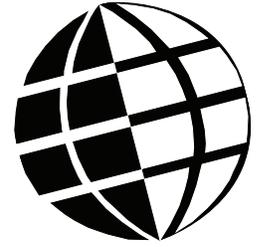


GRACE NEWS TODAY

An Outreach of Grace Evangelistic Ministries, Inc.

P.O. Box 111999 • Nashville, TN 37222-1999 • (615) 373-2988



“Faith Alone in Christ Alone”

Greetings to you, beloved one of God! What a joy to know that our Heavenly Father, in His infinite wisdom and grace, has called you to be a part of G.E.M.’s God-assembled team. A team that is passionately dedicated to the fulfillment of the “Great Commission” of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations [without discrimination], teaching them to observe all that I commanded you [namely, the whole realm of Biblical truth]” (Matthew 28:19a-20a)!

What an honor and a privilege that the God of the universe considers us worthy to be collaborators

with Him in reaching out to those who are totally lost in every sense of the word. What’s more, we rejoice greatly that you are equally passionate about taking the message of hope to the destitute worldwide!

You have shown your passion on many fronts in

both words and deeds! We are totally indebted to you for your faithful devotion to the cause of the Gospel. We want you to know that your relentless prayer barrage to His throne room of grace has not gone unanswered. Consider that Jesus, the God-Man Himself, paved the way. When He was in deep agony at Gethsemane Jesus asked His disciples to join Him in prayer (Matthew 26:36-40). It’s no wonder Paul, the greatest Apostle of the human race, fervently solicited the prayer of the saints.

Prayer goes further than we can ever fathom (James 5:17). With great joy and gratitude we report the highlights of one incident of answered prayer

from this past year. One of our prayer requests is always for guidance. You prayed and The Omniscient One answered and guided us as we made our itinerary for the year 2008. For the first time in nearly a decade, we decided not to hold our annual conference in Jos. The irony is that we have always held a conference in Jos whenever we are in Nigeria because Jos is the location of G.E.M.’s headquarters in Africa. But last year we decided to hold our international conference in Lagos and not to visit Jos at all. We had no idea of the future ramifications of that decision. But God knew and that’s all that mattered!

Besides the change of location, we also moved the date of our conference from its normal November date, to the second week of December. On the surface we were accommodating the schedule of our beloved associate, Pastor Bruce Bumgardner. He was teaching at the College of Biblical Studies in Houston through November, and we wanted him to accompany us on our mission trip. Unbeknownst to us the real reason why we had all these changes was that the all-knowing God was keeping us out of the political/religious riots which engulfed Jos during the exact dates, and the exact location, we usually hold our conference!

The Islamic extremists in Jos used a political mishap and turned it into a religious nightmare riot-

continued on page 2

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WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

(in the world of financial crisis)

ing against Christians and churches in late November. Many lives were lost and churches burned as those of you who followed the news know. We still grieve for our brethren. But, the Lord graced us out by causing us to change our itinerary way before it happened! You can see why we make the claim that this ministry is the Lord's establishment in its entirety. You see one tiny picture of how God directs us. See how He shields us from harm. See how He guides us in our missionary work. Therein is a glimpse of God's Providence. What a God! And for this reason we make no apology in giving Him ALL the praise. To Him ALONE be the glory!

As we enter into 2009, we do so with great confidence armed with the knowledge that the Omniscient, Sovereign God is our Guide. We have confidence that He who began a good work in our lives and ministry will bring it to fruition.

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

In times like these, we ask that you remain steadfast with us in prayer.

May the grace of our Lord be with you!
Your fellow team-members,

G. E. M. Headquarters



Moses C. Onwubiko—G.E.M. Team

G.E.M. is pleased to be a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA).



Let's face it. Biologically everyone has what I call a “God-built-in-response center:” the God given adrenaline that enables us to respond quickly to changing circumstances around us. Undeniably, it's human nature to reach for the panic button when we are hit by the storms of life. Our adrenaline spikes! That's normal. But, God forbids us from switching from that which is normal to a mode of worry.

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).

My beloved, “Be anxious for nothing” is a God-given mandate in times like these designed to extinguish the flame of fear in our lives. We admit that in English the command “Be anxious for nothing” does not really convey to us the supremacy of this mandate as Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost points out. Literally, God is telling us “**DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING!**” There we have the impact of His mandate to us italicized, highlighted and capitalized with an exclamation mark.

Worry is a terrible sin. It's on the same par with other sins. When we worry we are saying in essence, “God, we don't really have enough confidence in You. We are not so sure about You and your promises. We are not so sure that Jesus Christ is the Lord of history.”

