a tiny thought that God will do something for you because of who you are, or what you’ve done for Him? Do you ever conceive the thought that your salvation depends on you doing something? Do you think you have what it takes to keep your salvation to the end? Right now, do you think you can lose your salvation? Or do you think that you can do something to impress God? Are you pregnant with the thought that God’s blessing depends on how much you give to Him? Do you think that a believer can commit an unpardonable sin? Do you have power lust? What about approbation lust? If you say yes to these questions or even if you answer yes to less than three, welcome to the house of legalism! But if you answer yes to more than three, you need a major tune-up with the tools of the Biblical doctrine of grace.

In any case, becoming a grace-oriented believer does not happen over night; however, it will happen, if you are humble enough to call on your Heavenly Father to guide you to His pasture, and feed you with the whole realm of His truth...to enable you, through the Mentorship of His Holy Spirit, to grow with respect to your progressive salvation or sanctification resulting in your development of a mental attitude of grace—the focal point of spiritual growth.

On the other hand, it’s appalling that millions of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are not even close to living the spiritual life—a life that’s seasoned with grace-orientation! One may question, “How do you know that?” Just look around you. Watch Television and you too will be convinced. Additionally, watch those who teach salvation by works, lordship-salvation, and salvation by baptism, either on Television or elsewhere and your question will be put to rest!

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<sup>1</sup> A book by Moses C. Onwubiko

It's sad that many don't even know that we are under the umbrella of grace; and that legalism is anti the plan of God!

The 'Mosaic Law came through Moses of the Old Testament, but grace and truth [foundation of Biblical truth] came to full light through Jesus Christ' (John 1:16 emphasis added). And yet many believers have not discovered this phenomenal truth. The apostle Paul adamantly affirmed, "We are not under [the umbrella] of law, but under grace. 'For Christ is the end of law for righteousness for anyone who believes' (Romans 6:14b; 10:4). That's it! Herein lies the foundation for our spiritual heritage—grace!! Let me draw a line here \_\_\_\_\_: You will NEVER honor God as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, if grace is not the compass of your spiritual life! Grace or legalism—which one? It can't be both!! (Romans 11:6). Let me be emphatic and say it in another way: If your spiritual life is not marked by grace-orientation, you will undoubtedly arrive in heaven as a loser-believer, not in the sense of losing your salvation, BUT LOSING GREAT REWARDS (I John 2:28; I Corinthians 3:11-15)! Indeed, there's no better way of saying it, other than that you cannot possibly honor God in your spiritual life unless your thoughts and actions are greased with the oil dripping from the riches of His grace.

We all fail—even the best of the best fail—including King David—"a man after God's own heart!" King David did the most abominable thing in the eyes of the Lord! Decades later, King Solomon, David's son wrote, "There are six things which the Lord hates, yes, seven which are abomination to Him: Haughty eyes, a lying tongue [oops!], and hands that shed innocent blood [murder], a heart that devises wicked plans [oops!], feet that run rapidly to evil, a false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers [in the Lord]" (Proverbs 6:16-19).

Ordinarily, without Biblical knowledge, if a fellow believer were to quiz me to name the most heinous sin that God abhors, I would probably say, adultery. Ah I would have been wrong! It's not even on God's list. But hold that thought! I am in total agreement with you in that adultery or fornication<sup>2</sup> is a heinous sin too, but the truth of the matter is that it didn't make the list. Let's stand at ease. Just because you are not guilty of adultery or fornication, does not mean you should sit on your pedestal with 'haughty eyes' [proud heart or self-

elevated], and use your wand of 'discord' [vilification, maligning, gossip] to render judgment on those who have committed your so-called forbidden sins.

Potentially, our doctrinal exposé on King David, a symphony of God's grace, is a work that's designed to challenge you and me to take a closer look at the matchless grace of God. It's my hope, that by the end of this study, grace will hit you between the eyes with an indelible mark—like never before! And that it would cause you to be very grateful for God's grace in a new dimension. That you will come face-to-face with the dynamic truth that God deals with us on the sole basis of His unfathomable grace; and never on ANY OTHER GROUND! You may have been one of the self-righteous, self-absorbed and egocentric believers who asked the following questions: How could God allow a man who committed murder, which made the list of His abominable sins, to be in the line of the Wonderful Savior Jesus Christ? Of all the good people in the world, why should King David, who did despicable things in God's eyes be called, "a friend of God"? Why didn't God revoke his salvation for his colossal act of evil and send him straight to hell where such people belong?

