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**TRUTH Magazine**

Summer 2019 Edition



## OUR HERITAGE

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



**GRACE GOSPEL  
FELLOWSHIP**



# TM

TRUTH Magazine

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

# CONTENTS

Volume 69, Issue 2  
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- 3 Our Rich Heritage**  
Reflecting on the rich history  
of the GGF.  
*by Matt Amundsen*

- 6 Seventy-Five Years of  
Fellowship Centered  
on the Grace of God**  
Working together to  
advance the grace of  
God.  
*by Ken Bruce Kemper*

- 9 The Relationship between  
GMI and the GGF**  
We are vested in each  
other's future.  
*by Frosty Hansen and  
Jeremy Clark*



On the cover:

- 1 Tower House
- 2 St. Louis Bible Fellowship
- 3 Chuck O'Connor, Second Pres. GGF
- 4 T.R. Huston
- 5 Charles F. Baker
- 6 Ray Reich
- 7 Grace Bible College
- 8 Herman Reich, First Pres. GGF
- 9 Dr. Harry Bultema
- 10 Ordination of Don Elifson
- 11 J.C. O'Hair

- 13 The Doctrine of  
Salvation**  
The saving grace of God  
not only saves but also  
produces fruit.  
*by Dr. Samuel R Vinton, Jr.*

- 16 Pastor, Counselor, Friend**  
Roger G. Anderson—pas-  
tor, teacher, counselor, and  
friend.  
*by Timothy D Osterlund*

- 18 There is Renovation in  
Restoration.**  
Human relationships take  
time, intentionality, and  
patience to blossom.  
*by Angela Ortiz*

- 22 Wonderful Words of Life**  
Our theology is as distinct  
today as it ever was.  
*by Pastor Tim McGarvey*

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# OUR RICH HERITAGE



**'Are you in this picture?'**

*by Matt Amundsen, GGF Executive Director*

A rich history.

This month we are celebrating 75 years, both for the Grace Gospel Fellowship (GGF) as an organization and the GGF Family Bible Conference. So many passionate men and women have blazed the trail for us today. Their fervor for and defense of Mid-Acts Dispensational Theology have served as a model and testimony for us to follow today, especially since they allowed the power of the gospel of the grace of God to infiltrate every aspect of their lives.

*"Though the Grace Gospel Fellowship officially began in 1944 (from Worldwide Grace Testimony - now GMI), its roots go back decades earlier as a growing number of pastors and Bible teachers across the country were coming to an understanding of God's unique program for the church, the Body of Christ. Together they shared a commitment to teach the entire Word of God from a dispensational perspective with an em-*

*phasis upon the unique revelation of the Body of Christ received by the Apostle Paul.*

*"A desire for increased fellowship and cooperative efforts among those who shared a core doctrinal commitment led by Pastor Herman Reich of Evansville, IN, to host a conference for pastors in September of 1944. This marked the birth of the Grace Gospel Fellowship, founded "to provide a fellowship among those who believe the truths contained in the doctrinal statement, and to promote the gospel of the grace of God throughout this land and throughout the world." Among the many Pastors instrumental in the founding of the GGF were J.C. O'Hair, Charles F. Baker, Cornelius R. Stam and Harry Bultema.*

*"The GGF served predominantly as an association for pastors until the early 1970's when, through a constitutional revision, a National Council composed of pastors and laity was formed to serve as the governing body. Chuck O'Connor was chosen to serve as the first full-time president of the GGF in 1971. These changes*

*have allowed the GGF to minister and expand its ministry to the local church and its lay leadership, while continuing to provide pastoral care and guidance”* (excerpt from “Our History” on the Grace Gospel Fellowship website - [www.ggfusa.org](http://www.ggfusa.org)).

Along with the leadership of President O’Connor, the GGF has since been led by Roger Anderson, Ken Parker, and Frosty Hansen, all of whom have paved the way, directed by the Lord’s leading, for our fellowship to flourish. I consider it a high honor to have known each of these men and experienced their passion for prayer and willingness to be led by the Lord’s wise counsel and direction.

For a few moments, let’s reflect on the Lord’s faithfulness in partnership with the willingness of those who have gone before us and those who are and will continue to do so.



*Among the many pastors instrumental in the founding of the GGF were J.C. O’Hair, Charles F. Baker, Cornelius R. Stam, and Harry Bultema.*



Just outside my office is a framed picture of a GGF Family Bible Conference from Estes Park many years ago—hundreds of men and women, boys and girls, close family and friends, and overall a large gathering of people seeking to fellowship together, worship together, and be challenged in God’s word together. As I scan the faces, I am reminded of just how faithful God is and has been. The Lord has used so many of these men and women to impact the world for Christ. Each face tells a story.

Some reached into the lives of children at Grace Youth Camp (Grace Adventures) or Northern Grace Youth Camp sharing the gospel with them for the very

first time. In fact, one of the faces in that picture is one of our partners in ministry and key supporters. He accepted Christ at GYC at a young age and was so impacted and influenced by this experience that he recently started a scholarship fund to allow children from GGF churches to attend camp at a reduced rate. This scholarship fund was named in memory of Gloria Koch, longtime secretary at the GGF and one of the faces in that conference picture. Last year 110 kids attended camp on this scholarship, many of whom were attending camp for the very first time. His life was forever changed because of the power and faithfulness of God AND the willingness and courage of people at camp. Now, he passes on that legacy to the next generation.

Continuing to look over that picture I notice the faces of a young couple, who by the leading of the Lord, served in local GGF churches around the country and eventually as a missionary family with Grace Ministries International. God was faithful to cultivate their hearts to serve Him and others with a mission to bring the gospel to whomever the Lord would bring across their paths.

I am thankful that many invested in the lives of Dan and Mary Sue Reed and I am certain that people throughout Bolivia and the many stops along the way are forever impacted by the faithfulness of God and the willingness of a dear couple.

Looking in the front row, I see the face of my wife, Sharon, as a young girl sitting with friends, brought to the conference by her parents who continue to faithfully serve in ministry, modeling their heart for the Lord and for people. She has served alongside me in ministry and I am ever so thankful for her willingness and those that invested in her life.

One last glance. I see a young man in the back row, standing tall with a mess of hair and a distinctive mustache. The places he has gone and the ministries he has served in have been well documented. As an Associate Pastor at Altoona Bible Church and Lead Pastor at Rush Creek Bible Church, he reached into the lives of many. As a coach, professor, and dean, he mentored many students at Grace Bible College (Grace Christian University). As a speaker at Northwest Grace Youth Camp and West Coast Grace Youth Camp, his passion for God’s Word was shared with zeal and his ability to tell stories captivated many along the way. He did not hold back in encouraging young men and women to pursue ministry and above all following the Lord’s leading. I am thankful that the Lord is faithful



and had a plan and purpose to use John Spooner and his willingness.

I could go on and on—without a doubt.

As you reflect on the rich history of the Grace Gospel Fellowship, maybe you think of individuals who have come into your life, whether just a few weeks ago or in decades past. Maybe as you look back, your recall takes you to a difficult moment or a season of trial or pain. The GGF has seen its fair share of dark days and challenging seasons and yet I have been drawn at various times in life to a series of passages that remind me of God's faithfulness in the midst of the garbage of life.