My dearly beloved, such thought is tantamount to a soup bowl of steaming blasphemy right from Satan's kitchen — a bowl to which we should say an outright “NO thanks!” and send it directly back to the kitchen.

“**DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING!**” is the direct mandate to us which Satan wants us to ignore. He wants us to worry ourselves to the point that the resultant knot in our stomach is so tight that food can't even

pass through. We just have to know our adversary and his hidden agenda. You ask, "Moses, who is he?" He is Satan, a thief!

"The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I [Jesus] came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly" (John 10:10).

The thief comes in to steal your joy, your peace and leave you so dried up that sooner or later you begin subscribing to his lie and believing that this life is not worth living.

But look on the bright side and hear the gentle words from our Savior's lips: "*I came that you might have life, and might have it abundantly!*" Therein is His purpose defined. Therein is hope! Abundant life! God's will is for you to have abundant life 24/7 all year round. That's why He says to you: "**DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING!**" You ask, "Lord, why shouldn't I worry when all my investments are gone? Why shouldn't I worry when the future looks so bleak for me?" He responds:

"Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?" (Matthew 6:26).

Are you not? Of course you are worth more than sparrows! You are His "purchased one" both now and forever. The price tag for your purchase is immeasurable. It cost God the life of His Dearly Beloved Son.

"For this reason I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, as to what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, as to what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing [in other words, where there's life, there's hope]? Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matthew 6:25, 34).

"Do not fear, for I am with you [do you really believe that?]; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you [do you believe that too?], surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand. When you pass through the waters [of economic woes, etc], I will be with you; and through the rivers [of great depression], they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire [of austerity measures], you will not be scorched, nor will the flame [of the evil one] burn you. For I am the LORD your God" (Isaiah 41:10; 43:2-3a).

There we have His promises on record!

So my beloved, in times like these, you are to do two things.

First, you are to:

"Cast your burden upon the Lord [roll off the burden of anxieties of the uncertainty of today and tomorrow onto His shoulders], and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken" (Psalm 55:22).

Second, you are to confidently place your trust in Him.

For He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5c).

He will see you through, no matter what. His faithfulness has no measure. His promises are trustworthy. Rest on these words of encouragement!

Hear the words from our Savior's lips, "*I came that you might have life, and might have it abundantly!*"

I myself, for instance, am not especially gifted, and am shy by nature, but my gracious and merciful God and Father inclined Himself to me, and when I was weak in faith He strengthened me while I was still young. He taught me in my helplessness to rest on Him, and to pray even about little things in which another might have felt able to help himself." - **James Hudson Taylor**

DOCTRINE OF GRACE

KING DAVID, A SYMPHONY OF GOD'S GRACE

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(Continued from Volume 50)

In the last installment of our study, it was obvious to us that success in the spiritual life and Satan's counterattack are virtually inseparable. In other words, when you embrace a spiritual success, you should be on the lookout for the enemy's assault. Satan hates spiritual success! We also saw how King Saul, once Israel's admired king, became a monster due to his spiritual relapse. Because of his spiritual maladjustment, he became totally irrational in his behavior and, as a confused believer, attempted murder. That's right! On several occasions, Saul tried to murder David. But God, in His immeasurable faithfulness, over and over, delivered David who later sang this hymn of praise.

Blessed [praise] be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, the God who is our salvation. Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivers him out of them all. The wicked plots against the righteous, and gnashes at him with his teeth. The Lord laughs at him [the wicked]; for He sees his day [of reckoning] is coming. God is to us a God of deliverances; and to God the Lord belong escapes from death. (Psalm 68:19; 34:19; 37:12-13; 68:20).

David realized that all his escapes from the deadly spears of King Saul were not related to any training David had. Rather, it was God who on each occasion orchestrated his deliverance. Similarly, whether we live or die, the decision is totally in God's hand. He holds the key of life and death (Revelation 1:17-18). But Saul erroneously thought he could destroy David at will. How wrong he was!

To put it in another way, Saul was a nightmare to every one around him including David, the shepherd boy. Here we vividly see the fate of a believer who took his spiritual life for granted. Any believer who ignores his spiritual life and rejects Truth opens his soul to Satan's lie. King Saul's experience should serve as a warning bell to us (1 Chronicles 10:13-14). We know that Saul was a believer who was once empowered by the Holy Spirit as revealed in Scripture.

Then it happened when he [Saul] turned his back to leave Samuel, God changed his heart; and all those signs came about on that day. When they came to the hill there, behold, a group of prophets met him; and the **Spirit of God** came upon him mightily, so that he prophesied among them (1 Samuel 10:9-10).

