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Faith alone in Christ alone

Greetings to you from everyone here at Grace Evangelistic Ministries. Indeed, we are progressing along courtesy of the grace of God, and the Lord Jesus Christ who is our Pilot. In the midst of storms He is with us as He emphatically promised," . . . Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20b). As the Pilot, He has the map in front of Him. He knows the direction of the lives of His children because He is the unique Compass of all ages. He understands the storms of this life very well. He knows how and when to command the storm and it will obey Him. "And a great storm of wind arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, 'Teacher, do you not care if we perish?' He rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Hush be still.' And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. And He said to them, 'Why are you so timid [afraid]? How is it that you have no faith?' And they became very much afraid and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?'" (Mark 4:37-41). That Person is the same Lord Jesus Christ who is piloting the plane of Grace Evangelistic Ministries. We trust that no matter what type of storm we may encounter, He will land us safely for the glory of the Father.

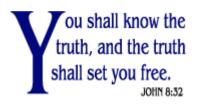
This should be your confidence also. If you are in His plan and are learning Bible doctrine and growing in grace, He will not fail you nor forsake you (<u>Heb. 13:5b</u>). He will land you safely. This is the beauty of belonging to the "royal family of God."

At this juncture, may we pause to reassure you as our supporters that our stand remains the same: evangelize the unbelievers with the clear gospel message and follow up with those who have responded positively. We realize that when believers are not exposed to sound Bible doctrine, they can become dangerous tools for Satanic activities. An example of this is Christian activism. Carnal believers often participate in burning and destroying people's property in the name of serving God. They have a lack of

respect for the government and its laws. They are involved in any kind of evil practice. These believers have lost their salt, which is meant to preserve the nations. Their light, which helps the nations to see the truth, is quenched. In the long run, the nations in which they reside become a target for divine discipline from the "Supreme Court of Heaven." It is no wonder that many nations suffer because of these unfruitful believers.

Therefore, may I stop to challenge you as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. Is your spiritual lifestyle a blessing to your family, society and nation? Is your country in darkness because you cannot provide them with light? Is your nation suffering because of your lack of interest in learning, mastering and applying sound Bible doctrine on a daily basis? Does your lifestyle match what is taught in the unchanging Word of God? If not, you have the option to stop and isolate those things that weigh you down (James 1:21). Name those sins to God (1 John 1:9). Forget them and move on (Phil. 3:13) until the race is over. For we know that no one is perfect. We all fail. Our spiritual success will not be measured on how much we have failed, but on our decisions to get up and move forward. This is the true mark of a potential winner of the race. No one wins unless they move forward.

In His Marvelous grace, Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko, President



Doctrine of Salvation

by Reverend Moses C. Onwubiko (continued from volume three)

In volume three of "Grace News Today" we examined the role played by God the Son in providing salvation for the human race. Let us review a few things about His role and perhaps add some new thoughts to that lesson.

The Bible demonstrates that the Lord Jesus Christ is God. "In the beginning [eternity past] was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). The apostle Paul declares, "He [Jesus Christ] existed in the form of God. . ." (Phil. 2:6a). John records, "And the Word became flesh [the humanity of Jesus Christ] and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, glory as of the Only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth [Bible doctrine]" (John 1:14). Why did He become a true man? The following reasons are worth storing in your right lobe.

First, He had to become a true man (Phil. 2:6) so that He could be an impartial mediator between sinful man and a holy God - the Father. "This is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth [Bible doctrine]. For there is one God [in essence], and there is one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:3-5). Generally, a mediator must be equal with both parties. The Lord Jesus Christ met these requirements. He was, and still is true man and God joined in one person forever.

Secondly, He had to become man (<u>John 1:14</u>) so that He could be an equal substitute for him. As God, He would not have died on the cross. God can never die. Only man can die. As a true man, He was subject to both spiritual and physical death—even death on a cross. Paul made this point clear when he asserted, "And being found in appearance as a Man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross" (Phil. 2:8).

Thirdly, He had to become a true man so that He might experience the sufferings, pains and heartaches that you and I experience today. He indeed suffered during His time on earth and therefore He can help us when we suffer. "Since, therefore, the children share in flesh and blood, He likewise partook of the same nature (man) . . . for because He has suffered and been tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted" (Hebrews 2:14, 18).

