

Prayer Requests

Please pray for Bob's speaking in October - November (three conferences and three churches), for Bob's health (getting over this kidney/prostate infection and pain in his side), for 36 excellent workshop titles to be submitted by October 15th for our national conference next March 4-6, for Jeremy and Bob to make lots of progress on the NT commentary, for the new GES blog to be edifying and orderly, for Bob and the other GES Board members to continue to walk in the light of God's Word, for continued wisdom for the GES Board, for Zane Hodges as he attempts to complete his commentary on Romans (he is in Chapter 11 now), for Jeremy, Kyle, and Ross with their studies, families, and walks with the Lord, and for Bob's wife, Sharon, to find a new and enjoyable job after she takes early retirement from Verizon on November 16th.

Notes and Letters

Working With a Calvinist

I was in China earlier this month doing some [team teaching], and the other pastor ("Steve") was, sadly, a die-hard Calvinist... We were doing a NT survey, and he just about came unglued when I told him I saw the issue of 1 John as fellowship, not proof of justification...

Steve informed me that he doesn't ask if someone believes in Jesus, because it's more than head knowledge, but the true test is whether someone treasures Jesus (using Matt 13:44 as his proof text)... I politely told Steve that he couldn't really know himself if he was a real believer, because he couldn't guarantee that one day he wouldn't become so angry with God that he would deny Jesus himself. Steve told me, "That won't happen to me. I know because God's Spirit has testified with my spirit that I'm a child of God."

I could tell we weren't going to get anywhere, so we shut the conversation down (besides, it was approaching midnight!)

Probably nothing new to you in your encounters, but the insert on the last page of the latest GIF prompted me to pass the story on.

Keep defending the faith, brother!!!!

RF, Email

Helped by Article on Cain and Abel

Thanks, Bob, for your article on Cain and Esau in Grace in Focus. I really enjoyed it and was helped by it. Of course, I thank God for your ministry around the world.

WF, email

More Kudos for Cain and Abel GIF Article

I thought I was the only one who entertained the idea that Cain is a portrait of a backslidden believer. Good article – keep up the good work.

MC, email

Thank You for Your Website

My family may be moving to another city in Nebraska and the Lord showed me a Free Grace Church through your website! Praise the Lord! I didn't know your website existed until I put in the pastor's name to learn about him and his name came up on your site.

AN, email

Confident in Christ Translated into Russian

I have not heard from you in a long time. How are you and how is your work going? I will not be able to attend the GES in Seattle. I will be in Ukraine at that time. We hope that your book, *Confident in Christ*, is all translated into Russian. For some reason this has been a long ordeal. Have a good conference. I hope to see you sometime.

TK, email



Bob and Pastor Dave Semmelbeck

Partners in Grace

Grace Evangelical Society
972.257.1160
www.faithalone.org



Seattle Regional GES Conference Tukwila, WA September 28-29

Dr. Hugh Crowder, Pastor of Lakeland Bible Church in Federal Way, WA, helped us plan and conduct an excellent regional conference. This year, for the first time at a regional conference, we rented a place for the meeting, rather than having it in a church. In this way we were able to be in an excellent location near the heart of Seattle.



Continued on Page 2

Lakeland Bible Church Federal Way, WA September 30

Though I was a bit worn out after speaking four times at the regional plus moderating the two panels, the Lord blessed my two messages Sunday morning. I spoke on two key rewards passages: 2 Tim 2:1-13 ("Endure by Being Strong in His Grace") and 2 Cor 5:1-11 ("What's the Purpose that Drives Your Life?"). The people at Hugh's church were very appreciative of what I had to share.

On Saturday night Hugh and his wife, Cindy, took me out to a fantastic fish place right on the Puget Sound. What a treat that was. The halibut I had was outstanding. Thank you, Hugh and Cindy, for your warm hospitality.



