



Grace News Today

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“Faith Alone in Christ Alone”

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Greetings from G.E.M.

Greetings to you, our beloved partner in the fulfillment of the Great Commission! “See how great [how marvelous, how awesome] a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we would be called the children of God” (1 John 3:1). He went a step further; He commissioned us to work in His Great Harvest (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)! A privilege we should never take for granted. My beloved, think of it; we have been called to a task the Omnipotent-One is capable of fulfilling alone. We are acutely aware that God can evangelize the whole world in the twinkle of an eye without getting us involved. However, from the depth of His matchless grace, He elects to make us co-workers in His Vineyard (1 Corinthians 3:9). Hence, the Great Commission,

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations [without discrimination]...teaching them to observe all that I commanded you [i.e. the whole realm of the Word of God]; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20).

What a blessing for those who take this urgent commission seriously! “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring...[good news to the lost and destitute]” (Romans 10:15). Our blessing is not limited to the tremendous joy we share with the heavenly hosts when a lost soul receives our

message by faith, plus nothing, in Christ alone (Luke 15:7)! In the eternal future, because of your participation you shall shine like stars as a result of many coming to the saving knowledge of our Savior Jesus Christ (Daniel 12:3)! What a hope!

Beloved of God, what an encouragement you are to us here at Grace Evangelistic Ministries. You have not ceased to travel with us in so many ways. Your relentless financial support and prayer barrage continue to pave the way for the fulfillment of the Great Commission. This year alone we have 13 countries in our itinerary. So far, our Great God has used you and us as vessels in His Vineyard to reach 10 of the 13: India, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates, Nepal, Mexico, Zambia, Zimbabwe, England, Netherlands and Norway. We have 3 more to go, Liberia, Mauritania and Cape Verde. God continues to enlarge our coast year by year as many countries around the world invite us to bring the Truth to them.

Looking ahead, our itinerary is fully booked for 2010! When I announced this in the middle of my teaching in Norway, the program organizer interrupted me, "Please, include Norway in your next year's itinerary; in fact, let's make it an annual conference!" My beloved, this is God's doing and is very exciting! It's amazing to stand by and watch Him in action! We have time and again watched Him do the unimaginable! For instance, our gospel pamphlet Riding The Death Train (RTDT) has been translated into many languages, and hundreds of thousands printed and distributed. Muslims, Hindus and others are turning to Christ by faith alone in great numbers. Quite a number of pastors and believers alike are being challenged to return to the Bible! All this is happening because of your obedience to our God! For that we are profoundly grateful to you! To crown our gratitude, we stand in salute to God who alone does ALL the work!

Remember, "Eternal God is our refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms!"

Please keep standing shoulder-to-shoulder with us! We remain your partners in the mission field!

Moses C. Onwubiko & GEM Team

Word of Encouragement

(in the world of financial crisis)

"For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).

What a promise! Amazingly, some of us have gone to the length of writing the words of Jeremiah 29:11 on plaques. Others have committed them to memory. I am sure you are soothed within for reading it afresh as I was when I typed it. But the real question is, does its truth register deep in

our souls? Do we take the verse at its face value? Let's read it again: " 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'" That's right; "plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope!" Who is feeding your thoughts with a lie that your future is a bleak one?

On the contrary, if you take Jeremiah 29:11 literally, you would have no trouble at all in fulfilling the mandate of Philippians 4:6-7:

Be anxious for nothing [literally, "**Do not under any circumstances worry about anything**"]; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of God!