*Just outside my office is a framed picture of a GGF Family Bible Conference from Estes Park many years ago...The Lord has used so many of these men and women to impact the world for Christ. Each face tells a story.*



First, I find encouragement in God's words through the Apostle Paul:

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." – 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NKJV*

This passage not only serves to remind us where our strength and comfort come from, but these verses provide the template for which we are to exemplify what God has done in us. Maybe our level of influence in the lives of others will come in the form of compassion and comfort. For others there will be opportunities to mentor men and women to pursue ministry, and the Apostle Paul has much to say about that. In 2 Timothy 1:6-8 (ESV):

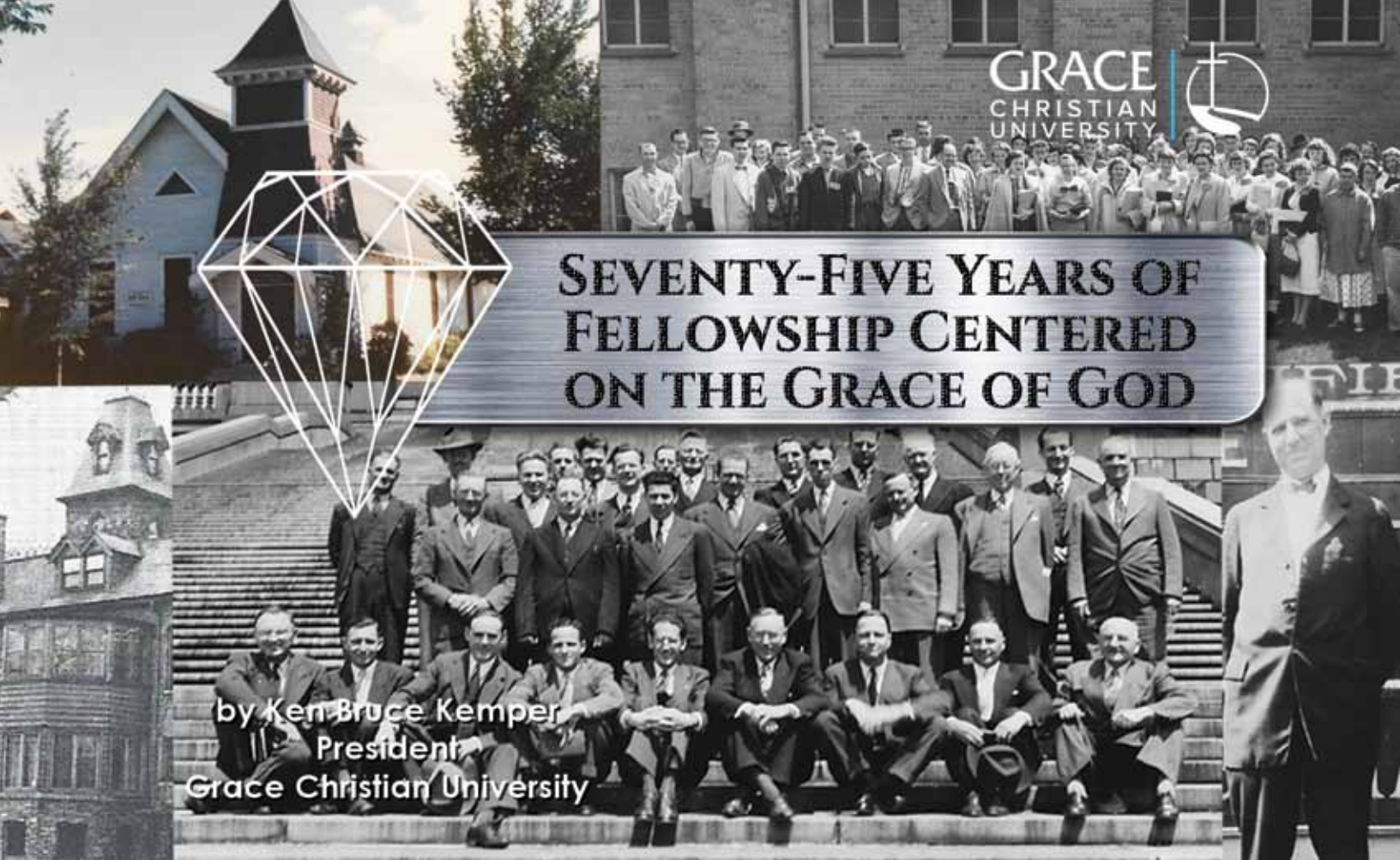
*"For this reason, I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. Therefore, do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God."*

This passage in particular is the one I think of when reflecting on the rich history of the GGF. We understand that it is the power of God that transforms lives. We also, with confidence, believe that God uses our willingness and our being unashamed of the gospel to impact the lives of others, just as he did with our "founding fathers" 75 years ago.

So, I turn back to the picture at hand. So many faces, so many stories; some of brokenness, others of restoration, and yet others of transformation. God has chosen through the years to work in and through all aspects of our lives and I trust that as He has proven faithful to this point, that He will continue to prove faithful and use the Grace Gospel Fellowship to bring the gospel of the grace of God to the generations to come. The question is: Will you step into the gap and speak truth into the lives you come in contact with, just as the people in that conference picture have done?

Thank you for playing a part in the rich history of the Grace Gospel Fellowship! ■

Post Article: Family Bible Conference has been an integral aspect of the GGF and to keep it going in an effective direction we are making some alterations. This will be the final year of it being a national event hosted by the home office in Grand Rapids. With this in mind, we are encouraging and empowering our regions to organize conference-type events that will bring the churches together. The home office will assist and give counsel as needed. Down the road there will likely be opportunities to have national events to celebrate the work of the Lord as it pertains to the mission and vision of the GGF but for now we feel the best use of resources and manpower lies in the passion and work of the regional churches and the importance of working together!



## SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OF FELLOWSHIP CENTERED ON THE GRACE OF GOD

by Ken Bruce Kemper  
President  
Grace Christian University

*Fundamental Bible Church on Hadley St. (top left); the GGF Family Bible Conference held in Milwaukee, WI, at Fundamental Bible Church around 1949 (top right); the Tower House on the campus of Milwaukee Bible Institute (bottom left); some of the early leaders of the Grace Movement (bottom middle); J.C. O'Hair (bottom right).*

Congratulations to the Grace Gospel Fellowship on the 75th anniversary of the founding and organizing of a group of leaders to form the GGF! This is a significant milestone for any organization. I am proud to be an annual member and active supporter of the GGF because I believe in its purpose and tenants of faith. I presently serve as the leader of Grace Christian University which may be the largest affiliated organization. Our ministry gladly contributes annually, shares a common doctrinal statement, and desires to assist in the fulfillment of the mission of the GGF.

The mission of GGF is: *Working together to advance the grace of God and impact the world for Christ.*

As an active member of the GGF Council, I was present when we labored to express the mission for which the leadership and fellowship exists. I believe it was by God's strength and wisdom in response to our prayers that the mission statement begins with "working together." This seemingly obvious phrase for Bible-believing saints today would seem to be a "given" for a group of churches which calls itself a "fellowship."

However, in reality the strong polemic nature of the founding of our Grace Movement as a separation from other denominations and classic dispensationalists put into place a group of separatists who struggle to partner in areas beyond their theological agreement. For the longest time, our fellowship resisted any type of "denominational" labeling because each church is independent with no central governance, and we were proud of this. Whereas we celebrate the distinctiveness of the Apostle Paul and his unique revelation of the mystery (Ephesians 3:1-11) as new and progressive revelation for Jew and Gentile, we tend to miss or unconsciously subvert the substance of that very distinctive message with regard to the function of the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16) as a corporate entity working together harmoniously (1 Corinthians 12:12-31), absent the individuality that causes dysfunction.

