

TIM

TRUTH Magazine

Winter 2016 Edition

*“so that you will walk in a manner worthy
of the Lord, to please Him in all respects,
bearing fruit in every good work...”*

Colossians 1:10 NASV

Working Together to Advance the Grace of God
and Impact the World for Christ



GRACE GOSPEL
FELLOWSHIP

TIM

TRUTH Magazine

Endeavoring to set forth God's purpose and
grace according to 2 Timothy 1:8-11

1 Editors' Desk

2 The Journey



by Matt Amundsen

5 What Did God Intend?



by Ken B. Kemper

8 What Will Your Legacy Be for Him?



by Jeremy Clark

CONTENTS

Volume 65, Issue 4
January - March 2016

11 The Origins of the Grace Movement

by Dale S. DeWitt &
Bryan C. Ross

15 What Motivates You?

Featured Article

by Steve Sherman



18 EdSays

by Ed Jeude

19 Regional News



PUBLISHER:
Frosty Hansen

EDITORS:
Timothy & Sharon McGarvey

REGULAR COLUMNISTS
Frosty Hansen, Ken B. Kemper, Jeremy Clark, Ed Jeude

THEOLOGICAL CONSULTANT:
Dr. Sam Vinton, Jr.

FEATURED CARTOONIST:
Bill Connolly

TRUTH Magazine, published quarterly, with an emphasis on the doctrines of the dispensation of Grace. This is achieved through Bible studies, articles of relevance in today's world, and news about Grace Gospel Fellowship (GGF), Grace Bible College, Grace Ministries International, Grace Publications, and other Grace organizations and churches.

The views and opinions expressed in the ads and articles are those of the authors and organizations. They do not necessarily reflect the views of GGF and/or the editorial staff of TRUTH.

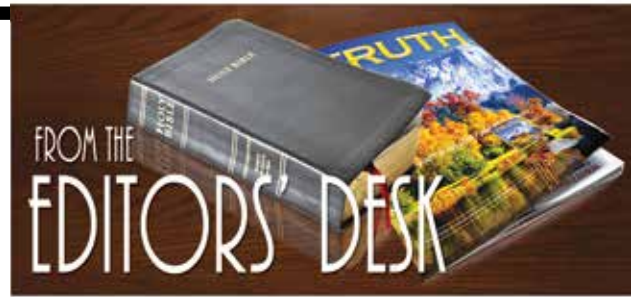
PUBLISHED by
Grace Gospel Fellowship, a nonprofit religious corporation, incorporated in the State of Michigan.

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 9432
Grand Rapids, MI 49509

phone: 616-245-0100
email: info@ggfusa.org
website: ggfusa.org

TRUTH Magazine is the quarterly membership periodical of the GGF.
Gift subscriptions can be purchased through the national office.

by Timothy and Sharon McGarvey



We look back on the year just past and we can do nothing but be amazed at how brutal humans can be to one another. Whether it is the continual savagery in the Middle East, the attacks in Paris and Mali, or the senseless killings in California, all in the name of Allah, the wickedness of the heart of man is obvious. During a time of the year when we venture from giving thanks to God to the time of anticipation of the birth of the Savior, the “peace on earth, good will toward men” is elusive. It all reminds us of the sinfulness of the heart and the very reason that Jesus Christ came into this world.

By the time you receive this edition of TRUTH we will already be into the new year. You’ve probably broken a few resolutions and don’t want to even look at another piece of ham or turkey. But the new year brings new opportunities for service. We are reminded of Paul’s words as he wrote to the church at Colosse. In prison for sharing Jesus Christ, he prayed for openings to share even more. It is only through the gospel that lives can be changed and given purpose. We cannot rid the world of sin but we can make a difference...*one life at a time*.

As the Christmas season approached, we were asked if our church observed Advent. When we said that we didn’t, the person asking was rather surprised. Having never participated in Advent, not fully understanding the celebration, and after some research (the word Advent means “visit” or “come,” speaking of the coming of Christ), we decided that the church would. What we found was the meanings behind Advent truly speak to the spirit of Christmas. The five candles represent: 1) hope (purple), 2) preparation (purple), 3) joy (pink), 4) love (purple), and 5) the candle of Christ (white). Hope, love, joy and preparing the way for the Christ child. We need more of the first three as we prepare to meet Jesus Christ in the air.

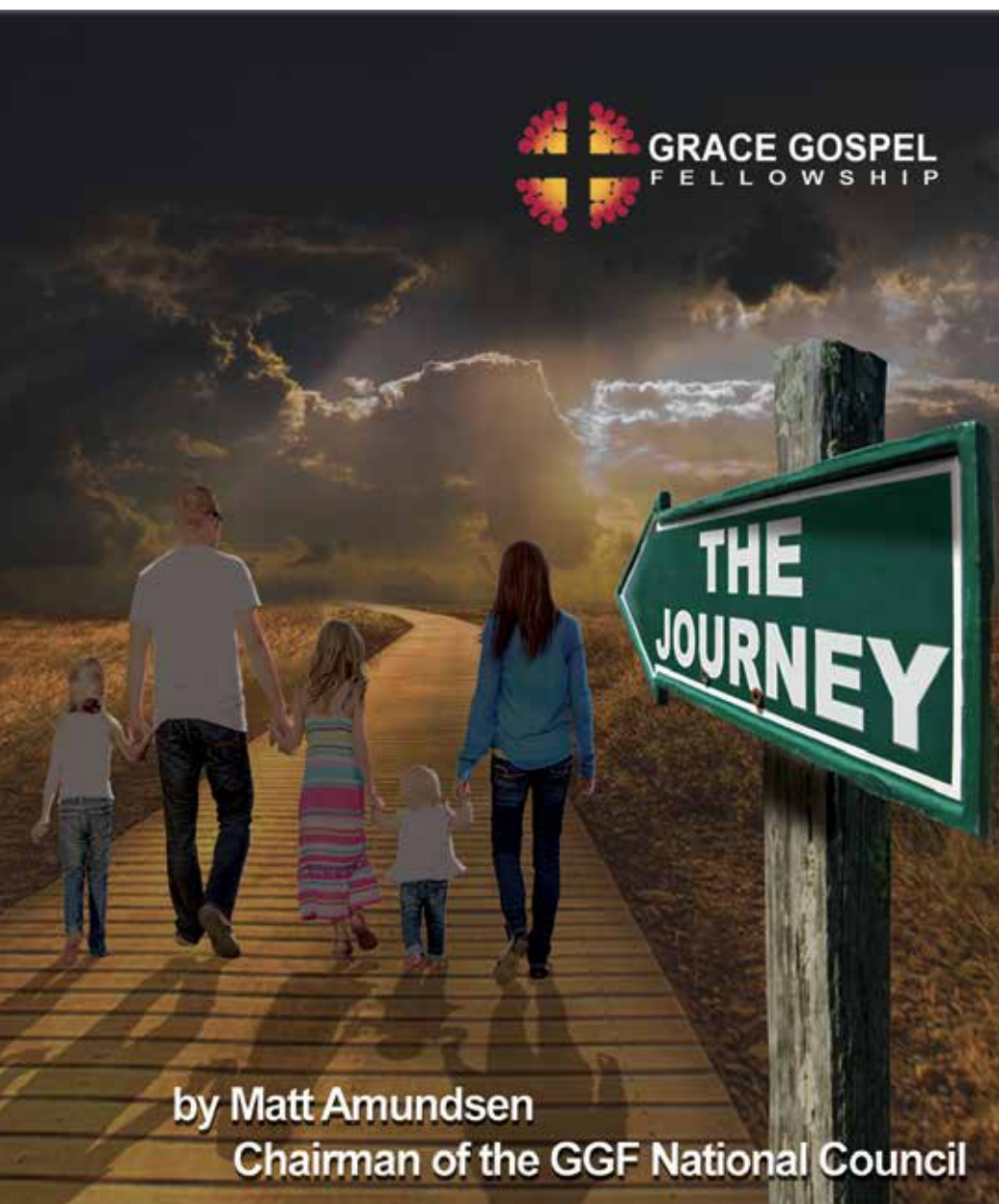
We pray that 2016 will be a better year than last. We also pray that the spirit of Christmas will fill our homes and lives with hope, love, and joy. The Jews have a saying, “perhaps next year in Jerusalem,” as they await their Messiah. We say perhaps *this* year will be the year of advent when the Lord comes to take us home to be with Him. Whether it is or not, we must all live every day to His glory and praise. Have a happy, Christ-centered New Year! ■

Dear Readers,

In the previous issue of TRUTH, we announced the beginning of a new section in the magazine that will contain excerpts from letters we receive from our readers. We would love to hear from you. We want to know what you liked and what you didn’t. Perhaps something you read made you think about the topic in an entirely new way. We want to know that and be able to share it with others. A magazine is only as good as its readership. You can mold the magazine into something that truly reaches everyone. Perhaps you could even suggest a theological or practical topic that you think needs to be explored. We want to know. So let us hear from you and together we will grow TRUTH Magazine into a truly relevant periodical. We’ll be watching our mail. This is our letter to you. Now you write to us.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Truth Editors • PO Box 9432 • Grand Rapids MI 49509 • trutheditors@gmail.com • 616-581-1243



Journey. A word that is often misunderstood. Maybe for some it represents a physical pilgrimage, where one is determined to walk a distance with a destination in mind. For others it is a pilgrimage of the heart and mind without ever a literal footstep being taken, which is where so many of us reside. In a sense the concept of *journey* is unique for each of us, and yet familiar and common, for all of us at different times in life will endure a hardship, and likely a multitude if we are honest.

