

Grace

Living testimonies from a pilgrim's journal.

JUNE/JULY 2006

For the message of the cross is foolishness to the world, but to us it is the power of God (1 Corinthians 1:18).

- What is this message that appears so utterly foolish but actually is the very power of God? *1 Corinthians 1:18*
- What is this message that is the heart of the gospel of Christ? *Romans 1:16*
- What is this message that cannot be contained in the skin of human words? *1 Corinthians 2:2-5*
- What is this message that can only be received by the child-like faith of divine origin? *Luke 18:17*
- What is this message that offends the morally religious? *Galatians 5:11*
- What is this message that confounds the wise of this world? *1 Corinthians 1:20*
- What is this message that cannot be eradicated by the world's most powerful armies? *Romans 8:37-39*
- What is this message that the Bible calls scandalous (stumbling block)? *1 Corinthians 1:23*
- What is this message that cannot be hid nor highlighted by denominational distinctives? *1 Corinthians 1:12-13*
- What is this message that does not focus on heaven in the future, but on God's glory now? *Colossians 3:1-3*
- What is this message that does not focus on sins of the past, but on God's glory now? *Romans 6:7-8*
- What is this message that fulfills 100% of God's holy Law and frees me from that impossible burden? *Romans 10:4*
- What is this message that gives Christ's righteousness to me, independent of how much good or bad I do? *Philippians 3:9*
- What is this message that Jesus entrusted to a band of meek men who then turned the world upside-down? *Acts 17:6*
- What is this message proclaimed from before the foundation of the world? *Revelation 13:8*
- What is this message echoing forth from millions of angel voices in the halls of eternity? *Revelation 5:11-12*
- What is this message that allows me into any fiery furnace this world fabricates for me? *1 Peter 4:12-14*
- What is this message that opens wide the door to true rest, even during sufferings? *Hebrews 4:9-11*
- What is this message that gives me ALL of the Son's inheritance from the New Covenant with His Father? *Ephesians 1:11-12*
- What is this message that reveals simultaneously God's holiness and love? *Romans 5:8*
- What is this message that frees me from all bondages? *Galatians 5:1*
- What is this message that cannot be added to nor subtracted from? *Colossians 2:20-23*
- What is this message that divides all of history? *Galatians 4:4-5*
- What is this message that has been miraculously planted deep into my heart? *James 1:21*
- What is this message that burns deeply within my heart? *Luke 24:32*
- What is this message that I humbly and joyfully boast in? *Galatians 6:14-15*
- What is this message that rebuilds God's holy temple once and for all in human hearts? *1 Corinthians 3:16-17*
- What is this message that enables me to grow in seeing Christ Himself in the mirror of my new heart? *2 Corinthians 3:18*

It is the message of the cross!!! The Greek word for *message* is *Logos*, literally meaning *Word*. It is the same word John used to introduce Jesus as the *Word of God* in *John 1.1, 14!* So, the *message of the cross* is the *word of the cross* is the *Christ of the cross!*

Yes! Christ IS the message...Christ through His finished work of the cross! My proclamation of the gospel message is not the power, the Message Himself IS the power through me! I simply proclaim Christ and Christ crucified (*1 Corinthians 2:2*)! This is the resurrected Christ and Christ crucified! For you see, I intimately know the resurrected Christ now only because of His crucifixion 2000 years ago! It was at the cross where *Christ died for me* to forgive my sins (*Romans 5:8*) AND *I died with Christ* so that I could be risen in Him a new creation...united with Him forever and ever amen (*Romans 6:3-8*)! My identity *in Christ* is rooted in His cross.

This is not only the foundational message of this ministry, it is the foundation of my whole life! And it is the foundation of every Christian, whether or not it is realized. For apart from this message, there is no true life, no true hope, no true healing. Meditate on this message and I promise your life will be transformed. Let's affirm each other as brothers and sisters *in Christ* from this foundation (*1 Corinthians 3:11*). Let's be aware of the temptation to drift away from this foundation (*2 Corinthians 11:3*).

My heart overflows, but I have run out of space ☺! More in the next newsletter. See my new page "Word of the Cross" on my website www.ChristMyHeart.org for much more details on this foundational message. Blessings from my heart, Gregg

Some unplanned ministry opportunities that opened as I "foolishly" followed Christ's desires within my heart
 – trusting it is the heart I received in Christ through His cross...



Joy & I lease a one-room office on the 2nd floor of an old building on Main Street Simpsonville, SC as part of our personal investment in the lives of precious people through the Great Commission of making disciples. This serves as a satellite office of Christ Life Ministries.

20+ people each year come to this office to hear life and to receive hope through their circumstances. People are referred to me by friends, churches, and In-Touch Ministries in Atlanta.



Inside of our one-room, second-floor office in SC.

Because I have a "tent-making" vocation 24 hours a week, I use this office on an appointment basis. It is a non-threatening place for people to receive ministry.

I believe that you, too, have a personal "Great Commission office" wherever you are planted, whether it be at home, in the office, in a church, in a production plant, on a construction site, looking for a job, in the hospital, etc.



I like to refer to this second-floor office as my personal "Upper Room" with Christ. It was in the Upper Room just before the cross that Christ personally broke bread and shared the wine of the New Covenant with His disciples.

And so it is today...people are only truly ministered by the very presence of Christ as He breaks the bread of the living Word and reveals the truths of the New Covenant, which is the message of the cross. Christians (Christ-ones) are vessels for Christ's life.



Main office of Christ Life Ministries in Hendersonville, NC, a non-denominational ministry serving the body of Christ. I minister through one-on-one discipleship counseling in this office each Thursday. This humble cottage office in the mountains has been used for over 14 years to minister to many people from nearly every walk of life.



From right to left, director of Christ Life Ministries Bob Stacy, new staff member Dianne Rule, and me. There are other at-large staff members. We have a great time sharing in this ministry. We hosted a Grace Life Conference for 17 people July 14-15...ages 16 to 80!

Our hearts are to nurture precious people in their own personal relationships with Christ so that they are encouraged to experience Christ's life overflowing their lives to nurture other people...and to be part of the glory of Christ going forth through the whole world!



Christ Life Ministries sign..."more than counseling."

The word *counseling* can imply "something is wrong with you and you need to get fixed." This puts the burden on you and misses the truth that Christ has already carried your burden to the cross, and He will prove faithful in carrying all of your burdens.

The better word *discipling* means "something is right with you as a result of Christ's work through the cross (although something might be wrong with your response to circumstances) and you need to be lovingly affirmed of these truths." True healing and transformation spring forth from this foundation.



Jim "Gomer Pyle" Nabors at the Boys Home about 30 years ago. Mr. Nabors donated the money for a campus chapel.

Two years ago, I emailed him how the chapel is being used by a great team of volunteers (I am volunteer chaplain) to minister to the boys. We received this reply from his assistant, "Dear Mr. Gibbons, Mr. Nabors wanted to thank you for your lovely message and to send his best to you and to the boys. Many thanks again for writing. Judy Murata." Shazam (aka, hallelujah)!



Overview of the Boys Home chapel. To protect the boys, I cannot publish recognizable photographs of the boys.

Ever since this chapel ministry started over 3 years ago, over 100 boys have come through the chapel ministry to respond to the precious and powerful gospel message.