

Notes and Letters

Thanks for Your Service

Thank you for your service to God in preaching His Word and in promoting the Gospel of Grace.

—JVR, Dallas, TX

Standing for the Truth

Thank you for all you are doing to stand for the truth of the gospel.

—FBT, Fullerton, CA

Love Grace in Focus

Thanks so much for Grace in Focus. I read each issue and appreciate it very much.

My good friend Dr. Mike Halsey sent me a CD of your plenary session at your Regional Conference in the Atlanta area. My Sunday school teacher is listening to the CD and is excited about [what he is hearing]. I have not heard them yet, but am looking forward to listening to them.

—AB, Hendersonville, NC

Studying The Road to Reward

We are very much enjoying the study [of Bob's book The Road to Reward]. The varied opinions can cause some heated discussion, however. It is challenging in these postmodern times of relativistic opinions to keep the discussion focused on the facts. The Lord is good to allow some testimonies of class members to be shared just before class which are lending themselves well to the subject matter.

—TT, e-mail

Persevere

Today I heard a lady in my Sunday school where I attend church tell another lady how much she loves books written by John Piper. It so happens that I...did my own critique of Desiring God [by John Piper] some years ago and found it really twists Scripture in a number of areas.

Anyway, I came home from church and said to myself, "I need to contribute to the organization that is in accordance with my heart and more importantly, in accordance with the plain writings of the Word. So I pray God's richest blessings on your ministry and on getting out what Scripture plainly teaches.

—AB, e-mail



Jeff and Andrea Nelson with Jordan at Victor Street Bible Chapel

Spotlight on Your Support

Twenty years ago at this time Sharon and I were making plans to leave Multnomah Bible College in Portland and for me to devote myself full-time to heading up Grace Evangelical Society. In July of 1987 we moved back to Dallas and I then became the full-time Executive Director of GES.

Thank you for your support. Without the support of many people over these years, GES wouldn't have been able to produce hundreds of newsletters and journals as well as almost a dozen books. Nor would we have been able to speak on these issues all over the world or have a website that touches thousands around the world. GES exists because of Partners who are so burdened about Grace issues that they support their passion with their finances, often sacrificially.

We treat gifts to the ministry like money sent from the Lord. We want our stewardship of your gifts to be pleasing to the Lord Jesus to whom we all will one day soon give an account at His Bema.

Financial Report

Jan Budget	\$32,100
Jan Revenue	\$25,723 <-\$6,377>
YTD Budget*	\$224,700*
YTD Revenue	\$211,905 <-\$12,795>

*Our fiscal year runs from July-June

Grace Evangelical Society

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Partners in Grace



GES's Twelfth Annual Grace Conference

March 5-8, 2007

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dallas

Registrations at press time are slightly below where they were last year at this time. If you haven't registered yet, don't wait until the last minute. You can register online at www.faithalone.org or by phone at 972.257.1160. Please help us get the word out by telling your church and other friends. You can download a poster of the conference to post at your church from our website. You can also print bulletin inserts at our website. Just click on "Annual conference" and then click on the buttons for poster or bulletin inserts.

Call the hotel directly (toll free: 888.303.1746) to make your hotel reservations. Ask for the special \$87 GES conference price.

Vista Ridge Bible Fellowship

Lewisville, Texas

December 31, January 7, & January 14

I normally teach at conferences that run on consecutive days (e.g., Friday, Saturday, and Sunday). But Pastor Philippe Sterling was in India and my schedule was open, and so I did a mini-conference over a period of three Sundays: the last Sunday of 2006 and the first two of 2007.

The topic of this mini-conference was eternal rewards. I spoke on 2 Cor 5:9-10, Matt 16:24-28, and 1 Cor 9:24-27 in my three main messages and on perseverance and the new earth in my two Sunday School messages. I really enjoyed this ministry. My thanks to everyone there for their warm hospitality.



VRBF



The GES board met on January 15. Left to Right: Bob, Jeff Bryant, Troy Jensen, Brad Daskocil, and Ralph Grant



Bob with Pastor Philippe Sterling and Peter Taylor before Philippe left for India



Sunday morning at Vista Ridge Bible Fellowship before Bob spoke.

Ice-Storm Board Meeting

Irving, Texas
January 15th

Freezing rain hit the weekend before the board meeting. One of the board, Pastor J. B. Bond of Stillwater, OK, was unable to come since the entire state of Oklahoma was covered in ice. (He didn't leave his house from Friday afternoon the whole weekend! For the first time ever his church had to cancel services, both morning and evening.)