Grace Christian University was birthed as Milwaukee Bible Institute by Pastor Charles F. Baker as an evening school in 1939. He desired for his congregation to study and learn the truths of the grace of God in a deeper way and be able as lay leaders to defend

and teach others. In 1944, Pastor Baker, along with founding pastors of the GGF such as J.C. O'Hair, Herman Reich, Harry Bultema, Cornelius Stam, and others, organized this fellowship around the unique revelation for the Body of Christ received by Paul. This fellowship was formed primarily for the pastors who shared this doctrinal position to support and encourage one another as leaders. In 1945, shortly after the founding of the fellowship, Pastor Baker was asked to transition the Bible Institute into a day school operated by Fundamental Bible Church. The Institute would formally train more leaders to advance the GGF dispensational approach. The GGF leadership realized that they were not satisfied to send their young people to prepare for ministry in colleges which taught from a different theological perspective. Eventually in 1953, the curriculum was broadened to include other needed topics, enabling the institution to grant a degree and become a Bible College.

The GGF and Milwaukee Bible College were partnered together with Worldwide Grace Testimony to promote the Gospel of the Grace of God and the Grace Movement in an evangelistic manner, which established churches in America and around the world. Prominent pastors who agreed doctrinally worked together and started churches around the country. In the Southwest, Ike Sidebottom was instrumental in beginning a number of churches. He mentored a group of



*The groundbreaking of Fundamental Bible Church with Charles F. Baker (left) and the T.R. Hustons (right)*

“  
*I believe it was by God's strength and wisdom in response to our prayers that the mission statement begins with “working together.”*  
”

educators who became pastors in Oklahoma and Texas such as Charles Wages, R.B. Shiflet, and James Roberts. I was privileged to meet and hear each of these godly men preach before they passed away in the last ten years. In the middle states, Eugene Rueweler and John LaVier began works in St. Louis and Indianapolis, respectively. In the South, Pastor Henry Grube and Roy Lange began churches in Mobile, Alabama. In the Northwest, Pastor Lloyd Peterson came to an understanding of the Grace Message and was influential in additional churches starting in the region. My own parents came to learn of the Grace Message under Pastor Peterson's teaching. Churches in Florida and on the East Coast were begun by pastors such as Vernon Schutz, Berkley Lindsay, and Larry Riemersma. In Nebraska and Southern California, works were established by Bill Root, Dwight Reed, Stan Reed, Clarence Kramer, Joe Mason, and Harold Petersen. In Colorado, R.F. Suerig and Bob Hill began Grace churches. Additionally, others began and grew ministries in the Midwest such as Dave Records, John Elifson, John Shyne Sr., and Henry Prince. I apologize for leaving out any other significant leaders in the early history and the national spreading of the GGF. Internationally, Sam Vinton Sr., Fred Baylor, Otto Deming, and others were in Africa while Vern Anderson and Art Watkins were in the Philippines. Eduardo Mattias, Arnie Selfors, James Lawley, and Ken Mueller were preaching and beginning Grace works in South America.

The reason for listing these names from the early founding and growth of the GGF in the 15-20 years prior to 1960 (and my own birth) is to show that the foundation of the GGF was built upon the cooperative work of a whole lot of individuals seeking to advance the Gospel of the Grace of God across America. From its inception, the work of Grace Christian University has been to operate in partnership with the GGF to prepare more ministers to follow in the footsteps of the aforementioned pioneers of the GGF. In 1961,



the college moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where it continues to operate now just shy of 60 years. The GGF office, under its first President Chuck O'Connor, was housed on campus beginning in 1971. Interaction between the leadership and faculty of the college with the GGF was a normal occurrence and was encouraged. Today, Grace Christian University, in its 80th year of operation since beginning as an evening school in Milwaukee, still houses the GGF offices on campus. Grace welcomes the annual GGF Leadership Conference to campus each spring, continuing the mission of "working together" to advance the grace of God. Most of the students who come from around the country to study for pastoral ministry are themselves products of GGF churches. This is how it has always been, yet now there is an even greater need for pastors. With so many of our pastors nearing retirement age, there is an urgent need for "working together" to identify potential pastors and educating them to serve in those roles. The leadership of the University is developing multiple methods to train up pastors for the GGF. Our traditional on campus education includes a ministry internship in a GGF church. God has blessed us to now

make strong GGF only scholarships available to these pastors in training when committed to a GGF church. Our online degree program allows adult students to study yet stay in their location while being mentored by a senior pastor. We are in the process of developing non-degree certificate level classes to give further tools at a low cost to GGF churches and leaders to work together to prepare more pastors and leaders for our churches.

The history of the GGF is one which is worth understanding and celebrating. It is a rich history of intentional action to reach the lost and to teach the truth of the Pauline distinctiveness for the Church, the Body of Christ. Not only is it the history of our doctrinal alignment, it is also about our ministry partnership to accomplish what no one church or entity can accomplish alone. Grace Christian University desires to be a partner and work together with all other members of the GGF to "advance the grace of God and impact the world for Christ." May we all make the next quarter of a century be marked by advancement because we will fully work together as the Body of Christ to grow the Body and preach the Gospel of the Grace of God. ■

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# GRACE MISSION

GRACE GOSPEL  
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GRACE MINISTRIES  
INTERNATIONAL

by Jeremy Clark  
Executive Director  
Grace Ministries International, Inc.

by Frosty Hansen  
*GMI Missionary serving in Bolivia*

Missions is the heartbeat of God. The often-repeated truth, woven through the pages of Scripture as a principal that crosses dispensational boundaries, has given birth through the years to great movements in missions. Churches have come together to form mission organizations which have carried the gospel of salvation throughout the world.

But what if the reverse was true? What if God used a mission organization to bring together and form an association of churches in the United States? Well, that is exactly what happened in the formation of the Grace Gospel Fellowship.

## The Historical Connection

The early decades of the last century featured a growth of dispensational teaching in the United States by means of Bible conferences and radio. Among these were a growing number of pastors and churches who taught the Grace Message. Though an occasional conference brought some of them together, there was little pooling of efforts or avenues for fellowship.

This began to change in 1939 when Pastor J.C. O'Hair called for a meeting in Chicago to form Worldwide Grace Testimony, the forerunner of what is today Grace Ministries International. With a focus on the Belgian Congo, this new foreign mission board would be the first to support missionaries who believed and taught the Grace Message.

As like-minded churches began supporting missionaries, a deepening connection was established between congregations and pastors. Eventually many of these pastors and missionaries gathered in Evansville, IN, on Sept. 11-13, 1944, to give birth to the Grace Gospel Fellowship, with the stated purpose "to provide a fellowship among those who believe in the truths contained in the doctrinal statement, and to promote the gospel of the grace of God throughout this land and throughout the world."

So prior to its very beginning, the GGF sensed God's heartbeat for missions. The emerging mission agency which would become GMI planted our DNA based around the Apostle Paul's message of one body in Christ, composed of all believers regardless of nationality, ethnicity, or location. We are ambassadors of Christ to the world, and missions would play a large role in enabling us to fulfill this mandate.

## Benefitting from the Partnership

It has been 75 years since the birth of the GGF, and the connection between the Fellowship and missions continues to be strong. Few who were around for those first days are still with us, but those of us who have benefitted from its partnership with GMI continue to grow in number each passing year.