The fourth reason He became man was so that He might reconcile us to God (2 Cor. 5:18). The fifth reason was that He might become our ultimate High Priest (Heb. 10:21). The sixth reason was that He might be able to represent believers in the courtroom of Heaven as the defending attorney. He is in the "Supreme Court of Heaven" 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year to remind God the Father that Satan has no case against believers: "Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). He reminds God that He paid in full for our salvation on the cross. "My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and He is the propitiation for our sins; and not ours only, but also for those of the whole world" (1 John 2:1-2).

The seventh reason that He became a true man was to remind us that God always keeps His word. In the Old Testament, God promised David that He would send a King who would rule forever. The fact that the humanity of Jesus Christ came from the line of David shows that God fulfilled His promise to David. This brings us to the role of God the Holy Spirit.

THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN SALVATION

Many believers seem to be ignorant of the dynamic ministry of God the Holy Spirit. His part in salvation is as equally important as that of the Father and the Son. Throughout the earthly ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit provided Him with the power to be triumphant even under the most intense suffering ever experienced (Matt. 3:16; John 1:33). The Holy Spirit led the Lord Jesus Christ into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan (Matt. 4:1) and He sustained Him throughout the forty days. He was with Jesus Christ throughout His earthly life. It would have been impossible for Him to go to the cross without the help of the Holy Spirit.

Now let us examine the Holy Spirit's ministry to us before we were saved. First of all, He helped us to understand the gospel. The Lord Jesus Christ makes this clear, "And He [the Holy Spirit], when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment" (John 16:8). Ironically, no unbeliever is capable of understanding the gospel, no matter how intelligent the person might be. Paul puts it this way: "But a natural man [unbeliever] does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, he cannot understand them because they are spiritually appraised" (1 Cor. 2:14). Therefore, when the gospel is presented to a "spiritually dead" person (reference Volume 2), the Holy Spirit takes the truth from the message and helps the individual to understand it. This special ministry is made available to everyone without exception.

Secondly, when the individual responds to the gospel message, which is, "faith alone and in Christ alone", the Holy Spirit instantly produces a "new birth" in that person (John 3:6b-8). As a result of this new birth, the believer is transferred from death to life (John 5:24). Then the Holy Spirit constructs a temple for the permanent indwelling of the Trinity (1 Cor. 3:16, 6:19; John 17:23a). Lastly, He seals the believer's salvation for eternity. Paul declared, "Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge" (2 Cor. 1:21-22). The apostle further asserted, "In Him, you also after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation, having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise" (Eph. 1:13). This is another way of God saying to you, "Listen My child, the salvation which you have through faith in My Son Jesus Christ is a settled matter. This chapter is closed forever.

No one can undo what I have finished. As God, I do a perfect job." The Bible emphatically makes it clear: "I know that everything God does (including your salvation) will remain FOREVER, there is nothing to add to it and there is nothing to take away from it" (Ecclesiastes. 3:14). In the light of this verse, it is blasphemy for one to suggest that salvation can be lost.

The fourth thing the Holy Spirit does is to enter the believer into a "union with Christ", which is called the "baptism of the Holy Spirit". This baptism is not a water baptism. The Lord made a distinction

between "water baptism" and "baptism of the Holy Spirit". He said, "For John baptized with water **but** you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:5). And Paul declared, "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body . . ." (1 Cor. 12:13a).

Lastly the Holy Spirit bestows at least one spiritual gift to each believer (1 Cor. 12: 1-11). This gift is given according to His sovereign will (1 Cor. 12:11). Therefore no one has the right to boast about a gift of grace from God the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, may I remind you that you have been purchased by God (1 Peter 1:18-19), you belong to Him (1 Cor. 6:19), and that He is guarding you by His power (1 Peter 1:5) until He takes you out of this world (2 Cor. 5:8). In the light of this wonderful hope, I say to you who have believed, "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 in the next issue.

Testimonies & Gratitude to Our God

Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko reports that George H. Mueller and he had a successful time of ministry in Africa. We thank God as He continues to provide for the financial needs of this ministry.

Beyer Printing, Inc. continues to print some of our materials free of charge. We thank God for all of our supporters.

Special Missionary Report from Africa

January 14 - February 27, 1998 George H. Mueller and I (Moses C. Onwubiko) were in Africa for missionary work. We entered Cameroon and encountered no opposition. It was obvious that believers were truly praying for us. God indeed answered your prayers.

