

Contents

- "Faith Alone in Christ Alone"
- Doctrine of Grace
- Word of Encouragement
- Progress Report
- Evangelistic Meeting Schedule
- Missionary Reports
- Letters to Grace Evangelistic Ministries
- Bible Doctrine for Thought
- Here is the Truth
- The Good News
- Financial Policy
- Would You Join Us in Prayer?
- Our Grace Ministry has no Limits

Faith alone in Christ alone

Greetings to you from all us at Grace Evangelistic Ministries. The year 2001 has just concluded, and we have taken time to count our many blessings. We were pleasantly surprised to see all that God, our Provider, has done for and through this ministry. He has graced us out in a manner beyond human expression! Indeed, what He has done in the last five years has left everyone stunned, especially those who were with us from the onset! One pastor-teacher expressed his amazement this way: "I have no doubt that G.E.M. was established to awaken people to the truth of the word of God." While another said, "Truly, Grace Evangelistic Ministries, is the ministry of the hour!" Also, a pastor-teacher from the Philippines expressed his gratitude by saying, "I'm grateful that your publications include Biblically based articles that teach and uphold sound doctrine of the Christian faith. I also commend you for not shrinking from the responsibility of alerting us to new and increased threats to Christianity."

The question is, are we responsible for the success that many have witnessed in this ministry? The answer is an emphatic, NO! Evidently, Moses, his staff, and partners have nothing to do with the success we have witnessed in a space of five years; not one of us can take any credit! We refuse to accept any human praises! Rather, we humbly channel all praise to the gracious God who established us and does all the work. To Him alone, we praise!

Because of His provision and guidance, R.B. Thieme and G.E.M. Christian literature and gospel pamphlets have been distributed to thousands worldwide. Many people, including some Muslims, came to the saving faith of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Others were challenged to make perception and application of Bible doctrine the highest priority in their lives. Throughout the year 2001, we witnessed God's unprecedented faithfulness to us in every sense of the word! To Him alone, we stand in salute to His majesty!

We don't intend to ignore the horrific event of September 11, 2001, when Satan and his minions launched an attack on U.S. soil with the intention of dislodging this great nation. Their attack, however, was minimal and controlled by the Lord of history—the Lord Jesus Christ. The

outcome has caused some believers to realize they have one life to live and one mission to fulfill—the mission of maximum glorification of God. Thus, some have redefined their purpose in life and refocused their mission! At the same time, the attack has strengthened those believers who were already advancing in God's plan.

Furthermore, we are reminded of Paul's statement: "We know, in fact, that to **them that love God**, He (God) causes all things (good and bad) to work together for their good, even to those who are called according to a predetermined plan" (Romans 8:28 *expanded translation*). It is a great comfort to the believer who understands that God, in His Great wisdom, knows how to blend bad stuff with good stuff and come out with an intrinsically good result. This is the confidence of believers who have come to love and have personal intimacy with God the Father.

"In **everything** give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (I Thessalonians 5:18). As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are indebted to give thanks to God in **all things**. You may say to me, "Moses, you just don't understand. I lost both my father and brother last year." Thank God, for you and I had a similar experience last year!" You may contend, "Moses, how can I give thanks to God when my brother was a victim in the World Trade Center attack?" We both had a parallel experience. My younger brother was a victim of Islamic attack on Christians in Jos, Nigeria, prior to the attack on New York. The truth of the matter is, sooner or later, everyone will be hit with one tragedy or another. This is a fact of life and ought not to have any bearing on our gratitude to our Great and loving Father.

If you can pause, and count your blessings for the year 2001, undoubtedly, you will identify with the words of this song as we did:

*When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking that all is lost,
Count your many blessings—name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.*

The fact is, this world is not really your home. You have a mansion in heaven! That thought alone ought to put a big smile in your soul! And, when you remember that you are a child of the Most High God, and under no circumstances would you ever be subjected to the lake of fire, that assurance alone ought to trigger praises to God! These sobering truths should compel you to echo with the apostle John: "See how great [how immeasurable, how unfathomable, how marvelous] a love the Father [has showered] bestowed upon us, that we should be called the children of God" (I John 3:1). King David put it this way: "What is man that You [O! God] are mindful of him? And the son of man that You care for him? (Psalm 8:4). God has graced you out, and the least you can do is say, "Father, I joyfully thank You in all things—the good and the bad."

We thank our partners, who have allowed the Lord to use their God-given resources in meeting the financial burdens of this ministry throughout the year 2001. Many of you have been partners with us from the very beginning and most faithful in your support, even in the midst of economic turbulence. Also, we are most grateful to the local churches that supported our missionary endeavors throughout the year. We thank those who prayed for our success. We are confident that your partnership with us is indeed yielding dividends for His glory and your blessings both in time and in the eternal future.

We would like to encourage you to not let anything distract you from making the intake and application of Bible doctrine the **number one priority** in your life. The cost to advance to the high ground of spiritual maturity may be great, but the reward is incalculable! Therefore, when

you are discouraged, when the temptation to retreat from advancing to the high ground mounts high in your soul, always remember that the reward of maximum glorification of God is astronomical!

We have stepped into the year 2002, and the work ahead is enormous, but our confidence is that the One who called us is with us, and that He is the Captain of our missionary endeavors. To Him alone, we trust.

