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Faith alone in Christ alone

Greetings to you from all of us here at Grace Evangelistic Ministries. We thank God for His wonderful plan which He drafted in eternity past. A plan that was tailor-made to include us — the undeserving ones. Obviously there was nothing that would attract God to us when we were in our former state of total depravity and spiritual death. The apostle Paul, who truly understood grace, looked back to this former state when he said, "Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior" (Colossians 1:21). This is the truth of the infallible Word of God. Paul also emphatically wrote, "There is no one who understands, no one seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one" (Romans 3:10-12). Ironically, you and I swim in the same pool of arrogance when we believe that God loves us because of who and what we are. And we dry ourselves off with a towel of blindness towards the Word of God when we think that we can do anything that will impress God. The only One who has ever impressed God is His unique Son, Jesus Christ. Only through Christ Jesus and Him alone can we therefore please God. The apostle Paul puts it this way: "But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death [substitutional spiritual death on the cross ([see Volume 2](#))] to present you holy in His [God's] sight, without blemish and free from accusation" (Colossians 1:22). The Psalmist replies, "God loves righteousness..." (Psalms 33:5). This means that God directs His love wherever He sees perfect righteousness. The question then is, do we have this perfect righteousness within ourselves? The Bible provides the only sufficient answer to this question: "All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags [menstrual cloths]" (Isaiah 64:6). The Hebrew language equates human righteousness with "menstrual cloths." This means that our human efforts cannot earn the personal love of God. We are the object of His love because we were given the righteousness of God at the point of our "faith alone in Christ alone" ([Galatians 3:26](#); [Romans 3:22](#)). We have been given a righteousness that will never change and cannot be improved upon by anyone.

It is no wonder that despite Paul's great achievements he still whispered, "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not without effect. No I worked harder than all of them [the other apostles] — yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me" (I Corinthians 15:10). May I pause to challenge you as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ: Can you truly echo these words of Paul when you

describe your own life? Have you ever spent time pondering and meditating upon the unfathomable grace of our great God? You may wish to pause for a moment and think deeply about His wonderful plan for eternity which began because of grace. As we meditate, this I do know: You and I cannot thank God enough for His attitude of grace towards us. Consequently our souls should be filled with gratitude as we realize we are forever indebted to Him.

In His matchless grace,
Moses C. Onwubiko

You shall know the
truth, and the truth
shall set you free.
JOHN 8:32

A Review of the Essence of God

1. **Righteousness** ([Rev. 3:7](#); [I Sam. 2:2](#); [Lev. 19:2b](#)). God is righteous. Breaking a promise does not reflect One who is righteous. He can never compromise His perfect righteousness just because you have failed Him ([II Tim. 2:13](#)).
2. **Justice**: As a just God, He is fair. In fact, it is impossible for God not to be fair ([Deut. 32:4](#); [Job 37:23](#)).
3. **Love**: ([I John 4:8](#)). Because God is immutable and eternal, His love is fixed. It is unchanging and enduring ([Jer. 31:3](#)). That means that His love does not swing like a pendulum—He does not have mood swings—happy, sad, happy, sad. You and I do not have what it takes to cause His love to swing! Your failure and mine are two drops in an empty bucket.
4. **God is eternal life** ([Exodus 3:14](#); [Ps. 90:2](#); [Deut. 32:40](#)).
5. **Omniscience** (all-knowing): God knows everything that there is to know ([I Sam. 2:3](#); [Job 37:16](#)). God knew everything about you even before He offered you salvation. He knew that you had sin nature. He knew that you would make mistakes in the darkness and appear to be holy in the light before others.
6. **Omnipresence**: God is everywhere ([Jer. 23:24](#); [John 14:23](#)). No one can hide from His presence.
7. **God is immutable**: He is perfect and He maintains an absolute stability ([Isaiah 40:28](#)). He cannot change ([Mal. 3:6](#); [Heb. 1:12](#); [Ps. 102:26](#)). This means that God is obligated not to change His mind ([Rom. 11:29](#))—including changing His mind about the gift of eternal life which He gave you in grace ([Eph. 2:8,9](#); [Titus 3:5a](#)).
8. **Sovereignty**: This means that God has the supreme, ultimate will. What He says is final. The theologians of this universe, and the host of both fallen and elect angels combined are not capable of causing God's will to change.
9. **Omnipotence**: Satan is powerful, but God is all-powerful ([Ps. 147:5](#)). God is not only all-powerful, but mighty to save ([Neh. 1:10](#); [Heb. 7:25](#)). He has the power to keep those who have trusted Christ ([I Peter 1:5](#)). This means that nothing can snatch them away from His love ([Rom. 8:33-38](#)) or out of Christ's hand ([John 10:28](#)). All these essences reflect the integrity of the

