

Partners in Grace

February 2011

Winter GES Board Meeting Orange County, CA — January 22

We had a very good meeting, again at Coast Bible Church thanks to their generous offer to let us use their beautiful conference room.



On tap for 2011 are the following special publications (i.e., books): the trilogy by Zane Hodges of *The Hungry Inherit*, *The Gospel Under Siege*, and *Grace in Eclipse*. My mandate is to have that in print by April 11th for the conference.

Second in line is my book on *The Ten Most Misunderstood Words in the Bible*. The Board gave me till the August Board meeting to have it in print. As a result, I've already spent several days at the Dallas Theological Seminary library doing writing and research.

We moved back to a Hodges publication, his commentary on Romans, for the third book for 2011. The Board gave me till October 1st to have that one in print so that it is available for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Finally, we set a deadline of the 2012 GES conference to have *Jesus, God's Prophet* back in print. That was a small book by Zane. We plan to supplement it with two other booklets by Zane, *Did Paul Preach Eternal Life?* and *The Atonement*, as well as with a transcript of the chats Zane and I had years ago on problem passages in the Synoptic Gospels (which have been available in audio form on our website).

The need for new Free Grace churches concerns the Board. As a result, we decided that if finances permitted we would launch a church planting ministry toward the end of this year or the start of next. The idea would be to plant small house churches that might only have 5 to 10 people, not groups of 50 to 75 that meet in special church buildings (or rented facilities). In this way we could get more people involved in ministry and we could help plant hundreds if not thousands of little churches.

We also made plans for our 2011 and 2012 conference. Many excellent ideas were discussed.

Financially we ended the first half of our fiscal year in the best shape we have been in for years. This was surprising since we are in such a shaky economy. However, God has blessed and we are very appreciative. This has allowed us to hire two people to help us with proofing and loading in changes to the Hodges trilogy book. While these people are contract laborers and not regular employees, and while they don't work a lot of hours a week, they still are a great help, and your support makes this possible.

Victor Street Bible Chapel January 2 — Dallas, TX



On this first Sunday in the New Year, I covered Genesis 18, which concerns a confirmation about the promised son, Isaac, and the announcement of judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah. At the end of the chapter there is an amazing exchange between Abraham and the pre-incarnate Lord Jesus. Abraham haggles for God to spare Sodom. He starts asking if God would destroy Sodom if there were 50 righteous people in it. Then he drops to 45, 40, 30, 20, and finally 10. The Lord shows great patience and grace in responding to these inquiries, especially since He knew there were not even 10 righteous people there (as Genesis 19 shows).

Simi Valley E-Free Church Simi Valley, CA — January 23



Pastor Steve Brewer (kneeling, center) graciously allowed me to speak again at his church. He gave me a challenging assignment, cover just about everything on the doctrine of eternal rewards in a 40 minute sermon.

Well, I combined about 5 or 6 sermons. In several cases I reduced an entire sermon to one PowerPoint slide. And guess what? It went very well.

The audience, which included my sister Pam Goodrich who was able to attend, was very responsive. Afterwards many people told me how much they got out of what I had said.

Steve and the associate pastor, Mike, both have come to our conference in the past and plan to attend again this year.