If the rule is "Life for life," why didn't God take David's life when he took Uriah's life? Why did God allow him to live after disgracing His holy name through such dubious acts of adultery and murder? Let me tell you something, adultery and murder are just two of the sins that Prophet Nathan mentioned. We can hardly wait to dissect David's spiritual failure as a believer in the Lord and as Israel's King. It'll be a gruesome picture! He abused his power as the Commander-in-Chief, trampling on God's justice. That's more than a sin; it's evil! And in spite of his obvious record, God promoted and blessed him in an unprecedented manner. How could God do that? GRACE. That's how! We all fail. I seriously think that the foremost was the great apostle Paul who we have taken pain to dissect in our book—Paul A Trophy of Grace.

Now we are face-to-face with another great man of God, David. And by God's grace, one day, I shall, as a minister of grace—the least servant of God—take time to dissect the spiritual dilemma of someone I know very well to encourage those who might think that their failures are bigger than the GRACE of God. We must admit that everyone has tasted spiritual failure. We all CRUISE on the

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<sup>2</sup> Fornication: Sexual intercourse between unmarried male and female, and adultery involves married individuals.

holiness of our Lord Jesus Christ—the Perfect Lamb of God! Therein lies the quintessence of God’s perfectly divine GRACE!

The truth of the matter is that those whom the Lord will surprise in heaven with GREATER GRACE REWARDS are those who recognize their inadequacies in time—and constantly drink from the Fountain of God’s Amazing Grace! Repeat: We have all failed!

In light of the power of the Sin Nature, chances are we may fail again and again and perhaps again! The greatest apostle, the world has ever known or will ever know, the apostle Paul, had his own moments of failure too. In his pre-salvation experience, he said, “...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am the foremost of all” (I Timothy 1:15),<sup>3</sup> and in his post-salvation state, he screamed, “Wretched man that I am!” Who will set me free from the body of this death [Sin Nature] (Romans 7:24). That’s the lamentation of one who was caught in the crossfire of Sin Nature rebellion!

The truth of the matter is that no one is good. “...THERE’S NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE” (Romans 3:12b), declared the apostle Paul. And King Solomon wrote before Paul, said, “Indeed, there’s not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins—[NONE!]” (Ecclesiastes 7:20).

Question: Are you a good person? Do you continually honor God in words and actions? Have you ever failed in a miserable way? We all have and may even fail again! So, don’t be a loser in the spiritual arena; get down from your pedestal of self-righteousness and arrogance and crawl to kneel at the Feet of His Abundant Grace!! Stay put there, for that’s the only Station where you can fuel up with His Super Abundant Grace in order to run the race that’s set before you.

Indeed, it soothes my soul with great comfort to know, that grace pours down from God’s throne and rains hard on those whose steadfast mind is fixed on His Chamber of Mercy in the midst of their colossal and horrific failures! It follows then that abundant grace is for those whose failures stink!! The apostle etched it well: “And the Law came in that the transgression might increase;

but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more. What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? May it never be [God forbid]!” (Rom. 5:20; 6:1, 2a). The point I want to make is this, often when we hit rock bottom in our spiritual lives, it opens our spiritual eyes to behold who we really are—wretched sinners—saved by grace!