Some of the unbelievers we met responded to the gospel message. Many believers, seminary students and pastors came to us for expositional teaching of the Word of God. Many of them were disappointed because we did not have enough doctrinal materials to give to them. In fact, you had to have been there yourself to see the expressions on the faces of these believers. They were without a doubt truly hungry for sound Bible doctrine.

Permit me to say that the early missionary activities in Africa were a total failure. They did a great job in the area of building churches, hospitals, schools, roads, but failed in the most vital areas of Christendom. First, they did not present the gospel in an accurate manner. Second, they neglected to teach sound Bible doctrine. The lack of these two elements are the basis for the major problems in Africa. Money will not solve Africa's problems. Only God in His matchless grace can. The pure gospel message and sound Bible doctrine are the only things that can resurrect Africa.

While I was in Africa, I felt like firing all the missionaries and sending them back to their countries. Then I realized that they were not my employees. God is their Employer. God alone does the hiring and firing.

The Bible declares, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin [habitual lifestyle of sin] is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). Righteousness comes through faith in Christ and perception and application of sound Bible doctrine.

Indeed, I was inwardly consumed with compassion for the people of Africa. My desire to give them sound Bible doctrine was intensified. It was not easy for me to leave them. But I had to leave so that I could make adequate arrangements to provide them with the doctrinal materials of which they are in

need.

While in Africa, I was able to teach the doctrine of salvation in greater detail. I left the believers with about 21 hours of audio tapes on the subject of salvation. They have already started making duplicate copies to pass out.

We also formed an audio tape group in both Cameroon and Nigeria. We left them with some teachings on audio tapes. The C.B.C. (Cameroon Broadcasting Center) radio station aired some of the messages on national radio.

In the end, we left with a strong desire to return soon.

FAREWELL ADDRESS FROM CAMEROON

Prepared and Presented by Mr. I. Genesis

"On behalf of the sincere hungry believers for God's word on the occasion of saying goodbye to our faithful communicator of the Word of God (Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko).

Dear Sir / Sincere Listeners,

We are hereby very happy to say good-bye and at the same time not willing that you leave us. In our time of studying, we have been able to understand the doctrine pertaining to phase I (which is about salvation). We do gratefully appreciate you for your expensive time spent only on studying in order to be able to teach and show us brilliant and wonderful illustrations about salvation.

To continue sir, we do plead that while you are away, you should remember us as "seeds" planted and forget not the great desire for them to grow until harvest is reached.

Nevertheless, we do pray for your journey mercies.

Sincerely,

Your Bible doctrine recipients (Cameroon audio-group believers)

Jos, Nigeria - West Africa

I left Cameroon on February 9th, heading to Jos, Nigeria. I intend to set up a branch of our ministry in Jos to serve Africa.

Nigeria has suffered terribly. Her suffering can only be traced to what I call a "lack of spiritual light." False doctrine has gained ground. I believe that the country needs spiritual help more than it needs financial assistance. As believers who have sound Bible doctrine, we are in debt to provide them with the truth. They are truly starving for an accurate Bible teaching. You might not know what it is like to be starving spiritually since you are blessed to have men like Col. R. B. Thieme, Jr., (Berachah Church, Houston Texas), Dr. Chiayere Onwubiko (Berean Bible Church, Bayspring, Mississippi) Rev. Andy Todd (Alethia Bible Church, Albuquerque, NM), Rev Joe Griffin (Grace Outreach Church, Chesterfield, Mo), Rev. Dan Hill (Tulsa, OK) and a few others who teach the truth without compromise.

I gave a series of doctrinal presentations in Jos. The demand for doctrinal materials was high. The demand intensified after I spoke in two churches. To meet those demands, plans are now in progress to print some of the doctrinal literature in Jos. We also anticipate setting up an audio duplicating center in Jos to serve Nigeria and its surrounding nations.

An audio tape group has been formed in Jos to provide Bible doctrine via audio tapes to the believers who desire the truth. Before my departure, I left them with some basic doctrine on tapes (R. B. Thieme, Jr., 1961 Basics).

SUMMARY FROM JOS, NIGERIA

Prepared by E. D. Elekwa, Jos

"Planning of the program began after a phone call from Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko in January of 1998. The venue for the program, special invitation cards and slots on FM Radio station were already in place prior to his arrival.

On February 14th, at the Arch Bishop's Court Conference Hall, people hungry for the truth gathered to hear from the young Nigerian - American Evangelist. He exposed the Word of God in a way one of the attendees described as very simple, and has never been presented to him in that manner in over 43 years of his life. On the last day of the meeting some people asked if the meeting could be extended. They requested that more days should be added to the program.

Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko spoke in two different churches. One of his topics was, "Adoption." After explaining the difference between two Greek words, *apolutrosis* (seen in Rom. 8:23) and *exagorazo* (seen in Gal. 5:4), he went on to expound the topic as it affects every believer. The reaction of the congregation can only be described as awesome. In the end, the resident pastor led many who responded to the call of salvation describing the exposition as, "never and may never be heard, or presented that way again." A day later, the church board sent their treasurer with an unspecified sum of money for Rev. Onwubiko which was politely turned down. And on Feb. 26th, 1998, the reverend left Jos promising to return in about 4-5 months. He is welcome!"

D.E. Elekwa (Chapter President) Jos, Nigeria West Africa

"A RIGHT THING DONE IN A RIGHT WAY" OUR FUTURE PLAN

The United States of America is a nation elected by God's grace to serve Him. They are to serve as missionaries. Are they serving? In Africa? If so, Africa is not yet feeling the impact as I write.

Evangelizing the unbelievers with the simple grace gospel message is one part of our missionary assignment. The second part is to provide sound Bible doctrine (spiritual nutrients) for those who respond to the gospel. This is the manner in which they grow (1 Peter 2:2) in grace and in knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18) and thereby glorify God (1 Cor. 6:20).

I owe no apology to state that many evangelists and missionaries in Africa have missed the mark. Many of them go into Africa and charge people up emotionally. They shout at the crusades, "Give me a 'J', give me an 'E', give me an 'S', give me an 'S', that spells 'JESUS'!" Perhaps they should say, "Give me an 'E' for 'EMOTION'!" They say "Clap your hands! Shout 'Hallelujah' ten times!" Then they come back with pictures and news of their successful ministries. Ironically it is difficult to find a believer in those countries who understands even the most basic doctrine - salvation.

I personally think that the time has come for us who are serving the Lord to take a break. Let us sit down and reexamine how we are serving the Lord. Let us therefore pause and ask ourselves the following questions: "Is my ministry fruitful? In what ways? Is it opening and building new churches with people inside who are not fruitful because no one has taught them how to be? Am I competing with anyone? Is my major desire to glorify God (1 Cor. 6:20)? Or is it that people will glorify me? What can I do so that the true church, which is the body of Christ, may be edified?"

Concerning the edification of the body of our Lord Jesus Christ - the church, Paul writes: "...some to be evangelists, and some as [pastor-teachers] for the equipping of the saints [the believers] for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity...mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ...from whom the whole body, being fitted

and held together by that which every joint [every believer] supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love" (Eph. 4:11-16).

We formed two audio tape groups in Africa in January and February of this year. We want to follow up with them by visiting them on a regular basis and providing them with more extensive teachings on the basic doctrines. We want to visit these groups of believers in June and July of 1998. We intend to set up an audio tape duplication center at this time.

Then in December of 1998 we intend to have a crusade. We think that the crusade will be successful because the new converts would have a home, namely the audio tape groups, to go to for their spiritual nourishment.

From there on, we will continue to follow up with them until they can stand on their feet, and ". . .are no longer children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men (false teachers), by craftiness in deceitful scheming" (Eph. 4:14). This is our strategy: to cultivate the ground (i.e., form audio tape groups) and then sow seeds (i.e., have crusades). Would you join us in anyway the Lord might direct you?

Here is the Truth

Can a believer know whether he is truly saved? Or will he know for sure only when the rapture occurs? The truth is clearly presented by the apostle John. His answer to this question is crystal clear: "These things I have written to you who BELIEVE in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13).

If you have personally believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, there are no two ways about it—you possess eternal life today, tomorrow, the next tomorrow and into all of eternity. So rejoice in this biblical assurance if you have been in doubt about your salvation.

God Will Provide

Genesis 22.8

"God will Provide", is the attitude of Grace Evangelistic Ministries. We do not beg for money. We believe that if this ministry is honoring to God, that he will provide everything necessary for its continuation.

Dear Rev. Onwubiko,

My husband and I are long time tapers of Pastor R. B. Thieme, Jr. We have a Wednesday night Bible class and heard you speak on one of the videos. We were very impressed with your talk about the Grace Evangelistic Ministries. We are so grateful to God for your ministry. We have also enjoyed your books very much. We pray for your continued success in achieving all your spiritual goals for the ministry.

