

# Grace News Today

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## *“Faith alone in Christ alone”*

Greetings to you from all of us at Grace Evangelistic Ministries. Our souls are filled with gratitude to our loving and caring Father. And, we remain immovable in reverence to God’s majesty for His indelible work through Grace Evangelistic Ministries. We can never thank Him enough for all that He does because of our union with His Son, Jesus Christ. He continues to encourage and support us in unprecedented ways.

We are keenly aware that none of us will ever fully comprehend why God loves us with such immeasurable love! Nor can we understand why He decided to indwell His creatures in Christ. King David was also puzzled by God’s grace toward man and after much thought, God’s Spirit compelled him to put his amazement on paper: “What is man, that You [Oh God] are mindful of him, and the son of man [mere dust] that you care for him?” (Psalm 8:4). The same question still echoes today from wall to wall in our souls. Who are we that He would use us as vessels to honor Himself?

Indeed, His grace makes all the difference to Grace Evangelistic Ministries, and we remain ever thankful. Our continued existence is a living monument to God’s faithfulness. Each day brings a fresh testimony that He under-girds this ministry. We rejoice knowing that we are where God wants us to be and doing what He wants us to do. “Blessed [happy] is the man [any believer] who trusts in the Lord, and whose trust is the Lord. For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream. And will not fear when the heat [disaster] comes; but its leaves will be green [year round], and it will not be anxious [through perception and application of doctrine] in a year of drought [economic recession]

nor cease to yield fruit [or serve God’s purpose]” (Jeremiah 17:7, 8).

America has been hit by terror and economic recession, yet God continues to provide for our partners—channels through which He funds His program. This is clearly an indication that circumstances, no matter how bad, do not determine the course of human history! What a relief to know that Jesus Christ is the One who is at the helm! To our great and awesome God, we joyfully stand in salute!

We pause to thank all our partners—individuals and local churches—who use their God-given resources to generously support His work and labor with us in His Garden. Because of you, tens of thousands of souls have been reached worldwide. Many have responded to the gospel of faith alone in Christ alone and have been introduced to sound Bible doctrine with which to “grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.”

Thank you for being co-laborers in making the gospel and sound Bible teaching available to everyone, regardless of ethnic background or race. And that’s not all; thousands of books have been deposited into the out-stretched hands of the positive. The work ahead is overwhelming; needs surmount, and the spiritual battle rages on, but our solace is that “the battle is the Lord’s.” He is the One who has called us; He is the very One who will see us through.

We covet your prayers as we toil daily to glorify our heavenly Father! We would like to assure those who are serving the Lord through G.E.M. that, as a missionary organization, grounded in sound Bible doctrine and grace-oriented, our objectives remain the same. Our goals are three-fold: First, we evangelize unbelievers

with the simple gospel message of our Lord Jesus Christ. Second, we follow up with those who have believed in Christ by offering them sound doctrinal literature and audiotapes. And third, we identify those men with the gift of communication, and as funds become available, we send these men to doctrinal seminars to further equip them with the tools to accurately divide the Word of God and precisely present its message to others.

“The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble, and He knows those who take refuge in Him” (Nahum 1:7). “The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Israel is our fortress” (Psalm 46:7).

Forever gripped in His matchless grace,

**Moses C. Onwubiko**  
President; Grace Evangelistic Ministries

## DOCTRINE OF GRACE

By Reverend Moses C. Onwubiko Lesson 11

*(Continued from volume 24, lesson 10)*

### SOURCE OF PAUL’S GRACE ORIENTATION

In our previous study, we examined Paul’s salvation experience and his encounter with the Lord on his way to Damascus. This event became a landmark of grace in his soul. The phenomenal truth of his salvation is seen in Ephesians 2:1, “And you were **dead** in your trespasses and sins.” “Dead” is the keyword that sheds light on grace, as does the entire chapter. The Greek adjective is *nekros*. The Lexical Aids (Greek Dictionary) to the New Testament explained spiritual death this way: “Having one’s soul separated from the enlivening influences of the divine light and spirit as a **dead body** is from those of the material light and air, and consequently having no hope of life eternal.”

Before we proceed, we need to ask an essential question to help us tap into the reservoir of Paul's grace thinking. To answer the question, you may need a pencil and a blank sheet of paper. On your page, list seven things a dead person is capable of doing. Well...let's make it easier for everyone; list just one thing. Crazy question, isn't it? Is your paper still blank?

Yet, there are many that teach that a spiritually dead person must make Christ Lord of his life to be saved, or must invite Christ into his heart (garbage dump). Foolishness! False teachers actually peddle these notions of nonsense. Water baptism can't give life to our spirits, any more than sprinkling a corpse would give it life. A dead person is totally and completely **incapable** of doing a thing for himself! Spiritual death is just as helpless as physical death in that we can do nothing to cause our own salvation. A cadaver is always at the mercy of the living. Were it not for the law, those living could just let dead bodies rot away on the surface of the earth, or they could bury them six feet under—the dead have no say in the matter! In the same way, the spiritually dead are at the mercy of the living God who could have let us rot in our spiritually dead state. We had no say!

But God, in his mercy, elected to work out a solution for man's salvation. Paul said it best in Ephesians 2:4: "But God, being rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us..." In Scripture, mercy is synonymous with compassion and pity. The Greek for mercy is *eleos*: *special and immediate regard to the misery which is the consequence of sins*. Paul was—helpless and hopeless—when he experienced God's compassion and pity.

In light of verse 4, we can say that God's love begat mercy, and mercy begat an act of grace. "Even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by **grace** you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:5, 6). The word saved is: *sozo* and in the perfect tense, it means *saved at one point in time, and perpetuated for all eternity*.