Short-term missions. Is there long-term value in a short-term mission trip? I only need to look at my own life and an 11-month exposure to missions between my sophomore and junior years of college to emphatically reply, "Absolutely!"

The concept of short-term missions was new when I first traveled to Bolivia to join the missionaries of Bethesda Mission, which merged with Grace Missions in 1984 to form GMI. But it was here that God significantly transformed my life and my worldview. And it would not have happened without a unique partnership between the mission, the college, and a pair of Grace churches that were willing to take a risk on a 20-year-old student.

The impact on my own life has made me a strong proponent of ministries like the EXITE Team, a partnership between GMI and the GGF. I have seen the lasting benefit these trips bring to the local church and the mission field, as well as the participants.

- When I was a pastor, I witnessed the congregation galvanize behind the youth they sent out, truly getting to know them and pray for them. When they returned, the church celebrated God's blessings.
- As a missionary, I see the fruit of short-term ministry in people who came to Christ and lives challenged to a deeper commitment to the Lord. I have rejoiced in seeing youth from the States and their Bolivian counterparts embrace as members of the Body of Christ.
- Most importantly, there are the changed team members who return with a different perspective on the world and their Christian life. Years later, many of them recall how their lives were touched through their mission experience.

**Missions conferences.** When our boys were young they had a world map on their wall and a list of missionaries to pray for each night of the week. These names represented real people who had shared stories and laughed with us around the dinner table, or had shared their stories with children's classes during a missions conference.

There is nothing healthier for your church or for your family than personal interaction with missionaries. Again, I have seen this from all angles – pastor of a missions-minded church, visiting missionary, GMI board member, director of the GGF, and now a missionary once again – and I am convinced that churches and families which share the heartbeat of God for missions are stronger and more vibrant than those which are inwardly focused.

**How does this happen?** As a pastor of a GGF church, we relied heavily on GMI, Things to Come Mission, and other sending agencies to help coordinate conference schedules, supply current information about the missionaries, and inform us of their needs

– much of which is accessible more readily today through social media and mission websites. Our church knew what was going on and was ready for the missionaries when they arrived.

As a GMI missionary, I am more aware of the intense labor that goes into coordinating months of conferences, transporting missionaries from church to church, printing and mailing newsletters, updating the website, and promoting projects and the annual Christmas catalog. All of these services are performed by an office staff committed to strengthening GGF churches through involvement in missions – the heartbeat of God.

Exposure to missions through short-term ministries and to missionaries are just two of the benefits that have come through the partnership God has formed between the GGF and GMI. It has been a privilege to serve both organizations, knowing intimately the individuals who have made this partnership thrive for the past 75 years.

So happy anniversary, Grace Gospel Fellowship, from GMI in Bolivia. May our joint response to the heartbeat of God keep us serving together until Christ calls us home. ■



Grace Ministries International is a missionary sending organization whose purpose is sharing God's grace with the world. We do this by sending missionaries to equip local believers to evangelize, plant churches, train others for life and ministry, and spread God's love through acts of mercy. To give this mission and vision direction, the Board of Grace Ministries International adopted *Vision 2023* in 2013 which would have us open eight new fields and recruit 26 U.S.-based and international missionaries to open these new fields and to expand the ministry on our established fields.





*Missions is the heartbeat of God.*

*The often-repeated truth, woven through the pages of Scripture as a principal that crosses dispensational boundaries, has given birth through the years to great movements in missions.*



by Jeremy Clark

While our history is rich, that which binds us together is much more than an affinity for tradition. Grace Ministries International and the Grace Gospel Fellowship are tied by a unity of purpose. We are both committed to sharing God's grace with those who do not know it because it is able to bring salvation to all men and a freedom in Christ enabling all people everywhere to joyfully serve and love Him. Proclaiming and sharing the message of the grace of God is an active pursuit which runs contrary to the notion of merely hanging on to what we have hoping to preserve it for the rest of today, tomorrow, next week, or even next year.

As we make God's heartbeat for missions our heartbeat, we recognize that though GMI and GGF are organizations, we also resemble organisms which we want to see as healthy, growing, and dynamic. In addition to this, so much of our relationship is symbiotic. How many new fields could GMI open or how many additional people around the world would we reach if churches and ministries affiliated with the GGF no longer sent missionaries? How many fewer missionaries could we sustain if these same churches did not support our missionaries? We thank the GGF for its vital partnership.

As GMI seeks to grow and expand by opening new fields and planting even more churches, we recognize that this will depend on a healthy and growing GGF. As one grows the other should as well. When the GGF grows, the normal byproduct of sharing and living in God's grace will result in more missionaries. Likewise, as GMI grows, so will the need for more missionaries which the GGF will naturally want to meet.

We are vested in each other's future. What does this look like practically from GMI's perspective? In

order to recruit new missionaries, we need an ever-increasing pool of potential missionary candidates. A growing GGF which increases its membership and is planting new churches will naturally provide them. Not only will the pool of candidates grow, but believers attending growing, healthy churches and/or who are part of new church plants will gain a level of ministry expertise and competency which will translate well to the mission field. Whether our missionaries come from the U.S. or from around the world, they will need financial support. A growing GGF will more readily supply this need.

None of this is novel. As the Apostle Paul intimately knew and diligently pursued missions as the heartbeat of God, he developed this same symbiotic relationship between local churches (many of which he planted) and his missionary calling. In the beginning of his ministry, Paul understood his burden and knew he could not do it alone. The church of Derbe and Lystra sent him Timothy as a missionary coworker (Acts 16:1-3) while the church at Antioch sent Barnabas (Acts 13:1-2). The Philippian church supported Paul meeting his necessities time and again (Philippians 4:16). The churches of Macedonia, though poor, gave generously through Paul to help the impoverished believers of Jerusalem (2 Corinthians 8:1-7). Paul did not refer to himself as a mission organization nor did the newly planted churches refer to themselves as a fellowship, but as they looked forward to sharing God's grace together they recognized their interdependence as a means to share this message with even more around the world. Let's continue to imitate this pattern, spurring each other on to further growth knowing that our success together depends on our commitment to grow individually. ■

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THE DOCTRINE OF

# Salvation

PART IV

THE PROVISION

THE APPLICATION

THE OUTWORKING

by **Dr. Samuel Vinton**

*Former Exec. Dir, Grace Ministries Int'l  
Professor at Grace Christian University*

In our study of salvation we have traced the great truths of Scripture starting with the fall of Adam and Eve into sin when they disobeyed God; the provision of salvation made possible through the death of Jesus on the cross where he took our sins upon himself; the reception of salvation when sinners believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and are saved; and the wonderful benefits of salvation that God applies to the believing sinners the moment they are born again. No wonder the author of the book of Hebrews speaks of this salvation as “so great a salvation.”

In this fourth and last article on the subject of salvation, we want to examine what the Apostle Paul meant when he told the Philippian believers to continue to work out their salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12). It is from this expression of Paul that I have named the third aspect of salvation “the outworking of salvation.” Theologically, I see this third aspect of salvation as representing the daily walk and service of a Christian. It is the progressive aspect of sanctification. Charles Baker uses the term “experiential sanctification,” which is a process, in contrast to “positional sanctification,” which is “meant a position of being set apart. It is thus an objective work of God, and not a subjective experience of the believer” (Dispensational Theology, pp. 448-450). I use the terms “experiential” and “progressive” synonymously to distinguish them from “positional” sanctification and agree with Baker’s explanation. (See my last article in TRUTH Magazine, Spring 2019 Edition, pp. 13-15).