everlasting God. If He said that He has given you eternal life when you believed in Christ alone, count on Him, for He cannot change ([Mal.3:6](#); [Rom.11:29](#)).

Doctrine of Salvation

(continued from [Volume 5](#))

We live in a dangerous time of great apostasy. The amount of heresy is unbelievable. Many believers are not interested in learning and applying Bible doctrine on a consistent basis. Rather "...wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth" (II Timothy 4:3b, 4). The doctrine of salvation is one that, if well-taught and understood by the believer, will serve as a solid foundation on which all other Bible doctrine will build. This is because all Bible doctrine is directly or indirectly connected to salvation. Therefore, when one fails to master this doctrine of salvation, it becomes almost impossible to understand other Bible doctrine.

Having said this, in the next couple of months we will focus on the doctrine of salvation in a manner that it will open our spiritual eyes, "to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ" (Ephesians 3:18b) for the entire human race.

In [Volume 5](#) we discussed the sealing ministry of God the Holy Spirit. This doctrine has been misunderstood and has caused confusion about the eternal security of the believer in Christ Jesus. We intend to elaborate on this topic by using the following premises found in Scripture to further clarify this doctrine.

PREMISE #1: BELIEVERS SEALED (MARKED) FOR PROTECTION

"And out of the smoke came forth locusts upon the earth; and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And they were told that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads" (Revelation 9:3-4). The seal (mark) of God is on the foreheads of the tribulational believers for protection.

PREMISE #2: BELIEVERS ARE SEALED UNTIL THE DAY OF THEIR REDEMPTION

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by Whom you were sealed for the day of redemption" (Ephesians 4:30). Here the believers are guaranteed that they will remain SEALED until the very day of their redemption.

PREMISE #3: REVELATION DOCUMENT SEALED

"And those [believers] who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of Heaven, and those [believers] who lead the many to righteousness [by witnessing], [will shine] like the stars forever and ever. But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase" (Daniel 12:3-4). God's revelation to Daniel was sealed until the end of time.

PREMISE #4: SATAN'S PUNISHMENT SEALED

"And I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the keys of the Abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of...Satan and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the Abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him...until the one thousand years were completed..." (Revelations 20:1-3). The seal (mark) guarantees that Satan will be locked up for one thousand years.

PREMISE #5: DANIEL'S PUNISHMENT SEALED

"Then the king gave orders and Daniel was brought in and cast into the lions' den...And a stone was brought and laid over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it [the lions' den] with the signet rings of his nobles so that NOTHING MIGHT BE CHANGED IN REGARD TO DANIEL" (Daniel 6:16-17).

The lions' den was sealed so that Daniel's punishment would be final. This was done in accordance with the law passed by the king which was irrevocable ([reference Volume 5](#)).

PREMISE #6: SALVATION OF THE BELIEVERS SEALED

"In Him [Jesus Christ], 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" (Ephesians 1:13). The believers are sealed (marked) with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit as God's guarantee for their salvation.

PREMISE #7: SEAL ON BELIEVERS GUARANTEED

"Now He who established us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed [marked] us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge" (II Corinthians 1:21,22).

