

# GRACE Great Good News!

APRIL 2001

*I started this newsletter last year to share how God may be preparing me to be a teacher of the gospel as a full-time vocation.*

*God is continuing to show me that Christ in me is the full-time ministry now!*

*So, the name of this letter is now the "Great Good News," instead of "newsletter," to focus on God's news, not mine.*

*The word "gospel" comes from an old English tradition of a farmer jumping for joy with the great good news of a bountiful harvest. That's what the gospel of Christ is...THE GREAT GOOD NEWS THAT MAKES YOU WANT TO JUMP FOR JOY!*

*And it's not just more good news...it is THE GREATEST GOOD NEWS of the abundant life that is only in Christ.*

*So, this letter is part of how I am jumping for joy! Not a fleeting, giddy joy, but a deep joy in real, often difficult, daily circumstances.*

*The transforming power of the gospel is just so amazing to witness. My heart with this letter is only to share Christ's heart.*

*Christ Himself is the great good news that makes you want to jump for joy (Colossians 1:27)!*

*In His joy, Gregg*

**I am so excited about a brand new book by Tony Evans, a pastor in Dallas, Texas:**

**Free at Last – Experiencing True Freedom Through Your Identity In Christ (Moody Press).**

**This book affirms the foundation of my ministry in Christ, as described in the following excerpt from the Forward:**

*"My thesis for this book is quite simple. If you have a heart that desperately desires to know and serve God, the place to begin is by understanding and believing (the author's emphasis) the biblical truth of your identity in Christ. This is a watershed issue, one that determines whether you will live free in Christ or live as a slave of the world, the flesh, and the devil. I consider the truth about our identity in Christ to be the greatest principle of Christian living in Scripture."*

**This month, I gave a copy of this book to the Hendersonville County Correctional facility.**

**A friend in that facility shares with me his testimony of freedom through God revealing his true identity in Christ.**

**He will be sharing his heart in a workshop at First Baptist Church in Fletcher, NC on Saturday, June 2nd.**

**I helped teach a GraceLife Conference sponsored by Christ Life Ministries in Hendersonville, NC April 26-28.**

**I first attended a GraceLife Conference in 1996, as a result of a recommendation by First Baptist Church Atlanta.**

**I have never had anything impact my life like that Conference.**

**This Conference is based on the great good news of Jesus Christ from chapters 5-8 of Romans.**

**You see, Paul lived with churches for months and years teaching the gospel – except for the Roman church.**

**So, Paul's letter to the Romans includes everything about the gospel he normally would have taught in person.**

**This is why Romans 5-8 is the most comprehensive presentation of the gospel. Martin Luther said this:**

*"Romans is the true masterpiece of the New Testament and the very purest Gospel. It can never be too much studied...the more it is handled, the more precious it becomes."*

**17 men and women from churches in the Greenville/Hendersonville area attended the Conference.**

**Five of the attendees have experienced the bondage of being identified as cocaine addicts or alcoholics.**

**Each is growing in the true freedom through knowing forgiveness and their identity in Christ through the cross.**

**One of these five attendees was referred to Christ Life Ministries by his pastor.**

**He had no money to pay the Conference fee. We gladly accepted him fully just as he was.**

**That reminded me of God's grace – how God fully accepts me through Christ's finished work, for I have nothing to offer.**

**During one break, I played a simple song on a guitar and this man sang these words with a precious melodious voice:**

*"Give me Jesus, give me Jesus. You can have all this world, just give me Jesus."*

Note: Fernando Ortega ministers so much through this song at the "Just Give Me Jesus" services led by Anne Graham Lotz.

I look forward to sharing even more next month. Gregg Gibbons

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## GRACE NOTE

I used to only think that salvation was me inviting Christ into my heart.

Now I am growing to see that salvation was, more importantly, Christ inviting me into His heart!

And it is God's grace, not my works, that opened the door to His heart and enabled me to enter into His eternal life.