Occasionally when believers or ministers start concentrating on their successes, rather than on God, He often allows them to hit bottom. Charles Spurgeon, one of the greatest servants of God, beautifully put it this way: *God teaches His people every day, by sickness, by affliction, by depression of spirits, by the forsaking of God, by the loss of the Spirit for a season, by the lackings of the joys of His countenance, that He is God, and that beside Him there is none else. And we must not forget that there are some special servants of God raised up to do great works, who in a peculiar manner have to learn this lesson. **Let a man, for instance, be called to the great work of preaching the gospel. He is successful; God helped him; thousands wait at his feet, and multitudes hang upon his lips; as truly as that man is a man, he will have the tendency to be exalted above measure, and too much he will begin to look to himself, and too little to his God.... [Often] if God gives us a special mission, we generally begin to take some honor and glory to ourselves.... Poor Paul might have thought of himself as a god, and been puffed up above measure, by reason of the greatness of his revelation, had there not been a thorn in the flesh. But Paul could feel that he was not a god, for he had a thorn in the flesh, and gods could not have thorns in the flesh.... Very frequently, God teaches this to the minister, by leading him to see his own sinful nature. He will have such an insight into his own wicked and abominable heart, that he will feel as he comes up the pulpit stairs that he does not deserve so much as to sit in his pew, much less to preach to his fellows. Although we feel always joy in the declaration of God’s Word, yet we have what it is to totter on the pulpit steps, under sense that the chief of sinners should scarcely be allowed to preach to others. Ah! Beloved, I do not think he will be very successful as a minister who is not taken into the depths and blackness of his own***

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<sup>3</sup> *Paul A Trophy of Grace* (a book by Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko)

soul, and made to exclaim, “Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.” **There is another antidote which God applies in the case of ministers. If He does not deal with them personally, He raises up a host of enemies, that it may be seen that He is God, and God alone.**<sup>4</sup> Indeed how true it’s that God uses every tool at His disposal to rid us of self-glorification, as He works to conform us to ‘the image of His Son’ (Romans 8:29b).

And as for David, the focal point of our doctrinal exposition, God bountifully served him grace heaped upon grace on a grace-platter, as we will see later in our study. But, let’s face it; David really disappointed the Lord—committing adultery and murder. Yes murder too! Mosaic Law required nothing less than his execution by stoning. Ah-ah don’t be so fast to cast your rock at King David or blaspheme God for that matter: “He who is **without sin** among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at [him]” (John 8:7). Let me tell you this, if you’ve not dropped the stone of your self-righteousness and legalism as the religious Jews did in our Lord’s court-yard (v. 9), regrettably to say that you are probably the most arrogant believer in modern-day Christendom! And you need to enroll in the Lord’s Grace College in a hurry and begin to expose yourself to sound Bible teaching on a more regular basis!

What is intensely sad is that many legalistic believers always view their sins as minor or inconsequential while spending time dissecting, analyzing, and enlarging someone else’s sins. They log astronomical amounts of time in criticizing and judging those who have committed their so-called *forbidden sins*. To these I say, my friends, come out of your closet of self-righteousness! The insurance policy of grace does not cover those who sit on their sins and dissect the sins of others. Never has, and never will, not today, not then and not ever! As far as God is concerned, such lifestyle depicts polished up arrogance, and God’s judgment on believers who operate in this mode is harsh and swift!

Our purpose in putting together this doctrinal truth is to throw adequate light on **GRACE**. No question about it, the depth of study on this grace-made shepherd boy, David, is so fascinating! It’s my belief that this study will enlighten you so that you can behold the depth, the width, and the height of God’s grace toward the human race. If its principles fail to make a grace impact on your life, as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, I wonder what else could! So it’s my heartfelt prayer, that this material will make a deep-seated mark of grace upon you resulting in your deeper appreciation of His unsurpassing grace and your reciprocal mental attitude of grace toward others—moral—immoral—amoral—worthy or unworthy. To God alone, I lift my prayer in the name of the One who loved us and offered up His life as a sacrifice and substitute for us, namely, our Savior Jesus Christ—the Lord of the armies. Amen. With this introduction, we are now ready to examine David’s historical background, upon which I walk softly so as to enter David’s courtyard with reverence because of my unworthiness. Frankly, I am absolutely unfit to untie his shoelaces let alone to present a systematic doctrine concerning him. What a privilege the Lord has afforded me!

We have attempted a running start into our study of David, and will resume this introduction in our next volume and also begin an investigation into the Historical Background of our subject.

## Part I

### DAVID’S HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

*Beloved or Chieftain was the Hebrew or ancient Mari* meaning of David. He was born around 1040 B. C., and was the youngest of eight sons of Jesse. Interestingly, Bethlehem, a town five miles southwest of Jerusalem in the hill country of Judea, on the main highway to Hebron and Egypt was the birthplace of David. This tiny town also happened to be where our Savior Jesus Christ was born! Scripture is silent as to when he believed in the Lord in like manner as his great-grandfather Abraham (Genesis 15:6). The exact date is non-essential however.