It is the teaching of Scripture that believers can have the assurance that they are saved and have eternal life in this present life. In John 6:47 Jesus made this

promise: “I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life.” The Apostle John also stated this truth in the following words: “I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life” (1 John 5:13). Also, according to Romans 8:16, “The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”

There are those who state that it is presumptuous for Christians to say they know for sure they are going to heaven. In their mind there is still a possibility that something might happen before they die to prevent them from going to heaven. But, as believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, we not only have the assurance of a verse like 1 John 5:13, “I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life,” but we also have the assurance of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:16). Knowing and living the reality of 2 Corinthians 5:21 (which states that in Christ we have become the righteousness of God) will give us great assurance. We need to embrace the truth that when God saves those who trust Christ as their Savior, they receive the very righteousness of God. In light of this, every born-again person can know that going to heaven is not dependent on how they feel but who they are – 100% righteous in God’s sight. This is why believers know they are going to heaven. We believe it is important for believers to affirm the indwelling Holy Spirit and never forget the truth of Galatians 2:20: “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

In Philippians 2:12-13 the Apostle Paul wrote: “Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”

What does Paul mean by his injunction for us to work out our salvation? Working out our salvation means to produce it, implement it. For though salvation has already occurred by grace through faith apart from good works (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 4:5-6), salvation will produce good works for which we will give an account at the judgment seat of Christ (Ephesians 2:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10). “Since your work is a result of his [God’s] working, it’s no surprise that he takes pleasure in your working. All in all, then, God’s working in you doesn’t relieve you of working, it gives you reason to be working” (Robert H. Gundry, Commentary on the New Testament, Peabody, Mass: Hendrickson Publishers, 2010, p. 787).

We can therefore affirm that the saving grace of God not only saves but also produces fruit in the believer’s daily life so that they become more and more conformed to the likeness of Christ (Rom 8:29). This same truth is found in Titus 2:11-12 where we read: “For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It [the grace of God] teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to

live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.” In this process of growth, we believe that two very important factors needed are the Word of God and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.

This sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in the believer is experiential and thus the subjective aspect of sanctification. This aspect has to do with the daily conduct of the believer as he becomes more and more conformed to the likeness of Christ (Romans 8:29). In 1 Thessalonians 4:3 the Apostle Paul states that sanctification is the will of God and therefore believers should abstain from immorality. This process of sanctification takes place as the believer is controlled by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). This is the only Scripture that commands the believer to be filled [controlled] by the Holy Spirit.

What then are some of the ways believers demonstrate the outworking of salvation in their lives? We can only enumerate a number of these that are proof that believers are living by the Spirit and keeping in step with Him (Galatians 5:25).

#### **GODLINESS**

“Godliness” is a key word (along with “godly”), in the Pastoral Epistles, occurring eight times in 1 Timothy (2:2; 3:16; 4:7-8; 6:3, 5-6, 11), once in 2 Timothy (3:5), and once in Titus (1:1), but nowhere else in the writings of Paul. It implies a good and holy life, with special emphasis on its source, a deep reverence for God. Since these are Paul’s last letters, is it possible when he wrote these letters, that he was sensing a lack in the spiritual life of the second generation believers in the churches he planted? Just a thought, but I can’t help sensing that his reason for focusing so strongly on the believers’ spiritual life in his parting words is because he was seeing the lack of passion in living for God and serving Him in the local churches. Maybe he wrote these words because he was led by the Holy Spirit to reinforce for all Christians the necessity of believers walking and being led by the Spirit.

*Intimacy with God*—Experiencing the Presence of God—(Philippians 3:10; Exodus 33:13; Jeremiah 9:23-24).

This speaks of the most important thing God wants from us as His children – knowing Him experientially – not just knowing ABOUT Him. This involves our relationship with God as our father which takes time on our part. See Jeremiah 9:23-24.

The best example that I have found in Scripture

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*We need to embrace the truth when God saves those who trust Christ as their Savior, they receive the very righteousness of God.*

”



regarding experiencing the presence of God is found in Exodus 33, where we read that the “LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend” (Exodus 33:11). Starting at verse 12 until the end of the chapter we find Moses speaking with God in such an intimate way. In verse 13 Moses says to God, “If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you.” After the Lord tells Moses, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest,” Moses’ response should challenge every one of us: “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other peoples on the face of the earth?” Let us take hold of this truth that Moses affirmed so many years ago – without the presence of God we can do nothing and we will be no different than all the rest of the people on the face of the earth. Only those who know Jesus Christ as Savior can have an intimate, personal relationship with God and experience His presence.

But we read that Moses still kept pushing the envelope when he said to God, “Now show me your

glory” (Exodus 33:18). I don’t know about you, but when I read this passage I am brought down to my knees and must confess that even though I have the whole Word of God, here is Moses, with no Bible, yet having a greater passion than I have to know God in a very personal and experiential way. God help me to be able to have the passion of the Apostle Paul to know Christ experientially and thus experience the power of his resurrection and become a partaker in his sufferings (Philippians 3:10).

Space does not permit me to expound the following proofs of how we work out our salvation in our daily life.

### KNOWING AND OBEYING THE WORD OF GOD

*Prayer and Meditation* (1 Thess. 5:17; Col. 4:2-4; Ephesians 5:5; Philippians 4:6-7; Joshua 1:8; Psalms 1:2; 119. When we pray, we need to praise and thank God; confess our sins; pray for our needs; pray for others; and meditate on the Word of God. To meditate on the Word of God is for us to read the Word, think about it, and be silent before God asking that He impresses on us the truth of the Word.

*(continued on page 17)*

## Progressive Sanctification

Mankind is created by God and placed in the Garden of Eden.

But as a result of disobedience, the creation is cursed by God and man dies spiritually and begins to die physically.

God reveals Himself and His plan of redemption through the Holy Spirit working in the heart through God’s Word.

Through faith in what God has said, we believe.



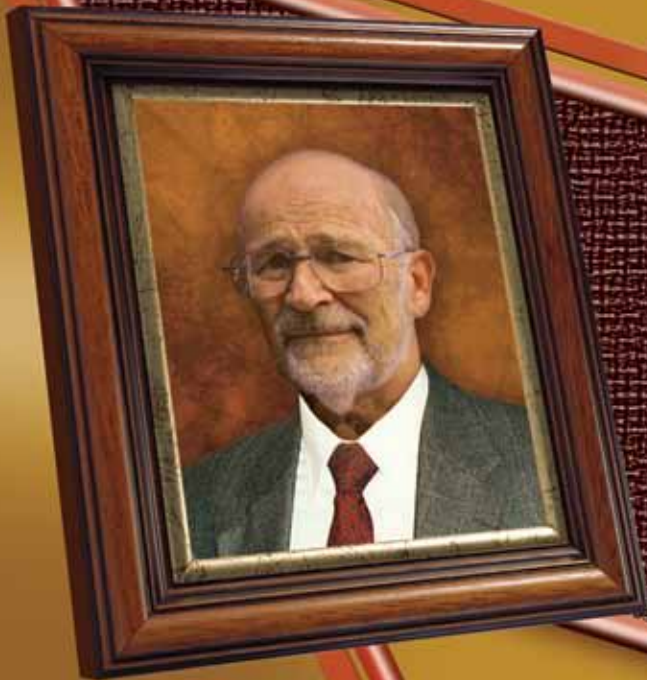
In our response to God we begin to learn more about Him and His desire for us. We allow the Holy Spirit to work through us to produce His fruit.