The following symbols: "seal" (mark), "pledge," "down payment" and "guarantee" are words that God used in Scripture to further demonstrate the eternal security of the believer. These words are the metaphors for the role of God the Holy Spirit in securing the believer's salvation. God is the One who initiated the salvation process and He promised that He would finish what He started. By this He is referring to the final gathering of believers unto Himself either through physical death ([II Corinthians 5:8b](#)) or through the rapture ([Romans 8:23](#)).

As we mentioned in [Volume 5](#), the concept of the seal is an ancient one. It is important to take into account the context in which the Bible was written so that it can be accurately interpreted. God the Holy Spirit sovereignly directed the human writers of Scripture to introduce this ancient word "seal" in the Bible. He did this for a purpose. He knew that in the future believers would debate certain doctrinal matters. An example of this is the doctrine of eternal security of the believers. He knew that using the concept of the seal in history would shed light on its spiritual significance when it is used in reference to eternal security.

Today many experts of the Bible undoubtedly understand the implications surrounding the use of the word "seal" in ancient times. What troubles me is that while the people of ancient times considered the concept of the seal to be sacred, today some believers downplay its spiritual significance when used in reference to eternal security. I know that Satan is behind this because he is the father of heresy (false teaching) and confusion. In ancient times, whenever a "seal" was applied to any transaction or document, it could never be broken or withdrawn. It served as a guarantee that the deal was irrevocable. This is seen in the case of Daniel in the lions' den ([Daniel 6:16-17](#)).

Let us briefly go back and review Premises #4, 6 and 7 to arrive at our conclusion. In Premise #4, if you believe that Satan will be chained and sealed for the entire one thousand years, there would be no biblical reason for you to reject Premises #6 and 7. The connection is the Greek word *spragizo* (which means to stamp with a private mark for security or preservation), which is used in [Revelation 20:3](#) (Premise #4). It is the same Greek word used in [Ephesians 1:13](#) (Premise #6) and [II Corinthians 1:22](#) (Premise #7). It is also the Hebrew language equivalent used in [Daniel 6:17](#). To see this evidence and yet argue about the eternal security of the believer would make no sense. Therefore believers have biblical support to conclude that because they are sealed by the Holy Spirit, they are permanently secured until the day of final redemption ([Romans 8:23](#); [Ephesians 1:13-14](#)). This means that their inheritance and their position as God's children, which includes eternal life in Heaven, can never be taken away. This eternal security extends to all who have been purchased by the substitutional death of Jesus Christ on the cross ([I Peter 1:18,19](#)). These people were purchased, "out of the slave market of sin by God Himself" (Galatians 4:5) when they put their faith alone in Christ alone. They have been purchased and the transaction was closed with God's "seal," which is the Holy Spirit.

Now, since believers have eternal security, does it mean that they have a license to live as they please? May it never be! Any believer who thinks and lives in this manner is putting himself under the divine

discipline of the "Supreme Court of Heaven" ([Hebrews 12:5-11](#)). This concludes the teaching on the sealing ministry of God the Holy Spirit (which was continued from [Volume 5](#)) and brings us to our next topic in our outline (see [Volume 2](#) for outline), "Salvation as an Act of God's Grace."

SALVATION AS AN ACT OF GOD'S GRACE

As we mentioned in [Volume 5](#), grace is one of the most difficult subjects to understand. There are times when we think we have a good grasp on the meaning of grace but the way we argue over doctrines such as eternal security shows that we are far from understanding it. A good understanding of grace is necessary in order to understand God and His ways.

Beginning with creation of the angels, including Lucifer (Satan), and mankind and continuing throughout the fall of mankind and God's provision of salvation, God's grace has been the main theme.

The important question to ask is, "How is salvation an act of God's grace?" To answer this question we need to start in the Garden of Eden where Adam and Eve were created. God gave them instructions to follow, just as any responsible, loving parent would do. However, one day Adam and Eve, using their volition (choice), decided to disobey God. This decision resulted in spiritual death for both of them. As a result of their act of disobedience, the entire human race was condemned. The apostle Paul made this clear when he asserted, "As in Adam all [human race] die" (I Corinthians 15:22a). David, the Psalmist, echoed, "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me" (Psalms 51:5). Let us discuss David's words.