**Remember,
God is in
control and
not your
circumstance!**

My beloved, if Jeremiah 29:11 and Philippians 4:6-7 are real to you, there should be no reason for you to fret about anything in your life! No reason whatsoever—no matter how impressive it is, so long as you are spiritually on course! You ask, "Why should I not panic if my life has fallen apart?" My answer is simple; The All-knowing, the All-wise God is working for you. He has your very file on His desk titled: "PLANS FOR WELFARE AND NOT FOR CALAMITY TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE AND A HOPE." That's what your file reads according to Scripture! My question is very simple: "Do you believe that?" Do you believe that "Your help comes from the LORD [alone], who made heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:2)? Do you believe that "He will not allow your foot to slip [no matter what, and that] He who keeps you will not slumber" (Psalm 121:3)? He is awake, 24/7—365 days a year! Furthermore, do you believe that "The Lord will guard your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forever" (Psalm 121:8)?

Satan, the thief of your happiness, would want you to believe the opposite. He would want you to believe that the world is on top of you; he would want you to believe that your circumstance is irreversible; he would want you to live in doubt of God's promises to you; he would want you to believe that your life is over. Get this: He chuckles when you whine, mew, grumble and are encamped in frustration. It doesn't end there; Satan and his minions celebrate a victory each time you are down and gloomy. Beloved, there's no reason for giving him a cause to glory, not even for a second!

On the other hand, look on the bright side; project your mind to the end of the tunnel as Job did when he was in the furnace of suffering. Remember, he was still in the furnace when he uttered

these words of confidence in His God, “When He has tried me [in the furnace], I shall come forth as gold” (Job 23:10). What assurance! The knowledge that our Father, God, is the very One who is at work on your behalf ought to put a **BIG smile** on your face! His plan is in place; “plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.” What does that mean to you? It means that He has orchestrated every event in your life to bring about the BIG picture of “a future and a hope.” Remember God is in control, and not your circumstance! With His firm grip, He is busy threading and weaving every thread of your life like a tapestry! Hold on! Do not let anyone convince you that God is finished with you; because He’s not! “‘For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.’” “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! When you pass through the waters [of austerity measures], I will be with you; And through the rivers [of loss of employment, of loved ones etc], they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire [of suffering], you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you. For I am the Lord your God” (Isaiah 43:1b-3a). Do you believe all this? If so, go about your business, for “Weeping may last for the night, But a shout of joy comes in the morning” (Psalm 30:5b). My beloved, it’s my fervent prayer that our God, the God of encouragement, may encourage you through these words!

Doctrine of Grace

KING DAVID, A Symphony of God’s Grace

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(Continued from Volume 52)

David’s Promotion

We begin from where we left off:

Therefore Saul removed him from his presence, and appointed him as his commander of a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people (I Samuel 18:13).

The next verse is enticing.

David was prospering in all his ways for the Lord was with him (I Samuel 18:14).

What a contrast with Saul! He dreaded David, but all Israel loved him (I Samuel 18:15-16). In the last installment, we saw the outcome of David’s victory over Goliath, and how his defeat of this giant caused King Saul to react with envy, hatred and animosity. The short version is that he wanted David dead by any means. Twice Saul tried to pin him to the wall with his spear; twice David dodged. He escaped because God was with him. More to the point, Saul didn’t pin him to

the wall as he had hoped because God's plan for David had not yet come to fruition. Beloved of God, what a comfort to know that there is no accident, no human power, no disease known to man capable of removing you from the planet earth until God's plan for your life carries this stamp of completion: "YOU HAVE FULFILLED MY PLAN IN TOTO!" Luke captured this concept beautifully in his writing,

"For David, after [not before] he had served [completed, finished] the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers, and underwent decay" (Acts 13:36).

God's eye was on David wherever he went. That's the epitome of God's grace! Saul pursued David with deadly weapons; God followed him around with a shield of protection. That's the difference. By the way, when God is finished with you, life-support cannot keep you on earth. Additionally, you would not enjoy spending a second here after your appointed time. In light of God's faithfulness, He will continue to provide, shield and protect you until His plan for your life is fulfilled to the last stroke! This truth ought to soothe your soul like a balm!

God will fulfill
His Word not
because of who
and what we are,
but because of who
and what He is.