Grace Evangelistic Ministries does not solicit funds, because we believe that financial support is solely a matter between the individual believer and the Lord. The apostle Paul said it best: "Let each one do [in support of this ministry] just as he has purposed in his mind [a decision between him and the Lord]; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver" (II Corinthians 9:7). There is nothing cheerful about giving to the Lord when motivated by gimmicks. God loves the giver who gives because of gratitude for the infallible Word of God and his passion for the work of His Kingdom. Above all, do pray for us routinely.

"The eternal God is [our] refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms..." (Deuteronomy 33:27).

Forever in the grip of His grace,
Moses C. Onwubiko
President; Grace Evangelistic Ministries

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

Doctrine of Grace

By Reverend Moses C. Onwubiko Lesson 10

(Continued from Volume 23 lesson 9)

In our previous installment, we examined Paul's **doctrinal-orientation**. In order to interpret the Scripture accurately, we exegeted Colossians 1:24-26 and arrived at the conclusion that Paul's spiritual life was centered on daily perception of the infallible Word of God. We noted that it was his lifestyle of daily study and application of Bible doctrine which made his life precious to both believers of the world and the elect angels—this caused him to develop a mental attitude of grace. Now we are poised to study Paul's **grace-orientation**.

PAUL'S GRACE-ORIENTATION

We need to lay our basic groundwork that structured Paul's grace-orientation. The first thing we need to know is, Grace-orientation is a mental attitude, nothing more, nothing less. From the chambers of your soul comes your action, both in deeds and words. "As a man thinks [in his soul] so he is..." (Proverbs 23:7). To be precise, "You are what you think."

The second building block, grace-orientation, is developed through personal experience of God's grace, perception, and application of the inerrant word of God. Subsequently, a mental attitude can be divided into three categories: arrogance, humility, and grace.

ARROGANCE: Arrogant thinking is the most heinous and worst sin of both human and angelic history. Ironically, many believers by the millions are not aware that Satan is the author and master of arrogance. These believers forget or never knew that arrogance was the source of his fall (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:18). What is even more chilling, is that many believers have become victims of his prey—Adam and Eve the first victims. The frightening thing is that God makes war against anyone who lives a lifestyle of arrogance.

In the book of Proverbs, God's attitude and warning in regard to arrogance stands tall: "Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination [Hebrew: *toebah* = *abomination, loathsome, detestable thing*] to the Lord; assuredly, he [the arrogant one] will not be unpunished [from the Supreme Court of Heaven]" (Proverbs 16:5). You may ask, "How can I detect if I am in the arrogant mode?" The answer can be summarized in this poetic expression:

When you think that your own agenda is more important than God's, from the fountain of arrogance you drink.

*When you think that Bible doctrine is secondary, up the hill of arrogance you climb.
When there is one iota of pride in you, down the path of self-destruction you walk.
When you think that you have something to prove to others, the goggles of arrogance you wear.*

*When self-approbation occupies your soul, the bell of arrogance you hear.
When power lust captivates your soul, on the high chair of arrogance you sit.
When you compete with other believers, on arrogance's danger zone you compete.
When you think that your success has something to do with you, the music of arrogance you dance.*

*When God's glory is yours to grab, in the bed of sin-unto-death you sleep.
When you think that others cannot do without you, the coat of arrogance you wear.
When you think that you are better than others, down the valley of arrogance you slide.
When people's praises inflate you, on the door of God's wrath you knock.*

*When you think that you have all the answers, in the room of darkness you wander.
When you stop learning from others, the wealth of knowledge you forgo.
When you think that you have arrived, at the door of the assembly of the dead you stand.*

The Bible is crystal clear: "God is opposed to the proud [makes war against the arrogant believer], but gives [super] grace to the humble" (James 4:6b). Undoubtedly, Paul was very arrogant before his salvation experience, thus he penned: "I thank Christ Jesus, who has strengthened me...even though I was formerly a blasphemer, and violent aggressor" (I Timothy 1:12, 13). Paul, then called Saul, heard the gospel right from Stephen's mouth as he was being stoned, but he rejected it (Acts 7). Rather, in his arrogance, he was consumed with high-powered anger to eliminate Christ's Name and those who identified with Him (Acts 8).

What about Paul's post-salvation experience? Many often think that just by being believers, they would be shielded from succumbing to Satan's disguised strategy to lure them into becoming arrogant. These ought to learn from Paul. Paul, perhaps beginning in spiritual babyhood or adolescence, became arrogant when he was warned several times through the Holy Spirit not to go to Jerusalem (Acts 21:4, 10-12). "Then Paul answered, 'What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus'" (v. 13).

Paul rationalized that his plan to go to Jerusalem would be more fruitful than the Lord's restriction on him not to set foot in Jerusalem. Evidently, he succumbed to arrogant thinking which nearly shortened his ministry when the Jewish mob pounced on him while he was in the Temple in Jerusalem (v. 27-30). But the Lord, in His inexpressible grace, rescued him (31-33). Un-debatably, his grace-rescue was also a building block in the development of grace-orientation. But not without a price, for his suffering for Christ was intensified from that point on. God keeps His word. Arrogance, wherever it rears its ugly head, shall not go unpunished (Proverbs 16:5). Through Paul's suffering, laced with his constant focus on Christ, garnished with daily perception and application of Bible doctrine, a fortification of humility was erected in his soul. Block by block.