But guess what? That spiritual experience was short lived because of his reckless spiritual life which caused him to lose the power source, namely, the Holy Spirit. Consequently, terrorization by an evil spirit became his portion (1 Samuel 16:14). We ask where does the evil spirit come from? Scripture tells us:

Now it came about on the next day that an evil spirit from God came mightily upon Saul, and he raved in the midst of the house, while David was playing the harp with his hand, as usual; and a spear was in Saul's hand (1 Samuel 18:10).

At this juncture, it is of paramount importance to pause for a moment and discuss the issue of Saul's experience with the evil spirit. The debate among believers today is not really whether King Saul was a believer, (because he was, 1 Samuel 10:10), but rather the issue is whether a believer can be demon possessed or indwelt by an evil spirit. We are now ready to consider one of the issues of Scripture greatly debated by scholars.

Saul's Demonic Influence

Let there be no misunderstanding, a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ cannot and will not be demon possessed. Demon influenced, yes! Demon possessed, no! Some have often used the passage above to justify their stance that a believer can be demon possessed.

What's disturbing today is believers' involvement in so-called "**deliverance services.**" A believer casting

Let there be no misunderstanding, a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ cannot and will not be demon possessed.

continued on page 5

out demons from fellow believers is a direct violation of what the Bible teaches and this practice reveals that those involved are either ignoring the Word of God or are demonstrating their ignorance of what the Bible teaches on this subject. Some believers are totally blind to the fact that mental disorders are truly disease. We are not talking about depression, which is rarely medical and most often self-induced. But rather we are talking about a bona-fide mental illness. You ask, “Moses, how did you arrive at the conclusion that mental illness is a disease?”

A careful examination of Scripture shows that God classified madness (or mental illness) as a disease. In Deuteronomy 28, God speaking to Israel through Moses clearly showed the road to blessing and cursing. He promised to make them a progeny of blessing if they followed the road to blessing by obeying His mandates (28:1-15). Likewise, God promised to make their lives miserable should they turn their back on His commandments and follow the road to cursing. He will punish them (if they become disobedient) by bringing on them “*all the diseases of Egypt*” (28:60) which included madness or mental illness (28:27-28). These awful diseases were known to them since they had just been delivered from the bondage of slavery in Egypt. In other words, when the Lord mentioned the word “madness” the Jews recognized it as one of the diseases they were familiar with in Egypt.

We should mention that not all mental illnesses are due to genetic mutation in the brain. Just as a healthy person can bring on the disease of diabetes by eating improperly, so a healthy person can reject Bible Truth, which results in thinking Satan’s lie, and thereby work themselves into mental illness. In rare cases, mental illness is induced by demon possession. Medical psychiatrists refer to mental illness as chemical imbalance. The simple truth is that mental illness is a disease according to Scripture.

A believer with mental illness could manifest a symptom such as hallucination, but we should be careful not to conclude that such a person is demon possessed! This is where some believers have drifted off course, conducting deliverance services for fellow believers. We do not argue that some mental illnesses have been miraculously healed by God, as have other diseases like diabetes or cancer. However, these believers were healed from a mental disease, not delivered from demon possession. Though we do not have

time to deal with this subject in detail, we want to emphasize that *a believer cannot be demon possessed*. We can never overstate it!

What’s even more heartbreaking is the attitude many believers have toward those who suffer mental illness. We often treat them without any sympathy. Most treat those affected as outcasts, assuming they might have done something to ruin their life. But I wonder how our Lord would treat them were He physically present today. For one thing, He would be compassionate to them just as He would to someone dying of a chronic disease such as cancer. He would treat them with love! So should we, if we claim to be His followers.

Let us keep in mind that the indwelling of the

Godhead in the body of believers is a privilege for Church Age believers. Indwelling was totally foreign to the Old Testament saints and Saul was no exception. Rather in that era God, through His Holy Spirit, *empowered* a few believers who were instrumental in carrying out His unique assignments. He empowered people like Bezalel (Exodus 31:1-7), Othniel (Judges 3:9, 10) Gideon (Judges 6:34), Samson (14:19), Saul (1 Samuel 10:10), and David (1 Samuel 16:13) just

to name a few. God used these people in a mighty way to accomplish extraordinary tasks. The Holy Spirit’s presence in their lives was to provide power to do the Lord’s work fearlessly, boldly and with exactness.

In scrutinizing Scripture, we noticed that the phrase “*the Spirit came upon*” was used in almost every case where a believer had this unique experience of empowerment. The phrase literally means “rushed upon”.¹ It was never indwelling; for God never indwelt anyone before the Church Age. This “rushing of the Holy Spirit experience” upon a selected few was temporary, and could be lost due to sinful behavior. Saul was a perfect example. He lost this influential power when he turned his back on God’s Word (1 Samuel 16:14). This was equally true of Samson (Judges 16:19-20). That’s why when King David was involved in a chain of sin (pride, adultery and murder), he cried out to God for mercy.