I can remember when my wife, Sharon, found out that her mother, Patty Cloud, had been diagnosed with clear cell carcinoma, a more rare form of ovarian cancer. Devastating. It was so hard to wrap our minds around what we were hearing, and being thousands of miles away only heightened our anxiety and worry. The raw emotions of anger and sadness were evident, at least in our hearts. It is in these very moments when you ask God, “Why?”

Why, when she has struggled so much already, with her eyesight fading and losing so many close family members in a short period of time? We weren’t directly on the journey and yet we wanted to be. To wrap our arms around them. To walk side by side along the path they would take. In a very real sense, we have joined them on this journey.

Last summer, we spent a couple of weeks visiting family in Oregon and Washington. What a precious time for us as a family. Our children were able to spend time fishing off the pier at a local lake and swimming and surfing in the Pacific Ocean with their cousins; reading books with Grandma and exploring the beaches with Grandpa. All of this we treasured in our hearts—above all, simply being able to spend time with Patty and see the smile on her face as we shared stories.

During our vacation, Sharon started to not feel well. Towards the end of our time out west, we decided it best to check in with a local doctor and see what he might suggest. There was nothing conclusive about their findings but they did strongly recommend that Sharon see her doctor upon returning to Michigan. A couple of days after returning home, she had an ultrasound done and it was determined that she had a mass on her ovary. I can remember we both felt the same thing—*numb*. According to the dictionary, *numbness* is, “being incapable of action or of feeling emotion”; it also can be defined

as, “deprived of physical sensation or the ability to move.” This is all accurate. Although I find it ironic that we felt something that is most clearly defined as a void of feeling. It seemed the world around us did not stop and yet our lives seemingly had come to a screeching halt. This would simply be the beginning.

Two weeks later, Sharon had surgery to conduct a total hysterectomy and to determine if the mass was indeed cancerous. Her surgery was a success. She spent a few days in the hospital and then her recovery time at home to follow along with waiting for the results. I know many of us declare that waiting is the hardest thing to endure and there is no doubt that statement is true. While everyone around us seemed to be breathing and functioning, I would have a hard time convincing you that we experienced the same. Each day ran into the next and we wondered when we would receive word. Finally, after ten *long* days we met with the doctor and he shared with us his diagnosis of clear cell carcinoma. Devastated. Seriously? The exact same cancer her mother was fighting? Remember how I mentioned numbness? Here we go again! It would be one thing if it was just Sharon and I, but we have three children—ages 12, 10, and 6. How would we tell them the news?

“...I wish we were
out of this darkness
but at least we
are not alone...
I HATE CANCER.”

Even as I write this, emotions are fresh. Nothing in life quite prepares you to have those conversations and answer tough questions that truly aren't satisfactorily answered. We knew that above all, we needed to reassure them that God's got this! And that He will supply all of our needs (Philippians 4:19). As you have encouraged people with Scripture during difficult times, have you had a moment of reservation in

your own mind as to God's faithfulness? Be honest. I have at numerous points during this struggle. Maybe it seems altogether unChristian and yet this struggle is evident throughout Scripture. People who had moments and days of doubt. In these moments I think of David and how transparent he was about his emotions, whether it was anger and frustration, joy and contentment, or doubt and depression.

I want to share an entry in my journal which, if I'm honest, is sporadic at best:

September 25, 2015

In a fog again. The clouds seem closer than before. The Lord's voice is present but distant. Not because He has moved, but because my thoughts and worries are consuming the air I breathe. Why do I come back to this point time and again? There is a sense of loneliness that is hard to explain. Plenty of people saying they will pray, actually praying, and encouraging us...and yet I sit here at the black, high-top table in the youth room, alone...physically, yes...but emotionally too. Not sure what you have in store for us, Lord...way too many things up in the air...grasping at something...anything...hoping for some semblance of direction...I love Sharon. She is brave...something I don't sense in myself right now...I just read Psalm 4:4 - "Be angry and do not sin. Ponder in your own hearts on your bed and be silent" SELAH.

So it's okay to be angry; to contemplate Lord, why is all this happening? What do I need to learn...change in my life? I praise the Lord for meeting me in the dark forest. Of course, I wish we were out of this darkness but at least we are not alone...I HATE CANCER.

I can remember early on in the struggle, a good friend, Oscar Quesada, sent me a verse of encouragement from Psalm 46, reminding me to, "Be still and know that I am God." That was just the beginning...so many have come alongside to encourage...reminding us that God is there every step of the way (Psalm 23:4)...and so are they. As believers we understand, if we have put our trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we enter into relationship with Him. Indeed this relationship is paramount. It is also of value that we not approach life singularly, meaning that the journey is only intended to be walked alone. We knew before cancer that God walks with us on the journey and that others walked with us and us with them...but how powerful it is experiencing the power of God directly and through the lives of others. Living in a world of self-reliance, it is humbling to

experience a need for reliance above all on God, but also on your family, your friends, and seeming strangers half the world around.

Sharon is now more than halfway through the chemo treatments and I can't express how proud I am of her and how she has embraced the journey, all of it, the difficult and the uplifting, and it has been such a blessing to see how the Lord provides and how He strengthens each and every day. What an assurance we have in Jesus. There is darkness in what we have and will face, but recently I was reminded of something. In my morning devotion I read John 1:5 over and over out loud: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it," and in Psalm 119:105: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

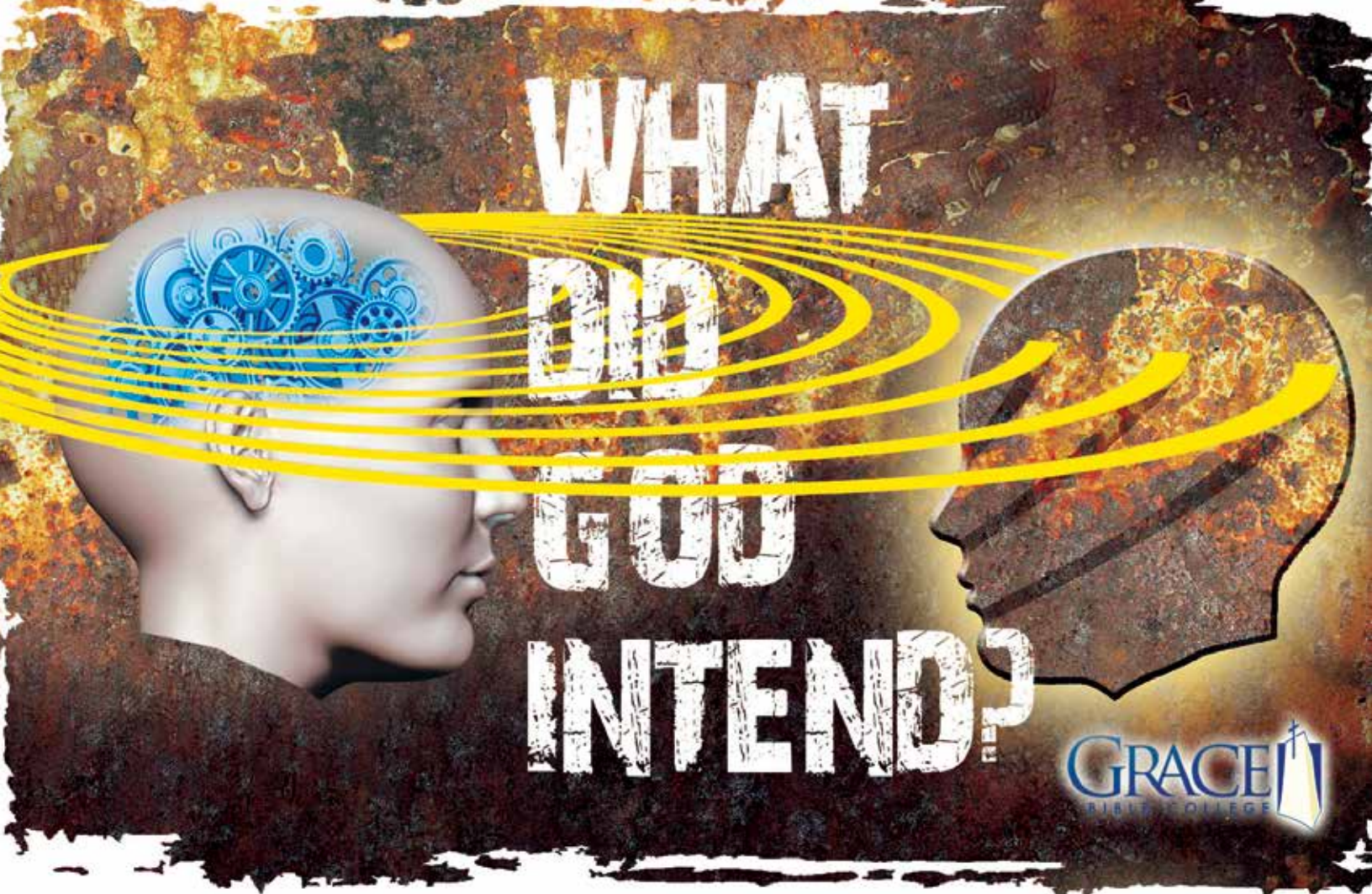
Every step we take in life is part of a journey, whether it is a physical step or a journey of the heart. Embrace each one. Not alone, but with the confidence that God is there every step of the way, shedding light on the path, whether it be directly from Him, or indirectly through the lives of others. ■



According to the Parkside Bible Church website where Pastor Matt faithfully serves in ministry: "Pastor Matt Amundsen is an innovator in youth ministry who works to develop the Christian growth and maturity of our young people. His desire is to help develop the potential of our future leaders in the church, emphasizing quality and balance in the Christian life...." He and his wife, Sharon, have three young children ages 12, 10, and 6.