Prayer Requests

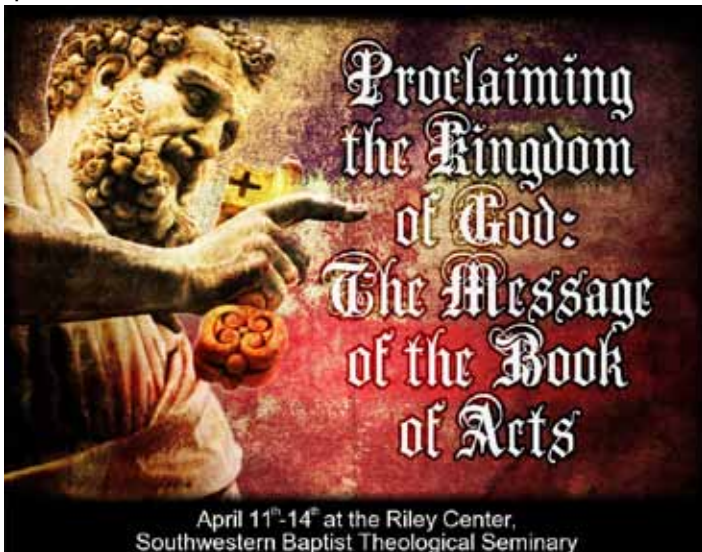
Praise the Lord for a great first half of the fiscal year, for reasonably good health for our staff, for the good reports we are getting on our NT commentary (and sales right at 100 per month), and for a great Board meeting. Please pray for continued good finances, for our staff and their families (Kyle has been struggling with some nausea and Mark has had some trouble with his hip), for the physical and spiritual health of our conferees and conference speakers, for the upcoming conference to be highly edifying, for the three books we hope to get in print this year (we have never published more than two books in one year before), and for us to be able to continue to produce edifying newsletters and journals and to get them out in a timely fashion.

Grace Conference 2011 SWBTS, Fort Worth, TX — April 11-14

If you haven't registered yet, don't wait until the last minute. SWBTS is handling the registration. You can go there via our website or by calling the Riley Center at 817-923-1921 x2440. Please help us get the word out by telling your church and other friends.

I believe there are a few guest rooms left in the Riley Center. However, there are also a number of hotels very close to the Riley Center which give great special conference rates, including the Amerisuites, Radisson, and Hampton Inn. You can get their phone numbers from the Riley Center.

Please go to our website for a list of plenary speakers (including Radmacher, Dillow, Tanner, Niemelä, Lewis, Bond, Bryant, Yates, Rutherford, Wilkin, and possibly Hauge and Hornok), workshop speakers, and times.



January Financial Report

Jan Budget	\$27,940	YTD* Budget	\$195,580
Jan Revenue	\$21,244	<\$6,696>	YTD* Revenue \$231,621 \$36,041

We are very thankful for your gifts.

*Our fiscal year runs from July 1st through June 30th

Partners in Grace is a publication of the Grace Evangelical Society for its financial supporters.

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Spotlight on Your Support

December revenue ended up being good, over \$60,000, but far short of the record \$94,000 that came in at the end of 2009. Yet because July through November had been so good, we ended up \$42,600 over budget with six months to go in our fiscal year. Typically January-July runs about \$20,000 under budget, so if this year is typical, we will end ahead of budget and in the black!

Thank you for your fellowship in this ministry. For a small ministry we appear to be having a big impact (though we await the Bema to find out, 1 Cor 4:1-5) due to God's blessing and your faithfulness.

NOTES AND LETTERS

Thanks, Bob, for the November /December issue of Grace in Focus. As usual, it was extremely relevant and edifying.

—Email, B.



I just wanted to say thank you for your work on Grace Evangelical Society. My background is such that I originally came to know of Christ at a young age; from my mother and from the church of my youth, that taught faith-alone salvation. Later I switched churches when I was in high school; which taught what I now know as lordship salvation. While I was in college I had gone to a few churches, but never on a weekly basis.

After I graduated and went to graduate school I fell into a deep depression. I felt that I was unworthy of Christ, that whatever I did, I didn't go far enough to be saved. I didn't have enough faith in Christ to have eternal life. For these past few months I have been seeking the truth in God's Word and different authors' interpretations of it. Most lowered me to a sense of helplessness; that I could never be saved. But, after finding your site and reading it, my heart is finally at peace. I now no longer believe in lordship salvation. I serve Christ out of love, rather than fear of losing or never having had eternal life.

I wanted to send you this message, because of how this touched my life. Thank you again your message has truly been a blessing in my life.

—Email, B.



Allow me to thank you for the newsletters I receive from you. I cannot tell you how encouraging they are to get.

—Email, KB.



Thank you for this Excellent Ministry!

—Via Web, JE