In obedience, we establish both vertical and horizontal relationships.

As we continue to grow and seek God’s will for our lives, we get involved in serving and “ministry” for the Lord.

In gratitude, confession, love, and obedience to God, we respond to His plan of redemption and become new creations.

In gratitude, confession, love, and obedience to God, we begin to give back to God, allowing Him to work through us to His honor and praise. We can repeat numbers 6 through 9 many times as we grow in Christ.



# Pastor Counselor Friend

"A Brilliant Mind"

In loving memory of Pastor Roger G. Anderson  
By Timothy D. Osterlund

**O**ld Bethesda used to have a two-sided marquee that would change from week to week. Drivers and passersby could get a glimpse of what was coming up on Sunday. Who would want to miss "The Taming of a Woozle" or "Baldy and the Two Bears"? These were some of the titles that came from the creative mind of Roger Anderson.

I first met Pastor Anderson (I still don't feel comfortable calling him "Roger") when I was 12 years old. I was in his first Christian Instruction Class in 1971. Although I was a little disheartened to have earned only a "C," the years ahead would prove that God's grace has plenty of room to work in the lives of ordinary people.

Roger provided many opportunities during these growing years, challenging and developing my abilities with experiences that prepared me to go out into the world. He rallied Bethesda to send me to the island of Curacao in 1984, where I was able to do artwork and help with summer ministries while the others were away on furlough.

Roger not only shared a wealth of Bible knowledge, but also practical applications. He taught us the meaning of "grace" in an acrostic, "God's Riches At Christ's Expense," and that fellowship was "rowing the boat together in the same direction"! He told us that "worship" isn't a feeling that you get but something that starts before you enter the building. "Thanksgiving," he said, is not something you do once a year when you stuff yourself with turkey and watch football. Rather, it is a lifelong "attitude of gratitude" toward God who has given us everything we need in Jesus Christ. He called it, "Thanksgiving."

Roger brought computers into the church to do word processing and spreadsheets, keeping things organized. He was probably the first pastor to use computer terminology to make a point. GIGO means, "garbage in, garbage out" commenting, "you don't have to eat garbage to know that it isn't good for you." He was referring to theatre marquees that advertised garbage for entertainment.

Roger was innovative. He brought in the audio cassette, which replaced the cumbersome reel-to-reel tapes. Messages could now be easily duplicated and given to shut-ins. I remember the Sunday when the tape duplicator was demonstrated and dedicated to the work of the Lord.

He brought in ergonomically designed chairs for the secretaries to relieve back stress. In these chairs, you sat in more of a kneeling position which straightened your spine. This allowed the worker to pray at the same time, thus following Paul's command to "pray without ceasing." Grin.

Roger was well read and his studies thoroughly researched. Many of the "Six Nite Studies" we had during the summer months were bound and are still available in the church library. Speaking to the dispensational point of view, he taught us how to "rightly divide the Word," literally meaning "to cut straight." I believe I got a better, more accurate biblical foundation from Roger's teaching than from the "watered down" theology I got from the time spent in a local Bible college. No pun intended. Well, maybe.

I recall Roger's continuing education into Hebrew, so he could give us the full meaning behind the words of a very complex, Old Testament language. One of my



favorite New Testament word lessons was when he brought up Euodia and Syntyche, the two Philippian ladies who Paul urged to “get along.” Roger called them “Odorus and Stinky,” citing the rivalry that can often exist between individuals in the church.

To balance the challenge of being good students of the Word, Roger also advocated good stewardship. He figured out how many Burger King sandwiches it would take for Bethesda to solely support one missionary couple, so they wouldn’t have to go on deputation! Over the years he had me produce myriad of bulletins, posters and flyers, sound/slide presentations and a mural for which he underwrote the cost of supplies and equipment to get these things done. Volunteering was a wonderful way to gain experience. This would one day blossom into a career so I could support my family!

I appreciated his counsel when Beth and I planned to get married in the fall of 1985. He helped us to approach marriage thoughtfully and realistically. He showed us how to budget and told us not to grocery shop on an empty stomach! He gave us personality tests, not to discourage us but to show us areas that

may need work. He said, “You will never have an argument over how to arrange the furniture or decorate the house.” The test showed that we were perfectly matched in the creative/aesthetic category. I married with confidence. Beth is a great gal and I love her!

After we were married, we were living pretty tightly but found an old house to rent on 61st and Nicollet in Minneapolis. We had to buy our own appliances. Roger came over in his work clothes and showed me how to hook up the gas dryer. He drove me to Lyndale Hardware where we had the pipe cut and threaded. Then, he showed me how to test the connection with soapy water. I was able to use this knowledge every time we moved thereafter.

Roger G. Anderson—pastor, teacher, counselor, and friend. Like my mother, who gradually faded over the last five years of her life, my dad continually reminds me that these dear ones are not dead, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. From our point of view, they are gone but not forgotten. Out of sight but not out of mind. They are just taking a well-deserved rest from a long, hard day at work. Well done, thou good and faithful servant. We will see you again, Roger Anderson. ■

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*(continued from page 15)*

*Proclaiming and Promoting the Gospel* (Evangelism). God’s concern for the world is universal. He loved the whole world (John 3:16) and sent His Son to die for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2). That is why God is not willing that any person should perish (2 Peter 3:9) but all should come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:3-4). Our responsibility is to share the good news and promote its proclamation through prayer, giving, and a godly life.

*Good Works* - (Acts 26:20; Ephesians 2:10; 2 Timothy 2:21; Titus 2:14; 3:8) This is the service for others for the sake of Christ out of a joyful gratitude for what Christ is doing in our life. It seeks the good of others and not self-profit in any way. It is the spontaneous pouring out of ourselves to please God and others. In his last three letters (1 & 2 Timothy and Titus) Paul mentions the importance of good works 14 times.

## **SERVICE**

By service is meant the various ministries that Christians are involved in through the local church or

simply what we as Christians do to serve others. This is where the gifts of the Holy Spirit come into play in the life of the Christian. According to 1 Corinthians 12:11, the Holy Spirit determines what gift He gives to each believer. We are also told that the purpose of these gifts is to build up the Body of Christ.

It is my conviction that the underlying and heartfelt motive for service is compassion. Check the Gospels and you will see how often we read that Jesus had compassion on people. In John’s first epistle he makes this very convicting statement: “If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but he has no pity [literally closes off his bowels from him] on them, how can the love of God be in that person.”

How do we work out our salvation? I have only touched on a few of the ways you and I can show the grace of God at work in our lives. May our hearts overflow in the grandeur of God’s salvation and rejoice in His love which has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us (Romans 5:5). ■

There is

# RESTORATION



by Angela Ortiz  
Camp Caribe, PR

There is renovation in restoration: Is there a specific relationship in your life that needs this?

Summer season has just started, and I don't know about you, but summer brings to mind sunlight, bright colors, and a fresh start to rest. Time seems to shift its normal pace. Blank spaces of nonactivity appear. This can be a great thing, those moments that turn into hours can trigger our minds to just spiral into so many places at the same time. Our mind can start off thinking things like: "What a great, sunshiny day!" and end up escalating to thoughts like: "So-and-so doesn't even talk to me anymore. What happened there? Was it something I did? Or didn't do? ...oh look the electric bill is overdue!"

Hay renovación en la restauración: ¿Hay una relación específica en tu vida que necesite esto?