Essential reading when the world needs the truth.

GRACE PUBLICATIONS
PO Box 9432
Grand Rapids, MI 49509
www.gracepublications.org



by Ken B. Kemper, President of Grace Bible College

“What did you mean by that?” We seek to know and understand the actions and communication of others by trying to comprehend their intentions. “Intentions” are identified as the purpose or rationale for what is communicated or done. It is the anticipated outcome from others which our words or actions are seeking to bring about. The problem with communication is we often misunderstand another person’s intentions and take their words to mean something other than what they intended. In our day-to-day human interactions, there are so many nonverbal, cultural, and historical biases present in our communications, whether we are the speaker or the listener. I have been misquoted many times, just like you have, because of these challenges to clear communication and the ongoing static we all deal with on a daily basis.

I am more and more convinced that it is this same struggle with communication and intention that hinders people from understanding God’s message to us from His Word. It is this same challenge—clouded by man’s sinfulness—which keeps the gospel from being communicated to lost and unregenerate mankind worldwide. There are polit-

ical, ethnic, and social issues which consistently cloud the meaning and intent of the words we speak, preventing the message of God’s Word from connecting to those who need it most! In biblical studies we seek to exegete a passage of Scripture to discern as best we can what the author’s intent was to the readers of his time before we can realize the full meaning. Then, we can compare context, analyze, and synthesize with other similar passages and move toward application to our lives. If we fail to capture any part of the original intention, we’re doomed to a limited understanding at best.

As dispensationalists in the Grace Gospel Fellowship, we believe in the unfolding plan of God throughout Scriptures, known as “Progressive Revelation.” By this we mean that God revealed some truth to Adam and Eve and desired them to live within the parameters of that truth which He revealed to them as administrators of that distinct revelation. He did not expect them to live according to later instructions which had not yet been revealed. Paul speaks of this in reference to Abraham, who acted in faith according to the promise and not according to the law of Moses,

which had not yet been revealed to him (Romans 4), but would be progressively revealed later. The point I desire to make clear is that in every dispensation, the intentions of God were strategic and clear in the mind of God. He always sought to give mankind instruction by which they could exercise their faith in Him and also practice obedience.

GOD'S CHARACTER DICTATES HIS INTENTIONS

The character of God does, in fact, determine the intentions of His actions and communication to man. (God's character does not change [Psalm 55:9] and progress like His revelation to man.) Because God is a holy God He never acts contrary (like sinful humans might) to His ontological makeup (His nature which is the sum of His attributes). Therefore, when we look at the communication of God and His revelation to man we can conclude that it will always speak consistently in line with who God is. He is holy, just, loving, kind, gracious, long-suffering, and at the same time, He is all-knowing, all-powerful, and infinite.

**“ It is crucial during
these times that we
recall God's character
and therefore not
question His intentions
in His actions! ”**

This means that as we understand the nature of God and who He is, we will come to a greater understanding of His communication in the Word as well as His actions. This is an extremely important point! Our misunderstanding of other people normally occurs because we do not have sufficient knowledge about them. Often you'll hear, "But if you really knew them you would have realized they didn't mean that." Granted, we err as humans in expressing ourselves

or just by doing wrong things, but most of the time we can recognize that a good person says and acts out of that goodness in their heart, and those who know them count on that, even when there is a seeming contradiction. We give people the benefit of the doubt and suspend judgment because we know them! When we are not well acquainted with someone, we will question and be skeptical about their intentions. It's a difference of our own belief and knowledge of the other person as we decode their actions and communications rather than what they actually spoke.

GOD IS GOOD – HIS WORDS, ACTIONS, AND INTENTIONS

Much of the Bible today is under suspicion by nonbelievers as well as by some Christians. This is because they believe some parts are just not very "acceptable" in today's world. There is a strong belief that if you are committed to your belief in God's Word and its description of sin and judgment that you are not very intelligent or "up to date" ("anti-intellectual" is the most commonly used term). Romans 1 and 2 speak clearly about the judgment of God on all kinds of sinful practices and explicitly explain these behaviors as a result of the pervasive evil in the world. Paul goes on in Romans 3 to explain how all of us are sinners and will stand condemned before the Lord—in need of God's grace and redemption, which is through the death of Jesus Christ alone. The intention of God to punish sin and its explanation in Scripture is not "mean-spirited" or "unjust singling out." It is clearly intending to show the extent of the debauchery and sinfulness of man when left to his own sinful mind. The intention is to show the need and reality of grace and God's provision for all mankind! There is no need for blood and grace without sin and judgment. God is, through this communication and following actions, a good, just, and loving God. He is good to reach out to sinful man. He is good to justly punish wrongdoing by a clear standard. He is loving to allow anyone to repent of their sins and come to Him in belief (Romans 10:9-13).

In our lives we face difficulties and struggles because of our fallen world. We lose jobs, get hurt in accidents, or watch families torn apart by divorce and infidelity. We grieve deeply over the passing of loved ones and family members. But as we face these and other such extremely difficult issues, we have opportunities to exercise our knowledge of God and His intentions in this world. We can quote Romans 8:28 that, "God works all things out for good for those who love God and are called according to his purpose." However, we seldom continue to read the following verses and understand that intention of God to "conform us

to the image of His Son” is the highest good He can work in our lives (which often happens through difficulty and molding us when we are most pliable). It is crucial during these times that we recall God’s character and therefore not question His intentions in His actions! He still is good, holy, loving, and kind. Everything He does reflects that character even when we cannot see it ourselves. We make a choice: either we believe in the character and intentions of God or we fail to believe, interpreting “reality” by our own opinions. This is when people draw closer to God in belief of who He is, or fall away because of their failure to acknowledge God’s character and intentions. God never speaks or acts without intentions and purpose.

GOD’S INTENTIONS FOR SENDING HIS SON TO EARTH

The worldwide celebration of Christmas includes many traditions and practices which reflect the values and intentions of the people who celebrate. There is so much happening during the season that we can easily lose the “reason for the season.” What is the reason or intention of the incarnation of Jesus Christ? Scriptures reveal many, and I will summarize a few of the more obvious ones.

A. *To reveal the Father.* In the first chapter of John there is a powerful passage on the “Word” in which we read that this “Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us...” (John 1:14). John goes on to tell us that, “We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth...No one has seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made Him known.” Jesus Christ alone is able to show the world what the Father in heaven is like because He was His one and only Son who had a glory like that of His father. The writer of Hebrews put it this way: “...but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, who He appointed heir of all things...The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of His being” (Hebrews 1:2,3). By observing Jesus, we can know what the Father is like—that was God’s intention in sending Him to the world.

B. *To do away with sin.* Christ came to deal with the sin issue. John describes His work as just that: “But you know that He appeared so that He might take away our sins. And in Him is no sin” (1 John 3:5). Because Jesus came, lived a sinless life, and died as the spotless lamb, He removes sin completely by His self-sacrifice (Hebrews 9:26). He is able to make us righteous because He was fully righteous (2 Corinthians 5:21). He came with the intention to deal with sin, and remove it from its judgmental position over all mankind.

C. *To destroy the work of the devil.* Jesus came to remove the power the devil was exerting over all mankind, rendering it powerless to destroy the believer. John states, “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work” (1 John 3:8). What a clear description of the intention of God! Hebrews adds, “Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death” (Hebrews 2:14,15). This is another clear purpose statement of the actions of God in the incarnation: to destroy the devil’s enslavement of mankind.

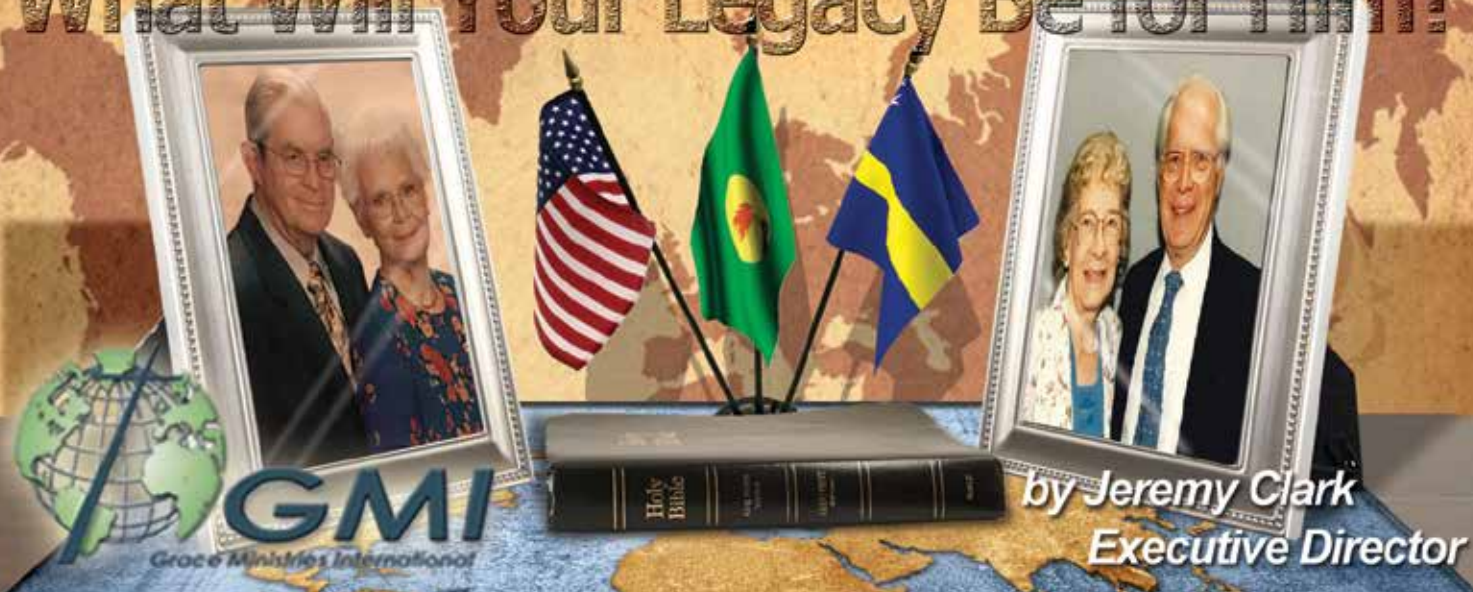
D. *To fulfill the promises of God.* There are over 300 prophecies from the Old Testament which are fulfilled in the coming of Jesus Christ, ranging from His birth mother, birthplace, and life, all the way through to His betrayal, death, and resurrection. God had promised His people and the world a Messiah and Savior, and He intended to make good on those promises. Paul states, “Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God’s truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs so that the Gentiles may glorify God for His mercy” (Romans 15:8). The coming of Christ demonstrated the veracity of all the promises and prophecies to the patriarchs and other prophets.