Meanwhile, we follow Saul's trail of dubious work and that of God's faithfulness. On the one side, Saul promoted David, hoping that David's constant exposure to the battlefield would eventually bring about his death. On the surface, the promotion appeared so good, but on the inside it was so evil. Saul had an ulterior motive in David's promotion.

David apparently didn't know this when he took the assignment. Despite David's ignorance of Saul's intentions, God still protected him. Repeat: God will fulfill His Word not because of who and what we are, but because of who and what He is. This assertion,

however, does not negate our responsibilities with regard to discernment. This brings us to briefly discuss this subject:

Discernment

Grammatically, the word discern is the Greek verb, *anahrino* it means "to scrutinize," "investigate," "determine," "ask," "question," "discern," "examine," "judge," and "search."¹ Armed with the knowledge that not all that glitters is gold, we as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ ought to be a people of discernment. We should be quick to hear, but slow to action (James 1:19). We should be a people who scrutinize our words and actions under the light of

¹ James Strong, The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, Thomas Nelson, 1995, Nashville, Tennessee, #350

God's Word and the mentorship of His Holy Spirit. This can be achieved through investigation, asking pertinent questions, examining the situation at hand under the guiding light of God's Word in a believer's soul (Hebrews 4:12). We should be a people who constantly pray for wisdom in all that we do (James 1:5). We can't get around this. Scripture underscores its importance. This we learned from the Apostle Paul's epistle to the Philippians,

And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge [rather than emotion] and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ (Philippians 1:9-10).

The truth of the matter is that without discernment it would be impossible to "approve the things that are excellent." To put it in another way: To have an abundance of Biblical knowledge is critical to our cause, but the ability to apply this knowledge under the umbrella of discernment is the true test of excellence.

One may call it naiveté, or something similar, but in my opinion, David seemed to have failed the test of discernment. I would think that he could have questioned, "What is King Saul up to with this grand promotion? Twice he had wished me dead!" God's faithfulness mercifully delivered David from Saul's deceitful promotion!

Though David might have failed, we, who are better positioned than he was in terms of the availability of God's Word and Biblical insights ought to be diligent in applying the principle of discernment. To whom much is given, much is ...? That's right! To whom much is given much is required (Luke 12:48)! So next time, before you consider what looks like a sugar-coated offer, before you rush to sign on the dotted line for something called "the deal of your life," be sure that you have prayed for discernment. And, to you my dear lady, before you say "Yes, I do" to that young man with the sparkling teeth, be sure that you have prayerfully asked God for discernment. In a nutshell, before we act on any matter, large or small, let us be sure that our action, both in the short and long run would be pleasing and honoring to God. That's the message of discernment!

Now we can read Psalm 140:8 with greater appreciation.

"Do not grant, O Lord, the desires of the wicked; Do not promote his evil device, lest they be exalted."

David literally cried out to the Lord to rescue him from those who devise evil things in their heart; Saul being one of them (Psalm 140:1-4). Evil men sleep like a dog; they barely close their eyes in bed. Saul would continue to come up with devices, one after another, to end David's life. Saul meant his promotion of David for evil; but God meant it for good (Psalm 76:10; cf.

Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28). God used the occasion to strengthen David's ability to handle pressure and become a better leader as he, slowly but surely, step-by-step, marched toward the Royal Palace. Saul was not finished. There were more dubious offers to come. He would present David with more offers, hoping that one of these would bring an end to David's life. Saul would offer his elegant, charming daughter to David for marriage, but she was only an enticement.

Saul Offers His Daughter to David

Then Saul said to David, "Here is my older daughter Merab; I will give her to you as a wife, only be a valiant man for me and fight the LORD'S battles" (1 Samuel 18:17a).