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<sup>4</sup> Spurgeons Sermons, Volume 1 (Bakers Books: 1999), pp10-12

David, the musician, poet, soldier, shepherd, and king, had a long genealogy going back ten generations through the line of Jesse. Invariably, since our doctrinal exhibition is centered on grace in relation to David, it's fitting to take a side road through David's ancestry. Indeed it's fascinating! His genealogy is through Jesse, as we mentioned earlier, but it further extends through Obed, Boaz, Salmon, Nashon, Amminadab, Ram, and Hezron of Perez, who, according to Genesis 38, was the son of Judah by Tamar. In light of this remarkable genealogy, we underscore and highlight **God's grace policy in action!** But not so fast! The irony of David's genealogy will not be apt without mentioning a brief story of Ruth for therein GRACE is capitalized!

Ruth was a **heathen girl** a Moabite who became one of the daughters-in-law to Elimelech and Naomi. As God would have it, Elimelech and his sons died in Moab, leaving no family-redeemer as per God's Law in Leviticus 25:25-28 and Deuteronomy 25:5-10. With their death, Naomi decided to return back to Bethlehem, and she encouraged Ruth and her other daughter-in-law to stay behind. Ruth on the other hand, vehemently refused to stay, despite the fact that she had no hope of remarriage in Elimelech's family as per God's Law; nevertheless, she persisted and followed Naomi.

And so, the author of the book of Ruth wrote, "And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, 'Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you as you have dealt with the dead and me. May the Lord grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband.' Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept [bitterly]. And they [Ruth and Orpah] said to her, 'No, but we shall surely return with you to your people.' But Naomi said, 'Return my daughters. Why should you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? 'Return my daughters! Go, for I am too old to have a husband. If I said I have hope, if I should even have a husband tonight and also bear sons, would you therefore wait until they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters; for the hand of the Lord has gone against me.' And they lifted up their voices and wept again; and

Orpah kissed her mother-in-law [good-bye], but Ruth [the persistent one] clung to her. Then she said, 'Behold, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and her gods, return after your sister-in-law [and to your own gods as well].' But Ruth said, 'Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; **for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. 'Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the Lord do to me, and worse, if anything but death parts you and me.'**" (Ruth 1:8-17). What a remarkable lady!

## IN CONCLUSION

"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, 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 24-25). (To be continued Lesson 2—volume 36)

## BIBLE DOCTRINE FOR THOUGHT

*"Riches and honor are [hidden in Bible doctrine].... For he who finds [sound Bible doctrine] finds [the fountain of] life, and obtains favor from the Lord. But he who sins [refuses to give perception and application of Bible doctrine the highest priority] injures himself; and those who hate [doctrine] love death" (Proverbs 8:18, 35-36). My friend, what's your PRIORITY? I have pondered over this, mulled it over, and readjusted my thinking—a day-to-day battle in the world of surmounting distractions. And you, too, may wish to meditate upon this for eternity is nearer than when we first believed!*

## MISSIONARY REPORTS

G.E.M. - U.S.A., Nashville, TN  
Moses Onwubiko, President and Founder

News from Nashville:

This spring, G.E.M. Nashville has focused on organization and preparation for the Missionary journeys on this year's calendar. G.E.M. has been

established since 1997. Since that time, the Lord has opened many doors, and we have walked through them to see what He would have us do. Seven years later, we are taking stock of and mapping out all the Lord has done. This is a time to see where we are and how best to proceed as careful stewards from this vantage point. We will share details of this with you in upcoming newsletters.

A container shipment from the U.S. to Nigeria is planned for late summer 2004. (See container shipment heading for details)



## **G.E.M. AFRICA**

Darlington Elekwa, Executive Director

### ***News from West Africa – submitted by Darlington Elekwa***

The program at the Police Staff College here in Jos, Nigeria went very well. The first day was like a dream. God gathered nearly 200 top cadre police officers together just to listen to a very short man called Darlington who had a clear gospel message from God. One could sense a palpable positive volition among those police officers. Mental Attitude Dynamics was our theme.