We are enclosing a check for \$1,700 this month for the duplicating machine that you need for the African tapers. We take it for granted here in the United States when it comes to having our needs filled quickly. We want so much to further the cause for Christ and help in getting the Gospel and the Word to all who want it. We have been greatly blessed by our Heavenly Father and wish to return the good He has done for us.

Thank you again for all you do for Christ's Church and for all those who desire His Gospel and His Word. We know the Lord will continue to bless your wonderful ministry. We will continue to keep you in our prayers.

Forever in His Matchless Grace, Lighthouse Point, FL

Monthly Financial Statement

I. Source of Funds	Feb/Mar	'98 YTD
Offerings and Contributions	\$10,182.00	\$15,566.00
Bequests	0.00	0.00
Tot	al \$10,182.00	\$15,566.00
II. Budgeted Expenditures		
Foreign Missions	\$4,700.00	\$4,950.00
Publications (Production)	6,300.00	8,200.00
Publications (Distribution)	1,000.00	1,309.00
Administration	6,800.00	9,200.00
Telephone	340.00	405.00
Tot	al \$19,140.00	\$24,064.00
III. Actual Expenditures		
Foreign Missions	\$434.00	\$1,234.00
Publications (Production)	4,096.00	4,275.00
Publications (Distribution)	986.00	1,351.00
Administration	6,060.00	6,958.00
Telephone	216.00	265.00
Other	0.00	200.00
Tot	al \$11,792.00	\$14,284.00
IV. Contributions Less Actual		
Expenses		
Contributions	\$10,182.00	\$15,566.00
Actual Expenditures	\$11,792.00	14,284.00
(Deficit) or Surpl	us (\$1,610.00)	\$1,282.00

BOOKS IN PROGRESS

- God's Plan After Salvation: What does God want us to do after we are saved? How can we avoid being unfruitful believers? All these questions and more will be clearly answered in this book.
- Paul and James Under Fire: Does justification come by grace and works or by grace alone? This question has baffled many theologians and Bible scholars. This book will attempt to shed light on the doctrine of justification which has been distorted for centuries.

Would You Join Us in Prayer?

As we pray...

- 1. For the provision of Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko's traveling expenses to Africa in June of 1998.
- 2. That God would provide us enough funding for an office and equipment for our ministry.
- 3. That God would continue to provide spiritual nourishment for the audio tape groups in Africa.
- 4. That God would continue to provide enough funds for the paid staff of Grace Evangelistic Ministries.

- 5. For our supporters that God will continue to meet their needs as they arise.
- 6. That God will continue to lead us in the right direction.

Financial Policy

Grace Evangelistic Ministries does not solicit funding. We believe that God in His grace will continue to meet our financial needs as they arise.

We do not charge for books or audio tapes. No money is requested. Anyone desiring to receive our books, tapes or other spiritual materials can receive them at absolutely no cost.

When gratitude for the Word of God and understanding of the need to reach the unsaved souls with the simple grace gospel and sound Bible teaching motivate you to contribute, you have the privilege of giving and sharing in the dissemination of the Word of God. This is a grace ministry.

Bible Doctrine for Thought

Some believers have been enthralled by what I call "personality powerful speakers." They may say, "But how can Dr. X be wrong?" or "We love Dr. X, he is a wonderful man. He smiles all the time." Dr. X has erroneously been judged by his charismatic personality. A message should not be judged by its presenter. It should be judged by its content. In the same manner, one should not judge the accuracy of Bible doctrine on the basis of who presents it. One should determine its accuracy by allowing the Holy Spirit to shine the light of truth in their soul.

The Good News

When our Lord Jesus Christ was on the cross, He had you on His mind. There was never a sin committed that was not poured out on Jesus Christ on the cross (1 Peter 2:24). He endured all afflictions so that He might pave a way for you to have life more abundantly through Him. Regardless of how sinful you have been in the past or are now, you can be forgiven and your slate wiped clean by God. How? By telling God right now that you are believing in His Son, Jesus Christ. The moment you put your entire trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, you will automatically become a regenerate person before God forever. The Bible says, "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31). "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31). Will you believe in Him today? Or will you reject Him? The decision is totally up to you.

A Note to Our Supporters

Grace Evangelistic Ministries will be printing our newsletter on a bi-monthly basis for now. If you wish to be on our mailing list to receive this bi-monthly newsletter or other materials that are of spiritual value, please write to the following address:

Grace Evangelistic Ministries
P. O. 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/

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