First of all, what did David actually mean when he said he was conceived in sin? Secondly, how is it that a newborn baby is considered a sinner when he has not actually committed any sin yet? Let us go back to the Garden of Eden where the first act of disobedience was committed. Keep in mind that Adam and Eve were not together when the first act of sin occurred. The Serpent (who was Satan) approached Eve and engaged her in a lengthy conversation. The result was that Eve was deceived and lured into eating the forbidden fruit. Whether it was a mango or an apple is not important. What matters is that Eve disobeyed God. Then, after Eve had tasted the fruit, she enticed her husband, Adam, who was still without sin, with a ripe, juicy sample of the fruit. Picture Adam, relaxing in the serene, picturesque Garden of Eden, when all of a sudden here comes his wife holding the fruit. Adam clearly had a choice: take the luscious fruit from his loving wife and enjoy it with her, or reject her offer. His choice? Against God. Husbands, have you ever done something that your wife "sweet-talked" you into doing? Relax. You are not alone. You are not the first, nor will you be the last. The same thing goes for wives, too.

Then, God, the God of justice, came down to pass judgment. Let us first take a look at the drama that followed the first sin. Moses of the Old Testament begins the story: "And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden" (Genesis 3:8). Does this remind you of when you were a child and you had disobeyed your parents? Did you look frantically for a place to hide when you heard your father's footsteps coming and knew he would find the evidence? I did. And that is what Adam and Eve did.

When they disobeyed God, "Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked" (Genesis 3:7a). This means that when they ate the fruit they were immediately able to discern between good and evil. The first manifestation of this was that they realized they were naked and quickly sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves ([Genesis 3:7b](#)). Then God speaks first: "...But the Lord God called to the man and said, 'Where are you?'" (Genesis 3:9). What was Adam's reply? "...I heard the sound of Thee in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself" (Genesis 3:10). Then God questions Eve and she pleads guilty to the sin, but blames the Serpent for deceiving her ([Genesis 3:13](#)). The Bible shows that her plea was considered by God but nonetheless He declared her guilty and spiritually dead ([I Timothy 2:14b](#)). Now what about Adam? He also pleaded guilty but then

blamed God: "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I [by my choice] ate it" (Genesis 3:12). What he was really saying was, "God you really went too far this time with your so-called "grace!" I would have much preferred loneliness over having a wife who gets me into trouble." Did any of them take responsibility for disobeying God? No. We hear the same excuses today: "My friend talked me into doing it . . ." "My wife convinced me to..." "My husband started it first..." It is no wonder that many people cannot find solutions to their problems—they will not admit that they have caused the problem. Whatever happened to taking responsibility for one's motives, decisions and actions? "[We] sow the wind [by choice], and [we] reap the whirlwind [hurricane]" (Hosea 8:7). In fact, only a mature believer can truly take responsibility for his failures without blaming someone or something else.

"'...But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die'" (Genesis 2:17). God was referring to both spiritual and physical death. The spiritual death came as a direct result of their disobedience of God. This spiritual death resulted in a separation between them and God and they were no longer able to have fellowship with Him. In the case of Adam and Eve, their state of spiritual death blinded them and they were no longer able to see the truth and admit their fault to God when He questioned them.

However, despite their inability to admit their own guilt, God passed His judgment on them for their sins because both were already spiritually dead. ? But only the man was made responsible for passing on this "sin nature" to all future offspring. Why? The answer is simple. The man purposefully disobeyed God. "And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being quite deceived, fell into transgression" (I Timothy 2:14). In the reflection of this verse we find the answer to our initial question. When man and woman have sexual intercourse for the purpose of conceiving a child, the man becomes the transmitter of the "sin nature." His twenty-three chromosomes contain not only the genetic codes (the parents' characteristics) but also the sin nature. Therefore at conception the man's sperm fertilizes the woman's perfect egg and in doing so contaminates the egg with the sin nature. The woman's egg is perfect in the sense that it has been set apart by God so that she will not be the transmitter. This explains the verse, ..".And in sin my mother conceived me" (Psalms 51:5b). When the baby emerges from the mother's womb at birth, God in His graces imputes the gift of human life and in His justice imputes Adam's original sin. Therefore the baby is physically alive but spiritually dead. This not only explains why a newborn baby is considered a sinner but also why Jesus Christ was conceived in a different manner. God miraculously fertilized Mary's perfect egg so that He would be born without the sin nature that would have been transmitted by Mary's would-be husband, Joseph. As it is plain to see, God is a genius and His wisdom is unfathomable.

