

# Grace News Today



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*“Faith Alone in Christ Alone”*

**G**reetings to you, our faithful associates. We thank our Heavenly Father for your support and your petitions before the throne of grace on our behalf. Your prayers for us have been graciously answered. Last year they resulted in Moses’ restoration to health which allowed missionary travel to Zimbabwe and Nigeria. From illness came blessing. *Joseph, a Pillar of Grace* was published and a new Modus Operandi for G.E.M. was written.

As we begin a new year, reflection on these events serves as a reminder that prayer is our life blood here at G.E.M. We rely on prayer to open doors, to guide us, to protect us. Each month our mission reports testify to answered prayer. Lately, we have received a barrage of verses and thoughts on prayer, and so we share them with you.

*We are commanded to pray:*

- Pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God (Philippians 4:6).

*George Muller of Bristol (1805 - 1898) had all his needs supplied by constant prayer. He began with sustenance for just his family which, over time, grew to include 2,000 orphans. All were supported by prayer alone for his needs were made known only to God.*

*We have promises about prayer:*

- The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much (James 5:16b).
- And (if) My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land (2 Chronicles 7:13-14). Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you (Matthew 7:7).

*God received praise because of answered prayer:*

- I love the Lord, because He hears My voice and my supplications. Because He has inclined His ear to me, Therefore I shall call upon Him as long as I live (Psalms 116: 1-2).

Bible scholars remind us that prayer is a partner of divine providence and that revival comes through persistent prayer. We have been admonished that we are about to lose our client nation status because we have forgotten the power of prayer or fail to understand it. We need prayer warriors who understand prayer and how to use it and DO use it.

*God is waiting to hear from us:*

- Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him (Matthew 6:8b).
- Before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear. (Isaiah 65:24).
- Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive (John 16:24a).
- You do not have because you do not ask (James 4:2b).
- Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16).

Prayer changes history. God placed events in the divine decree in answer to prayer. In eternity past, He knew all prayer petitions and His answers.

Jesus Christ our Lord, our role model, our Great High priest, prayed. He prayed for Himself and for us. Let us follow in His Example. Won't you join us in prayer?

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## WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

*Dear Grace Evangelistic Ministries,*

*I received your tract, "Riding the Death Train," and enjoyed it so very much. I rejoiced that a missionary was teaching and preaching the gospel of pure grace. I am 84 years old and would enjoy very much getting tracts and booklets from you. I write a lot of letters and would love sending them out.*

*I have congested heart failure and I look forward to my departure to see my blessed Lord face-to-face. O what a joy that would be. I live every day as unto the Lord and enjoy every minute of it, even sometimes in pain. I will put your ministry on my prayer list.*

**T**he Psalmist wrote these beautiful words, "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever" (Psalm 73:26). What a testimony to the legacy of Bible doctrine! What a testimony to God's undiminished grace to know that congested heart failure, and the shooting pain that one of our partners experienced for years, did not hamper her from serving the Lord from her sick bed—even at the age of 84! What a challenge to us all!

Today, the Lord in His infinite wisdom and abundant grace has seen fit to lift her up from her sick bed and promote her into glory—in place of no more pain, no more sorrow, no more weeping or crying—all unpleasant experiences have passed away! (Revelation 21:4). What a place to be—at the abode of God the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, and all the saints who have gone before us! What a solace to know that the time, the manner, and place of every believer's death is totally God's prerogative! At the point of death, He welcomes us home into His presence with inexpressible joy and so we read,

[How] Precious [how awesome, how priceless] in the sight of the Lord is the death of His [saints] (Psalm 116:15).

Death does us good because it serves as both a messenger of God and His chariot. As a messenger it delivers us from the quagmire of pain and misery; and as a chariot it transports us in the convoy of angels into the presence of the Bright Morning Star! (Luke 16:19-22). What an honor! That's not all, the Lord Himself stands up to welcome the departed loved one who has been transported into His presence! (Acts 7:55, 56).

Invariably, our mourning for the death of loved ones ought to be extremely brief, armed with the truth that God has rescued them from a flood of suffering at their doorposts!

The righteous perish, and no one ponders it in his heart; devout [believers] are taken away [from this life], and no [believer seems to understand God's decision] that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil. Those who walk uprightly enter into **peace**; they find rest as they lie in death (Isaiah 57:1, 2 NIV).