On the second day, it was quite obvious that we would need a larger hall! Folks who heard our message the previous day invited others from nearby towns and villages. On the third day, we planned to distribute study materials but these officers moved to even a larger hall in anticipation of the continuation of our seminar which lasted far into the night.

There are about 900 officers, over 700 are believers and more than 200 have received training as Pastors. Upon graduation they would be posted to serve in various parts of Nigeria. I consider the Police College Ministry a very strategic one, and they certainly need more study materials which we do not have at the moment. They need Vines Bible Dictionary, Hebrew Greek Key Word Study Bible, etc., before the end of their stay at the college.

We thank God for their response and look forward to having some materials sent to them.

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### ***News from Eastern Africa – submitted by Rev. Naboth Otukho***

In anticipation of the Kenya program scheduled for July, 2004, Rev. Mwale and I (Rev. Naboth Otukho) visited Dar es Salaam, capital of Tanzania and taught TRUTH in one of the churches there. We were on a mission to introduce G.E.M., distribute literature, and extend invitations to the July conference in Kenya. We received a wonderful and enthusiastic reception.

We then visited Kigali, Rwanda, with the same program and the same enthusiastic response. We can hardly wait to take the visitation program on to Nairobi. Please pray for us as we look forward to the Second Church Leaders Conference in Nairobi Kenya, July 2004.

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### ***Letter Received in response to Tanzania visit:***

Rev. N. D. Otukho  
Grace Evangelistic Ministries

We wish to affiliate with Grace Evangelistic Ministries. I am writing this letter with confidence hoping that this poor letter will be taken into account before your office.

First of all please receive my heartfelt gratitude for your glorious invitation to the 2nd Leaders conference 2004, in Nairobi. Thank you for the love you have shown toward me. Coming to us personally with Brother Moris Mwale, sharing with us good news about your ministry. Thank you very much for these three books written by the great man of God, Moses C. Onwubiko. My dear brother in good faith I had never received such wonderful teaching relating with grace as I have through these books [Overview of God's Grace, God's Plan after Salvation, Comfort in Suffering].

My Dearest brother, as I have informed you, my heart loves God. I need to see the Kingdom of God prevailing. Islam is taking hold and prevailing in our Land, I am very sensitive for the work of God here in Tanzania, and really I am sure the Lord is leading us to join with Grace Evangelistic Ministries. I have informed our board members of our Church about your ministry. All have agreed to associate with G.E.M.

Pastor Tanzania

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***African Mission Trips Planned: (also see calendar)***

Eastern Africa: Nairobi and Muhoroni June 28<sup>th</sup> – July 10<sup>th</sup>: Kenya conference; we expect participants not only from Kenya, but also from the countries of Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

Southern Africa: Cape Town, South Africa – July 11-18.

Please hold these upcoming trips in prayer. We are humbled, grateful, and amazed at doors God has opened

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



**G.E.M. EUROPE**

Rev. Elijah Dennis Ejila, Executive Director

***News from the U.K.***

I have just arrived in the UK. Please pray for me and the work in Europe. I will write more later, bye for now.

Firmly in His mighty arms,  
Rev. Elijah Dennis Ejila

***THREE DAYS LATER ANOTHER MAIL:***

God has started to work. A pastor came to my house with one of his acquaintances. I explained to them my mission in Europe and the need for grace oriented doctrinal teaching today in the body of Christ, especially in the UK. The pastor then asked me if they got a hall nearby, would I teach them Bible doctrine. I said yes and together they rejoiced, saying that this was a prayer answered. I too rejoiced because this too was a prayer answered on our side. Please continue to pray for the work here. There is positive volition here. God has some people here!

Rev. Dennis

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***European mission trips planned:***

London & Cornwall August 18 - September 10, 2004



**G.E.M. ASIA**

*News from Kakinada, India*

With overwhelming joy I would like to tell you that the crusade we held at Kakinada, India has had a great effect on many lives. We have received many testimonies so I would like to summarize the testimonies we are receiving.