HUMILITY: Humility is the opposite of arrogance. Humility and arrogance are mutually exclusive; they cannot co-exist in a given moment. Jesus Christ, in His incarnation, was a perfect example of a Man who possessed and lived in humility throughout his allotted time on earth. "Who [Jesus Christ] although He existed in the form of God, did not regard **equality** with God a thing to be grasped [Greek: *harpagmos=robbery*], but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant [Greek: *doulos = a slave, one who is in a permanent relation of servitude to another; his will altogether consumed in the will of another*], and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself [Greek: *tapeinoo = to humble, or to bring low*] by becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:6-8).

Humility, therefore, is a state of mind, in which one regards oneself as "Mr. Nobody of Any Significance," who easily and joyfully submits to any appointed authority. Jesus Christ was a Pioneer of true humility. He submitted unconditionally and unequivocally to the authority and the will of God the Father.

Scripture has a bundle of information to prove that Jesus Christ is equal with the first member of the Trinity, namely God the Father. One piece of evidence is in our context above. Also, in Hebrews we read that, "He [Jesus Christ] is the **radiance** of His [God's] glory and the **exact** representation of his nature" (Hebrews 1:3a). Jesus Christ, in His deity, could have said to God the Father, "*Who do You think you are to give Me instructions on what to do? Do it yourself! After all, we are equal in essence.*" Paradoxically, that would have been arrogance, and perhaps the downfall of the second member of the Tri-union of God. But thank God that our Savior didn't think such thoughts, for that would have been the end of any chance of our salvation! (Hebrews 2:3b). Much to our relief, He said, "...A [human] body You [God] have prepared for Me" (Hebrews 10:5).

In addition, He affirmed, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work" (John 4:34). Instead of being pre-occupied with Himself, He was pre-occupied with the Father's plan. In light of His mission, His thinking was aligned perfectly with His Father's when He said: "I can do nothing on My own initiative." He added, "...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).

Without a doubt, no believer can possess Christ's thinking and at the same time be arrogant. In Paul's epistle we also read, "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 2:5). Likewise, "*Let Bible doctrine, which is the thinking of Christ, be the lens through which you examine and live your life.*" The truth is that no believer can be saturated with sound Bible doctrine, apply it correctly and consistently, and still be arrogant. The KJV Rainbow Study Bible summarizes it beautifully: "What goes into our minds, comes out as our actions...we have no basis for pride except in our perfect example, Jesus Christ."

There is no doubt that the apostle Paul had already developed a mental attitude of humility when he wrote in Philippians, “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself” (2:3). The compelling question is, do you regard others as more important than yourself? Likewise, Paul challenged the Colossians: “And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, **humility**, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you” (Colossians 3:12, 13).

Obviously, as we previously established, Paul could not have warned, nor admonished the Philippians and Colossians respectively, if he had not carefully considered the things he warned them about. Conversely, if he hadn't diligently considered those words, penned under the ministry of the Holy Spirit, he would have been the most pious, ego-centric, self-centered, self-deceptive, and unapprised hypocrite in all of Scripture. For he said to the Corinthians, “Be imitators of me, **just as I also am of Christ**” (I Corinthians 11:1). By this we know, Paul considered every word that he spoke, or wrote!

Paul was not bragging nor arrogant when he challenged the Corinthians. In fact, in eternity we will have the privilege to witness the Lord's decoration of the greatest apostle in Christendom. Without question, Paul's humility erected a fortress of grace thinking in his soul. Now, we are ready to tap into the mind of a man whose grace-orientation continues to echo in the halls of Christian history.

GRACE-ORIENTATION: Grace-orientation is another aspect of mental attitude. It is the flip side of humility—these are two sides of the same coin. The truth of the matter is, you cannot attain a state of humility in the spiritual arena and not be grace-oriented. James put it this way: “But He gives a [super] grace. Therefore, it says, **GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD (ARROGANT BELIEVER), BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE**” (James 4:6). Let's examine the source of Paul's grace-orientation.

SOURCE OF PAUL'S GRACE - ORIENTATION:

PAUL'S SALVATION EXPERIENCE: Without question, Paul's salvation experience was the starting point of grace-orientation. Here was an unbeliever who was committed to do away with Christianity and those who bore its name. Prior to his salvation, he had tortured and imprisoned Christians wherever he found them. On the road to Damascus, armed with high-powered rage, perhaps to inflict the greatest injury ever to Christianity, the Lord met him, and he was converted to Christianity by “faith alone, in Christ alone.” Paul could barely fathom that he was still breathing after he heard the Lord's voice and his indictment. After all, he had been in grave error, and Christ's enemy when he heard His voice.

