

Grace

Living testimonies from a pilgrim's journal.

MARCH/APRIL/MAY 2006

May the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. I have written to you briefly (through this newsletter), exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand (1 Peter 5:10, 12).

I continue to be humbled and amazed at opportunities to teach the *Grace Life Conference*. This conference is a foundational overview of the great good news of the gospel...a message rooted in grace...the message of the cross...the message of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and, by God's grace, my (and your) being united with Christ through the cross. I am even more humbled and amazed at opportunities to testify of this message through my whole life...at home...at work...in churches...in prisons...through this newsletter...through my web site www.ChristMyHeart.org...in the counseling office...at a boys home. This message continues to be the hope for my and Joy's healing from her back surgery complications in 2002...not healing for healing sakes, but healing for a purpose...and that purpose is to *testify of the true grace of God in which we stand*.

I attended my first *Grace Life Conference* as part of a course requirement at Luther Rice Seminary in Atlanta in 1996...and my life was changed forever. In 2000 I was given an opportunity to help teach a *Grace Life Conference* with Christ Life Ministries. Since 2000, I have taught and helped teach nearly 30 conferences, and have witnessed many people set free in Christ to testify this message to others. Sometime during this pilgrimage, God transformed me from **trying to teach about the truths** of the gospel into growing to simply **resting in testifying of the Truth** of the gospel. I am now beginning to relate to Paul when he testifies in the New Testament that he *preaches Christ*, not about Christ.

At a *Grace Life Conference* in Simpsonville, SC in April, a dear friend received hope in her own pilgrimage of healing. As a result, this friend has offered to host a *Grace Life Conference* in her home in Greer, SC June 16-17, 2006! I am so excited! Out of her own sufferings the past few years, our friend has ministered hope to my wife Joy during Joy's pain and sufferings. And now this friend wants to use her home as God's instrument for ministering Christ as hope and healing to others.

On the back is a brochure I so much enjoyed putting together with Joy for this upcoming special home conference. Although Joy will never be totally pain free, she is doing very well. If you know of anyone who might be interested in attending the *Grace Life Conference* at our friend's home June 16-17, please contact me by June 2, if possible, so that we can prepare the conference notebooks and make lunch plans. As always, feel free to copy and distribute this newsletter.



15 precious people (2 not shown) attended the Grace Life Conference in Simpsonville, SC April 21-22!

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What is the Grace Life?

Grace is the foundation of the Christian life. And grace is more than God's unmerited favor. Grace is a Person, and His name is Jesus!

This conference is a Bible study testifying of the grace life promised by Jesus, *Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My load is light.*

Extravagant grace is God's plan for His children to live from victory in all circumstances of life...living within the very heart of God...living in the promise of Jesus that our lives will be exceedingly abundant in Him.

The Grace Life is the life graciously given to us through a miraculous exchange that occurred in the finished work of Christ through the cross.

The grace life is Christ's Life...Christ living His precious, glorious life in and through us!

"Who Am I in Christ" is from Freedom in Christ Ministries.



Grace Life Conference Schedule

\$50 is a suggested donation for this Conference to cover the \$20 cost of the Conference notebook and other expenses. If you're not able to donate at this time, that's ok, PLEASE come! You are so very welcome. Registration form is enclosed.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2006

6:00-6:30 pm *Welcoming and Registration*

6:30-6:45 pm *Conference Introduction*

6:45-7:20 pm **God's Greatest Purpose for You**

This foundational session goes to the heart of God's greatest purpose for you, which is much deeper than serving, obeying, and loving Him.

7:30-8:20 pm **Nature of the Flesh**

You can be tempted to work for God according to the flesh, and miss the relationship of Christ working through you. This session goes back to Genesis to expose the origin of the flesh.

8:30-9:30 pm **Christ in You**

You were born separated from God and thus without life. Salvation is being brought into union with Christ and receiving life. This is the GREAT good news of the gospel!

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2006

9:15-10:15 am **You in Christ**

God has transferred you out of Adam and into Christ, the source of your new identity. Your past and your performance are no longer the sources of your identity. You're free!

10:30-11:45 am **Journey to the Cross**

Every Christian is on a pilgrimage of surrender designed by our loving Father. A tender and profound look into your "fellowship of His sufferings" (Philippians 3:10). God redeems all things!

1:00-2:00 pm **The Believer's Identity**

Your true identity is rooted in the righteousness of Christ...an identity received through re-birth, not achieved through works.

2:15-3:20 pm **The Believer's Victory**

If Christians really are righteous, then why do we still struggle with sin? An inductive study of Romans 7:14-25.

3:40-4:30 pm **Emotions**

Your feelings are gifts from God. However, feelings can be powerfully misleading when God's truths are not known.

4:30-5:00 pm *Closing Testimonies/Worship*

Christ Life Ministries

Christ Life Ministries (CLM) is a non-profit, non-denominational discipleship counseling and equipping ministry in the body of Christ. CLM was launched out by a local church in Hendersonville, NC 17 years ago. CLM's main office is in Hendersonville directed by Bob Stacy with a satellite office in Simpsonville, SC being established by Gregg Gibbons.

CLM is one of over 50 similar ministries around the world associated through the Association of Exchanged Life Ministries (AELM). See www.aelm.org for more information.

CLM staff members receive no financial compensation. 100% of donations go to ministry. Staff members are missionary disciplers who are supported by tent-making vocations and/or personal support teams.

CLM's mission is *Making Biblical Disciplers: Equipping Christians to share Christ as Life*. CLM offers a three-phase AELM equipping ministry for "stirring up the Gift of God which is in you" (2 Timothy 1:6).

Endorsements

Grace Life Conference materials are foundational tools of the counseling ministry at First Baptist Church Atlanta. This ministry also periodically distributes Gregg's *Grace* newsletters within the church.

The book *Lifetime Guarantee*, written by an AELM member, summarizes the truths of the *Grace Life Conference*. Pastor Charles Stanley notes in the foreword, "I have seen families put back together and lives changed in the most beautiful way through God's principles in *Lifetime Guarantee*."

The national crisis phone counseling ministry of In-Touch Ministries in Atlanta, GA refers all of the callers to AELM offices for personal follow-up.

Tony Evans is pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, TX. His book *Free at Last - Experiencing True Freedom through Your Identity in Christ* is based on a *Grace Life Conference* he attended in Texas. Pastor Evans notes, "*Grace Life Conferences* provide the solid foundation that every saint needs to find victory and fruitfulness in their spiritual life."

The *Grace Life Conference* is an integral part of a foundational counseling course at Luther Rice Seminary in Atlanta, GA.