La temporada de verano acaba de comenzar, y no sé usted, pero a mí el verano me recuerda la luz del sol, los colores brillantes y un nuevo comienzo para descansar. El tiempo parece cambiar su ritmo normal. Aparecen espacios en blanco de no actividad. Esto puede ser algo bueno, pero cuando esos momentos que se convierten en horas hacen que nuestras mentes simplemente giren en espiral a tantos lugares al mismo tiempo no es tan bueno. Nuestra mente puede comenzar a pensar en cosas como: "¡Qué gran día soleado!" Y terminar escalando a pensamientos como "Fulano(a) ya no me hablan más. ¿Que paso ahí? ¿Fue algo que hice? ¿O que no hice? ... oh mira la factura de la electricidad está vencida!"

Por más gracioso que parezca, nos sucede a todos. La pregunta que debemos hacernos es: cuando esto sucede, ¿lo maximizamos como una oportunidad para estar conscientes de lo que el Señor quiere que enfoquemos nuestros pensamientos? ¿Hay alguna relación en tu vida en la que el Señor quiera que te fijes?

Las relaciones humanas requieren tiempo, in-



As funny as it may sound, it does happen to us all. The question we should ask ourselves is: when this happens, do we maximize it as an opportunity to be aware of what the Lord wants us to focus our thoughts on? Is there a relationship in your life that the Lord wants you to take notice of?

Human relationships take time, intentionality, and patience to blossom. Sometimes they aren't always on good terms. An unresolved issue from the past, a wound from unforgiveness, or even an unspoken false expectation can all join together and lead to broken relationships. As Christ followers we are called to a life of obedience, love, and grace. Paul encourages the Romans to this truth. We can clearly see this in chapter 12 of Paul's letter to the Romans. In verse 18 he said to them: "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." And the Lord says that to us today as well. He speaks not only to be heard but to be obeyed. Is there something that "depends on you" to be done to walk in the path of restoring a relationship?

tencionalidad y paciencia para florecer. A veces no siempre están en buenos términos. Un problema no resuelto del pasado, una herida de no perdonada o incluso una falsa expectativa no expuesta pueden llevar a que una relación se quiebre. Como seguidores de Cristo somos llamados a una vida de obediencia, amor y gracia. Pablo anima a los romanos a esta verdad. Podemos ver esto claramente en el capítulo 12 de la carta de Pablo a los romanos. En el versículo 18 les dijo: "Si es posible, en la medida en que dependa de ustedes, vivan en paz con todos". Y el Señor nos dice eso a nosotros también hoy. Dios habla no solo para ser escuchado sino para ser obedecido. ¿Hay algo que "depende de ti" que se haga para caminar en la ruta hacia restaurar una relación?

Se necesita oración, valor y confianza en el Señor para elegir caminar en esta Verdad. Restaurar una relación que ha sido dañada o rota no se arregla en un solo instante. Pero no se puede dejar así. Si hay un "elefante en la habitación" que debe ser expuesto,



*Is there a relationship in your life that the Lord wants you to take notice of?*



It takes prayer, courage, and confidence in the Lord to choose to walk in this truth. Restoring a relationship that has been hurt or shattered is not a one-event thing. But it can't be left there. If there is "an elephant in the room" that needs to be addressed, it does take someone's first step towards truth for restoration to start. What holds you back from taking that first step towards restoring a broken relationship with a friend, co-worker, or family member? What is in your heart when you think about this?

"...Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you" (2 Corinthians 13:11).

se debe dar el primer paso hacia la verdad para que comience la restauración. ¿Qué le impide tomar ese primer paso para restaurar una relación rota con un amigo, compañero de trabajo o familiar? ¿Qué hay en su corazón cuando piensas en esto?

"... Luchar por la restauración completa, animarnos unos a otros, ser de una sola mente, vivir en paz. Y el Señor nos recuerda en ese verso que ÉL está con nosotros. Él quiere que nos amemos unos con otros. Restaurar una relación puede traer renovación. No solo puede surgir una nueva temporada en relación con esa

If fear comes to mind when thinking of confronting this brokenness, the Lord reminds us in that verse that HE is with us. He wants us to live in peace with one another. Restoring a relationship can bring renovation. Not only can a new season in relationship with that person arise from this, but the Lord uses moments like this to refine our obedience, to renew our hearts and minds, and to trust in His Truth. If He calls us to this, it means it's for a reason: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him..." (Romans 8:28).

We must aim our actions, thoughts, and words to show others the love, forgiveness, and healing God has showed us through salvation in Jesus Christ. We are to obey for the results are up to the Lord. Will you be brave and walk in obedience over fear in choosing to make amends with that person who came to your mind?

Here are some questions that you can use as a stepping stone to start making the choice towards forgiveness and restoration in that specific relationship that needs mending. Use them in your alone times with the Lord and allow Him to examine your heart:

- How can I allow the Lord to help me love that person? Have I prayed to show a sincere love? (Romans 12:9)
- Why haven't I chosen to talk to the person to shine truth on whatever happened in the past?
- What is the deeper root to this broken relationship? Were my actions the cause? Have I forgiven the other person's actions?
- What do I need to let the Lord show me to make amends the right way with that relationship?

John 3:21: "But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God."

When we choose to bring to light whatever has been hurting us hidden in the dark, we are freed from that heavy burden of pretending like nothing is wrong. "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (2 Corinthians 3:17).

Restoration brings renovation that leads to freedom (Ephesians 4:31-32).

"Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Use this extra time that this summer season gifts you with to build bridges with the people around you and restore the bridges that you need to. ■

persona, sino que el Señor usa momentos como este para refinar nuestra obediencia, para renovar nuestros corazones, nuestras mentes y confianza en Su Verdad. Si Él nos llama a esto, significa que es por una razón: "sabemos que Dios dispone todas las cosas para el bien de quienes lo aman, los que han sido llamados de acuerdo con..." (Romanos 8:28).

Debemos dirigir nuestras acciones, pensamientos y palabras para mostrar a otros el amor, el perdón y la sanación que Dios nos ha mostrado a través de la Salvación en Jesucristo. Debemos decidir actuar en obediencia sin temor, porque los resultados dependen del Señor. ¿Serás valiente y caminarás en obediencia por encima del miedo al elegir enmendarte con esa persona que vino a tu mente?

Aquí hay algunas preguntas que puede usar para comenzar a tomar la decisión de perdonar y restaurar esa relación específica que necesita remendarse. Úsalas en tus momentos a solas con el Señor y permítele que examine tu corazón:

- ¿Cómo puedo permitir que el Señor me ayude a amar a esa persona? ¿He orado para mostrar un amor sincero? (Romanos 12: 9).
- ¿Por qué no he elegido hablar con la persona para que brille la verdad sobre lo que sucedió en el pasado?
- ¿Cuál es la raíz más profunda detrás de esta relación rota? ¿Fueron mis acciones la causa? ¿He perdonado las acciones de la otra persona?
- ¿Qué necesito para permitir que el Señor me muestre cómo hacer las reparaciones de la manera correcta con esa relación?

Juan 3:21: "En cambio, el que practica la verdad se acerca a la luz, para que se vea claramente que ha hecho sus obras en obediencia a Dios»."

Cuando elegimos sacar a la luz todo lo que ha estado oculto en la oscuridad, nos liberamos de la pesada carga de fingir que nada está mal.

"Ahora bien, el Señor es el Espíritu, y donde está el Espíritu del Señor, allí hay libertad" (2 Corintios 3:17).

La restauración trae renovación que conduce a la libertad (Efesios 4:31-32).