Here we have it on record! They find peace—true peace—no more sorrow—old things have passed away!

Therefore comfort one another with these words (1 Thessalonians 4:18).

We would like to share a few words with you from the daughter-in-law of our beloved sister, a missionary partner who is now face-to-face with our Savior:

*Bro. Moses,*

*My mother in law...went to be with her Lord Oct 14, 05. She was a supporter of yours. She loved you and the work you do... It was her request that instead of flowers being sent to the funeral, a donation be made to your ministry....*

**A**s you and I surf through the waves of suffering, we should never lose focus on why God has seen fit to leave us here on planet earth: to glorify Him in every aspect of our lives! And so, whatever the cause may be, always remember that God is the One who comforts you—the Lord bore all your sorrows!

Thanks be to our Father, we can anchor our souls on these infallible promises:

Do not fear, for **I am with you**; Do not anxiously look about you, for **I am your God**. I will strengthen you, **surely I will help you**. Surely I will uphold you with my righteous right hand (Isaiah 41:10).

When you pass through the waters, **I will be with you**; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you...For **I am the LORD your God** (Isaiah 43:2, 3a).

...Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken will He not make it good? (Num 23:19).

**...WEEPING MAY LAST FOR THE NIGHT, BUT A SHOUT OF JOY COMES IN THE MORNING** (Psalm 30:5).

And so my friend do not be discouraged; but keep on trusting the very God who never fails for He Himself has said, **“I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU”** (Heb 13:5b).

That’s a promise! That’s God’s Word!

**DOCTRINE OF GRACE**

*An Overview of God’s Word - Lesson 4*

**I**n Volume 41, we caught a glimpse of King David’s daily schedule and saw that his desire was to delight himself in the Lord.

Delight yourself in the Lord [through daily intake and obedience to His Word], and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He will do it (Psalm 37:4, 5).

If someone told us that all we need to do to find the greatest joy known to man is to do “this or that” each day, who in his right mind would not make “this or that” a top priority on his daily schedule? Yet, how many let day after day fly by without a thought for the Lord until they stub their toe or have a fender-bender on the highway or a check bounces? Just as King David acquired spiritual capacity through his daily rapport with God, the same can be true for us as well. David’s grace-orientation made him a target for abundant blessing and who doesn’t want that? The point we want to emphasize is that David’s hectic schedule never interfered with his daily communion with his Heavenly Father:

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (Luke 12:34).

*This prepares us for the next illustration.*

**THE GOD-MAN’S DAILY SCHEDULE-ILLUSTRATION # 2**

	5-7 am	7am-12pm	12pm-2pm	2-6pm	6pm-5am
<b>Wed-Fri</b>	<i>Temple</i>	<i>Temple</i>	<i>Temple</i>	<i>Temple</i>	<i>Temple/Rest</i>
<b>Sat</b>	Feeding on God’s Word	Sabbath Teaching/ Rest	<i>Temple</i>	<i>Temple</i>	<i>Temple</i>
<b>Sun-Tue</b>	Quiet time w/God	Preaching the good news	Quiet time w/God	<i>Temple</i>	Quiet time w/God

- And it came about that after three days they found Him in the temple sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them, and asking them questions.... And He said to them [His parents], “Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father’s house?” (Luke 2:46-49).
- And the Child [God-Man] continued to grow and become strong increasing in wisdom, and the grace of God was upon Him (Luke 2:40).

- But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD’” (Matthew 4:4).
- And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man (v. 52).

Let us turn our concentration to these four axioms at this point in our study and begin with Luke’s account:

*And it came about that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them, and asking them questions...*

That was our Lord’s first interaction with the public right before our eyes! In light of this event, I have often asked people three important questions. First, at what age did the Lord Jesus Christ have his first dealings with the public? Second, how old was He when He began His earthly ministry? And last, but not least, how many years was He in the ministry prior to His ultimate sacrifice on the cross? Interestingly enough, He was 12 years old when He had his first recorded encounter with the people (Luke 2:42); 30 years old when He entered into the ministry (3:23), and He served approximately three years! And here’s a thought-provoking question, what did He do prior to entering the ministry? My friend, the answer to this question is vital to this study and deserves our careful attention.