God will yet fulfill another 500 more prophecies in Christ’s return in glory and judgment. We know the character of God reveals that He will fulfill all prophecy and eternally save His people, establish a literal kingdom for Israel, and judge the unredeemed. We believe this will happen because we believe in His character and the sum of His attributes. He will carry out His intentions for His creation. We entrust our lives to His words as truth and live in light of that eternity. ■



Ken B. Kemper, President at Grace Bible College since 2003, welcomes your comments. Contact him at preskemper@gbcol.edu, or follow him on Twitter or Facebook ([@presidentkemper](https://twitter.com/presidentkemper)).

What Will Your Legacy Be for Him?



Compared to the other songs we sang, it was a little out of place and even a bit anachronistic but, then again, how could we end the Sunday morning service without singing “Padilanti”¹ with a chorus that challenges us to march onward with the Lord? It was missionary Cliff Lee’s favorite Papiamento hymn—a man who spent forty years faithfully serving the Lord on the island of Curacao situated just 45 miles from the coast of Venezuela. Less than two weeks before the more than 100 believers from Curacao, the neighboring islands of Bonaire and Aruba, Holland, and the United States gathered together for a Bible conference culminating in a joint service on a Sunday morning this past October, Cliff Lee passed away.

Missionaries are hard to come by. Missionaries with years of experience in the pastorate, authoring literature and books, possessing prior missionary service, and even directing a missionary agency are *very* hard to come by—in fact, they may come by only once in a lifetime. A couple of years ago Don Ten Hoeve (Grace Ministries International’s Director of Field Operations) and I paid a visit to such a man. Though frail from a stroke and well into his 80s, his mind was strong and his passion to serve the Lord was even stronger. Wayne Schoonover, Sr. had heard about the need for theological education on one of our fields in Africa. He was ready to go and ready for us to send him. Why not? He had already been involved in theological education in three other African countries and knew how it was done. Two weeks after Cliff went to be with the Lord, Wayne joined him.

Together these men and their wives dedicated over 100 years of service to the Lord on different continents, in different cultures, and to different peoples. Not only did these men excel in their ministries, but they were wholeheartedly committed to advancing the Lord’s work. Naturally, it saddens us knowing these men who tirelessly lived, taught, and promoted the grace of God around the world are no longer here. What is still with us, however, is their legacy which was built upon the Rock—Jesus Christ.

A couple of years ago I landed on an airstrip in Congo in the small village of Kama. More than once the question entered my mind, “How did this airstrip get here?” Recently, I learned that fifty years ago Wayne, with his family still in the States, spent a year in Kama helping to construct the airstrip using a three-foot level on a stick as his transit.

Cliff Lee was a hardworking missionary, always ready to start the next project before the first one was finished. He was constantly preaching, teaching, building, and writing. In fact, today the Papiamento-speaking congregations in Curacao, Bonaire, and Holland are still using his literature.

Whether an airstrip or literature, the commonality between the two is that they are illustrative of enduring legacies for the work of Christ. This, in great part, is what drove both men—to set something (or many things) in motion which would impact the world for Jesus Christ for years and decades to come. One thing that may go a little ways towards mitigating the loss of these men is appreciating their substantial legacies.

¹ This is the Papiamento name of the English song, “The Banner of the Cross.”

For all practical purposes the planning for the Bible conference held October 9-11 in Curacao began in earnest

earlier last year. Stepping back and looking at this conference with a longer view in mind, I suppose one could say the “planning” began decades ago. For years, Cliff worked alongside the believers at Iglesia Bíblica (Bible Church) where he and his wife, Betty, discipled, trained, and mentored several men and women equipping them for the ministry. This was his passion from the time he arrived on the island in 1951 until he left in 1991. Many of these same men and women they trained were the ones who organized this first-of-its-kind Bible conference held less than two weeks after Cliff’s passing.

Perhaps the best test to evaluate the effectiveness of any ministry is the test of time. When Cliff and Betty left Curacao in 1991, they left behind a strong church with capable leadership. Carlos Brunk, then a recent graduate of Grace Bible College, began pastoring Iglesia Bíblica upon the Lees’ departure and now, these many years later, is a missionary with GMI having planted churches in Holland and on the island of Bonaire. Carlos affectionately refers to Pastor Lee as his mentor and credits Cliff with preparing the men and women of Curacao to carry on the ministry. His preparation was not in vain. Now there are two established congregations in Curacao affiliated with GMI and a fledgling house church. As an extension of the ministry in Curacao, two churches have been planted in Holland and a third is opening its doors in March. Carlos and Denise Brunk are now serving with GMI on the island of Bonaire (just to the east of Curacao) where they have started a church attended by six couples who regularly gather together in the Brunks’ home. Did Cliff Lee’s discipleship ministry pass the test of time? It sure did. Those whom he mentored are certainly marching on with the Lord—Padilanti!

Like Cliff, Wayne was never a man who could sit still. For me, trying to arrange a chronology of his life was over-

whelming—like putting together a 1,000-piece puzzle of a ball of yarn. His desire to serve the Lord took him in so many directions and to so many places while touching the lives of so many around the world. Wayne and his wife, Phyllis, were missionaries in Congo, Tanzania, and Zambia. On each of those fields Wayne was extensively involved in theological education. He believed in it and knew that if he could teach and train others, the ministry would grow and extend far beyond his reach—and this is exactly what happened. Wherever Wayne went, his impact rippled far and wide.

One of those ripples is Wayne’s grandson, Cory Hodgson, serving as a missionary with GMI in Tanzania. One day several months back Cory walked across the street from where he lives and asked some Tanzanian men making French fries by the roadside if he could help. He sat down and peeled potatoes fielding questions from curious on-lookers about what he was doing. Their questions presented ample opportunity to share the gospel and many placed their faith in Jesus Christ right there. Cory, who is committed to servant evangelism, knows different Tanzanian pastors who studied under his grandpa remembering him fondly as both a mentor and a teacher. When there was a test or quiz, Wayne would say to his students “Men, gird yourselves!” He was well known for his practical advice, and even more for his integrity.

Between stints on the mission field, Wayne also served as Executive Director of Grace Ministries International for five years which allowed him to travel to some of the fields where he hadn’t been. He also served as a GMI board member for many years while he was in the States. In addition, he had opportunity to pastor churches in Colorado and Virginia and serve as interim pastor in Oregon and Florida.



Sam Vinton Jr. and Cliff Lee at the installation service of Carlos Brunk in Curacao



Tanzania missionaries in approximately 1992 (L-R): Dan Moyer; Ken and Kathy Kemper; Tina Moyer; Bev Kraft; Dawn Nienhuis; Colton, Ted, and Kim Rabenold; and Wayne and Phyllis Schoonover

So how did that conversation with Wayne end just a couple years ago when Don and I visited him to talk about his desire to return to the field? For Wayne, it was never about his personal legacy or what would fulfill him. It was about the Lord's work. As we sat down and talked to Wayne about the work in Africa, he became quite content to know there was now another couple headed to that particular field who were more than capable, equipped, and experienced to carry out the work of establishing a theological education program to train others to do the work of the ministry. Wayne did not need to be in the saddle again, but desired more than anything for the ministry to continue.

Because of the way the Lord used Cliff and Wayne, those they touched and even those who have been fortunate enough to hear just a story or two about their lives and ministries rightfully think of them as examples of men who followed Christ. It is good and healthy to surround ourselves with those who are living out the Christian life and to bring to mind the memories of those who have faithfully done so. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ" (1 Cor 11:1). His encouragement was clear: only imitate those things which are imitations of Christ. Honoring men who have lived faithfully unto Christ is not to justify their shortcomings or sin, but it is to elevate those attributes and actions which have brought Christ the glory. In the case of Cliff and Wayne there were many.