As we dissect Ephesians 2:5 and 6, don't get sidetracked; pay close attention for we are looking intently into the networking of Paul's grace-thinking. First, let's backup a notch and

handle the five phrases in these two verses:

i. "**When we were dead in our transgressions**": We have already established that dead is total helplessness, but to further our point, picture a huge chasm: On one side stands helpless, sinful man; on the other side stands Righteous, perfect God. What can a dead person do to cross this great gulch to get to the Father? Walk an aisle? Absolutely Nothing! Only God's Grace could bridge the gap between man and God with the Cross of Christ, "...God demonstrates His own [unfailing] love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners [spiritually-dead], Christ died [as a substitute] for us" (Romans 5:8). Paul's comprehension of this was the cement needed for his soul's Super Structure of grace-orientation.

ii. "**Made us alive together with Christ**": Who makes whom alive? God or helpless man? God of course! By means of the baptism of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 12:13), the one who believes in Christ alone is entered into union with Christ, a state which theologians refer to as *positional sanctification or positional holiness*. Make no mistake about it; God alone did the work. There's no room for boasting about one's salvation when we come face-to-face with this Biblical truth: "**But by His [God's] doing [minus anyone's assistance]** you are in [union with] Christ Jesus, who became to us...righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, 'LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.'" (I Corinthians 1:30, 31). This is the quintessence and beauty of unearned grace. This is grace in action, doing for us what we could not do for ourselves!

iii. "**By grace you have been saved**" is the next phrase we'll examine. Though we've said it before, let's be emphatic and say it again: Man's salvation has nothing to do with his efforts—good or bad! Works of any kind have no bearing upon it! As is stated in Isaiah 64:6, "...all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment..."

For those who still think they can bridge the gap that separates us from God, listen to what Paul says in Romans: "For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about; but not before God [because he wasn't justified by works]. For what does the Scripture say? AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD

[faith plus nothing], and it [his faith] was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned a favor [or grace], but as what is due. But to the one who does not work but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly [sinner], his faith is credited as righteousness" (Romans 4:2-5). He rests his defense with the doctrine of "grace and works cannot be mixed." Thus he wrote, "But if it [salvation] is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace" (11:6).

What baffles me is that the salvation by works crowd say they believe in grace, "**BUT...**" they add. I say...but what? Either one's salvation is by grace, or by works; that's exactly what the above verse underscores! It cannot be both! It cannot be mixed! The word "but" does not follow behind grace—ever. Grace must be allowed to stand alone! There is no such thing as "grace but" or "grace plus" in the entire Bible.

Consider Paul's reaction to the Galatians who entered the spiritual race by means of grace—faith alone in Christ alone (1:6), and then wanted to augment it with works (3:3): In reacting to this unscrupulous error, Paul thundered: "You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you... [!]? This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit [Holy Spirit] by works...or by hearing with faith?...Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit [through faith], are you now being perfected by the flesh [works]?" (3:2, 3). Paul's question, "Who has bewitched you?" is directed to anyone who thinks that his formula for salvation is better than God's grace formula.

Paul wasn't alone in his stand on grace. Read what Peter had to say: "And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them [Gentiles], giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us; and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts [because of faith in Christ]. Now therefore why do you put God to test [why are you picking a fight against God] by placing upon the neck of the disciples [believers] a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are" (Acts 15:8-11).

You see, Peter conceded that no one in the past

was successful in bearing the yoke of salvation by works, nor can anyone in the present be for that matter! So, if you are a believer who is making other believers' lives miserable by yoking them with works and legalism for salvation, yoke them no more! You need to cease and desist, in a hurry, from torturing other believers who bare the mark of grace, because of who and what God is. Now we are ready for the preceding phrase.

iv. **"Raised us up with Him"**: The issue of raising you up takes us back to verse one where you were in a spiritually dead state—unable to help yourself or God. Can a dead person raise himself up? Emphatically no! Someone with other than a lifeless body would have to do that. God is that Someone. Paul's understanding of this caused him to chill-out, and he was raised another notch on the Super Structure of grace orientation. He could not elevate himself in the spiritual arena, nor can we. Just as surely, when you have a hold on this subject, as Paul did, there is no reason, whatsoever, to not begin a mental attitude of grace and gratitude to God the Father. At that point, you will be cuddled and wrapped in the blanket of God's amazing grace.

v. **The substitutionary death of Christ on the cross** for the entire human race gives everyone the equal privilege and potential to believe in Him, and to be justified by God. Note that we said potential. Christ's death on the cross as a substitute for everyone does not guarantee salvation for all. This is a view held by heretical teachers; however, for those who reject Him, the cross becomes the only basis for their condemnation. "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18). Or in another passage: "And He [the Holy Spirit], when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin [singular—sin of unbelief]... because they do not believe in Me [the Lord Jesus Christ]" (John 16:8, 9).

The Bible is lucid: Jesus Christ bore our sins in His own body on the cross (I Peter 2:24). He paid for the sins of the entire human race (I John 2:2). Paul put it this way: "Knowing this, that our old self [sin nature] was crucified with Him..." (Romans 6:6). When a person believes in Christ, His substitutionary spiritual death on

the cross becomes experiential, that means it is no longer potential. As a result, God's righteousness and eternal life are imputed, and He is automatically entered into union with Christ—where he also shares in Christ's righteousness and sanctification (I Corinthians 1:30). That's the concept of water baptism before the canon of Scripture was completed.

