

# GRACE MINISTRIES USA NEWSLETTER

## Newsletter October 2021



### Founder's Corner

By Teaching Pastor Bert Woodburn



God's ways are higher and we continue to give thanks for blessings and trust God. We continue to adapt to navigate through the pandemic while the call to reach out to others never ceases – serving Christ, sharing God's Word and trusting in God's love for us all created in the image of God. We pray that faith and trust in God is strengthened through our ministry and the hearts of all those we reach.

The past year has brought mourning to many with loss of those we love, yet we are blessed with peace knowing His love never leaves us. The community came together to celebrate the life of Victor Gonzales, forming a new Legacy Scholarship at Franklinton High School in memory of Victor and other students who have passed away. Grace Ministries joined the Kiwanis Club and Verizon to sponsor a Legacy Jamboree to raise funds for the scholarship.

Our food ministry continues to reach many in need working with churches and communities. One of many examples is Franklinton High School planting a community garden and harvesting food to share with people in need through churches and community organizations.

Church in the Wild continues to grow, our sports ministry is being re-established after a pause due to COVID, new Bible studies are started and one-on-one counseling continues as we see more people come to Christ. We continue to have weekly devotions published in newspapers throughout the region and one of our ministry pastors, Leon Harris, vice president of Grace Ministries, has moved to Memphis, Tenn. and is working to expand the ministry and Bible studies in Memphis.

We've had many people make commitments  
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### Letter from the Chairman: Blinded by the Light to be Born Again

By Scott Yates



Grace Ministries saved me. I was lost, blinded by our secular culture, the allure of mysticism and teachings of many paths to God. I attended church. Lukewarm Christians deceived by a secular worldview don't know what they are missing. Then I was invited to a Grace Ministries Bible study.

Today, I am honored and blessed to serve God on the Grace Ministries Board of Directors learning from a group of men and women who love God and work to share God's Word through the ministry. We have been blessed to have our president, the Rev. Bob Gallagher, on our now 13-member board with me since the ministry was founded more than five years ago. Bob actually was both our chairman and president for most of that time until he and Grace Ministries Founding Pastor Bert Woodburn asked me to help serve the ministry as chairman. Bob, who was ordained through Grace Ministries, is now continuing to serve in other ways as the Grace Ministries Pastor to the Board of Directors and Community Pastor. The board has appointed a search committee to find a replacement for our president. Transitions continue but God's Word remains unchanged. New roles help our ministry invite more people to His table.

The Great Commission from Matthew 28 is our guiding scripture at Grace Ministries. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

That's what Bert was doing when he invited me to attend a small group Bible study many years ago. I began to read God's Word, preparing for weekly study discussions. My heart was opened  
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to join us on a pilgrimage to tour Israel next year if travel rules allow. Our ministry website is being updated with information and we are striving for a design that is easy for users to read and share. We have added resources to help people to share their faith and answer questions.

We are approaching 20 small group Bible studies, some back to meeting in person and some remaining on Zoom. Our Women's Ministry has expanded to three studies. Zoom studies enable us to extend the reach of the studies, from across town to across the nation.

Navigating the pandemic has shifted our usual annual events to reach new people to share the Gospel and raise funds. Our fundraising committee is discussing the annual Sporting Clay event along with a new golf outing. We pray for God's continued blessings and your continued financial support to equip the saints and reach those who are not yet believers in our Lord and savior.

Through God's grace, our ministry continues to reach people for Christ and make disciples. We pray for God's continued blessings and your continued financial support to equip the saints and reach those who are not yet believers in our Lord and savior. We ask for your prayerful commitment to support Grace Ministries through your prayers, presence and stewardship of God's gifts. No matter how large or small, every gift matters for the cause of Christ and His work in our lives and our communities.

Grace Ministries has many ways you can show support through tax deductible donations. We welcome checks mailed to Grace Ministries, P.O. Box 595, Wake Forest, N.C. 27588. We also offer ways to donate electronically on our website [online donation page](#).

We thank you for your gift in any amount as we continue our commitment to serve Christ as he directed us. Acts 1:8: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come  
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## God's Ways are Higher – Victor Gonzales with Our Lord in Heaven



Grace Ministries members have joined many more have been praying for the Lord to heal Victor Gonzales. We praised the Lord for how Victor celebrated life and inspired many with his faith while patiently waiting for healing, most recently from organ transplant operations in Indianapolis. Prayers were answered – in God's way.