Sure, right! "Be a valiant man for me and fight the LORD's battles." How spiritual this sounds; but look at who is talking—a man who had lost all spiritual vitality. Here's a man who had lost the endowment of the Holy Spirit (as discussed in a previous installment). On the outside, he was a "whitewashed tomb, but on the inside, he was full of dead men's bones." This is where discernment needs to come into focus. Many deceitful believers have cheated their fellow believers by sweet-talking them into believing that they are spiritual. Not all who use spiritual sounding phrases are spiritual. My point is we should be wise when we are around those who use pious phrases such as "Praise the Lord brother," "Hallelujah sister" and the like. We need to carefully determine their motives. Just because someone invokes God's name in his speech, doesn't necessarily mean the individual is spiritual. Politicians are good at this, such as saying "God bless you" at the end of every speech. Remember "all that glitters is not gold."

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Saul's offer had another side to it,

"For Saul thought, 'My hand shall not be against him, but let the hands of the Philistines be against him.'" Literally, "I am not going to kill David [though he had tried it before]; let the Philistines do the job for me" (1 Samuel 18:17b).

Talk about hypocrisy; Saul had his perfected! Let's set aside Saul's ulterior motive for a moment and consider the offer itself. Imagine, David marrying the daughter of a king. Who wouldn't want to be an in-law in a Royal Family? But for David, this offer on a golden platter revealed his spiritual make-up—humility.

But David said to Saul, "Who am I, and what is my life or my father's family in Israel, that I should be the king's son-in-law" (1 Samuel 18:18).

This is a good place to pause and revisit David's humility orientation.

David's Humility Orientation Revisited

Humility is a magnet to super abundant grace;

But He gives greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES [super abundant] GRACE TO THE HUMBLE" (James 4:6).

David was showered with grace like no other because he was a man without equal in humility. Again, his reply to Saul was, "Who am I?" Beloved, this question of unworthiness powered his mentality throughout his life's experiences. We see this question time and again. For example, when he reflected on God's grace upon man both in creation and thereafter, he posed this question,

What is man, that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him?
(Psalm 8:4).

That's a question of humility. That's an expression of a humble heart. When he thought of giving unto the Lord, his reaction was the same,

"But who am I and who are my people that we should be able to offer as generously as this? For all things come from You, and from Your hand we have given You" (1 Chronicles 29:14).

...knowing
that apart
from Him we
can do nothing
(John 15:15)!

When he thought of how far he had gone in life, and how God had granted him grace in every sense, words of humility gushed out of his soul unto the page of Scripture,

"Who am I, O God, and what is my house, that You have brought me this far?" (2 Samuel 7:18b).

He reflected on the ups and downs of his life's journey and saw the magnificent finger prints of God at every turn. It was too much for him to take in. That's humility! Such a thought should

mark us, knowing that apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15:5)! On the one hand, David undertook Saul's offer of fighting the Philistines. On the other hand, Saul failed to deliver as promised (1 Samuel 18:19). Surprised? No, not at all! Words of unstable people are like a tossing wind; they cannot be trusted. Saul was not finished with his untrustworthy offers; he had another inviting one on the horizon.

Now Michal, Saul's daughter loved David. When they told Saul, the idea was agreeable to him. Saul thought, "I will give her to him that she may become a snare [trap] to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." Therefore Saul said to David, "For a second time you may be my son-in-law today" (1 Samuel 18:20-21).

Sure, here we go again. Saul told his servants to sweet talk David into believing that Saul greatly admires him and that Saul desperately wants to have him as their son-in-law (1 Samuel 18:22).

Who in his right mind would like to give the hand of his beloved daughter in marriage and equally wish her husband dead? More than that, we ask, "Why is David still hanging around this unstable king who is out to get him?" I don't know the answer to these questions. Nevertheless, whatever the reason, David accepted the offer. His reply to Saul's servants, who had a pep-talk with him, was enlightening,

"Is it trivial in your sight to become the king's son-in-law, since I am a poor man and lightly esteemed?" (1 Samuel 18:23).

David was not exaggerating; he was a poor man indeed. We see his humbled heart underlined, "Lightly esteemed." His assertion reveals that, though the people of Israel had already put him on a pedestal, that had no effect on him. He still considered himself lowly esteemed!