When reflecting on men of godly stature who have passed on, we often tend to reach two conclusions, neither of which is correct. We often conclude that those were just the good old days when God was in the business of raising up giants of the faith. That is what God was doing, but not any longer. We also tend to conclude that because



Cliff Lee working on a literature project before the days of computers and printers

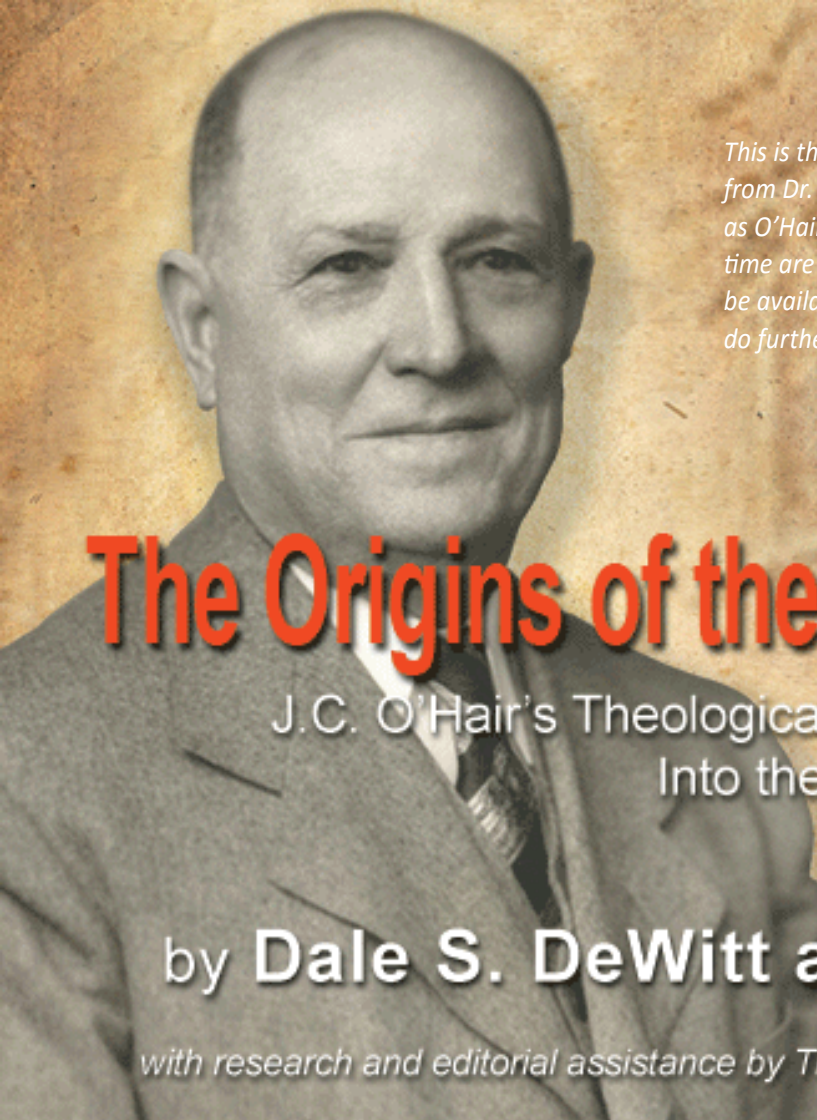


Wayne Schoonover, Dan Bultema, Dave Velting, and Ken Krater on a trip to India during Wayne's time as a GMI Board member

these men were unique, somehow this means that God will never duplicate or even exceed in anyone else the powerful way in which the Lord used them. Why do we come to these conclusions? One reason might be a lack of faith. We have seen a good—even great—example of how the Lord can work through an individual to accomplish wonderful feats on His behalf. However, we simply do not believe He will do it again. Another reason might be that we want to excuse ourselves from the obligation to live out what we consider "extraordinary Christianity." We either do not view ourselves as worthy of such a calling or we prefer not to disrupt our lives to seek to live for Christ in this way.

Paul, in no uncertain terms, understood his own unworthiness to serve the Lord. To him this was not an excuse to remove himself from ministry, but an opportunity to recognize God's grace in his life and press on. "To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ" (Eph. 3:8). Paul's prayer for the Colossian believers was that they "walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Col. 1:10). In reality "extraordinary Christianity" is ordinary and normative for every Christian—it is what is expected. Whether it is the ancient example of the apostle Paul, the modern examples of Cliff and Wayne, or our own lives, the unchanging truth is that Jesus Christ "gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works" (Col. 2:14).

Because of what Christ has done for you, **what will your legacy be for Him?** ■

A black and white portrait of J.C. O'Hair, a middle-aged man with a receding hairline, wearing a suit and tie, looking slightly to the right with a gentle smile. The background is a textured, mottled brown.

This is the fourth and final installment of our “Into the 1940s” article from Dr. DeWitt and Bryan Ross in which Jews and Prophecy as well as O’Hair’s reaction to the most troubling world social problems of his time are discussed. The article in its entirety and all appendices will be available on the GGF website at ggfusa.org for those who wish to do further study.

The Origins of the Grace Movement

J.C. O’Hair’s Theological Growth and Expansion
Into the 1940s

by Dale S. DeWitt and Bryan C. Ross

with research and editorial assistance by Timothy F. Conklin and Kathy K. Molenkamp

Prophecy, the Jews, and the World Situation

During the 1940s Pastor J.C. O’Hair produced a remarkable number of pamphlets on the Jews and prophecy—perhaps as many as sixteen. The increase of pamphlets on these topics relates to World War II, the Third Reich, the Holocaust, a rapid reappearance of prophecy-fulfillment speculation about signs of the Great Tribulation, and which Axis leader might be the Antichrist. At least two pamphlets of the decade use current events as foils for evangelism or dispensational teaching; examples are *The Poor Jew and the Rich Christian* (1948) and *A Good American—A Good Christian*. Other pamphlets in the “world issues” group address the subjects of their titles directly. O’Hair never leaves such socially important subjects without biblical correlation. Forays into world or social justice issues are rare in O’Hair’s writings, while evangelism, biblical teaching, and theological issues remained his main interests. The future of the Jews is a continuing interest of the Grace Movement, but not a specific point of its doctrinal statement. The subject is related, however, to dispensational theology’s

interest in Israel’s future and Christ’s coming before and to establish the prophesied messianic kingdom.

The Times of the Gentiles (1944): this heading is also a pamphlet title. The biblical phrase it discusses is a broadscope term for one major element in its prophetic language—the Near Eastern and world nations as they engulfed Israel. The phrase, “the times of the Gentiles” is taken from Jesus’ end-times talk to the disciples (Mt 24; Mk 13; Lk 21). O’Hair thought it referred to a cross-dispensational period from Nebuchadnezzar’s destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B. C. to the final revelation of Christ in victory over Gentile powers (Rv 19); it covered the control of Jerusalem and Israel by Gentiles, and Israel’s dispersion, exile, and subjection to Gentile nations. In O’Hair’s view “the times of the Gentiles” lasted until the end of the Great Tribulation during which Israel is converted to its Messiah, and the national land and capital again come under Israel’s own rule. Three or more pamphlets discuss these ideas in some detail: *The Times of the Gentiles*; *From the Head of Gold to the Son of Perdition* (1942?); and

Daniel's Secret—Paul's Mystery—John's Revelation (1941). Horrifying conditions in Europe in the 1940s and American involvement in the war were widely viewed as ingredients of “the times of the Gentiles”—a situation which compelled interest because of the holocaust in Germany and Germany's planned and attempted expansion into the Middle East as well as Russia, France, and Britain.

Since “the times of the Gentiles” will culminate with the prophesied Great Tribulation as Israel's climactic struggle, could any of its lead-in events be identified in World War II conditions and expansionist Axis leaders? A major pamphlet on this subject is *Will the Church Go through the Tribulation?* (1948). The pamphlet denies in principle any firm biblical evidence for preliminary Tribulation events or signs in the World War II context, including the holocaust or its perpetrators. The reason for denying identifiable prelude events in principle is O'Hair's prior conviction about the rapture as the next prophesied event and the absence in rapture texts of prior prophetic signs (1 Cor 15:51-52; 1 Thes 4:13-17). Revelation 3:10 is not a rapture text; it teaches not a rapture of the church but the principle that God will save his true people from the Tribulation, although it does not specify how. Instead, signs of the Tribulation occur *within* the Tribulation itself. The church will already have been resurrected (raptured) before the Tribulation to be with Christ in the air. O'Hair thought it foolish to suppose Hitler or Stalin to be the Tribulation's Antichrist as rising prophetic speculation argued. If *the* Antichrist, also called “the son of perdition,” were identifiable as Hitler or Stalin, how could Christians of earlier centuries have been so foolish as to believe in a truly imminent second coming?

The Plight of the Jews: The phrase “times of the Gentiles” was also O'Hair's general framework for discussing some pertinent aspects of social ethics, especially Christians' relation to then-current (1940s) governments and war, and Christians' attitudes toward Jews and Germans in the World War setting. The social ethics issues he was most interested in were what to think about the Nazi situation, treatment of Jews in the western world generally, Jewish fears about survival, American involvement in the war, the military draft, and the kind of world to emerge in the postwar era.

In his *Life Story* tape-transcript of 1955, O'Hair spoke of three Jewish friends who had helped him through certain difficulties during his accounting and home-building years before moving to Chicago (1917). His comments

about these Jewish helpers were appreciative. No hint of prejudice toward Jews or anti-Semitism is visible in the Jewish pamphlets or elsewhere in the writings; O'Hair was not anti-Semitic. In the 1940s pamphlets on the Jews, he is awed by their survival for the last twenty-five centuries—a miracle, he thought, of God's promises and providence. The pamphlets of central importance on the Jews in the world are: *The Jew and the Roosevelt Administration* (1944); *The One Nation and the Many Nations* (1944); and *Pharaoh, Haman, Hitler and the Jews* (1939). At the time, world Jews, especially American Jews, were fearful about what was happening to them and what could happen to them in a prolonged Nazi era. O'Hair noticed that American Jews believed Roosevelt would protect them; they wished Roosevelt would live a hundred years and be president of the United States until he died. O'Hair encourages them with Jeremiah 30:11:

“I am with you and will save you,” declares the Lord. “Though I completely destroy all the nations among which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you.”

