

Notes & Letters

Mind Games

I am thankful that you wrote this article ["Head Faith, Heart Faith, and Mind Games"]. I have been listening to John MacArthur and I heard him teach on this subject. I have found that listening to a Calvinist such as MacArthur, only leads you to doubt your salvation because you look back and realize you weren't perfect in all that you did when you first accepted Christ. Calvinism robs you of all your joy and assurance. It gets your eyes off of Jesus and what He did, and puts them on yourself... We are saved by the blood atonement of Christ alone. There is no work that I can do to deserve salvation.

V.V. ~ Miami, FL

Stand Strong!

I just looked your web site over and all I can say is thank God there is still a remnant left that believes in pure grace. I hope you don't mind, but I placed a link to you on my site. Stand strong!

B.Y. ~ Email

NOT by Faith Alone

The phrase "faith alone" appears only once in the entire Bible, but you leave out the words that precede it "NOT by faith alone." Would someone be safe if they believed but didn't repent? Is belief a work? Why is it necessary to take baptism out of God's equation?



Bob in CA with his mother Jean and sister Pam

A.M. ~ Windsor Mill, MD

Ed. Note (Part of our response): James 2:24 is more accurately translated "You see then that a man is justified by works, and not only by faith." James' point is that men are justified in two ways: by faith and by works. One can only be justified before God by faith. However, as Abraham illustrates, the one who is justified by faith before God can also be justified before men by works.

The former is a legal declaration of imputed righteousness. The latter is a demonstration of experiential righteousness. For further discussion see Zane C. Hodges, *The Epistle of James: Proven Character Through Testing*, pp. 70-71, 74 (n. 8).

PARTNERS

in Grace

Summer GES Board Meeting

July 7

Troy Jensen was welcomed to the board as a new member. He is a corporate executive in Phoenix.

At this board meeting we had to face declining revenue. We took in \$308,000 in fiscal 2003 (July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003), which was \$50,000 under budget, \$20,000 less than the previous year's revenue, and \$19,000 below our actual expenses.

We cut the budget severely to get to a \$311,000 budget for July 2003 to June 2004. For example, Grant Hawley, our intern for the past year will be leaving us in mid August. He will be greatly missed. Additionally, our new secretary will be part-time (24 hours a week) rather than full-time as we had hoped. If by December contributions have picked up enough, we may then be able to increase this position to 32 or even 40 hours a week.

We took other measures as well, the biggest of which is that when our lease is up at the end of October, we will be moving to a much cheaper office, reducing our monthly

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The board from left to right : Brad, Troy, Ralph, Bob, and Greg

Simi Valley (CA) Evangelical Free Church

July 20

Steve Brewer is Pastor of this E-Free Church. This is my third time to speak there. My topic this Sunday was *Tell It Clearly* (John 11:25-27). I loved the topic and the opportunity to visit with people, especially since I grew up in Southern California less than an hour from Simi Valley.

While in Southern California I was able to visit my Mom, sister, nephew, aunt, and other relatives. Mom is doing well at a Board and Care home in La Canada. We helped her sell her house the week before I went out there, so while I was there we spent some time clearing her house out in anticipation of the closing. It was hard for Mom to sell the home she's been in for nearly 40 years. But she didn't like the pressures and headaches associated with keeping up a house anymore. And she was able to get a good price.

Thank you all for praying for Mom. The whole family appreciates your prayers and concern. PG



Bob visiting with Pastor Steve and Lynne Brewer

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Financial Report

July Revenue	\$27,063
July Budget	\$25,919
Fiscal YTD Revenue	\$27,063
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$25,919



Highlights

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August 2003



Bob spoke at Bayside Community Church (Tampa) June 29 and had the opportunity to meet with friends of GES



A group of youth from Ridge Pointe Fellowship



Some of the members of Simi Valley E-Free Church

Spotlight on Your Support

Do local churches need help in making disciples? No, they don't need help. Obviously God is in the business of using local church leaders to make disciples in their congregations.

However, God has always used outsiders to help those in local churches. The Pastoral Epistles are about two apostolic delegates, Timothy and Titus. These men were sent by Paul to appoint elders and then to oversee the development of local churches.

The letters of Second John and Third John show that traveling teachers visited local assemblies. Some were good teachers and were to be supported (3 John). Others were false teachers and were not to be supported (2 John).