Let’s assume that He began reading when He was six years old. Mathematically, that left a gap of 24 years before He began His ministry! Pondering what He might have been doing all those years is intriguing and raises a question that makes us wonder: In most cultures, one is considered to be of age at 18 or thereabout, so why didn’t He enter the ministry when He was 18 years old? The answer to this question in one word is **PREPARATION**, and interestingly, it’s interwoven like a tapestry with the previous questions!

Simply put, God, the Omniscient One had to wait until His Son, in His human nature, became spiritually mature before He could use Him as the ‘Lamb that was slain.’ He waited for Him to be spiritually armed in order to win every satanic war against Him and thus be qualified to fulfill the very purpose of His incarnation which was to be a substitute for our sins.

We have often heard the saying that God uses prepared people; how pertinent this truth is in the spiritual arena. In light of this phenomenal principle, the apostle Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, penned these words,

Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. Therefore, if a man [prepares] himself...he will be a vessel of honor, sanctified, useful to the Master prepared for every good work (II Timothy 2:20, 21).

Our Lord, armed with the apprehension of the enormous task ahead of Him, gave Himself fully to preparation by studying God’s Word every day and applying it to every detail of His life...a life adorned with prayer. He was focused. His priorities were squared away. He never allowed anything to come between Him and His daily communion with His Heavenly Father.

The result...Awesome spiritual growth!

And the Child [God-Man] continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him (Luke 2:40).

He tirelessly learned to rely on God His Father. He was totally attuned to Heaven, as is obvious by His expressions:

I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me (John 5:30).

For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me (6:38).

There we have it—the backbone of the perfect structure of a God-centered life. How could someone have a mental attitude such as this and NOT be preoccupied with daily communion with God? They could not! No wonder God announced Christ’s entry into an earthly ministry to the world and to fallen and elect angels with these sobering words,

This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased (Mathew 3:17).

No question about it, His mental attitude was precious to His Heavenly Father! Indeed, this is the mental attitude we are to have:

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus (Philippians 2:5a).

What is this attitude? My friend, before we answer this question let me try to be as gracious as possible, yet blunt. You and I cannot be God-centered or successfully reflect Christ's thinking or live like Christ without transplanting His unique mental attitude into our souls. This raises the question, from where did the God-Man acquire His mental attitude? Well that's the subject of the third axiom we noted (above) in Christ's own words:

It's written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD' (Matthew 4:4).

Through the daily, spiritual transplantation of God's Word into His soul, Jesus quickly developed the perfect mental attitude as God's servant. This is verified by Paul in his letter to the Philippians.

*Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in the appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name (Phil 2:5-9).*

God's Word was more important to Him than food itself:

...My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me [including perception and application of His Word], and to accomplish His work (John 4:34).

His thirst for drinking from the fountain of truth explained why His parents found Him in the temple after searching for three days. Luke, likewise, reported the result of His daily intake of God's Word (the last axiom in our preface):

And Jesus [because of emersion in the pool of God's Word] kept increasing in [His development of a mental attitude of] wisdom and [in] stature, and in favor with God and men (Luke 2:52).

*Jesus Christ spent His entire life learning God's plan and purpose for His incarnation; and let's not forget, He is also the God-Man. As God, He is our Creator, the Omniscient One who does not need to learn anything, for He is the All-knowing God. But as a Man, the last Adam with flesh and blood (Hebrews 2:14), He had to learn everything from scratch, and He did. And with the aid of the blade of the Holy Spirit, He dissected every word of the Scripture, combed it line-by-line, precept upon precept, and studied it with great intensity.*

The result...Awesome! A prepared Vessel of Honor! His mental attitude? Unmatched! His lifestyle? Unequaled! A Man of grace and humility-orientation—full of love, mercy, and compassion! “*I can do nothing of My own initiative*” was His mental attitude! Jesus Christ utilized the same spiritual kit that we have today and advanced rapidly to maturity. He became a copycat of the Father, and Paul wanted us to do the same decades later.

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ [did]... (Eph 5:1, 2).