He thought Gentile Christians should be eternally grateful for Israel. From them we received the Bible, salvation, and Christ himself. This thought is one of several which can be viewed as a reciprocal view of social justice in O'Hair's thinking: we who have received so much from the Jews owe them love, support and gratitude, and above all, our witness of the gospel. Interestingly, O'Hair's friend Harry Bultema of Muskegon, Michigan, also had a lifelong interest in Israel. They may have listened to each other preach or teach on the subject in Grand Rapids, Muskegon, or even Chicago, and they likely shared their experiences with Jews.

Government and World War II: On American government and the war, major 1940s pamphlets are: *Should a Christian Go to War?* (1941), *Who Will Win the War?* (1941), and *The World of the Day After Tomorrow* (1945); these are not foils for evangelism but address their subjects directly. O'Hair's concept of mutual or reciprocal justice guides his thinking. American Christians gain many benefits from their Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and American law generally; they owe their nation military service in return, especially in a time when their freedoms and peace are in extreme danger. Since the true church is one church throughout the world, “The true saint... is an internationalist. Christians are taught subjection to government (Rom 13) even amid its evils. During the New Testament era Israel was in com-

“

He thought
Gentile Christians
should be eternally
grateful for Israel.

”

plete subjection to Caesar, and Christ was born at Bethlehem because a godly woman (Mary) had to obey Caesar's order to register for the census. Church-state separation is set by God himself in this dispensation; “there is no such thing as a ‘Christian nation.’” Christians should pray for God to save our nation from the war, “unless participation will save us from something worse than war.”¹ Important elements of historic Christian views of government and war are at work in this thinking, though undeveloped in detail.² These thoughts were probably not much different than those of most fundamentalist leaders; they represent roughly a kind of standard patriotism and resignation to American and world conditions. And yet they are a sort of not-quite-typical fundamentalist social thought.

Love and Hate in War and Peace: In *The World of Day After Tomorrow* (c 1945), O’Hair was hopeful about the victory of the Allies and about possible gains once the war ended, although the devil could spoil any such gains. Only the second coming of Christ will produce the peace and righteousness for which the world longs. And yet a strikingly positive humanitarian view of possibilities emerges—an expression which puts his thoughts and concerns in perspective:

If, after this war, Satan’s reign shall continue in the world of tomorrow, though rulers do their utmost to give

¹ This paragraph is summarized from J.C. O’Hair, *Should a Christian Go to War?* (Chicago: J. C. O’Hair, c 1940), pp. 4, 5, 10, 16.

² A very full study of the subject is O. and J. O’Donovan, (eds.), *From Irenaeus to Grotius: A Sourcebook in Christian Political Thought* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999); the book is worth reading or at least browsing.

to humanity a warless world, a better world in which the black man, the brown man, the yellow man and the white man are to dwell in unity, peace, plenty, and comfort, we shall have to wait for the day-after-tomorrow when Satan shall be the Lord’s prisoner in the bottomless pit, for the golden age (Revelation 20:1-6).³

O’Hair remarks in *Who Will Win the War?* that Christians cannot hate Germans, but they should not encourage Hitler either.⁴ Neither can they hate German immigrants to America including those who still love their German homeland. O’Hair’s advocacy of egalitarian love appears not only in this pamphlet, but in comments on the Jews and remarks on Americans’ duty to serve their nation in the effort to stop Hitler and the Axis’ aggression. The extension of love for both fellow Christians and the whole of humanity is visible in these comments. Such modest thoughts about other human beings fit well with O’Hair’s moderate spirit in dealing with his hostile opponents, even though in a few places his deep irritation does show over attackers’ unfairness.

These brief explorations of social justice and world conditions do not indicate a developing social theology akin to the larger full-scale preaching and writing of his contemporary social gospel advocates. The right framework in which to read these war era pamphlets is his *Sailing with Paul* (1944). The pamphlet is concerned about a recent book entitled, *One World*, and its advocacy of a new international harmony—a more rational approach than war as a way to resolve national differences and aspirations. Here O’Hair embraces the common evangelical view in vogue, even to the present time: world unity or even church unity is impossible without conversion of individuals, world and church leaders, and whole nations to Christ as Savior and Lord. Without such conversions to Christ, Christians can only presume the wreckage of both unbelieving nations and individual persons.

Thus O’Hair’s modest form of social justice discussion is conservative and limited by his American fundamentalist context, the European war, and the wrongheaded search by evangelicals for the Antichrist among leading personali-

³ J.C. O’Hair, *World of Day after Tomorrow* (Chicago: J. C. O’Hair, c. 1944-1945), p. 6. The pamphlet seems to come from very near the end of the war, perhaps when Allied victory was becoming increasingly more probable.

⁴ J.C. O’Hair, *Who Will Win the War?* (Chicago: J. C. O’Hair, c 1943), pp. 5-6.

“

Three significant elements in his expanded theology were the mystery of the church, the kingdom of God in the New Testament, and the related idea of two New Testament gospels.

”

ties of the European Axis. Nonetheless, his justice thinking is something of a seed from which more such thought could grow within the Grace Movement, and is not without significance for the soon-to-develop rethinking of social ethics within the new evangelical movement of the 1950s and later.

Conclusion

The most important development of the 1940s, and the subject of O’Hair’s largest output, was not the continuation and conclusion of his controversies, but the deepening and filling out of his dispensational theology with biblical detail. Mostly leaving controversy to the side, O’Hair sought in the 1940s to integrate more biblical images and language into his dispensational theology. Three significant elements in his expanded theology were the mystery of the church, the kingdom of God in the New Testament, and the related idea of two New Testament gospels.

While the first stage of the controversy over Bullingerism and baptism was waning by about 1940, that year also saw a new stage of the struggle initiated by David Otis Fuller of Grand Rapids, Michigan and his Baptist pastor-friend Waddi A. Haggai of Massachusetts. Fuller’s status among regular Baptists was similar to Ironside’s among independent fundamentalists. The renewed attack on O’Hair’s two most alarming ideas—his few similarities to E. W. Bullinger’s extreme dispensationalism without embracing its most extreme destructive elements,⁵ and his aggressive attempts to engage both infant and immersion baptism practices—was the fuel for several new pamphlets

on the subject. The Fuller-Haggai offensive, however, was fatally flawed by accusing O’Hair of things he did not believe and their refusal to be corrected or to moderate their opposition. No matter what O’Hair did to counter the attacks—and it was quite a bit—he finally had to wait for the aggression to subside or peter out—which it never entirely did. In the meantime he turned to theological expansion and integration.

World War II and its troubling ingredients occupied O’Hair’s thought in an unusual group of pamphlets on a limited range of social issues. Fundamentalists were not social issues preachers as were the modernist or social gospel ministers of the mainline denominations. But O’Hair and the evangelicals occasionally commented in sermons, pamphlets, and books on the most troubling world social problems of their time. A rather surprising world-egalitarian perspective emerged in his thinking about these issues. On the other hand, his modest social thought did not approach the ethical or historical depth of social thinkers like Richard and Reinhold Niebuhr, nor was O’Hair trying to compete with them. Liberals had gained the day in social justice thinking while O’Hair remained above all a gifted evangelist and teacher in the evangelical-fundamentalist-dispensational tradition.

On the whole, the 1940s were the years of O’Hair’s fullest development of ideas and themes introduced in the 1920s and expanded and qualified in the 1930s. Despite his energetic and thoughtful engagement of several important issues, a few difficulties in clarity appeared in his treatment of key topics; several of these were left unresolved. This means the Grace Movement was left with more work to do on several subjects. ■

⁵ For a recent assessment of Bullinger, see B. Ross, “Rightly Dividing E. W. Bullinger: The Most Intriguing Story Never Told,” *Journal of Grace Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: GGF, Spring, 2014; vol. 1, no. 1), pp. 53-68.

What Motivates You?

by Steve Sherman



Steve and Barb Sherman are missionaries under Grace Ministries International serving in Tanzania. Steve has been involved in leadership training, administration of the pastoral Bible college, and teaching, as well as writing curriculum for lay leader Bible schools. Barb teaches, is involved in Bible studies and children's ministries, and treats protein-malnourished children and burn patients. They have two children who are in college—Trevor and Stefanie.



About halfway between Sumbawanga and our home in Mumba there was a woman walking on the edge of the dirt road. She was holding the hand of a 3-4 year old who was walking beside her, an infant was strapped to her back, and she was carrying a large suitcase on her head. As we passed her I noticed she kept her face straight forward and there were tears streaming down her face. Feeling compassion I stopped to inquire about her situation. She said that her legs hurt, she was hungry, and she had the daunting task of walking 400 kilometers back to her hometown. For five years her husband had beaten her regularly and today she had had enough. She had no money, no food, only the thought that she needed to go home. I decided to help her. We didn't have room in the truck, but we made room. In fact, I took her an extra thirty kilometers past our house to the nearest main road where she could get a bus, gave her some travel money, and prayed with her.

What motivated me to help her? I like to think that my motives were pure. I want to believe that her situation was inherently worthy of my help and that is why I helped her. Equally good in my thinking is that I was motivated out of simple obedience to God to help those in need; but the human heart is very complex, capable of multiple motivations simultaneously. Often when I am obedient to God I am motivated by the idea of getting some blessing in return. Maybe I also wanted to impress the passengers in my car so they would praise my name and think that I was a good person. Perhaps because some of them were my pastoral students I was motivated to use this as a teaching moment as I mentored them in how a Christian leader should live.