The simple truth is that mental illness is a disease according to Scripture.

Do not cast me away from Thy presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me (Psalm 51:11).

This is a prayer we cannot correctly pray in the Church Age since we cannot lose the indwelling of the Holy Spirit!² We can only lose the filling or control of the Holy Spirit by sin (which breaks fellowship with God).

Back to the real question — was Saul demon possessed? The answer is NO! Hypothetically, he could have been demon possessed, because his body was never a temple of the Holy Spirit as believers are today. Nevertheless, on the basis of Scriptural insight we can rule out the possibility that Saul was demon possessed. You ask, “What Scriptural insight?”

The phrase “*came upon*” used in association with Saul’s experience with the Holy Spirit was the same phrase used with his demonic experience. With the good experience, the Holy Spirit *came upon* him (1 Samuel 10:10); and with the tormenting experience, an evil spirit from God

came mightily upon Saul (1 Samuel 18:10). In other words, whether the experience was of the Holy Spirit or of the evil spirit, it was said to be “rushed upon” not indwelt. In like manner, both influential powers accomplished different purposes. The empowerment of the Holy

The empowerment
of the
Holy Spirit
guided Saul’s
thinking to do
the work of God.

Spirit guided Saul’s thinking to do the work of God, but the influence of an evil spirit caused him to be both paranoid and irrational. Additionally, the demon tormented Saul as a source of divine punishment.

Who was the source of Saul’s experiences? Amazingly, God was responsible. Both influential powers came from God! We ask, “Is God the origin of evil?” The answer is NO! NO! But He sure knows how to use fallen angels, which are evil spirits, to accomplish His purpose. This is where Sovereignty comes in! Everything that is created under the sun is God’s servant (Psalm 119:91; 103:20). He is ever poised to use any means including disasters to accomplish His purpose (Amos 3:6).³ For instance, God used an evil spirit to intensify the negative volition of King Ahab. This we know from 2 Chronicles:

Micaiah said, “Therefore, hear the word of the Lord. I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing on His right and on His left. The Lord said, ‘Who will entice Ahab king of Israel to go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?’ And one said this while another said that. Then a [an evil] spirit came forward and stood before the Lord and said, ‘I will entice him.’ And the Lord said to him, ‘How?’ He said, ‘I will go and be a deceiving spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.’ Then He said, ‘You are to entice him and prevail also. Go and do so.’ Now therefore, behold, the Lord has put [authorized] a deceiving spirit in the mouth of these your prophets; for the Lord has proclaimed disaster against you” (2 Chronicles 18:18-22; cf. Job 1:6-8).

Let us now turn our attention from Saul to the Church Age believer. Scripture shows why a Church Age believer cannot be demon possessed. There’s no single case in the entire New Testament to suggest that a believer could be demon possessed. On the contrary, the Apostle Paul asks,

Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols [demons]? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, “I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people” (2 Corinthians 6:16).

God never shares a temple with a demon. To say that a believer in the Church Age indwelt by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16) can be demon possessed is to say that Satan can be God’s roommate. The Holy Spirit underscored this phenomenal Truth — and so penned these words through the Apostle John.

You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He [the Lord] who is in you [Who indwells you] than he [the devil or demon] who is in the world [outside the believer’s body] (1 John 4:4).

The above passage emphasizes the separation which exists between the Godhead and demons. The Godhead indwells a believer (1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Colossians 1:27), but the demon is on the outside! That’s the teaching of the infallible Word

MISSIONARY REPORTS

West Africa Mission Trip November 29 - December 15, 2008

Lome: Capital City of Togo

Pastor Ben Bonni, Host

Moses and team held a pastors conference for three days on our first visit to Lome, Togo. We finally got to lay eyes on long time associate Ben Bonni. We were met with an enthusiastic and well organized group of French speaking pastors. We were able to video the entire conference and leave DVD's with Pastor Ben. We also left him with the first year of a DVD seminary provided by G.E.M. board member Claude Broussard through the ministry he has established to provide training for third world pastors free of charge.

