



Grace News Today

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“Faith Alone in Christ Alone”

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Greetings from G.E.M.!!

Greetings to you all, from the bottom of our hearts!

We thank our God, always making mention of you in our prayers (Philemon 1:4). Always offering prayer with joy in our every prayer for you all, in view of your participation in the Gospel from the first day [from the inception of this ministry] until now. We are confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:4-6).

Truly, words are inadequate to articulate our thankfulness. Even the Apostle Paul had a hard time expressing fully his inner feelings, his heartfelt expression of love and gratitude, for his brothers and sisters at Philippi. Paul wrote to them saying:

“For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the Gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me. For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:7-8).

The church at Philippi was one of the poorest churches in Macedonia, and yet they were consumed with everything concerning the dissemination of the Gospel! They took advantage of every opportunity they had in doing whatever was necessary to further the work of God's Kingdom!

In Paul's epistle to the Corinthians, this faithful church was mentioned:

"Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their **deep poverty** overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability they gave of their own accord, begging us with much entreaty for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God" (2 Corinthians 8:1-5).

What a church! What a bundle of joy they were to the Apostle Paul!

The believers of Philippi were his crown! He couldn't stop thinking and praying for these saints because of the rapport between them! They had an immeasurable love for the Apostle and the work we did! They exemplified Christ because they first exposed themselves to the teaching of His Word and subsequently allowing the Word to alter their thoughts and actions. No wonder they were precious to Paul. Simply, they were his partners in every sense!

Similarly, we are profoundly indebted to God for all our partners! We thank Him for what He is doing for, and through, you and us. What's more, it will be remiss on our part if we fail to express our own deepest gratitude to you for your relentless effort in support of this ministry, for you are our partners! We want you to know that here, at Grace Evangelistic Ministries, we lift you up daily before His throne asking that our heavenly Father would in His infinite grace continue to meet you at the point of your need as we endeavor to fulfill His plan for our lives!

Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever (Daniel 12:3).

What a privilege we all have! It's our prayer that we avail ourselves of every opportunity we have to win a soul for His Kingdom! Again, greetings!

Your partners in His service,
G.E.M.'s Missionary Team

Word of Encouragement

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT:

“But He *God+ knows the way I take *He knows my predicament, He is concretely aware of my situation]; when He has tested me, I will come forth as gold. My feet have closely followed His steps I have kept to His way without turning aside. I have not departed from the commands of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my daily bread” (Job 23:10-12 NIV).

Yes, what a joy to know that we have the Omniscient Sovereign God on our side! God, who not only knows every bit of what we are going through in life, but also has what it takes to see us through, no matter the magnitude of our dilemma! This was exactly what Job had in mind in the midst of his suffering when he wrote, *“But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I will come forth as gold.”* God knows, and provides; that’s all that matters!

**Satan can afflict us, but
he cannot crush us!**

We must be aware that we are in the enemy’s territory! As sojourners we are living and operating in Satan’s domain, and we are not welcome. This is the devil’s world (John 14:30). That explains why we are being bombarded from every imaginable angle.

Satan hates us because we are in union with Christ. Consequently, he continues to assault us from every corner. To the right he does not miss, on the left we are hit, both front and back we are exposed, daily, to his assaults. Surprising? Not at all! No where in Scripture are we ever promised that those who trust in Christ shall never be ambushed.

The good news is that Scriptural references abound demonstrating that believers (like Job) who are obedient to His Word, cannot and will not be disappointed (Psalm 37:25; 84:10-11; 2 Chronicles 16:9; Hebrews 13:5c, Isaiah 43:2, 3).

That’s comforting! The Apostle Paul summarizes it beautifully:

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body (2 Corinthians 4:8-10).

Isaiah added:

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you” (Is 43:2).

Yes, Satan can afflict us, but he cannot crush us! He can strike us down, but what a joy to know that he cannot destroy us! That’s another way of defining God’s Sovereignty -- Satan can do all he wants to us, but God determines the outcome of his assault! Isn’t that wonderful to know? So my beloved soothe your soul with His unchanging Word:

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

May we always keep that in mind!