We glean from Scripture that God is a gracious God, compassionate, full of loving-kindness and mercy and this is equally true of the God-Man—the “Only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14b). And so my beloved friend, if we claim to be believers in union with Christ and our lives are devoid of these acclaims, we are believers with no spiritual substance—worthless in time and eternity. Furthermore, if we do not fit our Lord's profile, we need to hit the brakes hard and quickly examine our lives thoroughly and respond accordingly. In light of what our camp looks like today, we wonder who actually fits our Lord's profile! This brings us face-to-face with the apostle Paul's dynamic utterance,

*Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ (I Corinthians 11:1).*

**THE APOSTLE PAUL’S DAILY SCHEDULE—ILLUSTRATION # 3**

	<b>5-7am</b>	<b>7am-12pm</b>	<b>12pm-2pm</b>	<b>2-6pm</b>	<b>6pm-5am</b>
<b>Mon-Fri</b>	Prayer/ God’s Word	Fellowship/ Tent making	Teaching in Synagogues	Prayer/ God’s Word	Doctrinal Expo/ Rest
<b>Sat</b>	Prayer	Teaching/ Rest	Teaching in Synagogues	Prayer/ God’s Word	Bible Study
<b>Sun</b>	Prayer	Worship/ Doctrinal Expo	Quiet time w/God	Prayer/ God’s Word	Quiet time w/God

- But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ (Philippians 3:7, 8).
- That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death (v. 10).
- And for this purpose also I labor, [toiling day and night] according to His power, which mightily works within me (Colossians 1:29).
- [Therefore] Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (II Timothy 2:15 Ryrie Study Bible).

No question about it, Paul is by far the greatest apostle the world has ever known! This grace-made spiritual trophy did not enter the ministry as a tailor-made winner; he was a loser before he became a winner (See our book: *Paul: A Trophy of Grace*). But how did this man become the focal point of Christianity? How did he become great? Let’s forget about the idea of greatness and focus on God’s glory. So, how did he ever become the epitome of God’s glory?

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me **the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing (II Tim 4:7, 8).

What did Paul have that is out of our reach? To answer the question precisely, the apostle didn’t have any advantage over us! He had a grace kit to work with just as we do!

[Praise] be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ (Eph 1:3).

His success gracefully emerged from his mental attitude and a strong will to copycat our Lord Jesus Christ—

*Be imitators of me, just as I also am [a copycat] of Christ (I Corinthians 11:1).*

The Lord was a Man of God’s Word, so was the apostle Paul. He was a Man of prayer, so was the apostle. The Lord was a Man of grace orientation, humility, compassion, mercy, and the Banner of God’s love, and Paul was within range of His acclaims. But how did Paul ever reach such a spiritual pinnacle?

He did so by:

- ✓ Focusing on the Lord.
- ✓ Imitating the Lord in all respects.
- ✓ By making intake and application of God’s Word his ultimate priority.
- ✓ By fighting distractions in all its ugliness.
- ✓ Above all, by relying solely on God’s Word and on the might of His Spirit.
- ✓ And by making Christ’s lifestyle of prayer his own.

**BLANK DAILY SCHEDULE**

	5-7am	7am-12pm	12pm-2pm	2-6pm	6pm-5am
Mo-Fri					
Sat					
Sun					

We have already said much about the greatest apostle in our aforementioned book. Nonetheless, to say the least, Paul's priorities were on time/on target. Like the Biblical heroes of old, he understood the purpose of his existence: the glorification of God. Paul concentrated with powerful intensity on imitating the Lord—never allowed anything to come between him and his daily fellowship with God. Through a rigorous lifestyle of studying the Word of God and prayer, he came to know His God, waxed strong spiritually; and as a result, God maximized the use of his spiritually acquired potential for His own glory. *Vive la difference*—that's an expression in French—see the difference! Therein is the secret to the success of the greatest apostle ever! The good news is that we have the same spiritual kit that made him a grace winner-believer! He was a man of right priorities! The question then is, what's our priority? In light of this, the BIG question is, where does God fit into our daily schedule? Let's buckle-up for we are ready to embark on the heart of this study, namely tracing our roots back to the beauty of Christianity; and so it would be to our advantage to participate in the following exercise. First let's take a blank sheet of paper and complete a rough, weekly schedule. If you don't have a piece of paper, then use the imaginary tablet of your mind for this exercise.

The second thing is to evaluate the completed schedule in the light of these three timeless principles which will help us know whether we are Christ-like in our spiritual lives or not.

- **Invariably, true fellowship with God is impossible apart from the knowledge of His Word.**
- **Our Love and respect for God are measured by our self-discipline to study and apply His Word on a daily basis.**
- **At the point where God's Word ranks on our daily scale of values is where God ranks in our lives. It's that simple!**

Now for the sake of illustration, let's take a tour to the courtroom of heaven and pretend to be a prodigal son (PS) in order to participate in a dialogue with the God of the universe.