May I ask you, in light of what Paul did to Christians, did he deserve to be saved? Let me direct this question more pointedly: Think of how you were before the Lord found you. Did you deserve to be saved then? Was your life any better than Paul's? Your answers to these questions are vital to measuring the gauge of your understanding of grace. In retrospect to Paul's situation before he was graced-out, he lamented, “It is a trustworthy [*Greek: pistos = worthy to be believed*] statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all” (I Timothy 1:15). Yes, you read it correctly! He claimed to be the worst sinner in human history!! Verily, it was at this juncture of Paul's realization of his pre and post-salvation status that the lyrics of the song Amazing Grace could be properly understood:

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a WRETCH like me!
I once was LOST, but now am FOUND
Was BLIND, but now I SEE*

*‘Tis grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved;
HOW PRECIOUS DID THAT GRACE APPEAR
THE HOUR WHEN I FIRST BELIEVED*

Not surprisingly, the word “grace” occurs 170 times in the Bible, and the greatest apostle in human history, Paul, used it more than 93 times in his epistles. There is no room for doubt in my mind that no one in all of Scripture, with the exception of Christ in His humanity, had a grip on grace more than the apostle Paul! It would have been difficult for him to finish an epistle without an outpouring of Grace. Grace, to Paul, was the air he breathed in and the air he breathed out. To that end, he’s a trophy of grace!

SAMPLES OF APPLICATION OF BIBLE DOCTRINE

Expressions such as, “What a wonderful study of Grace.” “Moses, you did a great job.” “I have a better understanding of grace now” and so on, are meaningless unless its truth has soaked into your soul and leaks out in your thinking and actions. No one doubts that application of Bible doctrine is the most difficult thing under the spiritual dome; however, it is doable only through the empowerment of the ministry of God the Holy Spirit, who indwells and works within us. With this in mind, we throw out a random sampling of application:

1. The power lust temptation: Through the application of Bible doctrine resident in a believer’s soul, he never seeks to be recognized, or be promoted in any way. He insulates himself with the shimmering truth that true promotion is of the Lord. Further, he knows that his happiness in this life has no connection to promotion. He is content in all circumstances.
2. The temptation to control others: The believer outright rejects the temptation to make “one-mold-fit-all.” He reminds himself that God has given each individual the ability to make his own mold and to operate within the limit that He allows him. Thus the believer restricts himself from interfering with God’s decree.
3. The temptation to seek approbation: A believer contributes a lump sum of money to a local church or missionary organization and is tempted with approbation lust. The believer, armed with Bible doctrine, rejects the lust to be recognized; he doesn’t wait for the pastor to publicize his name. He neither seeks great applause, nor a letter of praise from the congregation. Rather, doctrine in his soul causes him to rejoice, knowing that it is a great honor and privilege accorded him by God to participate in His service.
4. A believer is tempted to give a “bragmy” about what he is doing for the Lord; instead, he refuses to make his service an issue. But with joy, he embraces all that God is able to do for and through him because of His Son, Jesus Christ. He recognizes, that both his salvation and his call to be a co-laborer with God are all a matter of the grace of God.
5. A believer takes an inventory of his successes and is tempted to credit them to his own hard work and persistence: Through doctrine in his soul, he slams his brake on such temptation. Inside his soul, he identifies with Paul’s words after his own inventory: “But by the grace of God I am what I am” (I Corinthians 15:10).

Paul, who had a grasp on grace, wrote this: “But by His doing [minus anyone’s effort plus nothing] you are in Christ Jesus...” (I Corinthians 1:30a). And, “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works (of any kind), that no one may boast” (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

God is perfect and His work is perfect. God the Son purchased you (I Peter 1:18, 19)—perfect transaction. God the Holy Spirit sealed you (II Corinthians 1:22)—perfect sealing. God the Father keeps you saved by His power (John 10:29)—perfect security. Because God provides salvation in grace, and we are the beneficiaries of His grace, there’s nothing to add.

“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).

SOURCE OF PAUL’S GRACE-ORIENTATION

(To be continued volume 25—Lesson 11)

WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

The Lord is in charge of human history. Neither terrorists, circumstances, nor anyone else is capable of engineering the course of history. As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ who is growing “in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,” the Lord’s plan for you is a spectacular one! “‘For I know the plans that I have for you [a believer who is moving forward in God’s plan],’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope [an absolute confidence]’” (Jeremiah 29:11). What sublime comfort to know that a national disaster does not nullify God’s faithfulness to His word! No matter how dark the present seems, no matter how blurry the future looks, the bottom line is that His promises are “yes” and “Amen.” (II Corinthians 1:20).

King David testified, “I have been young, and now I am old, yet I have not seen [not even once] the righteous [a virtuous believer] forsaken, or his descendants begging bread [food]” (Psalm 37:25). “For the eyes of the Lord [run throughout] range the earth to strengthen those [believers who are advancing to the high ground] whose hearts are fully committed to Him” (II Chronicles 16:9). In lieu of this, you ought not to look into the future through the lens of September 11, 2001. “For we walk [look into the lens of the future] by faith, and not by sight [or current circumstances] (II Corinthians 5:7). “...for He Himself has said, ‘I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU’” (Hebrews 13:5b). So, notwithstanding your current situation, the Lord knows that He is under obligation to see you through; therefore, keep on waiting on Him, keep on trusting in Him, for He will see you through.

There are no two ways about it: “...Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20b). Has the end come yet? No, it hasn’t. This means that no matter what happens, as long as you are on His course and are growing in grace, you will gently float upon the ocean of His grace.

Progress Report

Our purpose is to inform and bring you up-to-date about what God is doing for and through this ministry. Our hearts are filled with gratitude and thanksgiving for His indelible work. When you approach His throne in prayer, please remember Grace Evangelistic Ministries. Praise Him for His work through us; our work is nothing apart from His grace.