Doctrine of Grace

KING DAVID -- A Symphony of God’s Grace
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(Continued from volume 47)

In our last installment (Volume 47), we had a glimpse of David’s awesome mindset. We were taken aback at the strength and intensity of the anchorage of his soul on God’s Word. That’s not all! We were dumbfounded when we read afresh the lyrics:

“My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God” (Psalm 84:2 NIV).

“O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water” (Psalm 63:1 NIV).

“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My God?” (Psalm 42 1-2 NIV).

“One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life” (Psalm 27:4a).

“My soul yearns, even faints” were the perfect words, that described the innermost chamber of the soul of the shepherd boy, David. They were written later in life, and show clearly that his mind was focused on heaven--as we noted in our last edition. David’s soul thirsted and panted for God all the days of his life. He yearned for God’s heart through God’s Word; and God’s heart shaped his own and made him humble and a symphony of God’s grace! What a servant! What a man after God’s own heart! What a solace to know that God never leaves His servants powerless!

So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah (1 Samuel 16:13 NIV).

The Empowerment of God

Let there be no misunderstanding. The empowerment of the Holy Spirit is not only essential, but a prerequisite for the fulfillment of God's plan. God's chosen servants of the Old Testament couldn't do without it; and the Church Age believers are no exceptions. For instance in the Old Testament God called Saul:

“And the Spirit of God came upon him mightily” (1 Samuel 10:10b).

He called David, and:

...from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power (1 Samuel 16:13b NIV).

David was clothed with power from on High! Today every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16). When there's no unconfessed sin in the believer's soul, he is filled by the Holy Spirit and thus empowered by Him (1 John 1:9). On top of that, everyone has at least one spiritual gift. Our spiritual gift may, or may not, be apparent to us. It functions with or without our knowledge. We do not need to be rocket scientists or necessarily be masters of the original languages of Scripture: Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek, to excel in God's service. All that is required of us, is that we grow in grace to spiritual maturity.

It boils down to this: Spiritual maturity is more precious in God's sight than human credentials! The Scripture is very clear on this:

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate [mature], equipped [and sent forth] for every good work.... Although He was a Son, He [the humanity of Jesus Christ] learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, [having been brought to maturity] He became to all those who obey Him [who trust in Him] the source of eternal salvation (2 Timothy 3:16-17 cf. Hebrews 5:8-9).

What about David? What credentials did he have? None really--as the youngest son he was given the lowest job of the family--he was just a shepherd boy. Scripture is silent regarding his academic or religious training; but it is not silent when it comes to the edification of his soul through the infallible Word of God. By means of daily study and application of God's Word, he advanced rapidly to spiritual maturity and thereby he was equipped for every good work.

Having been prepared in his soul, having been secretly anointed and empowered by God, David was on his way to the throne of Israel. God uses mature people, prepared people, to the maximum!

David's Journey to the Throne

No question about it, David was God's choice for Israel's throne! God had spoken through the prophet Samuel! It must come to pass no matter what! But, make note; the road to the throne wasn't going to be all that easy. Just because God had made a promise to David does not mean that its fulfillment was to be served on a golden platter. That should be equally true of us. David was going to encounter many obstacles and assaults that nearly prevented him from reaching the throne as we shall see in our study. But, we can be certain of one thing: No matter how treacherous the road would get, the Lord crowned David as king at the appointed time.

That's comforting! God never fails! We ought not to forget that! He will bring His plan to fruition in our lives also and at exactly the right time!

So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire [that is in accordance with His will], and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it... "Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure;' calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it"... God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent; has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? (Isaiah 46:9-11; 55:11; cf. Numbers 23:19).

David was the man of the hour because his soul was the soul of the hour! The good news is that God is always ever ready to use us for greater tasks when we master facing our "giants" with the weapon of divine viewpoint thinking (2 Timothy 2:20-21). In reality God searches for those who will view their "giants" through the filter of His Word. He searches for those who have become proficient in applying His Word under pressure--the mature believers. Those who can look at "giants" and come to the same conclusion as did Joshua and Caleb saying:

"They [the giants] will be our prey. Their protection has been removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them" (Numbers 14:9b).

or as David said:

"This day the Lord will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the Lord's and He will give you into our hands" (1 Samuel 17:46-47).