**GOD:** Have you personally trusted in My Son Jesus Christ resulting in the imputation of My righteousness and eternal life?

**PRODIGAL SON:** Yes, [God]; I have believed that [Jesus is] the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world (John 11:27).

**GOD:** What's your position on My commandment through My servant Peter which states, "Grow in grace and knowledge of [your] Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:18a)? Are you growing in grace? Where do I factor into your daily schedule?

**PS:** God...emm...my workload...emm...my tight schedule is keeping me from Bible class...I only have time to listen to tapes on Sundays. You are on my schedule on Sundays! Yes on Sundays!!

**GOD:** What's your interpretation of what My Son said in Matthew chapter 6:33: "But seek **first** His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you"? Which part don't you understand or believe?

**PS:** I...I...well...my bills...my job... overtime... I believe it, but... When things get better...I will make it a priority to seek Your kingdom first.

**GOD:** When do you think things will improve for you?

**PS:** Hopefully this year. I...I...I am claiming this year by faith. This year should be a year of progress for me, for I am planning on working more overtime.

**GOD:** Things will not and cannot improve until you take My Word at face value and act accordingly. No one can reverse My Word and be successful. Your rationalism that when things get better is rationalism from the heart of hell! It's satanic at best!

**PS:** God, please tell me, how come no matter how hard I work, I never seem to have enough?

**GOD:** Because you have not paid heed to My Word. Now take out your Bible and let's have a nose-to-nose, eyeball-to-eyeball, Father-to-son Bible class. Turn to Hagai chapter one and read verses two through seven, and then skip to verse nine.

**PS:** "Thus says the LORD of Hosts, 'This people says, The time has not come, *even* the time for the house of the LORD to be rebuilt.' Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying, 'Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses while this house *lies* desolate?' Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Consider your ways! You have sown much, but harvest little; *you* eat, but *there is not enough* to be satisfied; *you* drink, but *there is not enough* to become drunk; *you* put on clothing, but no one is warm *enough*; and he who earns, **earns wages to put into a purse with holes.**' *You* look for much, but behold, *it comes* to little; **when you bring it home, and I blow it away.** Why? declares the LORD of hosts, 'Because of My house which *lies* desolate, while each of you runs to his own house.'"

**GOD:** What you just read was My Word to the house of Jacob (around 520 BC) because of their failure to rebuild my temple. They had wrong priorities. Their agenda was more important to them than My agenda, and so I responded in kind—with divine discipline. Invariably, no matter how hard they worked, no matter how much they planted or invested I made sure that they had little or no return from their labor. You see, My ignorant and stubborn children often think that they can outsmart Me. They erroneously think that their security is measured on how hard they work or accumulate, and so they substitute what I have told them, such as 'not forsaking the assembling of the brethren,' with their own planning. On the contrary, I AM THE SECURITY. That goes for you too. When you ignore My plan, sooner or later you will meet My justice head-on!

**PS:** God, I am confused. How can You put a hole in my purse, or blow my paycheck away even when I bank with World Class Mega Bank?

**GOD:** Very easily. As God the Omniscient, I know where it hurts and how to hit the target! Here are some ways I can deplete your life savings:

1. I can permit an illness to keep you out of work until all your savings is used up.
2. Or I can permit a wind to cause damage to your house which is not insured.
3. Another way is to permit you to be laid off from work causing you to have to rely on others for financial help because your savings is a dim memory.

These are just a few ways I can hit the target to get your attention, so that you may know that I am God. The truth of the matter is that the road to misery awaits anyone who does not take in nor apply My Word seriously. I have spoken! Read your Bible and you shall be convinced. On the other hand:

*How blessed is the man who does not walk [commune] in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of the sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the [Word] of the Lord, and in His [doctrine] he meditates day and night. And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers (Ps 1:1-3).*

**FINAL THOUGHTS:** God, in His infinite grace, has '*Blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ*' (Ephesians 1:3b), and He expects us to use them effectively for His glory.

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. [Locking] our eyes on Jesus, the [One who orchestrated and tested the spiritual life for us], who for the [exceedingly] joy set before Him endured the cross [through the application of doctrine], despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God (Heb 12:1, 2).

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling [losing your salvation], and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen (Jude 1:24-25).