USA

Demand for our publications continues to grow. Many of our partners have joined us in the distribution of our materials to positive believers. Our mailing list gets larger by the week, causing us to stand in awe and reverence of the Almighty God for what He is doing.

OVERSEAS

- We currently support pastors teaching doctrine in the churches we established in Africa until they become financial-self-supporting.
- Right now, we have eight men that we sponsor at GEM's recommended seminaries in Africa. Dozens more are on the waiting list.
- Today, our mailing list includes addresses from Australia, Canada, China, Croatia, Germany, India, Philippines, Scotland, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Gambia, Kenya, Nigeria, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The list grows as God directs and removes linguistic, racial, cultural, and geographical barriers to make Himself known to those who seek to know Him. We consider it a great privilege to be His instrument in spreading the gospel and doctrinal truths.

MISSIONARY REPORTS:

EUROPE:

(Germany and Switzerland)

Moses and his missionary partner, Mr. George Mueller, had a wonderful time of ministry in both Germany and Switzerland. Mr. Mueller did all the coordinating prior to Moses arrival. They both had the opportunity to speak to several local churches, and new contacts were made. Those who heard Moses on his previous visit were overjoyed to see him again! The major hurdle is that Germany and Switzerland are not English speaking countries, so only a few benefited from the doctrinal materials that were supplied. Of course, Mr. Mueller having translated Col. Thieme's "A Matter of Life and Death" and "Christian at Easy" into German, distributed those. According to Moses, pockets of positive believers are scattered all over Europe, but they lack good expository Bible communicators. Moses was invited to speak to the student body of Black Forest Academy in Germany, and the response from the students was good. Many of them expressed their gratitude after his message.

Here is an abstract from the Chaplain of Black Forest Academy where Moses spoke:

Dear Moses,

It was indeed a privilege to have you at Black Forest Academy. I have nothing but positive comments from the kids—the Lord used you to stir up the Spirit's work in their hearts, and for that I am very thankful!

Please let me know if you're ever in the area again. We'd love to have you back!

In His grip,

Chaplain, BFA-Germany

AFRICA

Moses had a somewhat tedious schedule last November and December 2001, as he covered three countries in a stretch, namely Nigeria, Gambia, and Cameroon. As always, Moses said that he would be forever grateful to all his partners who lifted him up in prayer before the throne of grace. His missionary report was a monument to many answered prayers.

NIGERIA

While in Nigeria, God honored Moses by giving him the privilege of seeing his father before his glorious exit into the place of no more death, no more sorrow, no more mourning or pain of any magnitude—the old things have passed away! Now, here is evidence of answered prayer: Moses' elder brother, who is a pastor in Mississippi, was to conduct the funeral service on December 1, 2001, but had a problem securing a flight because all flights coming to Nigeria were fully booked. Here is the catch: If he didn't come, it would interrupt Moses' missionary program in Cameroon, where much money had been invested both in publicity and other logistics. However, the Lord solved the problem, and his brother was able to secure a ticket at the last minute. Thus, Moses was able to continue with his pre-planned activities—a reminder that our Lord controls not only history but the details of our lives.

There were about 2, 500 people who came for his father's burial, and quite a number of them responded to the gospel, which Moses' brother accurately communicated. The testimonies gathered afterward made Moses happy to know people were saved at his father's funeral service.

Moses held a weeklong conference in two cities, Aba and Umuahia, both in the eastern part of Nigeria. The response was overwhelming. One really had to be there to witness first-hand how people are responding to Moses' evangelism and teachings. Moses concedes that he is not really a good reporter, and he jokes that he is happy that he doesn't make a living that way. So whatever he reports is only the tip of the ice-burgh of his missionary work. He thanks God, for what He is doing in Nigeria!

WHEN GOD CHANGES ONE'S SCHEDULE

God often uses our disappointments to accomplish His purpose. Moses was supposed to return to Nigeria from Cameroon on December 11, but when he arrived at Cameroon Airport, the flight was cancelled. And, out of the ordinary, the Cameroon Airline provided him with accommodations until the next morning. But that's not what this report is all about. The person who was supposed to pick him up at the Nigeria Airport came the day that Moses was supposed to arrive, waited for hours and then went home. The driver didn't come the following day, because Moses was uncertain as to when his flight would leave. But God had a reason for the confusion.

The next morning, Moses arrived in Lagos, but his driver wasn't there. Many taxi drivers offered to take him to his destination. In the end, a Muslim (who wanted to convert to Christianity but didn't know how) was Moses' choice. No, God's choice!! So while they were in

the car, Moses asked him if he would go to heaven if he died? That question opened up the door for the gospel and his conversion! Moses gave him literature to help in his newly found faith. "There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes his mind and believes in Christ" (Luke 15:7). And so, there was joy that day!

GAMBIA

Moses then traveled to Gambia. It may interest you to know that this country is about 98% Muslim. Moses had the opportunity to witness to many, and is sure of two converts. One of them came every day to his conference and has joined a group that listens to Thieme's tapes in the Gambia! Their immediate need is for room enough to accommodate their growing number. In fact, the trip was so successful that it opened other doors in that part of the world. Moses has been invited to visit four neighboring countries, and he also has an invitation to return to Gambia this year. We give God the praise.