What an inexpressible joy it is to meditate on the many facets of the wisdom and the grace of God. May I pause to remind you that as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you are no longer your own. You belong to God. "You have been bought with a price..." (I Corinthians 6:20a). That price was the substitutional death of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross ([I Peter 1:18-19](#)). Once you have been purchased by God, to ensure your eternal protection ([John 6:39](#)), He seals your life with His "signet ring" — His Holy Spirit ([Ephesians 1:13](#)). Therefore His seal (mark) identifies you as His purchased one. "If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord" (Romans 14:8). You are kept by His power ([I Peter 1:5](#)) and that of God the Son, and He promised that NOTHING will ever snatch you away ([John 10:28](#)). You are kept twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year and all the way into eternity. That is awesome! With this biblical exposition, I can confidently say, "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling [falling], 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).

How does the grace of God continue to unfold in the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve's disobedience?

To be continued in [Volume 7](#) . . .

Testimonies & Gratitude to Our God

We can hardly thank God enough for what He is doing for us. We thank Him for using His children as vessels through which He continues to provide financial assistance to this ministry. We also thank Him for Reverend Moses C. Onwubiko's successful ministry in Africa in June/July 1998.

Letters to Grace Evangelistic Ministries

We would like to share some of the letters from our supporters with you.

Dear ones in Christ,

We constantly give thanks to our Heavenly Father for the accurate ministry Moses has so faithfully taught at home and abroad. We realize our country reaps blessings by association with missionaries who carry the gospel message and Bible doctrine to the world.

*Onward and upward,
Georgetown, Texas*

Dear Moses,

We are so thrilled and excited over your ministry. We also are impressed and blessed reading Grace News Today! We will keep you in our prayers continuously!

*Love in Christ,
San Jose, California*

Rev. Onwubiko,

I am grateful to God our Father for blessing my life through your ministry — I am grateful that you have answered the call and that your desire is to spread the "good news." Thank you. My request — ten copies of "Comfort in Suffering." I appreciate your time.

*Gratefully yours in Christ,
Keystone, Iowa*

Rev. Moses,

We are so blessed by your newsletters and publications. We thank our Lord God that there is another doctrinally sound voice "crying in the wilderness."

*In His Grace,
Franklin, North Carolina*

Would You Join Us in Prayer?

I found out recently that someone has been taking our Christian literature to the detention center in Toledo, Iowa. I do not know the name of this person, but their ministry is having quite an impact on the teenagers there. We have received several letters and requests from the teenagers.

Parents, our gracious God who has given teenagers to you, has given you a mandate: "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6). I would like to challenge you with the following questions: Are you fulfilling your jobs as parents? Or are you waiting for Judgment Day to defend your failure with excuses? God has done His part by giving them to you. Now won't you do your part by teaching them sound Bible doctrine every day that they are under your roof? The writer of Proverbs puts it this way, "Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul" (Proverbs 29:17). He adds, "The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother" (Proverbs 29:15).

Following is a letter we received from one of the teenagers at the detention center in Toledo, Iowa:

Hi! I'm a 15 year old female. I read your newsletter and the more I hear about your ministries I want to be part of it. Would you please send me as much information as you can so I can learn all there is to know!? Thank you.

I'll write and tell you how I got into placement. Right now I'm living in the Iowa Juvenile Home. I ran away from home a lot and stole cars and all. The reason I ran away was because my mom used to drink a lot and she used to sell drugs. She's in prison now for selling drugs.