"Deshazte de toda amargura, rabia e ira, peleas y calumnias, junto con toda forma de malicia. Sé amable y compasivo el uno con el otro, perdonándonos unos a otros, tal como en Cristo Dios te perdonó."

Use este tiempo adicional que le ofrece la temporada de verano para construir puentes con las personas que le rodean y restaurar los puentes que lo necesiten. ■



# Missionary Journey of Paul

March 3-12, 2020

Tour Host: Dr. Phillip Long

[plong@gracechristian.edu](mailto:plong@gracechristian.edu)

organized by

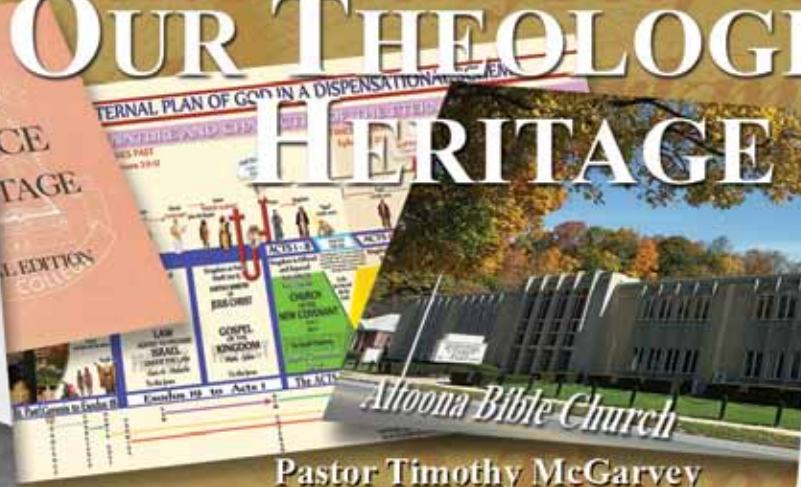
**TUTKU**

— EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL —

Temple of Apollo,  
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# OUR THEOLOGICAL HERITAGE



Pastor Timothy McGarvey  
Executive Director  
Grace Publications, Inc.

As someone who grew up in the Altoona Bible Church under the ministry of Pastor Kulp, there was a noticeable transition that occurred in the late '50s and early '60s. The church was the result of a split from the Brethren denomination. After being locked out of the church, they met in the Armory building until they were able to obtain their own facility. Much to the surprise of many, the building had a baptistry under the platform and there were feet-washing services held periodically. I never witnessed a baptism but was aware of the feet-washing meetings (these were mostly for the older saints in the congregation but were phased out over time). As Pastor Kulp began to understand Pauline truth and right division, he saw the importance in "making all men see what is the fellowship of the Mystery" (Eph. 3:9 KJV). He had men like C.R. Stam and Pastor Otis Wasson (with his large chart) come to preach. Pastor Kulp drilled into all of us that to know Paul's message of grace was to know truth. As a result of those early years I have come to believe the same. I firmly believe that truth for the Body of Christ today comes first and foremost from the pen of the Apostle Paul. Our Grace Heritage is in that same understanding and we must not only guard it, we must teach it so that future generations will defend the faith.

In 1974 Ray Reich was the Librarian at Grace Bible College. For a special edition of TRUTH Magazine, he compiled a series of subjects into a one booklet entitled "Our Grace Heritage." The following are the opening paragraphs of that work.

The purpose of this brochure is to remind the members of the Grace Gospel Fellowship of their

rich heritage, not only as it is found in the Pauline revelation of God's Word, but also as it has been expounded and defended by many men of God down through the centuries. That heritage is not a static thing, but one which needs to be cultivated and propagated so that future generations might inherit even greater riches.

The Grace Movement and the Grace Message are terms which need to be clarified. The word Grace has become attached to these two expressions simply because they are both involved with what the Scripture calls "the dispensation of the grace of God." God has been gracious in all past dispensations, but in the present one He has exhibited the exceeding riches of His grace. All true believers in Jesus Christ have experienced and have known something about the grace of God, but not all have come into the full knowledge of this body of truth, which God has called the Mystery and which He was pleased to reveal through the epistles of Paul. The Grace Message therefore is that unique body of truth found in the Pauline scriptures which stands in contrast to the rest of the scriptures, and the Grace Movement is the phenomenon of the past few decades in particular in which many Christians have become involved in studying and propagating this unique truth.

Some of those in this Grace Movement have banded together in an organization known as the Grace Gospel Fellowship for the purpose of mutual edification and the furtherance of this message of the grace of God.



More than organizations and greater than individuals was the theology of the Pauline revelation that provided the impetus to bring together men who were willing to stand and be counted for the faith regardless of the cost. Mr. Reich called it a “unique body of truth.” Mr. Stam wrote “Things that Differ,” and Pastor Art Sims penned

“Distinctions that Matter.” Men like Stam, Baker, O’Hair, Bultema, and Schutz all wrote to demonstrate that our perspective on Scripture was and is “unique.”

As we celebrate the last seventy five years let us keep in our memories that it is really the theology that gives us reason to exist. We must be certain that

future generations will still be able to come into “the full knowledge of this body truth.” Our theology is as distinct today as it was. Let the current and future leaders determine before God to defend this truth and as the old KJV said, “...rightly divide the word of truth.” ■



## Region 2: Southwest



*Grace Bible Church* in Anaheim, CA, opened its doors on June 9, 1969, with Pastor Harold Petersen in the pulpit. So Sunday, June 9, 2019, their 50th Anniversary was celebrated by Pastor Joel Molina and a joyful congregation. Kathy Molenkamp flew in to represent the Grace Gospel Fellowship for the celebration. ■

person, and helping them to be themselves while being sensitive to those with whom they are sharing their faith.

Along with summer comes the beautification of the exterior of the church and parsonage. Many hours will be involved by those interested in planting flowers and other plants to glorify our Savior with God’s variety of plants for our pleasure.

It is the desire of the Board of Elders to seek a man to become the Associate Pastor of Grace Bible Church. Your prayers for us to find the man who God desires would be appreciated. We know there are only a few men available, but He has the man who is fit for our church and ministry. Thanks for your prayers! ■

and fellowship were provided! The Lester Family Singers will be performing on July 6. On August 3, STLBCF will host a back-to-school ice cream social celebration with an ice cream sundae bar, activities, fellowship, and goody bags. The church is experiencing an increase in attendance at both the morning service and Sunday School.

*Faith Bible Church*, Olney, IL: Pastor Zachary Slater reports that things are going smoothly in Olney. He has taken up the call to fill both roles of Adult and Youth Ministry Pastors. The church is preparing for their summer outreach with evangelistic efforts all across the county, from youth-led evangelism (for example, Fair Share [teen led evangelism effort at our County Fair] and partnering with Inbound Ministries for coffee house youth evangelism) to adult outreach efforts (for example, city clean up, neighborhood outreach, and personal evangelism training). They have a busy summer planned reaching the lost for Christ!

A Region 5 meeting was held in central Illinois on April 22. ■

## Region 4: Upper Midwest



*Grace Bible Church*, West Allis, WI—This spring we had an exciting time with two mini-seminars on Friendship Evangelism. We had over 25 in attendance learning the basic ways to approach those we care about in this world of many unsaved people. It was a thrill to see the passion and concern to learn the gospel outline, the practical tips in talking with an unsaved

## Region 5: Lower Midwest



*St Louis Bible Fellowship Church*, St. Louis, MO, held a Family Picnic Day on June 8. Activities



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