BRIEF REPORT FROM THE CONFERENCE ORGANIZER

(Prepared by Darlington Elekwa-Africa's chapter president)

The Gambia is located on the West Coast of Africa. It is unique in so many ways.... As early as 1621, missionaries began to arrive in the Gambia. Some focused on women and children's issues, while others concentrated on education and relief materials. Regrettably, the life-changing gospel was completely masked. Thus, we are grateful to God for granting Grace Evangelistic Ministries the honor of addressing pastors from Senegal, Sierra Leon, Cote Divoir, and the host Gambia who labor under a very hostile environment, with little or no tools.

One of the attendees, Rev. Modou Sanneh, the president of Evangelical Fellowship of the Gambia, described the meeting as a first of its kind in the history of Christianity in the Gambia; while the president of the Anglican Commission, Rev. Chris Odemena, pointed out that the conference was God-ordained. It challenged pastors, provoked others to aspire higher, and left many wounded in their souls. He further stated that a regular visit by Rev. Onwubiko would help use the Word of God to effect healing on such souls. He prayed that God would continue to provide for G.E.M.

At the end of the program, Rev. Moses handled many questions. All in attendance were satisfied and expressed their gratitude to God. They earnestly desire to have more doctrinal materials to speed up their spiritual growth and maturity. Also, Biblical tools were distributed to the pastors and church workers. Rev. Moses pledged to return to the Gambia in November 2002, and to regularly make literature available through G.E.M and R. B. Thieme, Jr., ministries.

Another remarkable event: God raised up a couple, Maxwell and his wife, who insisted on cooking for Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko throughout his stay in the Gambia. And on November 24, 2001, Moses formally inaugurated the study group numbering about 18 adults. The group is already searching for a meeting venue indicating interest in forming a doctrinal church with Tayo Kawe, who for years has been studying under Thieme's ministry as an interim pastor-teacher. On November 25, 2001, Rev. Moses Onwubiko in company of G.E.M's Africa chapter president left Banjul.

CAMEROON:

KUMBA (S. W. Province)

The Lord opened still another door for Moses in South West Province of Cameroon. Dr. Lawrence Asong, President of Grace Mission Theological Seminary, sent an invitation to have a speaker at his annual conference to Thieme's ministry, and the invitation was forwarded to Moses. Again, God glorified Himself through His servant Moses. While in Kumba, Moses enjoyed his tight schedule. He'd leave his hotel at 9:00 a.m. and wouldn't return until around 7:00 p.m. He would teach, have a short break, come back and teach some more—break for lunch, and come back and teach the positive believers who endured the daylong program. But the Lord gave him extra strength to speak at length.

A BRIEF NOTE FROM DR. LAWRENCE ASONG

Greetings from the Kumba in the most precious and matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As you know, we so very much appreciated your visit with us and your talk to our people since time was against us. I cannot begin to tell you how our people and all of us appreciated your tremendous teachings of the Word of grace during our conference, but can only praise the Lord for you for what He is doing through you. We certainly did not know that there are others like you, and GEM, involved in the teaching of the Word of grace until we heard you. Indeed, everyone left disappointed when I announced that you had to leave.

I look forward to hearing from you and your schedule for this year. Our next conference has been fixed for November 27, 2002. We can arrange for you to start teaching our students before the conference starts. Just keep me updated, and it will be our joy to have you teach the Word as the Lord has called you to do.

BELO (N.W Province):

Moses left the group in Kumba after a very successful ministry and rode by bus for about 10 hours to join Mr. George Mueller in Belo. There, too, the Lord used his servant for His own glory. This was the first time Moses visited the new church, which started as a group and became a church with pastor Nkem. He has studied under Col. Thieme, Jr. for more than two decades. Moses taught the Word of God daily to this positive and growing church. Another highlight was in receiving the Radio pre-recordings of his messages...enough to last for 52 weeks until his next visit.

BRIEF REPORT

(Forwarded by pastor Nkem Ikemba)

We are grateful to God for what He is doing here in Cameroon. We thank Him for using Grace Evangelistic Ministries to reach many who are hungry for the truth. One T.V. cameraman expressed his gratitude by saying that the people of Belo and Nkom, as a whole, have been blessed through GEM's ministry. One pastor, after listening to Rev. Moses Onwubiko's Bible exposition, said, "I am really sorry for what I have been teaching people. I am sorry for deceiving them." Another said that he wished Rev. Moses could stay longer, but he is eagerly waiting for his return in 2002. Above all, God is using Grace Evangelistic Ministries to awaken people back to the Bible. Indeed, many believers, and unbelievers alike, have been tremendously blessed by the tapes and books which they receive freely. Requests for tapes and GEM's publications continue to pour in, so that we find it difficult to meet all the requests. We are praying for all of GEM's workers and associates in America that God will strengthen every one of you as you serve Him.

REV. MOSES C. ONWUBIKO'S ITINERARY THROUGH 2002

January 1-March 14: (U.S.A)

February 2-3: (Knoxville TN: Restoration Church)

March 15-April 14: (Nigeria: Lagos: 3/16-3/24; Jos: 3/25-30; Aba: 4/1-14).

April 15-May 30: (U.S.A.)

