




RidgePoint youth after Bob's message

Youth Retreat Cedar Hill, Texas February 6-7

Mike Makidon had the opportunity to be the speaker at a Youth Retreat at the Mt. Lebanon Baptist Youth Encampment. There were about 70-80 Hispanic Junior High and High School kids from two churches in Garland and Duncanville, TX, which are both named Nueva Vida Iglesia Bautista (New Life Baptist Church).

The theme for the weekend was "Being on Mission with God." In order to have a "mission" we must first be secure in our relationship with Jesus Christ. So, Mike's first message was on being sure about our eternal life. If we aren't sure about our eternal destiny, how can we be passionate about sharing Christ with others? His second message was about turning that passion and security into a personal mission and sharing Christ with others. If we persevere, Christ will reward us at the Bema. Hopefully many of the youth gained assurance of their eternal life and will now share that good news with others. 

Partners in Grace is a monthly magazine of:

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Ninth Annual Conference

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Theology for Beginners, Managing Church Conflict, Financial Stewardship, OT Salvation, and many more.

Banquet. On Tuesday night approximately 120 of the conferees gathered together for a special evening banquet. The meal was followed by a wonderful *Who's on First?* skit by Trent and Greg Muller. Plus there were testimonies by René Lopez and Diane Boring. Finally we had a time of open sharing. Only twenty minutes were planned; however, it was so powerful that we ended up having an hour of sharing. And everyone left wanting more. We ended the evening with a tribute by Pastor Paul Carpenter for Pastor Kirk Muller who went home to be with the Lord in December. For many of us, the banquet was the highlight of this year's conference.

Fellowship. Meals and breaks provided wonderful time for fellowship between old and new friends. Sharon and I stayed at the conference hotel this year and were able to share lots of quality time with friends from around the U.S. and Canada. What a joy it was to fellowship with others who not only love Jesus, but love and believe His clear gospel. 



The youth listening to Mike's message

Financial Report

February Revenue	\$20,513
February Budget	\$25,919
Fiscal YTD Revenue	\$215,369
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$207,352



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Special Conference 2004 Edition

in Grace

Ninth Annual Conference

Irving, Texas

February 23-26

What a conference! In so many ways this was our best ever.

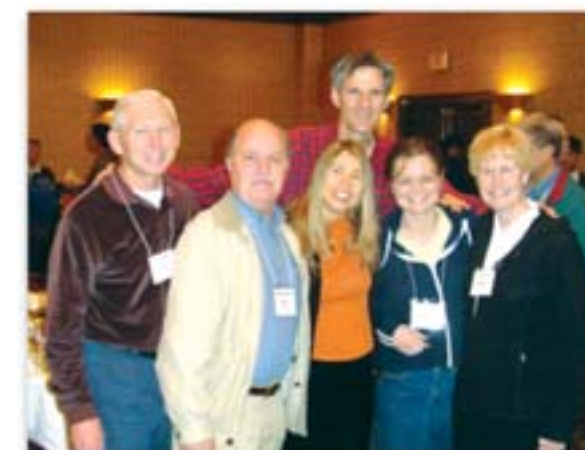
Attendance. Last year we had our largest conference ever with 260 present. This year we had 320, which is a 23% increase! We had a great crowd.

General Sessions. We've been blessed to have good plenary messages every year. However, this year the general sessions were especially good. Speakers included Zane Hodges, Earl Radmacher, Ron Allen, Craig Glickman, Arch Rutherford, Jim Congdon, Phil Congdon, and me. Three of these men are full-time pastors. One is currently a seminary professor and three more are retired seminary professors.

We had messages on everything from Jonah and the Song of Solomon to First Corinthians and Ephesians. We were challenged to not only talk about grace, but to be full of grace and truth in our daily lives.

Workshops. Where do I begin? We had 24 of the best parallel sessions we've ever had. Nearly all of these workshops would make outstanding main sessions. Here are a just a few examples. We had workshops on Postmodernism, Open Theism, Assurance, Lordship Salvation, Free Grace

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Between sessions at The Grace Conference


RidgePointe Fellowship Dallas, Texas

February 22

I enjoyed being back at the church of my dear friend and colleague, Bob Vacendak. Bob is recuperating from surgery for what has turned out to be a benign brain tumor.

RidgePointe is concentrating on evangelism this month. So, in adult Sunday school I evaluated various popular evangelistic closes. We had a great time of interaction. I ended by asking them what specifically a person needed to believe in order to have eternal life. The various answers allowed us to make sure that we always bring out that Jesus guarantees eternal life to all who simply believe in Him.

The worship service message looked at the issue of evangelism more broadly. I discussed how we can share the gospel clearly. This message was a nice complement to the Sunday school discussion.

Thank you all for your prayers for Bob Vacendak's surgery and recovery. Hopefully he will be back to preaching at RidgePointe soon. 

Highlights

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& Comments

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March 2004



Sharon, Cord Miller, Kelly Vacendak, Bob, Gina Salazar, and Mike Makidon at RPF



Best GES conference I have been to!

Bob, I thoroughly enjoyed this session. I appreciate how you explain your thinking and do so with a humble spirit!

Every year that I have attended, I have found the conference to be the finest conference to be found.

This conference was great!!!

They [the messages] contributed to my knowledge and understanding of salvation and grace. It is important in my adult Bible teaching.

As always, it challenged me spiritually!

Awesome reverence for God! Opens the truth up to us!

Always encouraging!

It was a positive and informative conference. It was my first!

Will help me to show love to my wife.

The 2004 Grace Conference

Always an inspiration!

The conference was an awesome encouragement and learning experience. May God bless!

The dinner was a great time of fellowship, sharing, and encouragement!

An inspiration to follow Jesus more.

The whole conference was fantastic—full of grace and truth. Thanks for all your work and concern about the details which made the conference run smoothly.

Challenged me to bear fruit and be a “Biblicist.”

Zane Hodges is fascinating to listen to and such a scholar!

So informative. I need this!

Interpretation of difficult passages was encouraging and refreshing!

It was wonderful! I am so thankful I got to come.