In Romans we are asked, "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:3, 4). When a believer is immersed in water, he holds his breath identifying himself with Christ's death; he resumes breathing when he is raised from the water, signifying his new position in glory with Christ. Thus, water baptism was a teaching aid—no more, no less.

vi. **"Seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus"**: This phrase is connected to the last one we examined. The action is totally God's. He does everything. He is the One who raised us up, the very One who seated us with Christ in heaven. At this very moment, whether you realize it or not, the real you is already seated in Christ in the heavenly places. The Scripture is adamant on the subject of your eternal security. In Colossians, we are told, "For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God" (3:3). Can your salvation be more secure? You are hidden in Christ, and Christ is hidden in God the Father! This sobering truth lays our groundwork.

#### ULTIMATE GRACE RESERVED

In Ephesians chapter 2, verse 7 we read: "In order that in the ages to come He [God] might show the **surpassing riches of His grace** in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." This verse is the nucleus and the very core of God's grace! We could say, "You ain't seen nothing yet!" Ironically, even the apostle Paul didn't see the magnitude of what I term Ultimate Grace Reserved. And, certainly, no living believer in the Lord Jesus Christ has experienced this grace, yet. God has reserved it until the death, rapture, or "the exit resurrection" of believers in Christ. It can only be experienced when one is "...absent from the body and home [face-to-

face] with the Lord" (II Corinthians 5:8b). At the rapture, ALL believers—moral, amoral, immoral, losers and winners will be the objects of Ultimate Grace Reserved. All believers will receive resurrection bodies—only the first installment of Ultimate Grace Reserved (I Corinthians 15:50-56).

In the millennial reign of Christ, those who glorified God in time will experience this dynamic grace when they receive honors, decorations, and the privilege of ruling with Christ. And in the eternal state, following the millennium, every believer will realize the privilege of living with God forever and ever. What magnificent grace to look forward to!

"Even when we were dead in our transgressions, [God the Father] made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:5,6). There are three actions in these two verses, all of which are the handiwork of God:

1. He causes the believer to be alive.
2. He raises the believer from his spiritual death.
3. He seats the believer with Christ in Heaven.

The phrase "in order that," which follows in verse 7, is a purpose clause that results in the completed action of verses 5 and 6. The forth action of those listed above, the subject of verse 7, is future and is guaranteed: "In order that in the ages to come He [God] might show the surpassing [above and beyond] riches of His grace." Here are some doctrinal principles:

- i. God, by His grace, saved us when we were rotting in sin, depraved, helpless, and hopeless.
- ii. At salvation, every believer is indwelt by the members of the Godhead, is given God's imputed righteousness, shares in Christ's righteousness and sanctification, and he has the availability of the enabling power of the Holy Spirit and the written Word of God at his disposal.
- iii. After salvation, even with all the divine assets imputed, we still fail God no matter how hard we try in the energy of the flesh. This is the subject of Romans chapter 7 when the greatest apostle in human history called himself a "wretched man [!]" (v. 24).

iv. Our resurrection at the rapture of the church will reveal the surpassing riches of His grace despite our failures in time.

Talk about failures in time—take Adam who brought sin into the world because of one decision (Romans 5:12)—and that slate is wiped clean when we believe in Christ. God promised never to remember this sin again (Hebrews 8:12; Romans 4:7, 8). But post-salvation failures are by our own choices—not Adam's! The good news is that your post-salvation sins have no bearing on your eternal destiny, but they can shorten your life in time and deprive you of enormous reward both in time and in eternity.<sup>1</sup>

In one of my missionary endeavors in Africa, I met a minister who told me point blank that since he became a believer (1982), he never committed any sin. "Woo!" was my response to him. But after I took him through Scripture, his tone changed. He said, "Well, I have made some mistakes since I became a believer." He gave sin a new name—Mistake! The question remains, how many times have you failed God in thought or action? Or failed to trust Him? How many times did you promise God to make Bible doctrine number one priority in your life, but you failed to live up to that promise? How many times have you maligned, gossiped, and judged others? Billions of times?

We all fail. No exceptions! And yet Paul affirmed, "...With a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ [loser and winner believers] will rise first...to meet the Lord in the air..." (I Thessalonians 4:16, 17). The apostle John exclaimed, "Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. [One thing is crystal clear]: We know that when He [the Lord Jesus Christ] appears, we shall be like him" (I John 3:2). You read it correctly! Despite our failures in time, we will still be like Him! How else can one explain God's Ultimate Grace Reserved?

**SALVATION IS THE GIFT OF GOD:** This brings us to verses 8 and 9 in Ephesians chapter 2: "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that [salvation] not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one should boast." Paul

sought to separate grace from works with regard to salvation. Without doing any exegesis of these two verses, we want to underline and briefly develop the phrase, "*it is the gift of God.*"

The exchange of a gift always involves two parties. Let's use these questions to make our point: Who does the work when it comes to giving—the giver or the receiver? Is there any work in giving? Yes. What about receiving—any work? No. I take pleasure in giving gifts to friends and relatives. But first I have to go shopping—then spend ample time looking for the perfect gift. When I find one, I pay for it, take it home, and wrap it with beautiful wrapping paper. Then I present the gift to the receiver! The receiver simply receives. That's all. I do all the work from start to finish. This is the scenario of mankind, but not so with God! Generally, we give gifts to people because we know them, or have rapport with them. If we think of God's gift in this manner, we become guilty of humanizing God. In light of this, when it comes to the gift of salvation, the recipients are depraved, undeserving, and below the bottom rung of unworthiness.

That's what the apostle Paul understood when he wrote, "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God." Paul discovered this on his trip to Damascus and was not likely to forget it. No question about it, when you truly understand The Biblical Doctrine of Salvation,<sup>2</sup> the erection of a Super Structure of grace-orientation in your soul becomes inevitable! And, when you understand the doctrine of hamatology (sin) you will see how we fit into the category of the unworthy.