I learned a lot about God and Jesus here and I'm for sure He wants me to be a missionary. The more I think about it the more I'm for sure this is what I'm to be in life. If you have any questions or anything you can write back and ask. I'll always answer your questions!

Thank you!
Toledo, Iowa

Please join us in prayer as we continue to present these teenagers before God.

Duplication and Distribution of Doctrinal Audio Tapes

There have been a tremendous number of requests from African people, ranging from individuals in the secular world to pastors, for R.B. Thieme, Jr.'s literature and audio tapes. And the numbers are increasing. The cost of mailing these materials to Africa is so high that many requests are never fulfilled. Therefore we have established an Audio Duplication Center in Jos, Nigeria, West Africa, to meet some of these requests. We believe in the importance of making sound Bible teaching available to every person regardless of race, color or origin.

Budget Sheet

Estimated Costs for Audio Tape Duplication Center in Africa-1998

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| 1. Facility rental | \$62.50 |
| 2. Facility utilities | \$100.00 |

3. Personnel salary	\$450.00
4. Office supplies	\$100.00
5. Postage costs	\$450.00
6. Blank cassettes	<u>\$1750.00</u>
	\$2912.50

Special Missionary Report from Africa

JUNE / JULY

God, in His infinite mercy, made it possible for me to make another missionary trip to Africa — Nigeria to be specific. I had the following objectives in mind before my departure:

1. Hold a series of conferences with the newly formed audio tape group that started in February 1998.
2. Give expositional teachings on salvation.
3. Establish an Audio Tape Duplicating Center in Jos, Nigeria.
4. Hold seminars with the believers who will assist me during the December 1998 General Crusade in Jos.
5. Ensure that there would be undiluted spiritual milk available for those who will respond to the gospel message during our crusades.

By the grace of God I was able to accomplish all of the above objectives. On my departure from Jos, I could not thank God enough for what He had done through Grace Evangelistic Ministries. At the end of the teaching on salvation (twenty-eight hours), I could see the faces of those who attended the conference radiating with joy. I thank God for the work He has begun in Jos, Nigeria, West Africa.

We would like to share with you the following essay and letters written in response to our missionary trip.

"THESE PEOPLE HAVE REALLY TORTURED US, OH!"

by D. E. Elekwa, Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria, West Africa

That was a very thoughtful expression voiced out by one of the participants who attended Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko's three-week Bible conference in Jos. "These people" [in the title of this essay] refers to preachers and other communicators of the Word of God in Jos and perhaps in Nigeria at large. Yes, how else can one explain the continued masking of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in Nigeria; no better word than mental, spiritual and physical TORTURE could possibly be used to describe the way Bible communicators here (Nigeria) have for many decades purposely besieged and wantonly eclipsed the simple truth of the gospel. Prophet Hosea (4:6) witnessed similar scenarios during his day and his own conclusion was: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..." The reason many of us here in Nigeria are suffering is because we had in the past been placed under a wide variety of yokes; the yoke of ignorance of Bible doctrine, the yoke of legalism, [the yoke of] of self-righteous, flamboyant preachers who promote only self and enrich themselves through extortion and the use of all kinds of gimmicks to get money from unsuspecting members; the list is endless.

Tortured in this context may not just mean subjecting to physical pain, but mainly DENIAL of

communicating the truth, artificial scarcity of Bible doctrine, purposefully keeping the flock in darkness and subjecting them to legalistic practices for purposes of exploitation.

Amos the prophet once said that a time will come when there will be scarcity of the Word of God and not of food. This has been the clear picture of the Nigerian flock. How about the unbelievers, you may ask. It is entirely a different story. Another participant said, "These preachers have been confusing us." The lot of unbelievers is described in only word — confusion! Rev. Moses' presence here as a light is already making waves and at the same time goose pimples are fast spreading on some false teachers' bodies. But they that do know their God shall wax strong and do great exploits. Beginning in Jos, Nigerians shall arise and shine, for the light has come! "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). We have suffered enough reproach and now the truth which sets free is here. We all are grateful to God for sending Rev. Moses to America in the first instance and for equipping him with the truth. Falsehood, deceit and darkness are just about over. May God continue to bless all the supporters of Grace Evangelistic Ministries, Inc. and grant them the grace not to relent, because their labors of love must be richly rewarded by God."