We also had a group of pastors attend from Benin. Moses' cousin, Onyinye Onwubiko, who lives in the country of Benin, (sandwiched between Nigeria and Togo) caught the full impact of the grace message at last years pastors conference held in Jos, Nigeria. Onyinye has worked tirelessly since then to take this Truth back to all the pastors he knows in Benin. Finally he said, "please just come and see for yourself, give Moses a hearing." So six pastors came from Benin to hear this Good News. During the conference they came to understand the grace message of salvation by faith alone as well as eternal security. They even asked if an additional class could be added so they could have more teaching. We were glad to accommodate this wonderful display of interest in the Word of God. We look forward to a trip to Benin where they are anxious to organize a pastors conference, children's program and a crusade.

Lagos, Nigeria

Pastor Patrick Oba, Host

Moses Onwubiko and Pastor Bruce Bumgardner of Pine Valley Bible Church, Houston, Texas team taught pastors for five days in Lagos. They were joined by Ron Kellam of Spokane Washington. By divine design our program was held in Lagos instead of our usually scheduled Jos venue. This kept us safe from the riots that shut Jos down for days. As it was, Darlington Elekwa, Executive Director of G.E.M. Jos, was barely able to get out of Jos to join us in Lagos. Had our venue not changed, not only would we have been in danger, our conference would have been totally disrupted! God continues to guide us in matters small and large! We give him all the glory.

of God. That's not all. We deduce from our Lord's teaching that the only way a demon can reoccupy an unbeliever who was delivered from demonism is if the individual refuses to trust the Savior for his complete deliverance in Christ.

"Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man [an unbeliever], it passes through waterless places, seeking rest, and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came'; and when it comes, it finds it unoccupied [no Holy Spirit], [rather he finds it] swept, and put in order [by human effort]. Then it goes, and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. That is the way it will also be with this evil generation" (Matthew 12:43-45).

There we have it on record. A demon cannot enter a sanctuary that's occupied by the Godhead. We have also settled the issue in our passage concerning Saul's experience with demonism. He was never demon possessed. Rather he was demon influenced.

We are now ready to continue with David's rugged road to royalty and shall continue that discussion in volume 52. Until next time, my beloved, meditate on the words of the shepherd boy, David:

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread? When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, my adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell. Though a host [army] encamp against me, my heart will not fear; though war arise against me, in spite of this I shall be confident. One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to meditate in His temple. For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; in the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock! (Psalm 27:1-5).

To Be Continued in Volume 52

¹ NAS Bible (note on Judges 14:19)

² Look for our upcoming book *The Dynamic Power of the Holy Spirit*

³ Moses C. Onwubiko, *Disaster: God's Warning Bell!*

For five days Moses and Bruce taught salvation by faith alone and eternal security. This was to a large but skeptical audience who held to salvation by works and thought “eternal security” was a heresy. The love of Christ exhibited as respect for the pastors, coupled with gentle point by point teaching to reveal the truths of Scripture, won the audience. They listened attentively and considered; many understood, yet all were willing to invite us back again. They were encouraged to be like the Bereans and search the Scriptures for themselves. Bible classes were formed, DVD seminars were started, and hundreds of books and Bibles were distributed.

Lagos is key to our outreach to Africa. Lagos, a city of 14 million, affects Nigeria, and Nigeria affects the entire continent of Africa. As one of our participants just wrote us, “Continue to pray for us. We will be reaching out to people that more doors will be open because Lagos is a big city, and the headquarters of ‘religion’ in Africa. If there is a change here it will affect the rest of Africa.” Additionally our point man in Lagos, Dr. Patrick, has worked in every country of Africa. He is anxious to work with G.E.M. to win Africa for the Lord.

Report from Nairobi, Kenya

Pastor Maurice Mwale Reports

We have made some considerable progress towards attaining the allocation of a piece of land for the relocation of our church. There will be an almost final meeting with the whole Management Board on 24 January 2009. The process must be completed by the end of March 2009. Ironically, our current Landlord and his wife came to fellowship with us on Sunday, 04 January 2009. After the services they informed me that they had acquired a loan and would like to begin development of the land we are now using by the beginning of April 2009 (at which time we must vacate). As usual we rest in God’s arms for He has always been our refuge and fortress, more so in such times as these, times of intense angelic conflict.

Two church members and I set off from Nairobi to minister in Awenda, a small lakeside town in western Kenya bordering Tanzania. Suddenly, after just three hours travel on our night bus, there was a loud

bang and billowing fire engulfed our bus. Deafening screams came from the many distressed and confused passengers seeking to escape. Our bus had been in an accident and two people lost their lives. After four hours in the cold waiting for a replacement bus, we travelled safely arriving four hours late but unscathed.

