

Partners in Grace



September 2009



Harbor Trinity Church

Costa Mesa, CA ~ August 23

The Youth Pastor, Dan Robb, spoke with Senior Pastor Rod Randall and I was invited to speak. I really enjoyed my first visit to HTC. I spoke on the parable of the four soils from Luke 8:5-15. Though I've spoken on this many times before, I presented it differently this time and it was a much more effective way of explaining the passage. The audience was very responsive. Pastor Rod indicated he'd like to have me back again next summer.

Church of Hope

Laguna Hills, CA ~ August 23

After lunch with Dan Robb and some of the youth from Harbor Trinity, I drove over to Laguna Hills for the afternoon services at Pastor Freddy Cortez's church. I spoke from Second and Third John on Upholding the Truth. Then after a break for food, I fielded questions for an hour. As always I really enjoyed this great group.

California Trip From Top:

Coast Bible Church Beach Service; Harbor Trinity Church; Church of Hope; GES Board Meeting; The Board visits Laguna Beach; Bob's sister, Pam, and nephew, John



Coast Bible Church

Beach Service at Capo Beach ~ August 23

My full Sunday ended with me driving to near San Clemente. I enjoyed wonderful barbequed ribs and great conversation with Pastor Neil Anderson, his wife Casey, and the nice people from CBC. I even spoke on the beach. Neil asked me to speak about whether repentance was a gift or not, and whether it is a work or not. And he asked me to keep my remarks to about 10 minutes since this was outdoors on the public beach! Ten minutes? Yes, I did it, somehow. Actually I had some new insights that they enjoyed.

For more pics visit www.tinyurl.com/GESfacebook

GES Summer Board Meeting **San Juan Capistrano, CA ~ August 22**

New board member Bob Kenagy was welcomed to the board. We had a super meeting. We set the new budget at \$317,180, or a 1.5% reduction from the fiscal 2009 budget.

Other major items of discussion included the NT commentary, which we hope to have in print by the end of November, the publication of Zane's commentary on Romans, reprinting Zane's commentaries on 1-3 John (which just went out of print) and James (which just went out of print on Aug 24), addition of two new board members, the price of our 1,000 page hardback NT commentary, which we set at just \$29.95, the necessity of finding someone in the next few years to groom to take over my position as CEO (with the goal of shifting me to writing more books and speaking more), and ideas about restarting our internet school of theology.



Grace on the Go

- Sept 13** Victor Street Bible Chapel, Dallas TX
- Oct 11** Upland Bible Church, Las Vegas NV
- Oct 16-17** Vista Ridge Bible Fellowship Men's Retreat, Sky Ranch, Van TX
- Nov 1** Shreveport Bible Church, Shreveport LA
- Nov 8** Frisco Bible Church, Frisco TX



Prayer Requests

Praise: Kyle's back is doing much better; Kyle's wife, Charmaine, underwent successful surgery for thyroid cancer and they got 100% of the cancer and she is doing great now; the summer board meeting went very well; ministry finances are going well so far in spite of a bad economy; new staff Holly and Mark are doing great work.

Prayer: NT Commentary to the printer by late October and in print by late November; Kyle and Charmaine's continued excellent recovery; finalizing of the agreement with Kerugma over GES obtaining all of Zane's copyrights; GES finances to continue strong; catching up on the Journal by publishing both the Spring and Autumn 2009 issues between now and the end of December; finding a new GES office in Denton (our lease is up October 31st); the health of Bob, Mark, Holly, and Kyle and their families.

Your Dollars Matter

Your fellowship in this ministry allows us to publish, in print and online, thousands of newsletter and journal articles. We also are enabled by you to publish commentaries, books, and booklets. Though we are small, our impact is significant. While the final outcome of our labors is not yet known, we expectantly await the soon return of our Lord Jesus and His Judgment Seat. Thank you for your investment in eternity. We pray that it pays many eternal dividends for you (see Phil 4:17).

August Financial Report

August Budget**	\$26,432	YTD* Budget**	\$52,863
August Revenue	\$11,400	YTD* Revenue	\$23,275
	<-\$15,032>		<-\$29,588>

* Our fiscal year ends on June 30th.

**Budget was finalized at Aug 22nd Board Meeting. New annual budget is \$317,180



Notes and Letters

I just wanted to take the opportunity to tell you how much I enjoyed last week's sermon (July 16th). I went to summer camp a few weeks ago and one night our counselor told us that she had a friend who was a youth pastor and when he got married his wife and he studied the Bible and decided that they were atheists. One of the students asked if he was still saved and the counselor said that she didn't think so. I disagreed but my argument wasn't very strong. Later on during my quiet time I found some verses that seemed to back up the same thing, a loss of salvation. I was confused and thinking about it the Sunday morning that you spoke. Later after careful study of the verses in context, I found that they weren't teaching a loss of salvation at all. Thank you for being the person God put into place to help me with this. I love seeing God work through people who are willing to be used! I really appreciate it! —AT, email

Thanks for posting the phenomenal message by Zane Hodges entitled "Spiritual Aftershock." I found it to be tremendously insightful and uplifting. —BF, email

I'm planning to do a series on salvation beginning the first of next year. I have people in the congregation who are from reformed backgrounds. While I'm not afraid to state what I believe the Scripture teaches, I would like to be given a fair hearing and not have people leave the church angry without hearing the message. Perhaps you could refer me to someone with experience in this and can advise how to approach the task in a "wise as serpents, harmless as doves" fashion. —Pastor, email

Editor's Note: I was able to give this Pastor some suggestions, as well as put him in contact with several seasoned Free Grace Pastors who have lots of experience in this very issue.