We should not forget that,

"He [God] raises the poor from the dust, He lifts the needy from the ash heap, To make them sit with nobles, and inherit a seat of honor (1 Samuel 2:8a).

The good news for David, and for anyone else for that matter, is that God has the monopoly of turning the world of the hopeless upside down for good. It is fitting that David's confession regarding his family's economic status was recorded for us so that we can appreciate God's grace upon his life. David scored a point. He had no riches to hold an elaborate wedding in a royal way; he was just a shepherd boy who kept his poor father's flock. The servants did what servants do best; they reported David's feedback to Saul, their master. But Saul was not willing to take no for an answer. He begged David with his reply:

Saul then said, “Thus you shall say to David, ‘The king does not desire any dowry except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to take vengeance on the king’s enemies’” (1 Samuel 18:25a).

Here we go once more. On the surface, the offer looked appealing. He was challenging David, who was now a warrior, to go and make these Philistines pay for insulting the king and God’s kingdom. Do you believe that’s what Saul had in mind, revenge against the Philistines? Hardly.

Now Saul planned to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines (1 Samuel 18:25b).

**God will not let
go of you until His
plan for your life
carries a stamp
of completion,
MISSION
ACCOMPLISHED!**

Saul, all along had been ceaselessly seeking ways to end David’s life. But not a chance! God would continue to safeguard him until His plan for David’s life is carried to fruition. That’s sovereignty. By the way, that’s grace. My beloved, rest on this: God will not let go of you until His plan for your life carries a stamp of completion, MISSION ACCOMPLISHED! On the front line, Saul is asking David for his life on a platter as a dowry for his daughter, Michal. Intriguing?

Guess what? David would accept Saul’s offer. You are absolutely right!

When his [Saul’s] servants told David these words [of the king regarding the hundred foreskins of the Philistines], it pleased David to become the king’s son-in-law. Before the days had expired David rose up and went, he and his men, and struck down two hundred men among the Philistines. Then David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full number to the king, that he might become the king’s son-in-law” (1 Samuel 18:26-27a).

What a man of bravery! I must admit, there’s so much about David’s mental attitude that we cannot fully dissect. Trap after trap, he keeps marching on. He was acutely aware that the termination of his life had been foremost on Saul’s mind. Later David would ask Saul bluntly why he had wanted him dead all along (1 Samuel 24:11). Of course, God gave David victory, for the Lord was with him wherever he went (1 Samuel 18:14). On top of all this, David doubled

Saul's request. Saul asked for a hundred foreskins, but David brought two hundred. Saul was overwhelmed by David's response. Essentially, Saul said, "I asked for a hundred and he brought two hundred?" Saul could not believe his eyes! He had no choice but to give his daughter to David in marriage with the dowry paid in full (1 Samuel 18:27)! The marriage was finalized. David had proven to be an all time warrior, and so Saul rested his pursuit of David. Right? Wrong!

When Saul saw and knew that the Lord was with David, and that Michal, Saul's daughter loved him, then Saul was even more afraid of David. Thus Saul was David's enemy continually (1 Samuel 18:28-29).

He had every reason to be afraid. It is arrogance in its highest state to attack God head-on. An attack on God's servants or His plan is a direct attack on God Himself which begs for maximum discipline from the Eternal Bar of Justice (Isaiah 54:17; cf. Zechariah 2:8-9). But as for Saul, he had reached the point of no return. He had allowed himself to go on the wrong path without a change of heart. "Saul was David's enemy continually." He would continue the course of his deceit and treachery until such a time when the Lord would call him home and he would go to heaven with no reward in eternity (1 Corinthians 3:11-15).

