

Notes & Letters

Sure and Secure

This article [Bob Wilkin, "Present Faith: The Basis of Assurance," GIF (Nov/Dec 2004)] fully explained my struggle with assurance. Dr. Wilkin fully clarified the confusion that many are looking for an experience or an event for salvation and are not trusting in Christ alone for salvation. Wonderful.

K.M. - Cedar Bluff, MS

Present Assurance

I wish I'd seen this 10 years ago [Bob Wilkin, "Present Faith: The Basis of Assurance," GIF (Nov/Dec 2004)]! This very issue once was the cause of extreme anxiety in my Christian walk! I had heard from pastors & evangelists that if a person could not pinpoint the moment he/she was saved, they were almost certainly lost! Thank you for setting the record Biblically straight Dr. Bob! Thank you for your uncompromising stand! Pray I will do the same!

D.W. - Concord, NC

Finding Assurance on the Web

I like this website [www.faithalone.org] and I will visit it more often to help me with my fears, doubts, etc. I hope God continues to bless this outreach.

J.P. - Visalia, CA



Pastors Ken Hornok and Phil Congdon @ Pre-Trib

Thanks for the Article

I want to thank you for that great article on Matthew 5:22 [Bob Wilkin, "Whoever Says 'You Fool!' Shall Be in Danger of Hell Fire," GIF (Sept/Oct 1997)]. In my study I came to the same conclusions, but it is much better when you have "at the mouth of 2 or 3 witnesses." So thank you very much for your great site.

D.C. - Internet Reader

PARTNERS

in Grace

Grace Bible Church

Laredo, TX

December 4-6

Bob Rowley and his wife JoAnn have been in Laredo for over twenty years working at Grace Bible Church. Bob and I graduated from DTS together in 1982.

I've spoken at GBC almost every year for the past five or so. I really enjoy ministering there. It is a town right on the Mexican border and it really has an international feel to it. Well over 90% of the people in Laredo speak Spanish.

I came in on Saturday and had time to share a meal with Bob and JoAnn and then spend a few hours at Starbucks visiting with the new pastor, Chad McCartney.

Bob Rowley has accepted a promotion to be the District Supervisor (DS) for the State of Texas for the Evangelical Free Church of America. So he is passing the pastorate of GBC on to his associate pastor, Chad.

This church has grown spectacularly over the last 5 years. In a town that is heavily Catholic, this church has grown from around 100 to around 500. This was the first time I've been there that they've had to go to two services. To have a Protestant church this large in a town like Laredo

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Pastor Bob Rowley with his wife JoAnn

Pre-Trib Study Group

Dallas, TX

December 6-8

On Monday night I drove Pastor Arch Rutherford and one of his fellow elders at Coast Bible Church, Jack Kulp over to Mesquite to have supper with Zane Hodges. It was a great time. We discussed theology and friendship and had a great time of fellowship. Arch, Jack, and I also went out to eat together on Tuesday night and enjoyed more great fellowship.

Many Free Grace pastors and teachers were present at this conference. I saw the following: Charlie Bing (TX), Ken Hornok (UT), John Brumett (TX), Mark Piland (TX), Earl Radmacher (OR), Phil Congdon (TX), Mark Carr (TX), Terry Kern (ND), Fred Lybrand (TX), Tod Kennedy (WA), René Lopez (TX), Andy Woods (TX), Arnold Fruchtenbaum (CA), Lou Schoettle (GA), Robby Dean (TX), Jobe Martin (TX), and Jody Dillow (CO).



Bob and Zane Hodges visiting with friends from CA

Financial Report	
December Revenue	\$68,355 *
December Budget	\$27,320
YTD Revenue	\$182,283 *
YTD Budget	\$163,920

ECFA MEMBER

* Note: These figures are not final. At press time, we are still receiving gifts postmarked in December 2004. We count all gifts postmarked on or before December 31st, even if we don't receive the gift until January.