Almost immediately we were led to the church to start ministering to the 500 people in attendance. Initially I had been told that it was a church leaders’ conference but later learned it was an all believers’ conference. We also had about three pastors and fifty believers invited from the neighboring town of Mwanza in Tanzania. I started teaching the need for the church to depend on the authority and power of the Word of God as opposed to religion and man’s traditional practices; the need to study the Word of God and rely on the numerous faithful promises found in the Bible. If the Glory of God is to return to the Church, then they should avoid useless gimmicks and orchestrations which affect most of our present day churches. Little did I know that I was stepping on the toes of my host who had founded his church on prayer, fasting, deliverance, casting out or binding the devil, and speaking in tongues as a demonstration of spirituality.

As soon as I finished, my host rushed to the pulpit and started preaching against everything I had taught. This was a fatal spiritual accident worse than the road accident we had earlier experienced. My team and I prepared to travel back to Nairobi. We prayed together and thanked God for allowing us that brief opportunity to speak the Truth. Just as I was about to go to bed, a letter was brought to me in secret begging me not to be cowed away by forces of wickedness and instead to ask God for the boldness to continue teaching the Truth. The guests from Tanzania sent word that I was the only voice of God in that conference and therefore if we were to leave, then they would also leave. I decided to stay as an observer and we prayed that the supreme will of God be done.

The host pastor then decided to allow me to continue ministering as long as I did not attack his way of worship. I told him that I only teach from the Bible. We eventually agreed, prayed together and I was on again. For the next five days, I fearlessly spoke the Truth and the lives of many people were transformed, among them was a pastor and his wife and some pastors from Mwanza in Tanzania. I now have an April invitation to hold a conference in Tanzania.

Thank you for your support,
Pastor Maurice Mwale

Suddenly . . .
there was a
loud bang and
billowing fire
engulfed
our bus.

Jos, Nigeria

Rev. Darlington Elekwa Reports

It has been almost a year since G.E.M.'s office relocated to #13 Cemetery Street about three minutes walk from the former location where we had been for 8 years. Our new office is more spacious. It has three office rooms, a large room that holds at least 30 seats for Bible Study and DVD Seminary programs. It has a mini-storage and a rest room. It is situated on the first floor of a two-story building at the heart of Jos metropolis. It has electricity but lacks water, which we have to buy each week to keep the office as clean as we possibly can.

The distribution of books, tapes, CD's and pew Bibles is running very smoothly. But our records show that in the past year, demand for G.E.M. publications and pew Bibles is much higher than for recorded doctrinal audio tapes. We were constantly in short supply of G.E.M. publications and the pew Bibles. There is also preference shown for CD's and MP3's, etc. Our distribution list continues to expand and now includes Chad and Niger Republics.

The DVD seminary at our Jos Centre is one of the great things that happened to us in the past year 2008. The DVD Seminary has already blessed many pastors. We hope that the New Year will usher in more opportunities for application of the lessons learned from the program. Many more students have indicated interest in applying for the DVD Seminary in the coming year 2009. Please pray for the wisdom to manage the time and human resources that God is preparing in a special way.

Proposed Mission Trips 2009

DATE	PLACE
March	India/Pakistan/Dubai*/Nepal*/Abu Dhabi*
June	Honduras*/Mexico*
July	Zambia/Zimbabwe
August	Oslo, Norway*/Amsterdam*
November	Liberia*, Mauritania*

Please pray with us as we plan for 2009. In addition to the trips planned, we also have requests from new areas: Thailand, U.K. (Bristol), and opportunities for many other countries in Asia, including Indonesia, Malaysia, and China. Please pray for wisdom, discernment, guidance, and provision as we plan and travel.

*Indicates new area

WORDS OF WISDOM

“The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried.”

— G.K. Chesterton, Author (1874-1936)
from *What's Wrong with the World*, 1910



“Our faith teaches that there is no safer reliance than upon the God of our fathers...who will not forsake us so long as we obey His commandments and walk humbly in His footsteps.”

— William McKinley, 1843-1901,
25th President of the U.S.
from his Inaugural Address 1897

If you are reading this newsletter and you are without hope, without Christ, without eternal life, you can believe in Him for salvation now. The Bible tells us simply:

“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31).

Will you trust Him now?

Financial Policy There is no charge for any material from Grace Evangelistic Ministries. Anyone who desires accurate Bible teaching, can receive our books without obligation whatsoever. God provides Bible Truth. We wish to reflect His grace.

IRS Disclosure Grace Evangelistic Ministries is a non-profit, tax-exempt, missionary organization. And under the Internal Revenue code 501-C (3), all contributions to this ministry qualify for tax deductions.

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LETTERS TO G.E.M.

Dear Brethren:

A friend gave me one of your materials to read. How valuable these are! They were very encouraging to both me and my wife in the situation of tribulation that we are experiencing now.