In all this, and in every battle against the Philistines, David continued to "behave himself more and more wisely than all the servants of Saul. So his name was highly esteemed" (18:30). As David marches on, one step at a time toward the throne, the conflict intensifies. Of course, God uses prepared vessels (2 Timothy 2:20-21). If David is going to be Israel's best Commander in Chief both militarily and otherwise, God would have to prepare him through military exposures. So also with us. If God is going to use us for mighty work, His only recourse is to refine us through the furnace of suffering. There's no way we can get around it. As for David, he later recounts,

He trains my hands for battle, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. You have also given me the shield of Your salvation, and Your right hand upholds me; And Your gentleness makes me great. You enlarge my steps under me, And my feet have not slipped. I pursued my enemies and overtook them, And I did not turn back until they were consumed. I shattered them [because the Lord was with me], so that they were not able to rise; They fell under my feet. For you have girded me with strength for battle; You have subdued under me those who rose up against me.... He gives great deliverance to His king, And shows lovingkindness to His anointed, To David and his descendants forever [Amen]" (Psalm 18:34-39, 50).

What a man! One thing about David is that he never lost focus that his training, his victories and life's successes are all a matter of who and what God is—a matter of His unsurpassed grace. With his earthly departure on the horizon, he prayed,

“Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O Lord, and you exalt Yourself as head over all. Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and strengthen everyone” (1 Chronicles 29:11-12).

Saul continues to lose sleep over David, he would make another attempt to kill David. Hold that thought, my beloved, until next time, God willing.

Blessed [Praised] be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, The God who is our salvation. God is to us a God of deliverance; And to God the Lord belong escapes from death (Psalm 68:19-20).

To be continued volume 54

Missionary Reports

ASIA Mission Trip* March 2009

Pakistan

Pastor Khalid Naz, host

The program began with a petition to “Please pray for NO RAIN.” The ground for the open air crusades were soaked and Pastor Khalid and his team busy trying to remove the water from the ground where people sit. At program's end came the message -- Khalid says “Thanks for all your faithful prayers - the ‘no rain’ prayers were answered in a special way - providing a window of no rain for the crusade!”

This was a historic event. The local cable television network broadcast our program live - taking the crusade into the homes of Christians and non-Christians. This is the first time in history that a crusade has been televised live! Khalid received 100's of phone calls from people who heard the television broadcast and trusted Christ. He also received many testimonies from people on the crusade ground. Out of this has grown Grace T.V., a Christian cable television program. We also hosted a pastors conference where Rev. Moses taught the grace gospel.

* The Asia trip also included visits to Pastor Emmanuel and Dr. Rao in India and Pastor Azam in Pakistan. - those reports were included in Grace News Today #52.

United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.)

Pastors Azam and Khalid, host

Upon finishing the program in Pakistan, Khalid traveled with Rev. Moses to the U.A.E. We held pastor's conferences for two days - our hotel in the shadow of a huge mosque. Pastor Iqbal and Asim hosted us as we held meeting in a government owned building. Christians may rent one of the rooms by the hour to have meetings or services.

Azam then met us in another city and hosted us with Pastor Roberts for two days, where Moses taught "Salvation by Faith Alone." Our heart goes out to those whose desire is to serve the one true God. There is freedom of religion in the U.A.E., but it is against the law to openly evangelize. We look forward to publishing Riding The Death Train in Arabic for the U.A.E. believers!

Nepal

Pastor David, host

We held a 2 day pastor's conference in Pastor David's church and Pastor Biru opened his church for a children's class on Saturday and for Easter Sunday (just another work day in Nepal). It is amazing to think we were celebrating the resurrection of our Lord in Nepal, the seat of Buddhism and Hinduism, where temples and shrines abound, dating back hundreds of years. We distributed RTDT which we had printed in Nepali

MEXICO

June

**They were grateful
and excited
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to questions
they have had
for a long time.**

Moses traveled to the interior of Mexico for an initial visit. Due to the language barrier he went with a few sketchy arrangements - confident that God was sending him and would work out the details. We prayed for an interpreter and not only did God provide one - but He sent one of the best in Mexico! Moses taught "The Difference Between Tradition or Religion and Christianity" and "Justification by Faith." They were grateful and excited to get answers to questions they have had for a long time. Riding The Death Train was distributed to all in Spanish.