#### **PAUL'S GRIP ON THE SUBJECT OF ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER:**

The issue of eternal security is a mouthful of sour milk to legalistic believers. Clearly, a believer who rejects the doctrine of Eternal Security of the Believer<sup>3</sup> cannot become grace-oriented. Paul understood this subject more than anyone in the Bible, with the exception of Christ in His human nature. In Romans, he proclaimed: "For I am convinced [both from revelation and study of Scriptures] that neither death, nor life, nor angels [elect and fallen],

nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come [the rapture and eternity], nor powers [including God who cannot undermine His own work], nor height, nor depth, nor any other created being, **shall be able to separate us [those in union with Christ] from the love of God, which is [rooted] in Christ Jesus**" (Romans 8:38, 39).

Many object to the doctrine of eternal security because they believe people will have no regard for God. Such an argument doesn't hold water with anyone who knows the value of "experiential sanctification"<sup>4</sup> and the consequences of taking God for a ride (Hebrews 12:6). Conversely, when you understand that your salvation, from start to finish, has nothing whatsoever to do with you, you will be aglow with grace-orientation—a Christian at ease!

#### **PAUL'S MASTERY OF CHURCH AGE DOCTRINE**

The more Paul, the custodian of the mystery doctrine of the Church Age, zoomed in on this unique doctrine (Colossians 1:25-29), the more grace-oriented his focus on life became. The thought of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit indwelling him at his lowest ebb was almost more than he could fathom. Think of it: The Creator indwelling His creation—us. If that thought doesn't humble you, nothing will. It boils down to this, when you have a handle on the Pauline epistles, master its teachings through a sound Bible teacher, and apply the principles consistently, sooner or later a mental attitude of grace will spring forth and blossom in your soul.

#### **GOD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD PAUL—A SOURCE OF HIS GRACE ORIENTATION**

"...And from everyone who has been given much, much will be required" (Luke 12:48b). Paul was acutely aware that God had done so much for him—though he hadn't earned it or deserved it. God's grace was not limited to his salvation and eternal security, but it included his deliverance from daily dangers (II Timothy 3:11), his provision, successes, and rewards in time and eternity (II Timothy 4:7, 8). Paul was really awed by God's grace. No wonder, he unequivocally came to the conclusion: "But by the grace of God I am what I am..." (I Corinthians 15:10a).

<sup>1</sup> Onwubiko, Moses Biblical Doctrine of Salvation (pp. 56-62)

<sup>2</sup> Book by Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko

<sup>3</sup> Booklet by Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko

<sup>4</sup> Biblical Doctrine of Salvation pp. 56-62

## SAMPLES OF APPLICATION OF BIBLE DOCTRINE

1. When the believer meditates on his salvation, he recognizes that he was totally lost, depraved, unable to save himself, but God in His matchless grace saved him from eternal doom.
2. When the believer is tempted to add works to his salvation, he rejects the temptation and accepts truth drawn from the inventory of Bible doctrine in his soul. For instance, "Who [God] has saved us...not according to our works, but according to His purpose and grace..." (II Timothy 1:9).
3. When the fear of losing one's salvation rages in the believer's soul, he calms himself by using the doctrines he has learned. He reminds himself that he is God's child, and thus cannot be unborn. He relaxes in his soul knowing that his salvation is a gift (Ephesians 2:8, 9; Romans 6:23b) which cannot be revoked (Romans 11:29).
4. When the believer is tempted to live in sin because of eternal security, he pauses to remember that God administers divine discipline to His children (Hebrews 12:6). So instead, he pursues sound Bible doctrine with all alacrity, aiming to grow in grace, reach the high ground of spiritual maturity, and thus glorify God to the maximum.
5. When a believer is maligned, judged, ridiculed, hated, and treated unjustly, he does not respond in kind. Rather, with the assistance of God the Holy Spirit, he remains self-composed. He shows compassion and mercy to the one who hates him. He recognizes that he was once a scum himself, but God graced him out. He is eager to lift the individual up to the throne of grace—praying that God would open the eyes of the one who wronged him, so that he can come to know the grace of God! Of course, your spiritual growth is directly proportional to your grace orientation toward others! The more we learn of God's grace-treatment toward us, the more eager we are to extend grace to those around us.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Paul—a trophy of grace—wrote, "But by His doing [*minus anyone's effort*] you are in Christ Jesus..." (I Corinthians 1:30a). 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. God provides salvation in grace. We have nothing to add. We are the objects and beneficiaries of His grace forever.

"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).

*To be continued—(Volume 26—lesson 12)*

## WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

We live in the most unique time of human history, because God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit indwell every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ; however, we are reminded that we live in the devil's world and are in the most intensified period of the angelic conflict—a time when Satan has gone wild. His objective remains the same: to defeat us and declare us casualties in the spiritual arena.

It goes without saying that to be forewarned is to be forearmed. The Lord Jesus Christ forewarned us, when He said, "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but **take courage**; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). The Lord won your victory at Calvary; there is no battle left for you to fight! Nonetheless, Satan fights with all alacrity—tooth and nail. He fights as though the battle has not been won. But, the Lord summons you to take courage in whatever you are going through as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, for He has said, "...Lo, I am with you ALWAYS, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

In another passage, the writer of Hebrews declared, "...I [God the Father] WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU" (Hebrews 13:5b). And Isaiah recorded the Lord saying, "Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you [Keep your eyes

on the Lord], for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely, I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10). How much more secure can you be when the Lord is in you and with you? You may say, "Moses, it appears the Lord will give up on me this time." But I say back to you, what King David clearly stated, "I have been young, and now I am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, or his children begging for food" (Psalm 37:25).