“We felt and experienced the love of God and grace of God revealed to our hearts thru Rev. Moses.” “Our hearts were touched, in this crusade we felt the presence of almighty God.” In addition we received many more.

We are so blessed to have held these precious crusades and we are very thankful to GEM for giving us this opportunity to work with them.

We have been receiving wonderful comments on the Telugu translation of “Riding the Death Train.” We have been receiving the comments by post. One of the people said she felt the love of God and His grace when reading the booklet. This is really a life-changing book she added. She asked us to send more of Rev. Moses books. A brother wrote that he received the booklet and said the truth has been revealed to him, that “Riding the Death Train” opened his eyes though he is working as a pastor. Yes we have received wonderful testimonies and comments. And we continue receiving the fruits of the work. Amen.

We look forward to a large reprinting of “Riding the Death Train” in Telugu. They will be a great tool for reaching the villages. Keep praying for us. And we are praying for you. Eager to hear from you soon. God bless you amen.

Your humble servants in Christ  
Rev. Emmanuel & Jessie Kumari

Mailing List Outreach: Today our mailing list includes addresses from Australia, Cameroon, Canada, China, Cote D’Voire, 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 G.E.M.

Dear G.E.M.

Thank you very much for sending me all of the Wonderful books by Moses. What an inspiration his ministry is to our lost world. I have enjoyed your e-mails and please know that I am forwarding them to other believers. We are all praying for Moses and his ministry,  
In Him, USA

Dear Sir:

My heart was filled with joy when I took my pen and paper to write you this letter. I hope everything is going well with you and your ministry.

The reason I am writing you this letter is that, by the grace of God, I received one of your newsletters. It was given to me by a friend. I have received the Lord Jesus as my Personal Savior through reading your newsletter. The Lord has changed my life. Now I am living a new life which is in Christ Jesus. I am so challenged to be like you as a man of God, who preaches the Gospel and also spreads the Good News to other people who are living in the bondage of sin.

Through your help, the lost can see the light of the gospel. When I finished reading the newsletter, my heart was desiring the Word of God to be preached because if the sinners die in their sins, I know that surely they will be in the everlasting fire. So if you can help me with these materials, ten holy Bibles, Walkman, pens, pencils, cassettes etc. May almighty God bless you and give you a long life to preach.  
Ghana West Africa

Dear G.E.M.

Well just want to tell you that I have received the MP3's from Pastor Mike Smith way back in February this year...I am finding the lessons awesome! You wouldn't believe it, ever since then, I am still on the study of 40 things ...Why? I came to realize that it isn't the number of tapes I listen to that matters, but how I apply it to life. Moreover, I am listening carefully, so I can fully grasp the whole message..."You can't apply what you don't know," says Col. R.B. Thieme, Jr. So, of course, before I can apply doctrine, I must know it by listening to it.

Also, I have contacted Pastor Hastings website to request the Lewis Sperry Chafer CDs and I hope it will get to me

soon. The bible expository dictionary you gave to me at Amaba has been of great help to me - I can't just say it in words for now.

I am so grateful to God that I am beginning to grasp what grace is all about...Also, most of the questions I had in my mind when Moses and the team left Nigeria are beginning to be answered by God through the doctrinal cassettes and books I have been receiving.

You know, God will get the accurate teachings of God's word from a prepared pastor to those who are willing to know God, and will respond to Him, this has happened to me. God is answering the questions of my heart.

He even is using my mistakes to teach me his grace - because I have always lived in the legalistic way of life. But, if there is a word I would like to hammer and hammer, it is the word GRACE, GRACE, GRACE!!!! I AM GETTING USED TO IT NOW. THAT'S WHY I AM SO EXCITED.

Lastly, I have printed almost all of the Bible verses exegeted by Col. Thieme—although, Pastor Thieme didn't exegete every passage, most of the New Testament was exegeted by him. Through all this study I am beginning to see God's word come alive to me and I am now planning to take up my Greek course with my school before the year runs out. Also, according to them, they said I can finish up with both the Greek and Hebrew language before 2007 (which is the year I would be ending my course with them) if I am studious enough—Well, I know what I am going for and I think I should be able to do it. I am really zealous to know these languages. This is why I embarked on this "Theological Journey."