In addition to the pastors conference and crusades, meals were turned into meetings and any extra bit of resting time was packed with, church visits and Bible classes. Once they got a taste of truth they were determined to squeeze every bit they could from Moses visit. He left with them saying "We have found a son we didn't even know we had."

AFRICA

June/July 2009

East Africa Followup

Pastor Philippe, host

Pastor Philippe visited churches in D.R. Congo, Rwanda and Uganda working with the point men there to strengthen Pastors and Believers. He has been teaching on “The Difference Between Law and Grace”. He is meeting many people who have been writing and calling since Moses last visit in 2008.

Zambia

Pastor Dickson, host

Rev. Moses spoke to a high school auditorium packed full of pastors. As promised, he packed 5 days of information into 2 days teaching “Salvation by Faith Alone.” He also taught “The Two Justifications in James” - one for salvation and one for reward. Pastor Dickson traveled with us and introduced us to Pastor Mweyama and his congregation where we held another 2 day conference. We taught children in each city and distributed books to all free of charge.

Zimbabwe

Pastor Gumbo, host

It was wonderful to be with Pastor Gumbo and his congregation again after 3 years. The church met beneath the trees, the congregation seated on logs as they await a roof on their church building. The state of Zimbabwe brought tears to Moses’ eyes. Moses tried to comfort and instruct the believers telling them “President Mugabe is not the problems in Zimbabwe. The problem is spiritual and until the believers of Zimbabwe return to God and obey Him there will be problems.”

We had a wonderful week long pastors conference with pastors attending from all the major cities in Zimbabwe. The main focus was “Salvation by Faith Alone” and again “James and Justification for Reward.” Books were distributed to all. A “miracle worker” holding a crusade in town raised questions and gave Moses the opportunity to answer them and to point out idols so prevalent in Africa...Money, Anointing Oil and elevating the Blood of Christ above Christ Himself. He kept exposing church traditions that have no basis in the Bible.

Children were taught for 3 days, Sunday school teachers were trained and training aids distributed. (The team, guided by missionary Lonnie Bissell, turned their rooms into a training aids workshop.)

EUROPE

August/September 2009

God is opening doors in Europe. Years ago Dennis Ejilah began laying groundwork in Europe and it is bearing fruit. He coordinated the trips to Norway and The Netherlands and was able to join the team there.

United Kingdom

Pastor Andy, host

The GEM Team in the U.K. (Pastor Tayo - moved from The Gambia to serve as assistant Pastor in Andy's church). Moses delivered two messages on "The Book of James and Dual Justification". We had a wonderful time of fellowship with the Pastor, the Elders and Tayo. We look forward to a time when we can be together again.

Norway

Pastor Duke, host

Rev. Moses spoke to Pastors and church workers for 2 days teaching "Salvation by Faith Alone." The pastors and congregation enthusiastically embraced the grace message. Pastor Duke not only invited us back the same time next year but asked if we could make it an annual event.

The Netherlands

Pastor Ibrahim, host

To introduce us to the area, Pastor Ibrahim arranged a breakfast meeting of area leaders, heads of churches and Bible schools (most were Africans who considered themselves missionaries to The Netherlands). The devotion these men had was great - all had given up prosperous secular careers to answer God's call. They were exposed to grace in both word and deed and very receptive. We were able to distribute sets of free books to all. This was all something new - ministries usually come wanting compensation and offerings from them - instead G.E.M. came to freely give them Truth. Pastor Ibrahim plans to visit GEM in Nashville later this year. They have been praying for revival - just as we have - but with no results. Moses said he does not believe God will bring revival until the Church is ready and God is busy enlisting and preparing those who are willing.

Pastor Kunle, who we met at the breakfast meeting, hosted us at his Bible School in a neighboring city. We enjoyed the students and Mrs. Kunle's wonderful African dinner. Free books and Bible lessons were given to all.