Facing Your Giant

Sooner or later we shall all face a "giant" as David did when he faced Goliath. David killed Goliath, but there are other inevitable "giants" yet to be defeated: lay offs, death or disability of loved ones, bankruptcy, and terminal sicknesses, to name just a few. These are the "giants" of life!

Sooner or later we shall
all face a "giant" as
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Goliath.

On the other hand, anyone who judges only from what can be seen on the surface may infer that Goliath was like an impassible chasm in David's road to the throne. Or was he? Make no mistake! God used Goliath as an instrument of punishment to the Israelites because of their spiritual failures. On the one hand, God used David to reveal King Saul's cowardice, and on the other, to show the awesome courage of David, God's man of the hour! What a display of the sublime wisdom of God!

David on Time on Target

David came to the war zone and heard Goliath lashing out and intimidating Israel's army, as the giant has been doing for forty days:

"Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified (1 Samuel 17:8a-11 NIV).

Everyone including King Saul hit the panic button! The sight of Goliath alone sent everyone to their hideouts -- even David's eldest brother, Eliab, the man Samuel thought was the right candidate (1 Samuel 17: 13, 24)!

I encourage you to read the entire 17th chapter of the book of First Samuel to acquaint or reacquaint yourself with the story of David and Goliath. It's fascinating! What's more, reading it afresh leads us to appreciate God's infinite wisdom and the power of His Word when it is applied courageously and confidently! I have said it before: becoming mature in Bible Truth, and having a reservoir of God's Word in our souls is very important, but using it in life's experiences is the real power of Christian life. Hearing or reading a passage of Scripture like this one is very important:

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

But, applying its Truth when things fall apart in our lives is needed to:

...Confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid [of what the future holds] what will man *or circumstances+ do to me?" (Heb. 13:6).

This is the backbone of Christian living. David exemplified this timeless Truth. He devoted himself to the Word of God, and allowed his thinking to be influenced by the Word, as we have noted. God was so real to him, simply because the Word was so real to him. He believed that all of God's Word meant just what it said--it became a part of who he was, part of his thinking--and he anxiously awaited opportunities to apply it. Consequently, David was quick to respond, to the taunting words of Goliath's humanistic viewpoint.

"Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?" (1 Samuel 17:26b).

The Israelites saw a giant, but David saw an uncircumcised blasphemer. The Israelites ran away from Goliath in fear; David faced him with confidence in God! But first, he asked King Saul for permission to fight Goliath.

David Before King Saul

Let's face it! David's courage to take on the giant undoubtedly stemmed, not from his military prowess or experience, but from a total reliance on God. God has what it takes to handle every "giant," no matter how huge or how threatening. David was not afraid! He knew his God!

"But the people who know their God will display strength and take action" (Daniel 11:32b).

The assurance in his soul compelled him to come to a sound conclusion that "*the battle is the Lord's.*" Again we ask: who is this teen who stood before King Saul and said:

“Let no man’s heart fail on account of him; your servant [David] will go and fight with this Philistine.” (1 Samuel 17:32)?

David met his king, Saul, with a word of encouragement: “*Let no man’s heart fail on account of him [Goliath, the giant]!*” Think of it. David, at this point, had no military training whatsoever. He was just a shepherd boy, the youngest of the family, forgotten in the fields for most of the time! Notwithstanding, he took the challenge to fight the giant; an arrogant man who had become a terror and a source of nightmares to all the soldiers (and to the king and his court) of Israel. We ask: “With what shall David fight the world’s best?” Take a guess. Do you say that he will fight with Israel’s best weaponry? Wrong! Do you guess that he will fight with King Saul’s armor? Wrong again!

“For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses” (2 Corinthians 10:4).

David mentally had given the battle to the Lord, and the Lord alone! David’s weapon was sobering!

Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, **whom you have taunted**” (1 Samuel 17:45).

But, King Saul wasn’t all that convinced that David, with his lack of military training, should take on the giant. What’s more? David’s physique compounded his doubtfulness! David was probably less than 10% of Goliath’s total body mass. Think of it. Goliath’s helmet and a coat of scale armor weighed about 5,000 shekels (which is roughly 125 pounds). In other words, the weight of his coat and helmet alone were probably more than David’s total body weight. On top of that, Goliath was 9 feet 9 inches tall. He truly was a giant! That explains Saul’s bewilderment.