**PRODIGAL SON:** Father, I have failed indeed! What are my recourses now?

**GOD:** Turn to Isaiah chapter 55. Where I affirmed true restoration to fellowship – your only recourse!

*Let the [carnal believer] forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon (Is 55:7).*

## **WHEN IS CONFESSION OF OUR SINS A MOCKERY TO GOD?**

Does 1 John 1:9 (“If we confess our sins, He [God] is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”) always work no matter what?

*To be continued in Newsletter # 43 Lesson 5.*

## **MISSIONARY REPORTS**

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

#### **SUCCESSFUL OUTREACH TO BAMENDA**

*KUMBA -- CAMEROON*

PASTOR CHAH JOSEPH REPORTS

Greetings from Kumba where the Lord is blessing us even though the devil keeps boxing the air. Late 2005 I traveled to Bamenda in the N.W. Province of Cameroon to hold a seminar on “Faith alone in Christ Alone.” Pastors and church leaders and Bible students were excited to know the truth and wanted to know more. The books by Rev. Moses Onwubiko were distributed.

Bible correspondence lessons will be introduced through pastors and Grace Bible Clubs which will be organized in secondary and high schools. We took a single room

office in town where the lessons will be given out. I was asked to come back as soon as possible for a second seminar. Pray that this will lead to the opening of a grace congregation in Bamenda and that we will be able to keep our one room office.

Greetings and appreciation to all those who prayed for this wonderful trip. Any success in this field now and in the future is the result of their prayers offered in faith at the throne of His grace.

#### **BURUNDI REACHES OUT TO D.R. CONGO**

*BURUNDI AND GREAT LAKES REGION -- EAST AFRICA*

PASTOR PHILIPPE SELEMANI REPORTS

The Lord is showing His grace to us here in Burundi. The pastor we sent to Democratic Republic of Congo/Bukavu reported about the work God has done there. They have over 400 members and seven churches and ask me to visit them soon. God is in control. He will enable us to reach the unreachable people which are bound by traditions to make them free through the messages of Grace. Pray that I may be able to go there soon to see how they are doing.

## PERMISSION TO OPEN NEW CHURCH

*KUMBA -- CAMEROON*  
PASTOR NKEM IKEMBA REPORTS

The church I'm serving has given me permission to open a church under its umbrella. The name of the church will be Berachah Grace Church after R.B.Thieme's Berachah Church. Please, I request prayers from G.E.M. prayer partners to help us move to our new station.

## NIGERIA MISSION TRIP REPORT

*JOS & AMABA, NIGERIA -- WEST AFRICA*  
JEFF HICKS REPORTS  
(G.E.M. team member from Jackson, Mississippi)

*Those who search for me will find me (Truth) Prov. 8:17b.*

The 2005 Pastors Conference in Jos, Nigeria was a great success despite the efforts of Satan to thwart the plans of GEM to spread the good news and challenge pastors to teach undiluted truth.—**from misspelled names on plane tickets, missed flights, undelivered luggage, and passports lost by DHL, to totally booked bus lines, police checkpoint delays, containers held up by custom's agents and even slight illness - nothing stopped the plan of God for GEM** once again to visit the country of Nigeria after a two-year absence.

Pastors attended the Jos Pastors conference from near and far. Some traveled from as far away as Kenya and two young Pastors, Obed and Alex, converted Muslims, made the three-day bus trip from Ghana. Transport money earned from weeding a large palm field was only sufficient for bus fare one way, but they came trusting God for the details. They said they couldn't stay home after being exposed to this teaching. They "had to chase the grace!" These are two of many stories we heard.

They Holy Spirit taught through Moses day after day challenging the pastors and communicating undiluted truth. The morning topic was the Dynamics of Love and Marriage. The evening session covered several subjects: Mechanism for Living the Spiritual Life - Suffering - Road to Recovery from a Spiritual Quagmire - Humility - Revival is a Change of Mental Attitude - National Blessing Comes Through Believers, Not Politicians--plus Q & A and talking individually to pastors.

Each day, you could see the gleam in the eyes of the pastors get brighter as the truth pierced their souls and enlightened them. Gratefulness and appreciation was shown un-harnessed to Moses and all the GEM team. It was also great to see grace in action as the younger generation was planted with seeds of truth to carry with them.