FOOD: When the Bible speaks of food, it includes all the necessities of life. You are already surrounded by the ocean of His grace provision. You need not be anxious as to what tomorrow might bring. The Lord put it this way, "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...Look at the birds of the air that they do not sow [they are unemployed], neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them [365 days a year]. Are you not worth more than they?" (Matthew 6:25, 26). Of course! Undoubtedly, God will shield you from whatever disaster tomorrow brings, even national disaster.

It boils down to this: If God intends for you to live to be a 100 years old, heaven and earth would have to pass away before He would relent in providing for your sustenance until then! With this in mind, I say to you, our partners in His missionary work, "The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Israel is our fortress [and your Anchor]" (Psalm 46:7).

*We pause to pray that God, in His infinite grace and mercy, would cause the infallible Word of God, which you take in and apply on a consistent basis, to serve as a source of encouragement and comfort as you live and operate in the enemy's territory. And that you would advance rapidly to the high ground of spiritual maturity, glorify God, and become an invisible pivot through which the United States of America shall be delivered. This we humbly pray in Christ's name. Amen.*

## 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 financially independent.
- Right now, we have six 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.

## NEW PUBLICATION

By the grace of God, we have published a new book: Focus on Christian Marriage for both married and unmarried believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. This publication is a reply to many questions we encounter about marriage as we travel from coast-to-coast. We believe that this book will help everyone who wants to understand the spiritual battle that rages on in marriage. More than that, it will enlighten everyone who aspires to glorify God in marriage. What does the Bible mean when it says, "Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and

gave His life for her?" Or "Wives, be submissive to your own husbands as to the Lord?" These two mandates carry equal weight and are explained in this book.

Our stand with regard to financial policy remains the same: The book is free. We do not charge for books or any other material that is of spiritual value. We do not solicit funds; your contribution to this ministry is solely a matter between you and the Lord. Every believer has the privilege and honor to contribute to the work of this ministry as we endeavor to bring maximum glory to our heavenly Father. This is a grace ministry.

## GOD WILL PROVIDE

"God will provide" is the attitude of Grace Evangelistic Ministries. We do not beg for money. We believe that if this ministry is honoring to God, He will provide EVERYTHING necessary for its continuation. "God will provide" was Abraham's reassurance to his confused son, Isaac (Genesis 22:8). When God gives an assignment to us as His servants, He is under obligation to provide for the job. When God

### *The Overview of Grace Evangelistic Ministries*

Grace Evangelistic Ministries is incorporated in the State of Tennessee as a nonprofit, non-denominational, sound Bible teaching missionary oriented Christian organization.

Our Mission: In obedience to the command of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.....

**"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15)**

#### WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:

##### **Objective #1**

Evangelize unbelievers with the simple, grace gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will depend solely on the sovereignty of the Holy Spirit to make the gospel clear without resorting to gimmicks or imposing our personal views on others. We must present the gospel, but leave the decision "to believe in" or "to reject" Christ to the hearers.

##### **Objective #2**

For those who choose to believe in Christ, we will seize the opportunity to assist in the following ways:

- a. Help them form Bible study groups;

- b. Provide them with doctrinal materials, including recorded Bible lessons and literature, enabling them to fulfill the command: "As newborn babies desire the sincere milk of the word [sound Bible doctrine] that you may grow thereby." (1 Peter 2:2);
- c. Where possible, assist them in establishing their own local churches;
- d. Help them select pastors who teach sound Bible doctrine; and
- e. As the Lord makes funds available, provide financial assistance until they are self-supporting.

##### **Objective #3**

Because those who have responded to the gospel will become unfruitful if they are not exposed to sound Bible teaching, we will seek out or establish theological seminaries to prepare indigenous pastors. Their training will be consistent with Paul's mandate to Pastor Timothy to "study to show yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth." (II Timothy 2: 15)

##### **Objective #4**

As the need arises, we will send doctrinally motivated, short-term and long-term missionaries to minis-

ter to newly formed groups and churches.

##### **Objective #5**

We will use literature and other media to reach and nurture those to whom we cannot minister in person. To minimize expenses, we will establish overseas centers for audiocassette duplication of recorded Bible lessons and reproduction of doctrinal literature. In keeping with our grace policy, individuals and groups will never be charged for these materials.

##### **Objective #6**

Offer humanitarian assistance as the Lord provides and directs us. This may include, but is not limited to:

- a. Provision of used and/or new clothing;
- b. Provision of food;
- c. Provision of medicines and medical care; and
- d. Assist Grace Evangelistic Ministries associates as necessary.

##### **Objective #7**

Prepare periodic newsletters, which include Bible exposition and testimonies, for distribution to our associates by mail and the Internet.

does not provide, it could mean one of three things. One, God may not want the job accomplished at that particular time. Two, it could mean that those who are to carry out the mission are not prepared to do so yet. Lastly, it could be a sign that God does not want to have any part of the ministry; therefore, it is absolutely foolish and arrogant for us as believers to try to devise a way to accomplish a task in the name of God when He has already rejected it. For example, when we use gimmicks to manipulate people to contribute money, we are not glorifying God. It is blasphemy on our part to think that God does not know how to provide for the work that He has assigned. Take a moment and think about the following question: When we work to accomplish a job that God has rejected, who will be glorified in the end? God? Or me?

A believer in the Lord once said, "God's work, done in God's way, will have God's provision."

## SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

*Forwarded by the GEM's Board of Directors*

In order to maintain registration to operate in Nigeria, governmental regulation requires land ownership by Grace Evangelistic Ministries within two years of its certificate of incorporation (i. e. Aug. 1, 2001). For our ministry to satisfy these regulations, the GEM Board of Directors is establishing a fund for land acquisition, separate from the operating budget—our goal is \$65,000.00 with purchase dependent on inflation, availability of land, and funds.