June: (India, Holland or Romania)

Letters to Grace Evangelistic Ministries

We would like to share some letters we received to show how your partnership is producing dividends for the glory of our heavenly Father. As you read, please join us in giving thanks to God. The Scripture is crystal clear concerning who does all the work in a ministry that is honoring to Him: "For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).

Dear Grace Evangelistic Ministries,

I am a Catholic by denomination. I was deeply touched and uplifted when I read one of your publications, titled, "God's Plan After Salvation." I will be glad if you can send me the rest of your publications.

Yours truly,

P. W., Lagos

Dear friends,

Recently, I read one of the books authored by Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko, and was very much elated when I discovered God's handiwork made manifest. I would be grateful if you could send me other available books. I shall by God's grace maintain constant correspondence with your organization.

In Christ,

V. A., Abuja

Dear ones in Christ,

I would like to let you know that all the books you sent to us in the Campus are doing a great job in touching and changing the lives of many of the students. We would like to receive more copies.

In His grace,

Evangelist S. O., Imo Sate University

Dear GEM workers,

By God's grace, I came in contact with the gospel message "Riding the Death Train" and was melted and edified as I read it. I assimilated the message. I would like for you to send me about a dozen or so, so that I can reach others who are perishing. Not only this, but any other books that you may have for my spiritual growth.

Thank you.

P. N., Anambra

MARCH – APRIL 2002 CONFERENCE BUDGET SHEET.

Provision for the conference and soul winning for Christ are both entirely up to the Lord. Our attitude regarding the financial aspect of the conference remains undiminished: If it is the will of God for Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko and his team to conduct this meeting, then He will provide. Surely He has been faithful!

HERE IS THE BUDGET BREAKDOWN FOR MARCH-APRIL MISSIONARY TRIP TO AFRICA

Publication Reprints in Africa \$3,500.00
100 Greek/Hebrew Key Word Study Bibles for doctrinal pastors \$2,000.00
Airfare (for two) \$2,900.00

LAGOS' CONFERENCE:

Publicity (Radio, printing of posters, flyers, etc) \$2,800.00
Transportation, Room and Board (Moses, Darlington, and Debby) \$2,300.00

JOS' CONFERENCE:

Publicity (Radio, printing of posters, flyers, etc) \$2,800.00
Transportation and Room and Board \$2,300.00

ABA'S CONFERENCE:

Publicity (Radio, printing of posters, flyers, etc) \$2,800.00
Transportation, Room and Board \$2,300.00

Bible Doctrine for Thought

“And those who have insight [believers whose priorities are straight—those who understand perfectly why they are kept alive and vigorously expose themselves to perception and application of sound Bible doctrine] will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven [firmament], and those who lead the many to righteousness [through missionary involvement, witnessing: “faith alone in Christ alone” shall shine] like the stars forever and ever” (Daniel 12:3).

In our spiritual service, we cannot and do not have yesterday, for it has been snatched out of our reach! And neither do we have tomorrow, for it may not be given to us! Ironically, all we have is today; yet, God doesn't guarantee us the entire day! Consequently, all we have is now! The question is, when was the last time you asked someone, "If you were to die today, would you go to heaven?" Or give someone a gospel pamphlet? Or pray and support missionaries on the mission field? The Lord, in His incarnation, had a great compassion for the lost and dying world, and He did something about it: He preached the good news to those He came in contact with. More than that, He offered His life as a substitute for our sins! "...Behold I say to you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. Already he who reaps is receiving wages, and is gathering fruit for life eternal..." (John 4:35, 36). As the Lord's commissioned ambassadors, how much do you care for those who are perishing? You may wish to meditate on this truth.

Here is the Truth

Does it matter what one believes about Jesus?

Yes it does matter! Almost every religion believes in Jesus; therefore, it is of paramount importance that we explore what people believe about who Jesus is. These beliefs are the thin dividing line between spending eternity with God in heaven, or eternity with Satan in the lake of fire. Of course, Christianity is not a religion. Religion is man seeking to have a relationship with God to the exclusion of God's only ordained way: "Faith alone in Christ alone." Christianity, on the other hand, embraces a relationship provided by God, through Christ's work on the cross.

Ironically, when you ask one of these religious groups, "Would you go to heaven if you die?" They say: "Yes." And, when you ask them, "What gives you this assurance?" Some will answer: "We believe that in order to go to heaven, faith must be channeled through the Virgin Mary, then to Christ, then to God." This kind of belief is traditional for many but does not constitute true faith in Christ which is tantamount to salvation! Another group says, "Yes," to the first question, but when asked who they think Jesus is they answer, "Jesus is the son of Joseph the carpenter—that's all we believe about Him." This is misplaced faith but does not, and cannot, result in salvation! One radical group's reply when asked a similar question, is, "We don't believe that Jesus is the Son of God. He was just a man—a prophet!" Again, this group has no salvation! The list of responses goes on and on.

The true issue is crystal clear throughout the pages of the Bible; after all, this is a matter of eternal life with God—or Satan. The question remains, what can one believe about Jesus in order to be saved? The Bible has the answer: "But these [Scriptures] have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing [believing what? That He is the Christ, the Son of God] you may have life in His name" (John 20:31). "Whoever [moral, immoral, or amoral] believes that Jesus is the Christ is [automatically] born of God" (I John 5:1a). "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" (I John 5:13). The issue is spotlighted and indisputable! Sadly, but also troubling is what religions (cults) have done with this simple grace message of salvation.