The book taught us something, and encouraged us greatly. Grace Evangelistic Ministries is a ministry that is of great importance to the body of Christ. What is taught in the book is meat and is very necessary for the nourishment of His body.

Thank you for not shunning the Truth and the facts of the reality of living for Christ. It is time that we who want to walk with Him will be required to carry His/our cross as well. It would be much appreciated if you would kindly forward some spiritual food to me, i.e., books, Bible, etc.

May the Lord refresh you as you refresh others.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Lagos, Nigeria

To whom it may concern:

I have just completed your remarkable book *Joseph A Pillar of Grace*. Mr. Moses C. Onwubiko did an excellent job of recounting the story of Joseph. I am a prisoner at the state prison. I do my best to read as many spiritual material books as I can from authors like James Gill and Joyce Meyers.

But when I came across *Joseph a Pillar of Grace*, I was excited about Mr. Onwubiko's insight of Joseph's sufferings. I have passed this book along to another brother in Christ in the hopes he will be blessed as I have been since my reading of this book.

My desire is to read more of your books so can you send *Paul: A Trophy of Grace* and any others I may read and pass along?

May God truly bless G.E.M., keep up the excellent work of God.

Prisoner Georgia, USA

Dear beloved in the Lord:

It is was a great pleasure for me to come in contact with one of your books, *Focus on Christian Marriage*, given to me by a close friend while I was preparing for my marriage. I and my wife read it and we re-examined ourselves again and adjusted certain areas before our wedding. I will say thanks be to God who inspired this work.

I am the national secretary of the Light of Life missions in Cameroon. We have 18 branches and I would like to distribute all your books to each of the branch libraries. Also I would like to receive your newsletter. While I look forward to receiving them, I will say thank you very much in advance. May the God we humbly serve richly bless you.

Yours in the vineyard of the Lord,
Cameroon

Dear GEM,

This testimony is like a fairy story and only the brother who was directly involved can tell the story in greater detail. It has to do with the G.E.M. publication, *Riding The Death Train* (RTDT), which I now call small but mighty! A friend of G.E.M. collected loads of booklets and left some on the front desk of an Institutions Library. The boss saw the booklets and became furious threatening to punish who ever kept Christian literature in their Institution — but he took one copy! He could not resist reading the little booklet, and soon invited the “culprit” to his office.

When the brother who kept RTDT in their Library arrived, he got a commendation from the boss instead of punishment! Secondly, the boss told him to ask for any thing under the sun that he would like him (the boss) to do for the brother. This dear brother told his boss that his salary barely lasts for two weeks and that sometimes he had to abandon his car half way to the office when he runs out of petrol. In addition sometimes he may have to fast compulsorily, not because he would not want to eat, but because he has no food. Even so, this brother states that he is very happy and completely satisfied and content, however the boss does not seem to be happy!

The dear brother requested for only one thing, that his boss surrender to Christ!! If that is the only thing the boss would do for him, he would be happy, not requesting promotion or wealth or riches. The boss said our brother asked a pretty difficult request. He sent our brother away. But before the brother arrived home, his boss invited him back and requested to be told more about Christ.

To cut a long story short, the boss became a believer in Christ, reunited with his family after 13 years; his son also became a believer and now they are all one big happy family. *Riding The Death Train* is small but mighty. The boss and his son were delivered from deadly occultism practices.

Jos, Nigeria

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER

THANKSGIVING:

- For many open doors around the world.
- For the knowledge that Jesus Christ controls history.
- For the hunger for *Riding The Death Train* in Asia.

PETITIONS TO OUR FATHER:

- President Obama (for wisdom and guidance).
- Protection of Israel and the U.S. military.
- The U.S. (for a great revival, peace and freedom from terrorism).
- Protection of G.E.M. personnel and pointment.
- 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 and travel logistics for 2009 and 2010.
- 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.
- Protection and deliverance for those persecuted for their faith.
- Foreign translations, accuracy and supply.
- Provision for thousands of *Riding The Death Train* to fill requests in Asia and Africa.
- Land in Abuja, Nigeria, for G.E.M. Headquarters.
- Peace in Pakistan, Kenya, D.R. Congo and Zimbabwe.

G.E.M. OVERVIEW SUMMARY

(Entire Overview is available at:
www.GraceEvangelisticMinistries.org)

Grace Evangelistic Ministries is incorporated in the State of Tennessee as a nonprofit organization. We are a Christian, non-denominational, missionary oriented ministry, dedicated to evangelism and sound Bible teaching. Our main focus is evangelism; all other activities support our main goal. Our mission, in obedience to the command of Our Lord

and Savior Jesus Christ, is to: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" (Matt. 28:19). We embrace the following :

OBJECTIVE #1 - EVANGELISM

Evangelize unbelievers, adults and children, with the simple, grace Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

OBJECTIVE #2 - NEW CONVERT FOLLOW-UP

Follow-up with those who choose to believe in Christ.