I really enjoyed seeing how effectively the Holy Spirit worked through Debby as she delivered the Essence of God teachings to the children combined with a clear gospel message. They were so well behaved and attentive to the teachings. It was an evident success.

To see their joy and the hunger for more from those pastors and villagers exposed to truth for the first time and to know the opportunities these people now share for living the Christian life was my most awesome experience in Nigeria. I kept telling myself, "I'm so glad to be here in Nigeria, and I thank God to have the opportunity to witness what He and He alone is doing." I treasure the experience daily and hope to travel with the team again.

## UGANDA CAMP MEETINGS REAP REWARDS

*KENYA -- EAST AFRICA*  
REV NABOTH OTUKHO REPORTS

Greetings from us all. I have just returned from Uganda where a youth camp brought together a record 230 young men and women from three East African countries. Much impact was carried forward from the truths taught last year. Fifteen groups discussed the doctrinal topics with group leaders drawn from last year's best students. They demonstrated a

command of the doctrines discussed and gave very accurate and moving lessons on topics such as Eternal Security of a Believer, Salvation, a Non-meritorious Gift of God by Faith Alone in Christ alone, Rebound etc.

This year, I gave three main lectures revisiting Salvation and going further into the Faith Rest Drill and Spiritual Warfare. I gave out many manuals containing notes and free books to their leaders, promising more at this coming year's camp if God provides. My faith is that much seed is being cast on fertile ground through this annual camp meeting with results that could immensely influence the tide truth takes in this region. Many thanks for your prayer support in seeing this achieved.

## LAND FOR CHURCH IN ZIMBABWE

*VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE -- SOUTHERN AFRICA*  
PASTOR JOHN GUMBO REPORTS

Greetings to you. Hoping that you are all doing well by His grace. Here in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe we witnessed full payment for Grace Missions land. All believers are very excited about this. We look forward to building a church. May God be Honored and praised. Your prayers for this are essential, don't forget!

## G.E.M. ASIA

### INDIA LOOKS FORWARD TO CRUSADES

*TENALI -- INDIA*  
PASTOR SYAM KUMAR REPORTS

Loving greetings to you in the precious name of the Lord and savior Jesus Christ. We, your family in India, keep praying for you and desire to see you soon. We remember the whole GEM ministry in prayer and thank God for what He is going to do in India. God is the center in our ministry, and we believe He will establish His Kingdom through your missionary work.

I feel that it is God who has led us to you; the books and tapes you have sent us have such wonderful information. As we get ready for your visit, please pray that the Holy Spirit may guide us in making decisions; that God may stand in the center in all of our activities. We are praying and know that God is the answer for everything.

### NOW WE KNOW REV. MOSES IN PAKISTAN!

*LAHORE -- PAKISTAN*  
PASTOR AZAM ANTHONY REPORTS

*Pastor Azam is indeed a living testimony in obedience to "Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding." Prov. 23:23 This report came late 2005 when we were going to cancel the trip due to lack of funds. Though they are now preparing for us to come, you will still enjoy this testimony of positive volition.*

Greetings in the name of Jesus to you. I am sorry to know that you are unable to come to Pakistan due to lack of funds. Please allow me to say something and I hope you will not mind. If your people can just buy round trip tickets, we will bear your hotel and crusade expenses. I mean, I will bear the expenses even if I have to sell something. I wish to spread the word of God at any cost.

Please accept my invitation. I respect Rev. Moses a lot, and I am very, very impressed with him. I want to arrange a big crusade for him. Last time, when he was first here, we did not have any idea what kind of preacher he is. But now we know him, and that's why we want to arrange a big crusade for him.

## **G.E.M. EUROPE**

### **MORE OPEN DOORS IN THE UK**

*LONDON, ENGLAND*

REV. ELIJAH DENNIS EJILA REPORTS

Greetings to all the GEM family. Last year I was given approval by a group of 250 Evangelical Pastors to minister in their churches. This year, we are looking forward to having Rev. Moses here in the UK. A Pastor in Spain has also expressed interest for a seminar and gospel crusade this summer.

Thanks to our faithful prayer supporters for all their prayers; we look forward to more prayer support for the new year. We ask for open doors and positive volition for the communication of the gospel in Europe this year.