Congregation at Lakeland Bible Church

Fiscal Year-End Financial Report

September Budget	\$32,100	YTD Budget	\$96,300*
September Revenue	\$12,120 <-\$19,980>	YTD Revenue	\$62,790 <-\$33,510>

*Our fiscal year runs from July-June

Tukwila continued from pg. 1

In addition to Hugh Crowder and myself, speakers included Dr. John Niemela of Message of Life Ministries, Missionary Hank Hildebrandt who ministers with his wife Barbara in Burns Lake, British Columbia, Canada, among the Babine Indians, and Dr. Scott Moffat, Pastor of Lacey Chapel in Lacey, WA.



John Niemelä, Hank Hildebrandt, Bob, Scott Moffat, and Hugh Crowder

We had 6 plenary messages (four by me and one each by Hugh and John) and two panel discussions (panelists = Hugh, Scott, Hank, and John). The messages were well received and the conferees expressed appreciation for the conference.

We wondered how moving from Hugh's church last year to a conference center in Seattle would effect attendance. The results were encouraging. While attendance was about the same (we had around 40 this year), the facilities were excellent and we had a number of first time attendees.



Steve Dehner and Bob

Grace Conference 2008

Have You Registered Yet?

March 4-6, 2008

The following main speakers are committed: Zane Hodges, Ken Yates, Bob Bryant, John Niemelä, and Bob Wilkin. During September I had lunch with several of our 2008 keynote speakers: Ken Yates, Zane Hodges, and Bob Byrant. We discussed their participation in the upcoming-conference.



Zane Hodges, Bob Bryant, and Bob

We will be meeting at the excellent conference facilities of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. There are 55 three-star hotel rooms in the conference center and six inexpensive dorm rooms in a dorm that is just 400 yards away.



Colonel Ken Yates and Bob

Victor Street Bible Chapel

Dallas, TX

September 16

Continuing my series in Acts, I preached on the account of Philip the Evangelist leading the Ethiopian eunuch to faith in Christ and to a commitment to follow Him as well (Acts 8:26-40). This is an amazing passage. If you'd like to listen to the message, we have put it in our podcast area of our website for free access.



Mary, Carlos, Marcia, and Lucinda at Victor Street Bible Chapel

Grace on the Go

October

- 3 The Urban Alternative Conference, DFW Airport, 3 workshops
- 7 Victor Street Bible Chapel, Dallas, TX
- 12-13 Charlotte Regional GES Conference
- 14 Grace Bible Church, Charlotte, NC
- 21 Grace Bible Church, Hot Springs, AR

November

- 11 Victor Street Bible Chapel, Dallas, TX
- 14-16 Evangelical Theological Society Natl Conf, San Diego, CA, workshop
- 18 So Cal Church, TBA

Lakeland Bible Church



Holding Fast Amidst Various Criticisms

Twenty-one years ago I started GES while I was still teaching at Multnomah Bible College in Portland. Then in the summer of 1987 I became the full-time Executive Director of GES.

For the first ten years or so, the ministry of GES experienced attacks from outsiders, but almost none from people within our ranks. Over the past ten years, and especially the last few years, GES has come under a fair amount of criticism from people within our movement. Some have complained about the changes to our Affirmations of Belief, especially our addition of the statement that assurance is of the essence of saving faith. Others have critiqued our philosophy and direction, saying that we are too narrow and that we fail to include conservatives who are essentially Free Grace. Still others have objected to some of the things we've published which they have considered new and not consistent with Evangelical scholarship.

We have not veered, nor are we veering, from the purpose and direction we set over 20 years ago. We continue to promote the message that the Lord Jesus guarantees everlasting life that can never be lost to all who simply believe in Him for it (e.g., John 3:16; 5:24; 6:35). This was our message in 1986 and it remains our message today. Since this is the message that the Lord Jesus Himself proclaimed, we are not free to adopt any other position.

Your encouragement, prayers, and fellowship in this ministry are vital to our perseverance. With your partnership we are able to send out six issues of our Grace in Focus newsletters and two issues of our journal, Journal of the Grace Evangelical Society, each year. Your support enables us to produce books, booklets, tracts, MP3s and DVDs, regional conferences, and a national conference.

I suppose if we never wrote anything that rocked anyone's boat we might have more people under our tent, and less criticism. However, if we did that, we would lose our message and hence our reason to exist.

Thank you for all you do to help us keep on message!