Then Saul said to David, “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are but a youth while he has been a warrior from his youth” (1 Samuel 17:33).

But David’s eyes were on the Lord, not on the giant as Saul’s eyes were! What a contrast!

This prepares us to see into the mind of God’s hero!

David’s Faith Thinking

David’s mindset, from a position of faith, is indeed a feast for our soul:

But David said to Saul, “Your servant was tending his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, I went out after him and attacked

him, and rescued it from his mouth; and when he rose up against me, I seized him by his beard and struck him and killed him. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear [David's resume]; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God." And David said, **"The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."** And Saul said to David, "Go, and may the Lord be with you" (1 Samuel 17:34-37).

How often we short-circuit our frame of reference when we are face-to-face with our "giants"! God holds us accountable when we fail to factor in His faithfulness to us. That's the primary reason for Israel's destruction at Kadesh-barnea where they failed to recognize that God who had been faithful to them all these years will take care of the reported "giant in the land" for them! What a grave mistake! It is even more frightening that today, several thousand years later, we seem to be doing the same thing again. In view of what happened at Kadesh-barnea the Psalmist wrote:

And they forgot His deeds, and His miracles that He had shown them [time after time]. He wrought wonders before their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan [Exodus 7-12; Numbers 13:22]. He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through; and He made the waters stand up like a heap [Exodus 14:21]. Then He led them with a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night. [Exodus 13:21; 14:24]. He split the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them abundant drink like the ocean depths [Exodus 17:6; Numbers 20:11]. He brought forth streams also from the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers [Numbers 20:8, 10, 11]. Yet [they failed to connect], they still continued to sin against Him [by not trusting Him], to rebel against the Most High in the desert [Deuteronomy 9:22]. Then they spoke against God; they said, "Can God prepare a table in the wilderness?" [Exodus 16:3; Numbers 11:4; 20:3; 21:5] [What a sarcastic statement in spite of God's goodness to them]. "When your fathers tested Me, they tried Me, though they had seen My work. For forty years I loathed that generation, and said they are a people who err in their heart, and they do not know My ways. Therefore I swore in My anger, truly they shall not enter into My rest." (Psalm 78:11-19; 95:9-11).

When these Israelites came to their crossroad--giants in the land--they forgot Who was on their side. They forgot that the Omnipotent Sovereign God was in their midst. They forgot His faithfulness! They refused to place their trust in Him.

What about us? What do we do when we find ourselves at a similar crossroad? What do we do when we find ourselves facing the crossroad of terminal illness or unemployment? What crossroad faces you now? How are you handling it? Do you remember the faithfulness of God? Are you focused on His Word or are you focused on the problem?

The Jews, God's chosen people, failed their spiritual test when God brought them to the "giants in the land" crossroad. When David came to a similar crossroad, his reaction

What about us? What do we do when we find ourselves at a similar crossroad?

was decidedly different than that of those Jews! David faced the same kind of test, and he had to decide how to respond. One road was the "Kadesh Barnea Road" (no trust in God), which he refused outright. David, instead turned to the "In God We Trust Road." David remembered the negative consequences suffered at Kadesh Barnea when the Jews

failed to remember the faithfulness of God. Armed with this knowledge, David placed his trust firmly in God.

David began to use doctrinal rationales: he took time to consider what he had learned, counted his blessings and came to the conclusion that the same Lord who had been faithful in times of danger would not fail him this time, no matter what! He recalled, *"When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, I went out after him and attacked him, and rescued it from his mouth; and when he rose up against me, I seized him by his beard and struck him and killed him [the Lord gave me victory]. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God."* And David said, *"The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."*

That's what using doctrinal rationales is all about!

My beloved, that's the ONLY THING God is asking of us in times like these.

No more, and no less!

He wants us to trust him no matter the predicament! Which do we believe is "greater?" God, or our situation or problem?

"Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?" (Jeremiah 32:27).

We demean God when we magnify our problems beyond God, when we fail to trust Him to solve them. The Israelites missed their first golden opportunity to enter the promised land simply:

Because they did not believe in God and did not trust in His salvation (Psalm 78:22).