Victor went home to be with the Lord in February. Grace Ministries Lead Pastor Bert Woodburn joined his family and girlfriend in the hospital before his death. "He was loved by so many. Victor glorified God with his life," Bert said. "He is no longer in pain and is rejoicing with his savior in heaven. We were blessed to have him in our lives."

Given only a whisper of a chance to survive a horrifying workplace accident in 2018 while he was installing storm drain pipes. He was airlifted by helicopter to a hospital and underwent five surgeries in the first week. An initial transplant surgery gave him the ability to supplement and IV diet by eating and drinking again. Last year, he continued physical therapy, walking on a prosthetic leg, driving a car, and attending Bible study meetings.

The 23-year-old moved to Indianapolis in November 2019 to await a transplant at one of the world's leading transplant hospitals. Earlier this year, he underwent surgery for organ transplants for his stomach, small intestine, pancreas and liver.

Before the injury, he played high school soccer at Franklinton High School coached by Bert, who was also Victor's youth pastor at Red Oak Baptist Church. Last fall, Victor attended a soccer game as an honorary assistant coach. He was presented with his original soccer jersey from his freshman year and shared his testimony at halftime.

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upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." With your support, we are reaching out locally, regionally, nationally and to the ends of the earth.

## Pastor Leon Harris Plants Grace Ministries USA Memphis Office in Memphis, Tennessee



Rev. Leon Harris, the Grace Ministries Vice President and Pastor to the Board of Directors, has moved with his wife Lorna to their hometown in Memphis, Tennessee. They are planting a new location of Grace Ministries Bible Studies in the Memphis area.

Pastor Harris is a retired employee from the Federal Bureau of Prisons after 27 years of dedicated service. He has been married to his lovely wife Lorna for 38 years and has 4 children and 2 sons-in-law. They were called to Memphis to be closer to family and to plant Grace Ministries.

Pastor Harris has served in local missions in the Wake Forest, NC area and was part of the Grace Ministries missionary team to Naco, Sonora, Mexico. Pastor Harris most recently served as Associate Pastor at Friendship Chapel Baptist Church in Wake Forest, N.C.

## Church in the Wild

Church in the Wild is a small, friendly gathering of Christians who come together at Bud's Tavern and Grill in Youngsville to worship the Lord. Weather permitting, we meet outside. Otherwise, during inclement weather we meet indoors or on the covered front porch. Masks are optional, as we are usually outdoors.

We preach sound, biblical messages that lift up and exalt our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *(Continued on page 6)*

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and I began to listen to the Holy Spirit. Bert says it was not him but instead the Holy Spirit at work. My eyes and heart were opened.

Scripture we discussed included **1 John 5: 12** Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. Of course, we all know Jesus said in **John 14:6** ... "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

In my heart, I finally knew Jesus as my savior, the savior of the world and with us from the beginning. The Spirit led me to visit the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter with my wife on the way to visit my son in Chicago. Being introduced to the Answers in Genesis (AiG) ministry is life changing and soul awakening. I continue reading God's Word and learning how the world's secular culture deceives us and, unfortunately, deceives many of our churches that stray from God's Word. The choice is clearly defined by AiG as God's View or Man's View.

Like Grace Ministries, AiG is founded on the authority of Scripture as God's Word. The Christ-centered, non-denominational ministry is not a church. The ministry equips others with answers to defend our faith against the attacks of the secular culture and opens hearts and minds to the Holy Spirit and a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. As we share on our Grace Ministries website, "We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God and inerrant in the original writings."

With the foundational worldview of God's Word, I know where to seek truth. **John 8: 31-32** "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

I pray the Holy Spirit will guide you and enlighten you as you read God's Word. Have you come to know the truth through Jesus? Are you ready to listen to the Word of God, unfolded by the Spirit of God, in order that you might understand the world? Are you willing to

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A new Legacy Scholarship has been formed in memory of Victor and other students from Franklinton High School who have passed away. Grace Ministries joined the Kiwanis Club and Verizon to sponsor the Legacy Jamboree to raise funding for the scholarship.