## **G.E.M. NORTH AMERICA**

### **G.E.M. SPRING CONFERENCE PLANNED**

*NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE – USA*

MOSES ONWUBIKO REPORTS

#### **THE DYNAMIC POWER OF LOVE IN MARRIAGE**

**APRIL 28, 29, AND 30 (FRI, SAT, AND SUN)**

The Marriage Conference is open to everyone, married and unmarried. For details please contact our Office at 615-365-0015 or [Gracemissions@bellsouth.net](mailto:Gracemissions@bellsouth.net).

## **LETTERS TO G.E.M.**

Calvary greetings and compliments of the season. I thank God for what He has been using you to do both in the U.S. and here in Nigeria. I became acquainted with you and your work through one of our students who attended the seminar you held at Port Harcourt some time ago. I was highly impressed by the teaching and the book he received from you. May God bless you.

I am a degree student in seminary and hope to graduate in November 2006. I pray that God will use you to bless me with books and other related materials that could be of help to me in the ministry. May the Almighty God continue to use you for His exploits.

Remain Blessed,

S.Owubualiri

Theological Seminary - Mbaise, Nigeria

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Greetings...in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I recently accepted Jesus Christ, as my personal Savior. After having an opportunity to read your newsletter "Grace News Today" as well as the book "God's Plan After Salvation," I decided to write your ministry in hopes of receiving a free subscription to your newsletter, as well as books and other spiritual materials to help me with my desire to grow stronger in the Lord!

I am currently incarcerated in the Florida Department of Corrections, therefore, I am unable to provide any form of donation to help with the cost of printing; however, I am spiritually hungry and would appreciate any assistance that you can render toward my spiritual walk. I am also in great need of your prayers.

Yours in Christ

Raiford, Florida

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Greetings to you in the wondrous and beautiful name of Jesus our Lord and soon returning King. We just finished reading your books, for which we thank you. We are convinced that the one who has started a good work in you will perfect and finish it in Christ Jesus. We would be very glad to receive more documents from you. 25 Copies of Focus on Christian Marriage and 5 copies of all others.

May Christ dwell in your heart by faith,  
Ghana

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Dear G.E.M.

I'm writing to request two of your publications:

1. God's Plan After Salvation
2. Paul: A Trophy of God's Grace

I would also like to thank Moses and all the G.E.M. "team." As a lifelong student of the word under Col. Thieme's marvelous grace ministry (and now R. Thieme, III), I am so thankful for accurate Bible teaching. I'm very grateful to G.E.M. for your incredible grace ministry - I pray for Moses and all of you at G.E.M. daily. Thank you for all of your hard work and thanks to our Lord and Savior for continuing His perfect grace provision,

In His Matchless Grace,  
Naperville, IL

## MISSIONS TRIPS

Please pray with us as we look forward to and prepare for pastors' conferences, crusades and youth evangelism as the Lord provides open doors with locations and resources.

% FUNDED	PROPOSED TRIPS FOR 2006
100%	February - India Pakistan
100%	May - London
0%	August - Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Australia
0%	November - Nigeria

## SPIRITUAL HUNGER IN AFRICA & ASIA

There is a tremendous hunger in Africa and Asia, 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 material 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!

Have used *Bible Doctrine Lessons* to donate???  
Partner directly with a pastor in Africa to build his library.  
For details e-mail: [debbv@debbvhagar.com](mailto:debbv@debbvhagar.com)

**PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER**

**THANKSGIVING:**

- For many open doors around the world.
- For the strides made in Moses' recovery.
- For the knowledge that Jesus Christ controls history.

**PETITION TO OUR FATHER:**

- President Bush (for wisdom and guidance).
- Israel's protection and the U.S. Military.
- The U.S. (For a great revival, peace, and freedom from terrorism).
- The restoration of Moses' health.
- Protection of tape ministries, G.E.M. personnel, and foreign translations.
- Doctrinal pastors and their tape ministries.
- Health of Col. and Mrs. R.B. Thieme, Jr.
- The spiritual growth of new believers.
- Indigenous pastors (that God will totally equip them)
- Open doors in the year 2006.
- Divine provision and sustenance for missionaries desiring full time work in the field.
- Energy, wisdom, and discernment for G.E.M.'s God-assembled team.
- That God will use the Tsunami disaster to glorify Himself. That victims will seek God and subsequently hear the grace gospel and be saved.

**SCRIPTURES CITED:** Verses in this work are from the New American Standard Bible (NASB). Used by permission. Words and phrases in brackets are not part of the text.



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