God says, "I know the thoughts I have towards you, thoughts of good and not of evil," He will perfect that which concerneth me, for of His mercies we are not consumed. I know God, at the right time, will bring my dream to pass. I don't know how to thank everyone for the great help. What I will just keep on saying is thank you very much!!!!!!

Yours in Union with the Christ,

Student - Lagos (age 20 years)

Dear G.E.M.,

I am the administrative officer for the Missions department of a recently formed church in Texas. We have received several of Mr. Onwubiko's publications put out by GEM. I have read "Paul: A Trophy of God's Grace, God's Plan After Salvation, Riding the Death Train," and portions of several others and find them to contain a wealth of Divine wisdom. They are filled with accurate Truth!

I do not know if Mr. Onwubiko is currently in the States but if he is, we would be honored if he could speak to our congregation. Thank you for your time and especially for reflecting our Lord's grace through GEM.

In His Grace  
USA

**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 enough doctrinal materials on tape and in literature for those who are starving for sound Bible teaching? And, that this ministry would never lack in quenching their spiritual thirst to know and have rapport with the Living God!

**2004 MISSIONARY ITINERARY**

June 24 – July 10 ..... Kenya  
 July 11 – July 18 ..... South Africa  
 Aug 18 – Sept 10 ..... UK  
 Sept 10 – Nov 28 ..... USA  
 Nov 29 – Dec 3 ..... Lagos, Nigeria  
 Dec 5 – Dec 10 ..... Jos, Nigeria  
 Dec 13–Dec 17 ..... Amaba, Nigeria  
 Dec 18–Dec 22 ..... Aba, Nigeria  
 Dec 23–Dec 26 ..... Amaba, Nigeria

**Container Shipment**

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

- Bibles (good versions for new converts and study tools for doctrinal pastors)
- Computers, monitors, copy machines, printers
- TVs & VCRs for tape groups

- Doctrinal literature
- Miscellaneous (If you have something else to donate, other than those listed, please call us.)

**Mail donations to** (Call G.E.M. for a receipt for your donation for tax purposes)

Grace Evangelistic Ministries  
 c/o Dr. Tom & Nancy Northcott  
 111 Hickory Hill;  
 Tullahoma, TN 37388

**CONTAINER TO AFRICA BUDGET**

Reprints (new converts)	\$4,000.00
Major Bible Themes (Chafer) 200 copies (pastors)	\$2,400.00
Key Word Study Bibles, NAB, 300 copies (pastors)	\$6,750.00
Willington's Guide to the Bible 100 copies (pastors)	\$2,200.00
Expository Bible Dictionary 100 copies (pastors)	\$2,200.00
Blank tapes to dub Thieme, Knapp, Griffin, Onwubiko, Clay Ward, and Dean's doctrinal tapes in Africa 10,000	\$2,100.00
Container shipment	\$3,500.00

**UK AUGUST 2004 CONFERENCE BUDGET**

Airfare	\$580.00
Room & Board	\$1,200.00
Hall Rentals & Publicities	\$900.00
Transportation	\$400.00

**ASIAN TRANSLATION & REPRINTS OF  
 RIDING THE DEATH TRAIN  
 (Gospel Pamphlet)**

	Copies	Cost
India	100,000	\$2,570.00
Pakistan	120,000	\$2,200.00
God's Plan after Salv	4,000	\$ 953.00

**FINANCIAL POLICY:** There's 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.

## PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER

But first, let's give thanks to our Father for all the provisions for the trip to Kenya and for leading us every step of the way. We are especially thankful for our spiritual freedom to carry His word wherever He chooses in His perfect timing!

### PETITION TO OUR FATHER:

- 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
- Robert Thieme, III's ministry (and the health of Col. & Mrs. R.B. Thieme, Jr.)
- The spiritual growth of the churches we formed
- Seminary students whom 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
- Direction and Guidance for G.E.M.
- Provision and Guidance for foreign translations
- Energy, wisdom, and discernment for G.E.M. God-assembled team.

## IRS DISCLOSURE

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Join our E-MAIL CAFÉ [debby@debbyhagar.com](mailto:debby@debbyhagar.com)  
To receive updates and prayer requests,

<http://www.gracemissions.org>

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