Proposed Mission Trips

Please pray with us as we plan for 2010. Please pray for wisdom, discernment, guidance, and provision as we plan and travel.

2009 PLACE

November: Cape Verde, Mauritania, Liberia

2010

January: Pakistan, U.A.E., Saudi Arabia

March: China, Philippines, India

May: Mexico

July: Burundi, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya

September: Europe or S.E. Asia

November: Nigeria, Benin, Egypt

Letters to G.E.M.

Dear Brethren:

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

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

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

May the Lord refresh you as you refresh others.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Lagos, Nigeria



To whom it may concern:

I have just completed your remarkable book *Joseph A Pillar of Grace*. Mr. Moses C. Onwubiko did an excellent job of recounting the story of Joseph. I am a prisoner at the state

prison. I do my best to read as many spiritual material books as I can from authors like James Gill and Joyce Meyers.

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

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

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

Prisoner Georgia,
USA



Dear beloved in the Lord:

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

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

Yours in the vineyard of the Lord,
Cameroon



Dear G.E.M.

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

When the brother who kept RTDT in their Library arrived, he got a commendation from the boss instead of punishment! Secondly, the boss told him to ask for any thing under the sun that he would like him (the boss) to do for the brother. This dear brother told his boss that his salary barely lasts for two weeks and that sometimes he had to abandon his car half way to the

office when he runs out of petrol. In addition sometimes he may have to fast compulsorily, not because he would not want to eat, but because he has no food. Even so, this brother states that he is very happy and completely satisfied and content, however the boss does not seem to be happy!

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

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

Jos, Nigeria

Words of Wisdom

George Washington – A Prayer for Guidance

O eternal and everlasting God...Increase my faith in the sweet promises of the gospel; give me repentance from dead works; pardon my wanderings, and direct my thoughts unto thyself, the God of my salvation; teach me how to live in thy fear, labor in thy service, and ever to run in the ways of thy commandments; make me always watchful over my heart, that neither the terrors of conscience, the loathing of holy duties, the love of sin, nor an unwillingness to depart this life, may cast me into a spiritual slumber, but daily frame me more and more into the likeness of thy son Jesus Christ, that living in thy fear and dying in thy favor, I may in thy appointed time attain the resurrection of the past unto eternal life bless my family, friends, and kindred.

– An undated prayer from Washington's prayer journal, Mount Veronon

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

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

Will you trust Him now?

Please Join Us In Prayer:

Thanksgiving:

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

Petitions to Our Father:

- President Obama (for wisdom and guidance).
- Protection of Israel and the U.S. military.
- The U.S. (for a great revival, peace and freedom from terrorism).
- Protection of G.E.M. personnel and point men.
- Doctrinal pastors and their ministries.
- Health of Mrs. R.B. Thieme, Jr.
- The spiritual growth of new believers.
- Indigenous pastors (that God will totally equip them).
- Open doors and travel logistics for 2009 and 2010.
- Divine provision and sustenance for missionaries desiring full time work in the field.
- Energy, wisdom, and discernment for G.E.M.'s God-assembled team.
- Protection and deliverance for those persecuted for their faith.
- Foreign translations: accuracy and supply.
- Provision for thousands of *Riding The Death Train* to fill requests in Asia and Africa.
- Land in Abuja, Nigeria, for G.E.M. Headquarters.
- Peace in Pakistan, Kenya, D.R. Congo and Zimbabwe.

G.E.M. Overview Summary

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

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

Objective #1 - Evangelism

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

Objective #2 - New Convert Follow-up

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

Objective #3 - Preparation of Indigenous Pastors

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

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

Objective #4 - Satellite Centers

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

Objective #5 - Publications

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

Objective #6 - Assist the Needy

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

Objective #7 - Theological Seminary Abroad

Plan to establish a doctrinal theological seminary abroad as the Lord provides.

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.



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

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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