Some of us are profoundly proficient in the dissection of the infallible Word of God! Some can exegete the Scripture from Genesis to Revelation in a breath-taking manner. Others can even boast of their ability to memorize the entire Bible. Thank God for all these abilities!

But, my friend, we have said it before: gaining great skill at the dissection of Bible Truth, and having a reservoir of God's Word in our souls are very important, but applying this Truth is even more important!

Using Bible Truth, stored in our soul, applying it to real life experiences is the power of the Christian life.

We come short of glorifying God each time we fail to realize and remember God's grace toward us, and use the doctrinal rationales we have learned, as David did.

Read his words again: *"The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."* Can we confidently make David's words our very own? What a glorious display of faith! Can we say with the Apostle Paul:

"He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things." (Romans 8:32)?

David acted on what he learned. He applied!

David Meets Goliath Face-to-Face

My friend, we can amaze, or even amuse, people with a reservoir of the Word of God in our souls; and we can tell others about God's faithfulness, but until we demonstrate application we will be no different from the believers James addressed saying:

Even so faith [what is believed, namely doctrine], if it has no works [if it cannot be applied], is dead [stagnant], being by itself (James 2:17).

To be continued in the next issue (volume 49).

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, 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).

"I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever."

(Thomas Jefferson, 1781)

“The propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected
on a nation that disregards the eternal rules
of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained.”

(George Washington, 1789, Inaugural Address)

Mission Reports

INDIA: April 2008 Pastors Conference Pastor Bruce Bumgardner Reports:

The 2008 India conference was a blessed event. There were over 900 pastors that attended the conference over three days, April 9-11. Bruce Bumgardner of Houston, Texas and Dennis Ejila of Gambia spoke on the subject of the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.

The pastors in attendance were extremely attentive and were receptive to the material taught. Although there were pastors present from a variety of theological backgrounds, including a significant percentage of Pentecostals, all were respectful, and many indicated that the teaching was very helpful to them. This was most encouraging since the conference was taught from a non-charismatic perspective. Their objectivity was refreshing! These pastors are hungry for solid, Bible based theology.

The conference organizer, Dr. Rao, did a wonderful job coordinating the event. Food was provided each day for all the participants. The pastors appreciated the written notes and books to supplement their learning at the conference. Dr. Rao received much positive feedback during and following the conference. This convinced him that the 2009 conference will be even more well attended than this year's event.

Editors Note: The attendees received the material from two vantage points which helped to strengthen the message. Bruce used his expertise as a Seminary professor to enhance his teaching to the pastors. Dennis Ejila was able to draw on his doctrinal understanding, and on a practical level, from his personal experience of being liberated from Pentecostal theology by Truth learned through Grace Evangelistic Ministries. These two approaches helped the pastors better absorb the message. Let us pray for them as they take this teaching back to their congregations.

Pastor Dennis Ejila writes:

Dr. Rao and Pastor Emmanuel have helped me with a heavy follow-up itinerary. I have already visited some of the churches of the pastors who attended the Pastor's Conference. One could see that their members were so pleased to have a bit of what their Pastors tasted. The Truth is marching on. It is only eternity that will tell the result of the great impact that GEM missionary activity has had in the propagation of the true Gospel and the teaching of the right execution of the spiritual life in the nation of India. This is because of so many copies of Rev Moses' literature, translated in to their native languages, have been distributed along with the yearly Pastor's seminar and follow-up outreach programs.

The towns and villages around Vijayawada are extremely hot at this time of year; there are deaths caused by sun strokes as the temperature at times goes up to 45 degrees Celsius. The highest at this time in Gambia is just 34 degree Celsius, so I am feeling the heat.

Meanwhile, I have been doing the follow-up in churches in Hyderabad, which is a little less hot. But, in a few days time, I will return to Vijayawad, often nicknamed "Blazewada." Please continue to remember me in your prayers.

PAKISTAN: April 2008
Crusades and Pastors Conferences

Moses did not travel because he did not receive a visa from Pakistan. However, our point men accepted this, as from God, and were resourceful!