Dear Sir,

Calvary greetings and thanks to you. The Lord Jesus Christ bless you more abundantly. When you go back to the States do not forget me in your prayers.

I just thank you very immensely for your impartations into our lives during your long [stay] with us in Jos on the Bible doctrine. I appreciate you very much. God increase you the more to distribute His doctrine to the world. This is my prayer for you in Jesus name. Remember me. I love you. Thanks.

Yours in Him,

Pastor

Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria, West Africa

Dear Rev. Moses,

Thank you for your recent reply to our inquiry concerning Grace Evangelistic Ministries' activities in Africa. [Truthfully] I thank God so much for laying the burden of Africa in your heart. Our prayer has been that God will raise a "Moses" that will teach the truth (Bible doctrine) to [all the Christians in Africa]. And I think this is the ripe time for it.

Once again, thank you for what God has in stock for you and African nations in general. Salute the brethren in Nashville, Tennessee.

Your co-laborer in Christ,

Pastor

Aba, Abia State, Nigeria, West Africa

Budget Sheet

1998 DECEMBER CRUSADE

The provision for the General Crusade and the soul-winning for Christ are both entirely up to the Lord. The crusade will take place at the soccer stadium in Jos, Nigeria, West Africa. The following budget has been forwarded to us by the committee in Jos that is in charge of making arrangements for the crusade. Our position regarding the financial aspect of the crusade remains the same: if it is the will of God for Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko to conduct this crusade, He will provide.

"I believe all is well with you. Sorry for that long break in communication. Telecomsystem here is like every other sector. All the same, plans are on, hopes are high and expectations are heightening by the

day.

The General Crusade central organizing committee in Jos, Nigeria, has met and decided upon the following budget:

1. Training of crusade workers	\$313.00
2. Transportation	\$813.00
3. Publicity	\$1063.00
4. Music and equipment	\$938.00
5. Security	\$313.00
6. Venue fee	\$563.00
7. Hiring generator, platform construction, electrical lighting/wiring	\$1813.00
8. Fee for technician(s)	\$313.00
9. Room and board	\$813.00
10. Airfare from U.S. to Nigeria (possibly 4 people)	\$6400.00
	<u>\$13,342.00</u>

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

Doctrinally speaking, one does not have to be called "a friend of God" (James 2:23b) to go to Heaven. Heaven is wide open for anyone who wholeheartedly trusts in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior ([John 3:16](#), [36](#); [John 14:6](#)). However, it is important to remember that a believer must be truly "a friend of God" in order to receive the "crown of righteousness" (II Timothy 4:8a). Only believers who have faithfully "fought the good fight" (II Timothy 4:7a) can join the apostle Paul in celebrating a victory won by God's grace: "For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store 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 longed for His appearing" (II Timothy 4:6-8).

If your spiritual race here on earth was to be brought to a screeching halt, would you anticipate hearing the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness?" (Matthew 25:21) As a believer, is this the goal of your life? You may want to take some time to meditate on this.

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.

Would You Join Us in Prayer?

As we pray . . .

- 1) That God would provide for the 1998 General Crusade in Africa (Nigeria and Cameroon).
- 2) That God will provide financial support to meet our monthly budget.
- 3) That God would continue to provide spiritual nourishment for the audio tape groups in Africa.
- 4) For our supporters - that God will continue to meet their needs as they arise.
- 5) That God will continue to lead us in the right direction.
- 6) that believers in this nation, USA, may have desire for sound Bible teaching.
- 7) That God will continue to sustain America.

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.

A Note to Our Supporters

Grace Evangelistic Ministries will be printing their newsletter on a bimonthly basis for now. If you wish to be on our mailing list to receive this bimonthly newsletter or other materials 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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