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January 2005



Sunday morning at Grace Bible



Bob's Bible study on rewards and assurance at GBC




Members of GBC after Bible study

Grace Bible

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is a huge miracle of God's grace. They have lots of new believers each year in this church.

I spoke on rewards at the two Sunday morning services from 1 Cor 9:24-27. Then from 2:30 to 5:30 we met to continue the discussion of rewards from Galatians 6 and 1 Thessalonians 4-5. Also on the agenda was Revelation 2-3. However, instead we ended up spending about 90 minutes interacting on the question of assurance of salvation. Pastor Bob told me that he felt it was great that we hit assurance and skipped the seven letters to the seven churches since this was clearly a topic of great interest to those present.


Chad becomes the senior pastor in January and he and Bob have already spoken about having me come once a year over the next five years to continue my ministry at GBC. I'm glad, for the ministry is always fruitful there. 

GES's 10th Annual Conference: *The Grace Conference*

March 14-17, 2005

You may register online at www.faithalone.org or you can call us toll free at 1.877.292.2522. The registration fee for first time attendees is only \$50! Pastors (including anyone on a church staff) who've never attended may come free. The normal \$150 registration fee is still a bargain, and it includes one's spouse! We hope to see many of you there. We'd appreciate your prayers and your help in spreading the word about this important conference.

If you haven't reserved your hotel room, we suggest you do so now. We have a great rate of only \$79 per night and that includes a great all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet for two. Call the hotel directly at 972.929.4500 and mention GES.

Lindsay is handling all conference matters for us. If you have any questions, please call or email her (Lindsay@faithalone.org). 

Grace on the Go


January

- 8-22 Advanced Hermeneutics Class, Chafer Seminary, Tustin, CA
- 9 New Hope Church, Orange, CA
- 23 Coast Bible Church, San Juan Capistrano, CA
- 31 GES Board Meeting, Irving, TX

Victor Street Bible Chapel


Dallas, TX

December 12

Continuing my series on First John, I preached on Chapter 2, verses 3-11. Knowing God is more than being in fellowship with Him. It is keeping His commandments (2:3ff.). A brand-new believer can be in fellowship with God, but he cannot yet know Him because he has to grow first. In the second service we considered Paul's discussion of the same basic truth. In 1 Corinthians 2:14-3:4, Paul said that baby Christians are carnally minded. Spiritual Christians have the mind of Christ. Since the believers in Corinth had been in the faith for 4 to 5 years by this point, Paul was greatly disappointed that they were not yet spiritual people. 

December Financial Update


With most of the December gifts in, our revenue for the month is \$68,355. We are very thankful for your gifts! Since January, February, and March are generally slow months, these gifts will help us meet our fiscal 2005 budget in June.

We are slowly but surely meeting our goal of 175 gifts of \$200 for the commentary fund. So far we have received \$7745 for the commentary fund, which works out to a little more than 38 \$200 gifts. Thank you for your gifts. While we still have a long way to go by June, our goal is still attainable. 

Secure and Sure at the Printer!

We are so glad to have sent *Secure and Sure* to the printer. We had planned to get it to them in early December, but we actually expressed it to them on January 4th. There's no end to the amount of polishing you can do on a book. We went through it about 10 times, once even reading the entire manuscript out loud.

The printer promises they will ship it to us in 4 to 5 weeks. That means we can expect to have it at our office by early to mid February. While we are sorry for the delays, we hope you agree it was worth the wait! This book is breaking new ground and really itches where so many people are scratching. There really is no other book like it.

I looked back and in the January 2004 *Partners in Grace* we were hoping to get the book out soon. This book has been years in the making. Please pray for its impact in the lives of many around the world. 



Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum with Bob at Pre-Trib



Bob with Pastors John Brumett, Terry Kern, and René Lopez at Pre-Trib



Bob visiting with Pastor Mark Carr at Pre-Trib