Pastor Azam reported:

He took the video of last year's conference - transferred it to DVD and played it for those who gathered. He said, "The people want to see Moses, and they will see Moses!"

He called after the DVD lesson to say, "Moses came roaring like a lion out of the big screen!!! The people were very happy." Monday April 14, Pastor Azam called to say that Moses taught today over the cell phone which he held up to the speaker system. Having seen the success of the DVD lessons, he is now taking them to those in nearby villages.

He reported: The Lord taught me through Moses' video seminar. I had never thought about doing this, but the people were so blessed with the DVD message and when Moses called and talked to them they were very encouraged. So I thought to take the Moses DVD's to the village. The people watched and showed very good interest. They asked, "Can you come and show messages weekly? We would be very thankful to you."

I want to start video classes in villages and train those people to work in their village, to be servants of God. In the church 12 people are ready for classes and we plan to start in the first week of May.

Thanks for all your prayers and encouragement--we really need them. Sometimes it is very difficult and sometimes seems impossible to keep God's work alive-- but at that time your prayers and encouragement support us.

As a pastor and a man of God, I am very thankful to Grace Evangelistic Ministries, who opens the door for us to reach many, many souls in Pakistan. We have no reward for this goodness, but the Lord has something very special for all of you.

Pastor Khalid (Faisalabad, Pakistan) called. He too made DVD's and played them. He also had contacted Moses about doing a long distance teaching over the phone. When we told Khalid that Azam had a similar idea that was working, and commented on their Spirit Inspired Ingenuity, Khalid laughed and said, "No One Can Stop Us! Please ask everyone to pray for us."

He reported: We showed DVD's of Moses taken at the 2007 crusade in Faisalabad. We also put the messages on the cable network and on local TV. We also had many corner crusades in outlying areas where we had originally arranged for buses to bring people in. We distributed thousands of copies of *Riding The Death Train*, and people were blessed through DVD's and messages we shared in crusades. Thank God we had a very successful leadership conference via telephone with Rev. Moses (on the topic of Grace), thank God people are accepting the Grace Message, not only Christians but even non-Christians; please pray for us.

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Editors Note: It is a great blessing to see that these men are not discouraged - initially they were disappointed that Moses would not be able to come - but in mere moments they said, "This is from the Lord. God is in control." Then they set about to encourage the faithful by determining to get the message out to them any way they could. As Pastor Azam said, "I do not want any Moses program to be cancelled!" Their zeal in the face of adversity and persecution is an encouragement to us all. Let us all give God the glory!

ZIMBABWE: Please pray for us.
Pastor John Gumbo reports

Everything concerning the DVD Seminary is in place. We are just waiting for the Presidential election runoff, because any gathering other than that of an ordinary church service is considered as partisan (political) against the war veterans who are very angry about the outcome of the previous Parliamentary results.

Please pray for us; the war veterans are busy beating people who did not vote for Robert Mugabe. This is taking place in many parts of the country, especially in rural areas.

PROPOSED 2008 MISSION TRIPS

April: Completed - see Mission Reports above
July: Burundi, D.R. Congo, Rwanda Burundi,
September: Philippines, China
December: Lagos, Nigeria

Letters to G.E.M.

Dear Editor Grace Evangelistic Ministries,

I would like to give some testimonies as to how God used the ministry of G.E.M. to change my perspective and ministry for the better. When I sat under the teaching of Rev. Moses Onwubiko, I had the conviction that he is a true and sincere Biblical teacher of our era. Ever since, my understanding of sound Biblical teaching has increased. I am duly following his teaching pattern in the church that I am pastoring and in the seminary where I lecture part time

Today, I am doing well in the ministry; the secret is that I know the Truth, and I am set free. Issues like manipulation, gimmicks and false doctrine have since been removed from my mind. Teaching the Truth is my priority as an ambassador of Jesus Christ and that of G.E.M. No turning back because God has blessed me with more than enough knowledge of Biblical Truth. My spiritual life has grown tremendously since I came into contact with Rev. Moses and G.E.M. I will continue to be an ambassador of G.E.M. now and forever more. I will also continue to be grateful to G.E.M.