OBJECTIVE #3 - PREPARATION OF INDIGENOUS PASTORS

Because those who have responded to the Gospel will become unfruitful if they are not exposed to sound Bible teaching, we will:

- a) Hold pastors conferences in conjunction with every crusade.
- b) Introduce pastors and prospective pastors to doctrinally sound resources.
- c) Provide opportunities for churches to send missionaries.

OBJECTIVE #4 - SATELLITE CENTERS

We will establish foreign satellite centers for duplication of recorded Bible lessons and reproduction and distribution of doctrinal literature as funds become available.

OBJECTIVE #5 - PUBLICATIONS

- a) Prepare periodic newsletters, which include Bible exposition, and missionary reports.
- b) Convert the missionary teachings of Moses C. Onwubiko into books.
- c) Reprint overseas when possible to save costs.

OBJECTIVE #6 - ASSIST THE NEEDY

Caring for the needy or the poor is a timeless, Biblical principle and it is incorporated directly or indirectly in God's mandates. In light of this, our mission will embrace providing spiritual food for all and sustenance for the needy as the Lord provides and directs.

OBJECTIVE #7 - THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN AFRICA

Plan to establish a doctrinal theological seminary in Africa.

CONTACT G.E.M.

To be on our mailing list and receive a bi-monthly issue of Grace News Today without obligation, please contact:

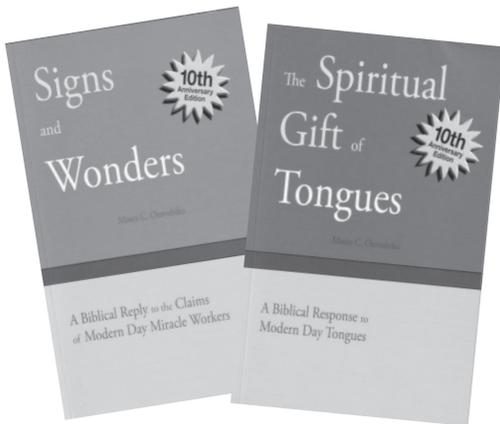
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Or call us at: **1-615-373-2988**

Join our e-mail café and receive updates and prayer requests, e-mail us at:
GraceNewsToday@aol.com

Visit us on the web: **www.GraceEvangelisticMinistries.org**

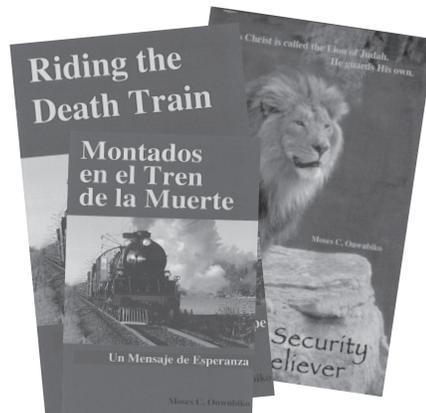
New publications: *The Spiritual gift of Tongues*, with its companion book *Signs and Wonders*, provide a clear and concise refutation to the myths of tongues and miracles as signs of spirituality.



Pocket Sized Publications!

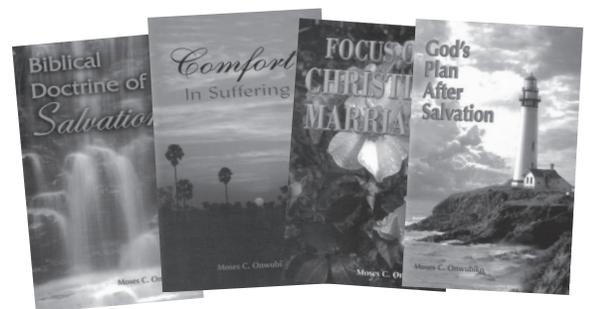
Riding the Death Train is a clear presentation of the Gospel message (available in Spanish).

We also have *Eternal Security of the Believer*.



G.E.M.'s series dealing with the Biblical concept of God's Grace begins with *Overview of God's Grace*, then expands with forays into the lives of two Heroes of the Faith: *Joseph, a Pillar of God's Grace*, and *Paul, a Trophy of God's Grace*.

G.E.M. Publications are always FREE!



God's Plan After Salvation, *Focus on Christian Marriage*, *Biblical Doctrine of Salvation*, and *Comfort in Suffering*: Time tested works designed to help every Christian man and woman live an effective spiritual life.