There are many ministries today like the traveling teachers of the first century. And while there are no apostles today and hence no apostolic delegates, there are people and ministries which are serving a similar function today—outsiders who come in to help local churches.

Grace Evangelical Society is one such ministry. Our uniqueness is that we are one of the first and one of the most prominent ministries whose purpose is to promote clarity in evangelism and discipleship in the church today. A number of ministries have been born at least in part because of the influence of GES. Others have been aided in their efforts to help the local church by our ministry.

You, who are our partners, make it possible for us to help local churches make disciples. Together we are making a big difference today. Thanks so much for partnering with us to help churches make disciples. **RG**

Grace on the Go

- Aug 2-3 Faith Community Church, The Woodlands, TX
- Aug 16-18 Grace Community Church, Munford, AL
- Aug 31 Victor Street Bible Chapel, Dallas, TX
- Sept 5-7 First E-Free Church of Bismarck, ND
- Sept 7-8 Liberty E-Free Church, Williston, ND
- Sept 9-10 New Leipzig (ND) Baptist Church
- Sept 14 Trietsch Memorial United Methodist Church, Flower Mound, TX
- Sept 18-20 College Retreat, Countryside Baptist Church, Stillwater, OK
- Oct 4-5 Grace Bible Church, Charlotte, NC
- Oct 10-12 Community Bible Church, Omaha, NE
- Oct 13 Grace University, Omaha, NE
- Oct 17-20 Faith Evangelical Bible Church, Winkler, Manitoba, Canada

Summer Board Meeting

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office expense significantly. Of course, how we do that is not at all clear since office space is expensive.

We feel fortunate that we didn't have to make more drastic cuts. While searching for a new staff person, Cathy interviewed several people who had been laid off from Insight for Living (Chuck Swindoll's radio ministry) based in Frisco, TX. One had survived the first two cuts and only lost her job on the third wave of cuts. She told Cathy that in addition to people, Insight eliminated 15 languages from their international radio program offerings.

Many ministries are hurting, and most are suffering more than we are. So we are especially thankful to be able to continue to minister.

We still plan to move forward with a new book on assurance by me. We dare not suspend new ministries like that. In addition, we are moving aggressively toward completing the one-volume commentary by the end of next year so it can be in print by the end of 2005. **RG**

Parkway Baptist Church McKinney, TX

July 6

Pastor Jerry Halbrook and I met at this year's GES conference. He too is a DTS grad and we both share a burden for evangelism. Since he was in Eastern Europe on a mission's trip, he graciously asked me to speak at his church.

I spoke on clarity in evangelism in a combined adult Sunday School class. Then in the morning worship service I delivered a sermon titled *Why Not Live Like the Devil?* First Timothy 4:8 was the central passage discussed.

Sharon and I really enjoyed the fellowship in this suburb, which is about an hour north of Dallas. **RG**

Ridge Pointe Fellowship Dallas, TX

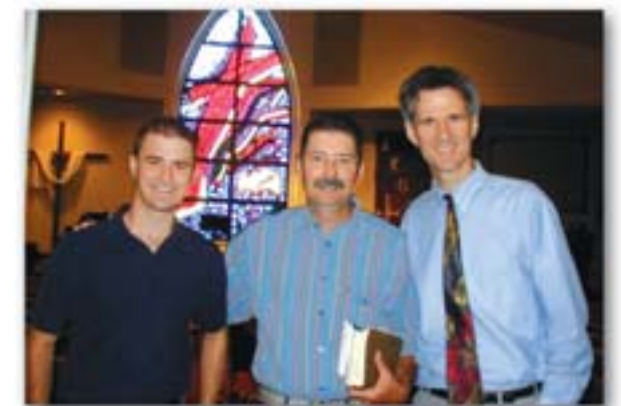
July 13

Pastor Bob Vacendak has been a friend for many years and was on the GES Board until last December. It was a joy to be able to speak at this church again, especially in its new location. The new building is really nice and the membership has grown a lot too.

I spoke on Gal 6:6-10 (*We Really Do Reap What We Sow*) and Luke 15:11-32 (*Fellowship with God Is Better Than the World*). Sharon and I had a great time visiting with Bob and his wife Kelly as well as René and Marialis Lopez, friends who are members of Ridge Pointe, and Mario Yngerto, a friend from Miami who was visiting René and Marialis. **RG**



Associate Pastor Bill Gammill of PBC with Bob after the service



Eric and Rex Parker of Parkway Baptist



Fellowship after service at Ridge Pointe