Abuja, Nigeria

Dear Rev. Moses Onwubiko:

This is the young man that met you in Nairobi at Maurice Mwale's meeting (years ago). I'm a Nigerian but practicing medicine in Nairobi, Kenya. Through Pastor Maurice Mwale, I got a copy of the book on *Joseph, A Remarkable Journey from Pit to Pinnacle*. I completely interacted with the book, which I read 4 times cover to cover. I literally replaced Joseph in the book. I did not know God was preparing me for a trial He was going to allow into my life.

Once I finished the book for the 4th time, I was immediately struck with a stroke. I stayed 5 months in the hospital without a solution. God then delivered me. I made almost 101% recovery. My experience was so powerful that ten T.D. Jakes in my bedroom for 1 year could not have revealed that much about God to me. Now I am in Bible college. Please, I need your books. If *Joseph* did that much, I can only guess the effect of reading more. I have the volition positive, and GAP to benefit from them. Thanks.

Yours in Christ,
Nairobi, Kenya

Dear Uncle Moses,

I am most grateful for the service you do on behalf of the Lord. I have kept copies of *Riding the Death Train* close at hand for years, but until recently have had no opportunity to pass on a copy. I have become increasingly aware of the multitude of non-Christians at my high school. One Muslim friend and I have gotten close and discussed our thoughts about God. I took this opportunity to present the Gospel. Although he was positive, I felt too tongue-tied to communicate the issues understandably. I gave him a *Riding the Death Train* and told him that it has the things I had been saying but clearly written out in a colorful narrative.

It wasn't until later conversations that he mentioned that he had believed everything I had shared with him. This surprised and overjoyed me so much! I had become increasingly concerned with the eternal fate of this close friend. For me, a believer since childhood, to witness a soul enter the family of God gave me a more full understanding of the Gospel. It really is the power of God for salvation and takes no more than belief in Him!

I hope the Lord continues to allow the circulation of your publications to grow.

Texas, USA

Dear Mr. Onwubiko:

I have read the samples of literature that you mailed and am very impressed with your sound doctrine. I would appreciate your support of our ministry here by sending the booklets that you have at no charge. We don't have a means of purchasing literature for religious services.

I would like to be able to give the books to all new believers, as well as, have a class from time to time, and each man would receive these, and we would study each separately. Thank you so much for reaching out to inmates. May God richly bless you for your efforts.

In His Grace,
Chaplain
State of Connecticut Dept. of Corrections

G.E.M. Overview

Grace Evangelistic Ministries is incorporated in the State of Tennessee as a nonprofit organization. We are a Christian, non-denominational, missionary oriented ministry, dedicated to evangelism and sound Bible teaching. Our main focus is evangelism; all other activities support our main goal. Our mission, in obedience to the command of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, is to: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" (Matt. 28:19). We embrace the following

Objective #1 - Evangelism

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

Objective #2 - New Convert Follow-up

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

Objective #3 - Preparation of Indigenous Pastors

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

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

Objective #4 - Satellite Centers

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

Objective #5 - Publications

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

Objective #6 - Assist the Needy

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

Objective #7 - Theological Seminary in Africa

Plan to establish a doctrinal theological seminary in Africa.

(Entire Overview at:

www.GEMworldwide.org)

Please Join Us In Prayer:

Thanksgiving:

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

Petitions to Our Father:

- President Bush (for wisdom and guidance).
- Protection of Israel and the U.S. military.
- The U.S. (for a great revival, peace and freedom from terrorism).
- Protection of tape ministries, G.E.M. personnel and foreign translations.
- Doctrinal pastors and their tape ministries.
- Health of Col. and Mrs. R.B. Thieme, Jr.
- The spiritual growth of new believers.
- Indigenous pastors (that God will totally equip them).
- Open doors in 2008 and 2009.
- Divine provision and sustenance for missionaries desiring full time work in the field.
- Energy, wisdom, and discernment for G.E.M.'s God assembled team.
- Protection and deliverance for those persecuted for their faith.
- Provision for thousands of *Riding The Death Train* to fill requests in Asia.
- Land in Abuja, Nigeria, for GEM Africa Headquarters.
- Peace in Pakistan.
- Peace in Kenya.
- Elections in Zimbabwe.

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

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

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