## DR. LAWRENCE ASONG

Dr. Asong, who reported in Volume 24, a native of Cameroon and long-time student of R.B. Thieme, Jr., knows firsthand of the Ultimate Grace Reserved by God for His saints. Dr. Asong was involved in a fatal car crash that took him home to be with the Lord. He will be missed by all, but we rejoice in his newfound JOY that is his forever and evermore...no more pain...no more tears...

## REPORT FROM NIGERIA

*Prepared and forwarded by  
Pastor Tony Sani*

"There has been a tremendous increase in demand for doctrinal literature and audiotapes since our last report. We have had more new people come to our office this period than before. More ministers, pastors, and church members are being introduced to our ministry on a regular basis. We can only attribute such increase to God who makes Himself known to anyone who is hungry to know Him. As soon as individuals come in contact with our material, they rush to us for their own copies. What is striking is the testimony of many of these recipients. Some pastors admit that they are undergoing a theological training through G.E.M. Some also say that they have never seen a ministry like Grace Evangelistic Ministries—a ministry that distributes doctrinal materials without charge! The testimonies that we receive on a daily basis confirm that our ministry is being used by God to change many lives both within and beyond. To God we give the glory.

Here are just a few of the testimonies:

*Our church was very fortunate to have come in contact with some of your publications, and we are very happy to inform you now that many of our members have been blessed. We have accepted these books for our Bible class. We would like to request more copies of the ones listed.... We would also appreciate any other publications you have.*

### **May God continue to bless your ministry. J, Abuja (the Capital of Nigeria)**

*I write to express my gratitude and appreciation for the spiritual support for me and our church in general, in respect to the recent books that were forwarded to us. The books came to me like a bolt from the moon; they came when they were most needed and I cannot but say that words are hardly enough to express my mind, but nonetheless accept my sincere thanks.*

### **Evangelist C. O., Ondo**

*Please permit me to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of (4) audiotapes you sent to me recently. The teachings have blessed my soul immensely. I thank God for using you to instruct our generation.*

### **I. B, Imo State**

*After reading through your publication, God's Plan After Salvation, I recommended it to the members of my church. They have joyfully accepted it. About 150 of my members need the book including your other publications viz. Comfort in Suffering, Riding the Death Train, and Eternal Security of the Believers.*

*Please try your best to send us 150 of each book.*

### **Pastor B. A., Afikpo**

## REPORT FROM ZIMBABWE

*Forwarded by Pastor John Gumbo*

"Hello Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko

Greetings, and welcome back from a long missionary journey to Africa. To me it seems as though the spirit that was on the apostle Paul, in the early Church Age, is on you because you cover the whole calendar year evangelizing and teaching the Word of God worldwide, with the hope that God will save Africa from false doctrines through your dedication and accurate doctrinal teachings.

Victoria Falls: Our local church is increasing in number, and we are now in the rainy season. Thus we are no longer holding services outside the school block. We are looking for a larger place to conduct our Sunday services. I really do not know how to truly express the magnificent work the Lord is doing here in Victoria Falls. It's great to watch!

Hwange Town: The GEM Tape Group in this town requests that Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko hold a 7-day crusade and a follow-up doctrinal program in August 2002.

Kwekwe: More than 20 people who have responded to the gospel—faith alone in Christ alone—through GEM's doctrinal materials, have been phoning me, also requesting that a crusade be conducted in their own town in August 2002.

Shangani: Shangani GEM's believers have written a letter to me requesting that I ask Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko if he could hold a 7-day teaching conference in August 2002.

Victoria Falls: Pastors from different denomi-

nations have requested to be included in the teaching conference that will be conducted by Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko in August 2002.

All the believers of GEM in Victoria Falls were happy to start the New Year with the first Sunday Lesson entitled, "Sanctification" a lesson I took from GEM's book, namely The Biblical Doctrine of Salvation.

Thanks be to God for the great work He has done especially in our ministry throughout the year 2001. We trust that the Lord will do even greater work in this year 2002.

Extend my appreciation to the associates of Grace Evangelistic Ministries, in USA."

Thank you.  
Pastor John Gumbo

## 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, for 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).

Our purpose in sharing these letters with you is to show you that your partnership in this ministry is indeed producing dividends for the glory of our great God.

### LETTER FROM PRISON

Dear Grace Evangelistic Ministries,  
I am writing to receive two copies each of all your publications. Moreover, thank you so much for keeping me on your mailing list to regularly receive "Grace News Today." I thoroughly enjoy all of Rev. Onwubiko's writings.

I have a colleague, a brother in Christ who is going through some spiritual struggles. He is born again though. But after reading all the copies of the volumes of the "Grace News Today" that I have, he asked if you could place his name on the mailing list. Also could you send him all your publications?

*Finally, please pray for my victims and their families, some of who were very close family members. Please pray that God will heal them and restore the trust that I had taken away from them. Although I will be released in less than three months, I am not really concerned about any sort of reconciliation. I just want them to be healed.*

*Thank you very much for your kind assistance, prayers, and support through your publications. May God continue to abundantly bless, guide and provide for all of you!*

**In His love and Service,  
S. B., in Prison, U. S. A**

Dear Grace Evangelistic Ministries,  
Greetings in Christ's name.

*I was greatly blessed with volume 22. "Grace News Today" is a gift to me. Its teachings are causing growth in me. Indeed, the truth therein has set me free. I have been going to church ever since I was a youngster. And I did not know that I have not been born again. But your gospel message—faith alone in Christ alone—has caused me to be born again! My only desire now, is to grow in my spiritual life.*

*Thank you all.*

**Sincerely,  
R. M., Zimbabwe**

Dear Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko,  
Greetings in the most precious Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.  
I have been heart-touched after going through your publication, Comfort In Suffering. It went right deep into me, and I had to share the impartation, which I gathered from it with other friends. I would like to thank you for including my name on your mailing list to receive on a regular basis, "Grace News Today." It has been a great help in my Christian life and ministry as well. The doctrines from the previous volumes have really inspired me and challenged me to stand for the truth. Thanks for such a mighty job!