Fortunately Troy and Brad were able to fly in and Ralph was able to drive in from Houston. Jeff Bryant and I drove locally, and were rather fortunate since there wasn't that much ice on the roads.

Icy roads didn't chill this winter meeting. This may have been our best winter board meeting ever. Among other things we discussed ways to make our website "stickier" (with RSS so that people can receive new postings from our site automatically), the importance of starting a GES blog, and the need to make the commentary top priority in 2007.

I must confess that I helped the board lay up treasure in heaven this time. Not only did they have to brave the roads and the elements, but they ended up in dump hotels too. Trying to save money, I used Hotwire and, unable to find 3-star hotels, we tried 2.5 stars. We've had good experiences with the hotels we got in the past. This time Ralph and Troy ended up in an extremely basic hotel that had some heating problems. Brad ended up in a different hotel. That hotel didn't pick him up at the airport (he ended up taking a taxi), and the hotel lost power at 2AM and the fire alarms went off. Brad stood outside in freezing weather. Then when they got the okay to go back in, there were zero lights! He used his cell phone backlight to walk to his room! Then the alarm went off a second time an hour later.

Next time we'll make sure they get 3-star or better hotels. They may earn a little less treasure in heaven since they will rough it less, but they will feel better at the board meeting the next day!

Radio Talk Show

January 23rd

KKMS radio station out of Minneapolis called and asked for an interview to talk about the ministry of Grace Evangelical Society. I happily agreed. The thirty-minute interview was an excellent opportunity to promote the grace message and GES. The main thing they wished to discuss was clarity in evangelism—which was great news to me! Several people called in about key issues such as repentance and justification by works in James 2. I had the opportunity to mention our website quite a few times in the half hour.

Victor Street Bible Chapel

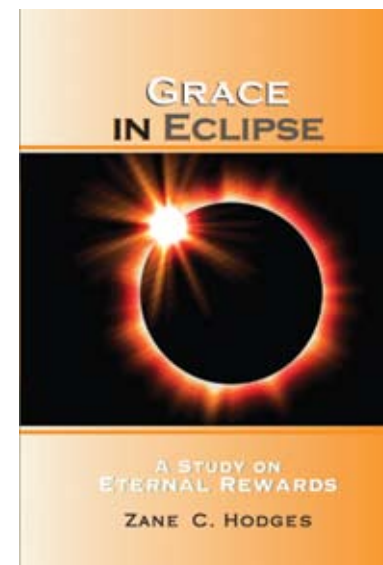
Dallas, Texas
January 21

Continuing in our series on Acts, we came to the famous sign-and-sermon chapter in which Peter heals a lame man. That healing illustrates not only the power of Jesus to provide physical healing of individuals, but it also illustrates His power to heal the nation of Israel. If that generation of Jews were to come to faith in Jesus and repent of their sins, then the kingdom would come in their lifetimes, within 7 years (after the Tribulation, which would have begun immediately).

Peter reoffered the kingdom to Israel in a great expression of God's grace (Acts 3:19-26). How amazing is grace that allows a generation that killed the Messiah an opportunity to repent and receive Him back as her King! That the nation rejected this reoffer is sad indeed. However, a day is coming soon when the nation will indeed be both believing and in fellowship with her Messiah (Rom 10:13; 11:26).

The audio of this sermon is available through the GES podcast, so make sure you sign up for this free service.

Grace in Eclipse Is Back in Print!



I wholeheartedly recommend this revised edition of *Grace in Eclipse*. It may be the best non-canonical book on eternal rewards ever written.

Even if you have already read the first edition, this revised edition is a "must read" for the new information it contains, and the necessary reminder about eternal rewards. But beware. You will learn much more than

the doctrine of eternal rewards. You will learn how to interpret the Word of God.

We will be offering this book at a special discount rate of \$5 at the GES conference for those who come. Otherwise, you can purchase it for \$8.95 by calling us at 972.257.1160 or through our online bookstore at www.faithalone.org.



Victor Street Bible Chapel members Joe, Feliz, Lucinda, and Viviano



Victor Street Bible Chapel before the service began on January 21

GRACE ON THE GO

February 10-11 25	Grace Life Church, Anoka, MN Grace Chapel, Orange, CA
March 5-8 16-17 18	GES Conference, Dallas, TX GES Regional Conf., Bismarck, ND First Evangelical Free Church, Bismarck, ND
23-24	Evangelical Theological Society Regional Conf., Fort Worth, TX
April 20-21	GES Regional Conf. Colorado Springs, CO
22	Fellowship Bible Church, Colorado Springs, CO