What motivates you? More to the point - what motivates you to serve God? What motivates you to worship God and to live in obedience to Him? Sometimes God asks you to sacrifice for Him. What motivates you to willingly endure hardship for His sake? Such reflections are worthy of consideration. Maybe right now you are not living for God in every way that He desires. Maybe you just don't feel motivated. Maybe you are motivated but you have noticed that your pace is slowing and you need a new motivation. The Bible speaks of many different means that God uses to motivate His children to live the Christian life, such as: fear of the Lord, gratitude to God, love for God, the promise of discipline, the promise of blessing, and the promise of future reward. All of these (and others) are effective in motivating us to live as God wants us to. Most of the time multiple motivations are at work but usually a different one, at different times, will be primary.

At this stage in my life Jesus' worthiness is a major motivating factor. Having worked as a missionary for twenty

ty-two years in one place and finding myself in transition to a new ministry has caused me to ask myself the question, "Why do I do what I do?" I have found both Christian and ministry life to be difficult at times. Living in Africa has required certain sacrifices from me and my family. As I contemplate this shift to a new ministry in another part of Africa I am asking God to renew my motivation to give my all to Him. One way that He has done this is by impressing upon my heart, through His Word, the idea that I should live in a manner worthy of Christ because Christ is worthy of giving Him my all.

This thought process began one day when I was studying Philippians 1:27 where Paul gives the exhortation to, "Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ." My heart, which was searching for a renewed motivation, latched on to this idea of worthiness. I decided to do a word study. I found that the Greek word for worthy in this sentence is the word *axios*. This word, and its derivatives, is found fifty-nine times in the New Testament. In forty-five of those occurrences the NASB translates it using the words worthy or unworthy, eight times as deserving, and in a few cases words such as appropriate, in keeping with, or fitting. At its root, *axios* refers to the relationship between

two things that are weighed on a scale. It means to weigh as much as, to have an equivalent value, or to be worth as much as the second thing that it is being compared to. Five times in the New Testament God (2x) or Jesus (3x) are declared to be worthy when the object of comparison is honor and glory (e.g., Rev. 4:11; 5:12). In another thirty-five instances of *axios*, man's relationship to God is either directly or indirectly in view. In the majority of these, man's worthiness is being measured in comparison to God (4x) or Jesus (9x) or something else related to God such as being worthy of the gospel message (5x), God's calling (2x), or some future eschatological event such as eternal life, the resurrection or the kingdom of God (5x) among other things. Interestingly in 40% of these thirty-five instances human suffering, sacrifice, or endurance are in the immediate or near context, demonstrating that Jesus is always worthy of even the most difficult aspects of being a Christian.

Here is one example. Colossians 1:10 says, "so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God." Paul was praying for the Colossians that their knowledge of the Lord's will would increase (vs. 9) so that they would walk in a manner worthy of the



3rd Southeast Asia Grace Conference

**MAKE IT THE TRIP
OF A LIFETIME!**

**Asia Adventure
May 24 - June 7, 2016**

**Attend the Conference and
visit tourist sites and TCM
ministries in Cambodia,
Thailand & Malaysia!**



Contact Tim Heath (509) 423-0030 or theath@tcmusa.org for details.
Tour cost is \$1000, excluding round trip air fare.

Lord. In this case, the believer's walk is being measured against the value of Christ Himself. The clear meaning is that there is a worthy manner to walk and an unworthy manner. Christ's worth (either inherent or attributed because of His gracious and loving acts towards us) is the value that rests on one end of the scale. It measures the believer's life on the other end of the scale which in this verse encompasses all things which are pleasing to God, including conduct (i.e., bearing fruit) and what fills our minds (i.e., an increasing knowledge of God). Living in a manner worthy of God is ultimately living in a manner which shows that God is worthy of all honor and glory. It is living in a manner that demonstrates God's value.

More often than not we are motivated by God's promises that speak to our personal benefit. These are legitimate motivations. God does desire to motivate by promising both present blessings and future rewards to those who live for Him in obedience. Though these forms of motivation are biblical they do have a significant drawback. With each new decision the Christian faces the question, "In this instance is it worth it to me?" Of course, the answer should always be "yes" but in reality we often answer "no" when weighing present personal desires and comfort against God's desires and the promise of blessing.

There is a better biblical motivation that never leaves our decision making in the balance. Instead of, "Is it worth it to me?" we should ask, "Is Jesus worthy?" This was the perspective of Helen Roseveare who suffered significantly at the hands of Congolese revolutionaries when she served as a missionary in the 1960s. Though she was beaten and raped multiple times, her testimony is a resounding, "Jesus is worthy!" This is the point of the many passages that motivate the Christian to live in a manner worthy of God, Jesus, the gospel, our calling, or even of the saints. If the choice is between following God or not and if the answer depends on Jesus' value or worthiness, the answer will always be YES. No matter how hard obedience is in a particular situation, Jesus is worthy. If following God stretches our faith, Jesus is worthy. Whatever God asks of us, Jesus is always worthy.

As my wife and I open a new chapter in living our lives for God, we are challenged and motivated to live a life worthy of His name because as Revelation 5:12 says, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." How about you? Are you motivated to live for Him? Maybe it is time for you to stop and reflect on Jesus' worthiness as well. ■

God Speaks

by Ed Jeude



"God...spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways..." (Hebrews 1:1). For example, Samuel said to king Saul, "Why then do you ask of me, since the LORD has departed from you and has become your adversary? The Lord has done accordingly as He spoke through me..." (1 Samuel 28:16-17). At other times God spoke through a person and that person was not aware of it until it was supernaturally revealed to him.

The following Bible verse is especially emphasized by a large Christian denomination:

"Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven'" (Matthew 16: 13-17).

Jesus Christ was aware that God spoke through Peter while Peter was unaware of God's influence.

God's adversary, "...the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world..." (Rev 12:9), has similarly spoken many times through people. When Satan spoke through someone, that person was not necessarily aware of it until it was later made known to him.

"From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This shall

never happen to You.' But He turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's'" (Matthew 16: 21-23).

Jesus Christ was aware that Satan spoke through Peter while Peter was unaware of Satan's presence.

Another instance of Satan temporarily inhabiting a person was at the last supper, "After the morsel, Satan then entered into him [Judas]. Therefore Jesus said to him, 'What you do, do quickly'" (John 13:27).

In earlier times, God indwelt a person for a specific time and then left. For instance, Sampson "...awoke from his sleep...but did not know that the Lord had departed from him" (Judges 16:20).

God and Satan will not live in the same "house." Today, in the age of GRACE, God permanently indwells His redeemed people. They are all "...sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise" (Eph 1:13) "...for the day of redemption" (Eph 4:30). "Do you not know that you are a temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (1 Cor 3:16). With God permanently indwelling each believer today, "...we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (2 Cor 5:20).

As ambassadors for our homeland, our citizenship is heaven (Phil 3:20) while our temporary residence is earth. We are authorized to speak on behalf of the Ruler of our homeland. What a responsibility! Keep in touch with home by reading and sharing God's Word, the Bible, so you'll learn, know, and be assured of God's will for you today. Let's be good ambassadors. ■

(All Scripture in this article from NASB.)



Region 2: Southwest
Chuck Williams

Grace Bible Church of Anaheim had the opportunity to feed the homeless this past November 26, Thanksgiving Day. Pastor Joel Molina's family, along with three other families of the church, decided to make it a unique Thanksgiving by feeding some of the homeless of Anaheim. It was such an encouragement to share the love of Jesus with those who attended. What a way to get out of our comfort zone and serve the Lord beyond the normalcy of our traditions! As a result, some of the homeless have begun attending the church. We are continuing to plan and see how we as a church can effectively proclaim the love of Jesus to our community.



Region 3: West
Steve Blackwell

Cope Community Church (Cope, CO): Pastor Terry Covert - Our community continues to decrease in population, but the church remains strong and healthy. All ministries are going full steam right now, with plans to start a Dave Ramsey "Financial Peace" class in December. Patt and Terry (at the young ages of—I can't tell you Patt's age but I am 64) have started doing youth ministry once again. Am I crazy or what? But we have had good turnouts and are working hand in hand with Pastor Pete Tel of **Bethel Union Church** in Anton, CO.

Denver Bible Church (Arvada, CO):

Pastor Bob Enyart - At Denver Bible Church we're midway through our two-month series, "What We Believe and Why We Believe It," about God and the Old and New Testaments. We're seeing that the mid-Acts, Pauline instruction to rightly divide the Word enables us to better understand the Scriptures as we stand on a firm, biblical foundation. Our families and congregation grow as we continue to share the grace gospel message beyond our four walls with our daily radio broadcast on Colorado's most powerful radio station. Please pray for DBC!

Harvest Fellowship (Brighton, CO):

Pastors Steve Blackwell & Bob Hill - We hired Bob Hill on a "full-time basis" in September which our congregation is excited about (me, too!). Our Leadership Team has been steadily organizing the church with needed policies and procedures. It's been great to get many of our areas "battened down." As the church gets larger, it simply needs leadership delegated and ministries specifically defined. That can be painful, but not doing it is more painful! It has really helped both the leaders and volunteers to know and agree on the expectations. Also this year, we have sent out five more (1- to 2-week long) Harvest missionaries to India, Bangladesh, Uganda, and Rwanda to train pastors and their wives in a few subjects (marriage and self-supporting business principles and practices [BEST program for third-world entrepreneurs]). The results of BEST (Bi-Vocational Evangelist Support Training) have been very encouraging. The marriage seminars have been vital. It seems that the African culture is hard on the wives of the pastors, and the seminars have proven to awaken and strengthen their marriages.