**Yours in Christ,  
N. M., Zimbabwe**

Dear Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko,  
I give all the glory and honor to God

*Almighty for bringing me and my church in touch with you through your amazing literature—"Grace News Today" (Volumes 21 and 22).*

*It is to God's glory that I make the following confession: I have been a Christian for forty-eight years, I have not had as much exposition on the doctrine of grace as I now had in these two volumes of "Grace News Today." My eyes are open now; and I am very much strengthened spiritually.*

*Sir, I wish to use this rare opportunity to appeal to you to please remain my mentor, and render any necessary aid that would facilitate the growth of the Lord's job in my hands.*

**Yours in the Lord,  
Rev. K. O., Rivers State.**

Dear Rev. Onwubiko,

*Calvary greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have just read a copy of your book—The Biblical Doctrine of Salvation that a friend loaned to me. Not only that my wife and myself enjoyed the book, every page brought a new excitement and expectation.*

*We are, therefore, hereby soliciting for copies of all your publications and also audiotapes as the book stipulates that we only need to request. We promise to share with other people who may be interested in spiritual growth.*

*While thanking you for your kindness and submission to the Almighty God, we pray that His grace shall abound for you and lead you to greater achievements in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**Sincerely yours,  
Dr. C. N., (Hospital) Abia State**

## 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 reli-



gion. 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 should 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 resurrection 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.

**“You shall know the Truth and the Truth shall set you free”**

(John 8:32).

## PRAYER

"Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain; and it did not rain for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruits. [For] the effective prayer of a righteous man [a believer with integrity] can accomplish much [Greek: *Ischuo* = *capable of producing results*]" (James 5:17, 18, 16).

"If my people upon whom my name is called, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (II Chronicles 7:14—corrected translation).

### Does God answer everyone who prays? Scripture has the answer.

"God bless America" is nothing more than a crèche. Many think that by putting "God Bless America" bumper stickers on their cars, homes, billboards, and even saying it after a speech that God would probably ignore the spiritual malfunction of this great nation and turn it around. The Scripture says otherwise: "The sacrifice of the wicked [unbeliever or a carnal believer] is an abomination to the Lord, but the prayer of the upright [believer with spiritual integrity] is His delight [Hebrew: *Ratson* = *pleasure*]" (Proverbs 15:8). Peter sheds additional light on this question, "You husbands...live with your wives in an understanding...so that your prayers may not be hindered" (I Peter 3:7). Woo! That means that marital problems can hinder prayers! On that note, how many marital problems do we have in our nation? Statistics show that more than 50% of marriages in the US end up in divorce!

How is your spiritual life? Are you advancing or retrogressing? We have been challenged, first by James (5: 16, 17, 15) and second by God Himself (II Chronicles 7:14). The truth of the

matter is that our prayers cannot go beyond the ceiling if we are not advancing in God's plan for our lives. Consequently, if you have marital problems, pray no more until the problems are resolved and spiritual life jumpstarted! If you are an unbeliever, or a believer out of fellowship, the Word of God is crystal clear: "We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing, and does His will, He hears him" (John 9:31). Consequently, the truth has surfaced: if God is going to hear our prayers and heal our land, these facts must prevail:

1. There must be a total change of mind about God's plan. If you have never put your faith in Christ, the Son of God, you can do that right now. In this quiet moment, you can tell God that you believe that Jesus is the Christ. For those who are believers, they should re-examine their spiritual life and see where they have failed God, acknowledge those sins to God (I John 1:9), forget them, and move forward (Philippians 3:13).
2. Believers in this nation should pause, rethink, refocus, and resume the functions of a client nation to God. How? By using church pulpits solely for expositional teachings of God's Word and not for monetary gain; form a large pivot of spiritual integrity through daily perception and application of Bible doctrine; make personal evangelism a lifestyle by training, sending, praying for and supporting missionaries.
3. Have a mindset of growing in grace, advancing to the high ground, and maximum glorification of God. Without these three principles in place, our nation is in danger of losing its status as a client nation to God, and prayer alone would not suffice!

Nonetheless, for those of us that are en route to the high ground of spiritual maturity, or have changed our mind with regard to the plan of God for our lives, "Let us therefore [humbly] draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). (To be continued in the next volume)

## BIBLE DOCTRINE FOR THOUGHT

In our Lord's Prayer, Jesus Christ said to God the Father, "I have given them Thy word [Bible doctrine]...**they [all believers] are not of the world**, even as I am not of the world" (John 17:14).

What's the ultimate reason as to why you are kept behind after your salvation? The answer is not far-fetched. Glorification of God to the maximum! It boils down to this: God's **ONLY** purpose for leaving you on earth after your salvation is that you may learn His Word (I Peter 2:2) and "grow in grace" (II Peter 3:18), and thereby glorify Him in the devil's world (Romans 15:9; I Corinthians 6:20); therefore, if your utmost goal in life as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is not learning and applying accurate Bible doctrine on a consistent basis, it's regrettable to say, but your life on earth has no worth or value. Do you live your life in the light of eternity? You may wish to meditate on this question.