Conversely, to believe, that He is the Son of God is to believe He is the second member of the Trinity; and to believe He is the Christ is to believe He is equally God; and to believe He is the God-Man is to believe He is the substitute for the sin of the human race and also our Savior.

What amazes me is the sense of humor of the Godhead. Jesus Christ, in His deity, knew that Satan would battle to obscure the true issue in salvation, thus He supplied the answer in two passages. Speaking to His disciples He said, "Who do you say that I am?" Another way of saying it is, "What do you believe about Me?" Peter rose and stated his own belief: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:15, 16). The Lord confirmed his belief in Matthew 16:17! And again, before His resuscitation of Lazarus, the Lord said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in Me shall live [forever] even if he dies [physically]...Do you believe this?" Martha attested to her own salvation: "She said, to Him. 'Yes, Lord; I have [already at a point of time] believed that you are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world'" (John 11:25-27). Unequivocally, she replicated Peter's belief recorded in Matthew 16:16!

Prior to baptizing the Ethiopian Eunuch, Philip wanted to make sure that he was a regenerated man: "And Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may [be baptized].'" Like Martha, the Ethiopian mirrored Peter's belief, without having been there to hear, when he said, "I believe that Jesus is the Son of God" (Acts 8:36, 37).

Naturally, our belief should be infused with the efficacious sacrifice of Christ on the cross, namely His substitutionary spiritual death, His burial, resurrection, and ascension. The apostle Paul put it beautifully: "...I preached to you...that Christ died [as a substitute] for our sins according to Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to Scriptures" (I Corinthians 15:2-4). What Peter believed about Christ is what John, the Ethiopian, Martha, the apostle Paul, the thief on the cross, Moses Onwubiko, and many others believed.

While you are pondering this doctrinal truth, consider our Lord's warning: "I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He [the Christ and the Son of God], you shall die in your sins" (John 8:24). Twice he repeated: "You shall die in your sins!" The apostle Paul saw the importance of repeating a critical truth: "But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you [salvation by grace: faith alone in Christ alone], let him be accursed. And we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel [salvation by works] contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:8, 9). Apparently, whatever warranted God the Holy Spirit to repeat Himself twice in two verses ought to be of major concern to everyone in Christendom!

Other Scriptural verses: John 8:24; 9:35-38; 7:38; 3:16, 36; 6:40; Acts 16:31.

The Good News

When our Lord Jesus Christ was on the cross, He had you on His mind. All sins, including those you have not yet committed, were poured out on Jesus Christ, and He was judged for each and every one in your place (I Peter 2:24). The penalty has already been paid. He endured the judgment for all the sins of the world to pave the way for you to have eternal life through faith in Him. No matter how sinful you have been, 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 do this, you share God's eternal life 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 entirely yours.

Financial Policy

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

We do not charge for books or audiotapes. 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 (II Corinthians 9:7). This is a grace ministry.

REFERENCE

*All references are from NASB [emphasis GEM's]

Would You Join Us in Prayer?

GRACE EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES' PRAYER GROUP

The importance of prayer cannot be over-emphasized!

The God-Man, our Lord Jesus Christ, gave us an unprecedented and perfect example to follow. His life and earthly ministry was encapsulated in a lifestyle of prayer, occupying a place of singular importance in His own life and teaching. In time of decision and crisis, He gave himself to prayer. Thus our Lord prayed when He was baptized (Luke 3:21,22); when he chose his twelve apostles: "It was at this time that He (Jesus Christ) went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God" (Luke 6:12,13); when he was transfigured (Luke 9:29); when He was engaging in sustained and exhausting service: "In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there" (Mark 1:35-39); when He called forth Lazarus from the grave (John 11:41-43); when He was burdened for Simon Peter (Luke 22:31-32); when He faced betrayal, execution, and divine abandonment (Mark 14:32-42); when he thought of His disciples and their future ministry (John 17); and when He was dying (Luke 23:46). Therefore, if you are a believer who takes prayer lightly, sin no more. "Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you..." (1 Samuel 12:23).

If Jesus Christ, perfect God and perfect man, spent all night in prayer (Luke 6:12), imperfect man (you and I) should spend all year in prayer!

WOULD YOU JOIN US IN PRAYER

As we pray for:

- President George Bush (For wisdom in all decision-making)
 - The US (For a great revival, peace, and freedom from terrorism)
 - The military
 - God to provide for the missionary work in Africa (March-April)
 - The safety of Moses and his team as they travel
 - Col. Thieme Jr.'s ministry and his wife's health
 - The spiritual growth of the churches we formed
 - Seminary students that we support (that God will equip them in every way)
 - Special fund to establish a printing press for reprinting of GEM's and Thieme's publications in Africa
 - Israel's protection
 - His provision for three budgeted publications this year
 - For the provision of many open doors in the year 2002
 - Our partners (that God would continue to meet their needs)
-

Our Grace Ministry Has No Limits

Therefore, if you would like to be on our mailing list to receive this bi-monthly issue, "Grace News Today", 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/>

Return to:

Publications

Grace News Today Index

Home Page