The Point (Westminster, CO):

Pastor Jesse Vaught - The Point Bible Church meets Sunday evenings in Thornton, CO. We have a Bible study at 4 p.m. and are currently working through Craig MacDonald's Bible Introduction Course - Old Testament. It is a fantastic series and has helped many people see the complexity of the Old Testament more clearly - with the historical and dispensational "bird's-eye view." Several of our members have been sharing the teaching load, so there is the additional benefit of getting some new teachers equipped! Our worship service begins at 5:05 p.m. Sunday evenings and Pastor Jesse is taking us through a series on "identity." Our identity in Christ is so important and yet so easily forgotten in our day-to-day lives. The sermon series involves a verse-by-verse study of key Pauline passages showing our identity



Region 4:
Upper Midwest
Les Takkinen

Grace Bible Church of West Allis—

Where did 2015 go? It has been very busy as we ended with a blitz-streak of ministry. On August 28, we had our first showing of the movie "Do You Believe?" A good number of people were involved in passing out 600 flyers to friends, neighbors, and relatives, as well as a few who passed out flyers in a section of our city. It resulted in over 50 people attending the movie for the first showing with a good number of people outside of our church as attenders. Our next showing was on a Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. on October 25, 2015. Over 50 people attended this showing with many new people and at least one profession of Christ as Savior.

Pastor Randy Brown and I have been preaching a series of 13 messages entitled "The Good News of

Grace.” It is a series on the mid-Acts dispensational position of our church. What an exciting time it has been for us and for the people of our church. Many have had their eyes opened to the “Grace Message” and we have enjoyed formulating sermons and preaching God’s Word with the good news of grace. We had a “Q&A” time after each sermon and had a great interactive time for about one hour after the messages. We completed that series on October 11.

Our fall and early winter series of messages is going through the book of 1 John. The fall Bible Discovery Hour was centered on the book of Acts and another “Financial Peace University” series. Both are very stimulating for the adults. On December 13 the Christmas program was enjoyed with the gospel going out to the unsaved and a meal was enjoyed afterward. Also, on December 20, we went Christmas caroling and shared the gospel with those who would hear this wonderful message.

On the sensitive side, we had two funerals of people who suddenly were taken from this life into eternity. Life is so short, yet this is a time to minister to the unsaved and give them the hope of eternal life through this affliction. What a joy to have the hope in Christ and give it freely to others!!!



Region 5: Lower Midwest
Ed Jeude

St. Louis Bible Fellowship in St. Louis, MO, continues to grow, as we attract more and more people due to our “one minute message” over a local St. Louis radio station. It is exciting to witness such an enthusiastic interest in dispensational truths. In early spring our plans are to bring on a part-time pastor to work with our youth and also reach out to inner-city youth.

St. Louis Theological Seminary is in the process of adding more online courses and also enjoying our traditional class studies. The Seminary has the capability of providing credential documentation as needed for furthering the Lord’s work in the USA as well as overseas. Contact Pastor Rick Owlesley at 314-402-5259 or rao@fidnet.co.

Grace Church in Indianapolis, IN, reports added visitors since the new church at Franklin Road. Fifteen visitors are attending special classes for doctrine and church principles, meeting Monday or Thursday with Pastor Don Sommer who was officially received as full-time pastor of Grace Church at the Annual Business Meeting on December 6. A musical concert followed with Barb Sistelos leading and a fellowship meal was enjoyed by all.

Ben Anderson, former Region 5 coordinator, now living and working overseas, reports 14 pastors/Bible women finished the special sessions of Grace Theological Center for Mission (GTCM), the program initiated to encourage more Filipinos as missionaries. After two months of classes the members were counseled individually about their plans for outreach into neighboring countries of southeast Asia. Singapore, Myanmar, and Korea are target areas.

The last **GGF Region 5** meeting was in Effingham, IL, on 11/19/15 and was attended by only seven people (apparently due to poor communication). Next meeting is 10:45 AM, 2/18/16 at Ryan’s in Effingham, IL.

Steve McFarland is GGF Region 5 representative for PMA. Please contact Steve at pma5region@hotmail.com if you would like a presentation or any information about Prison Mission Association ministries or Bible correspondence courses. They have interesting studies for any type of Bible class for individuals, not just prisoners.

As part of an ongoing effort to plant new churches in GGF Region 5, Don Hosfeld is now pastor of an existing church complex in Quincy, IL, renamed **Quincy Bible Fellowship Church**. Attendance has fluctuated between 15 and 30 for the past four months. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held with good newspaper and radio coverage. Quincy is a college town with great possibilities. Pray for people of the church who have difficulties letting go of the beliefs and traditions that they have been taught until now.

Philip duPlessis formerly of Anaheim, CA, is a well-known GGF pastor. He has relocated to Brownsburg, IN, a suburb of Indianapolis, with the intention of planting a GGF church in early 2016. For venue and service times, email him at pastorphillip777@gmail.com.



Region 9: Western, MI
Kathy Molenkamp

The weekend of January 15, 2016, **Parkside Bible Church** in Holland will be hosting an **Apologetics Seminar** featuring Bob Dutko, Detroit’s top Christian radio show host, heard daily from Noon-4:00 pm on 103.5 FM-WMUZ Christian Radio in Detroit. Bob is nationally syndicated, one of the top live, daily Christian talk show hosts in the country, and the former National Press Secretary for Christian Coalition in Washington, D.C.

The seminar dates and topics include: Friday, January 15, 7:00-8:30 pm – **Bob’s Personal Testimony** – Bob will share openly his life of growing up in a religious cult, involvement in various demonic activities, getting saved and walking through many trials, including having his teenage daughter suddenly and unexpectedly collapse and die in his arms on Mother’s Day 2002. This talk will focus on encouraging believers to remain faithful in all circumstances,

remembering that even in the most confusing of times, God never leaves us or forsakes us.

Saturday, January 16, 10:00-11:30 am – *An Introduction to Christian Apologetics* – This talk explains the importance (and limits) of apologetics, as well as giving practical teachings and suggestions on how to effectively communicate our faith to non-believers and skeptics. It equips believers to become better at witnessing and defending the faith.

Saturday, January 16, 7:00-8:30 p.m. – *Evidence Proving the Resurrection of Jesus* – An intellectual defense for the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ, showing that through logic, reasoning, history, science, and even non-biblical sources, we can believe in the resurrection as an actual historic event.

Sunday, January 17, 10:45 – noon – *Evidence Proving the Bible is Historically Accurate and True* – Detailing the amount of manuscript evidence, fulfilled prophecy, scientific and archeological evidence, as well as answering the claims that the Bible “contradicts” itself.

Plan to attend all or individual talks at Parkside Bible Church, 14461 James Street, Holland, MI 49424. There is no charge for any of the seminars. For questions, call Parkside Bible Church at 616-399-4410.

At **Coopersville Bible Church** we’ve initiated some new activities. This year we went Christmas caroling with a cause. Folks purchased a “Carol-O-Gram” to have the carolers visit a particular person. The proceeds went toward a church family in need. We also supplied 15 Thanksgiving dinners to folks in the community who otherwise would not have had a dinner. The ladies have a new **BFF Club** (**B**ible, **F**ood & **F**ellowship) which meets the first Saturday of the month.

Pastor Tim McGarvey continues a series on our distinctive theological position using a large, colorful banner and seven flags—each representing a different dispensation. It has been very well received and folks have mentioned how much they are learning. God is faithful and is active in our assembly.



Region 10: Central MI
John Lowder

Greetings to all our brothers and sisters in Christ who share our common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His grace towards us. At **Grace Community Church** in Belmont, MI, we geared up for Christmas and were excited to focus on the theme of “It’s All About Jesus” as we began the Advent season. As the leaves fell and got carried away by wind, rake, or machine, we remembered that the Lord Jesus Christ never leaves those

who belong to Him. Placed into Christ and sealed by the Holy Spirit, we are the redeemed children of God called to be His saints in a world of sin. May we shine brightly for Him as the world darkens.

At **Frontline Bible Church** in Byron Center, MI, we continue to look for ways to serve our new neighbors – **Tanger Outlet Mall**. We partnered with them during the busy holiday season by providing our parking lot on Saturdays for overflow parking. We also took a group of people from our church to go caroling around the mall the Saturday before Christmas. We wanted to be a blessing and find ways to share Christ in that non-traditional ministry setting. Are you seeking God’s wisdom on how your church can be intentional about reaching your neighbors?

We are also partnering with **Grace Bible College** to bring a men’s conference simulcast to the campus of GBC. We are inviting our region 9 and 10 Grace churches, as well as the area non-Grace churches, to participate in a one-day “No Regrets Conference” simulcast from Elmbrook Church in Milwaukee, WI. This conference has blessed us and so many others as well, so we are praying for God to spur on men in all our churches through this event that will take place Saturday, February 6, 2016. More information is available at noregretsgsr.com.

It’s our privilege to be part of the Grace Gospel Fellowship here in Michigan. Happy New Year to you all.



PO Box 9432
Grand Rapids, MI 49509

NONPROFIT
ORG
US POSTAGE

PAID

Grand Rapids, MI
Permit No 139

Grace 4 You Ministries
Presents
Exploring God's Word



**New Adult Bible Studies on
critical topics!**

- Homosexuality
- What Exactly Must I Believe
- Gifts of the Spirit
- Election and Free Will
- A Sound Mind

**Song of Solomon: A Love Story
with a Hidden Message** available
in hard copy from Grace
Publications

Visit grace4you.com for more information.

www.grace4you.com

Grace 4 You
Exploring God's Word