## MOSES ITINERARY FOR 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: (Canada, Holland or Romania)

## JESUS CHRIST THE PERFECT EXAMPLE OF A PRAYER WARRIOR

The God-Man, our Lord Jesus Christ, gave us a perfect example to follow. His life and earthly ministry was encapsulated in a lifestyle of prayer. Prayer occupied 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 the twelve disciples: "As it was at this time that He [i.e., Jesus Christ] went off to the mountain to pray and He spent the whole night in prayer to God [the Father]" (Luke 6:12,13); when He was transfigured (Luke 9:29); when He was engaging in sustained and exhausting service: "And in the early morning, while it was still dark, He arose and went out and departed to a lone place [for privacy], and was praying there" (Mark 1:35-39); when He called forth Lazarus from the grave (John 11:41); when He was burdened for Simon Peter (Luke 22:31-32); when He faced betrayal, execution, and divine abandonment, and thus the Scripture recorded: "And He withdrew from them [i.e., His disciples] about a stone's throw, and he knelt down and began to pray... And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground" (Luke 22:41,44). He prayed when He thought of His disciples and their future ministry (John 17) and before His physical death (Luke 23:46). Therefore, if you are a believer who finds it difficult to spend a time with our heavenly Father, 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, a perfect God and a perfect Man spent all night in prayer (Luke 6:12-13), we the mortal believers should spend all year in Prayer!

In light of the importance of 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 US military
- ❖ God to provide for the missionary work in Africa (March-April 2000)
- ❖ 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)

## INTERNAL REVENUE 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.

## FINAL NOTE

If you would like to be on our mailing list to receive this bi-monthly issue of Grace News Today with no obligation, please write to us:

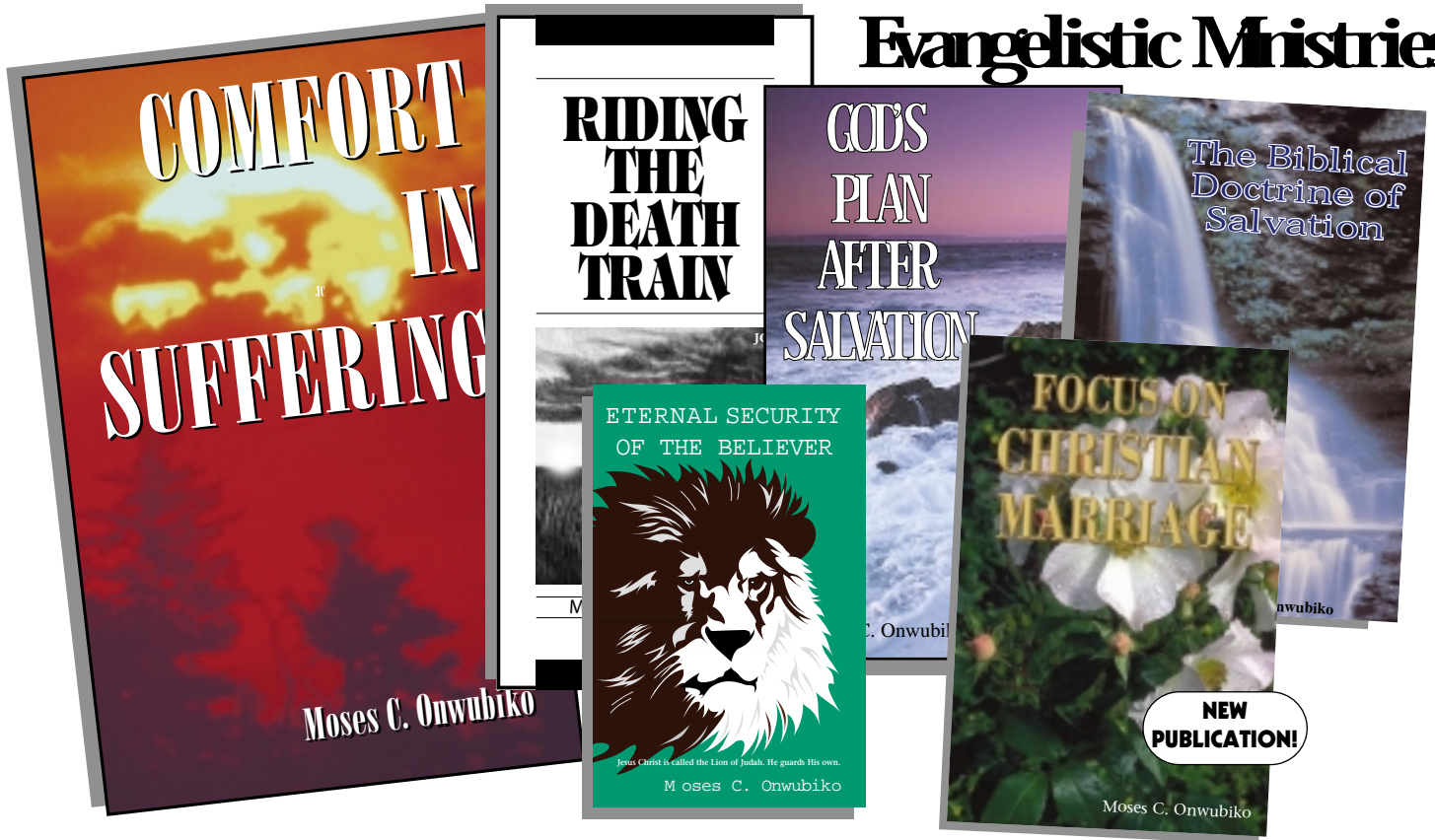
Grace Evangelistic Ministries  
PO Box 17246

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>

# Currently available publications from Grace Evangelistic Ministries



## 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 doctrine. We wish to reflect His grace.

Grace Evangelistic Ministries is purely a grace ministry and operates entirely on freewill contributions. There is no price list for our publications. No money is ever requested. When gratitude for the Word of God and understanding of the need to reach unsaved souls with the simple grace gospel and sound Bible teaching motivate you to contribute, you have the privilege of becoming a partner with us by contributing and sharing in the propagation of the Word of God. This is a grace ministry.