The Legacy Jamboree event included six teams playing soccer matches to raise money for the new Legacy Scholarship. The scholarship was formed in memory of Victor Gonzales and other students from Franklinton High School who have passed away. Grace Ministries joined the Kiwanis Club and Verizon to sponsor the Legacy Jamboree to raise funding for the scholarship.



### **\*Have a Prayer Request?**

Just send an email to:  
[gmusaprayer@gmail.com](mailto:gmusaprayer@gmail.com)

Your prayer request will be added to our prayer team's list who prays daily for all requests made.

May God bless you!

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to understand how God made you, and how He intends for you to live? At the core, Grace Ministries is a forum for small group Bible studies. Reaching out to all in His name to the ends of the world may seem like a daunting task, but it starts one heart a time. Considering inviting someone to a Grace Ministries Bible study.

**John 3:3** Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

## **Does God Always Answer Prayer?**

By Robin Taylor - Leader of the Grace Ministries USA prayer ministry

It's easy to pray when God answers our prayers the way we want Him to. Our prayer warriors prayed for a young man for many years to heal from a tragic workplace accident. We prayed without ceasing. We prayed for him through many ups and downs with surgery transplants, infections, and relapses. We celebrated the highs and mourned the lows in this young man's life. At times even our prayer warriors wondered if God was going to answer our prayers and heal this young man.

Sometimes we pray for something to happen and God answers our request immediately. We all really love when this happens. But, what happens to our prayer life when we have to wait...on God's timing, not our own? At times we can become discouraged when God says "wait" or "no." We must remember that He knows what He is doing. The most important thing is that God values us having a conversation with Him.

In the event of this man's life, God answered "no." He took his son home to be with Him. What seemed as a tragedy in so many ways was instead a beautiful testimony. This young man touched many lives during his short life on earth. Many doctors, nurses, friends, and family members were told of Jesus's love for them by this young man. God's "no" at this time led to countless others coming to know Him. Grace Ministries would love to pray for you. We have Prayer Warriors that pray every day for your requests.

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## When Two or More are Gathered

Born into a Christian family, Ethan Moore was expected to go to church and Sunday school. He was invited by his coach, Grace Ministries founding pastor Bert Woodburn, to a Bible study.

"I said why not, I'll come, hang out, eat food and talk to some people," Moore said. "I never really knew how that would impact my life until now. I now know the Lord is my savior."



Joining Bible studies is more than just hanging out, he said. "Every one of these guys help me in my walk of faith, encouraging me to

read the Bible more. This has helped me in my walk of faith so much more than I could have imagined. I've learned to live a more God-centered life. Once my faith was strengthened, I have started to see things I've never seen before."

Bible studies has nourished continued growth, Moore said. "I have started to study the Bible in my free time, I have started to go to church again and enjoy the Christian fellowship. I've started to pray to the Lord every night. All this started by attending a Bible study and I give thanks for how the Holy Spirit continues to shape my life."

## Join Our Ministry

As we guide people to come to Christ, please consider supporting our ministry with prayers and participation. Pray for us to reach the lost and equip the saints. Share the Word with others and join one of our small groups, or consider starting your own group. Consider supporting us financially



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## Community Garden - Food ministry

The Franklinton High School soccer team, coached by Grace Ministries Teaching Pastor Bert Woodburn, harvest a community garden planted to feed communities in need.



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stewardship of God's gifts. No matter how large or small, every gift matters for the cause of Christ. and His work in our lives and our communities. Grace Ministries USA is a non-profit, 501c3. All donations are tax deductible. Visit us at:

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Daniel Whitlock, a seminary student and member of the Grace Ministries writing team, started a church service on the lawn outside the country tavern. Grace Ministries Pastor Bob Gallagher joined Bert Woodburn to help Daniel with Sunday preaching. In addition, Grace Ministries has been helping with spreading the word about the weekly worship service and assisting in the follow-up of reaching out to people attending the worship service.

Today, Bruce Brooks is the pastor of Church in the Wild. Pastor Bruce graduated from



Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Pastor Bruce has lead churches for more than 10 years and married to his wife for more than 20 years.

This fall, the congregation celebrated a Family Day with a bounce house for the kids, a musician, and free candy and Christian items. A pancake breakfast was served by Buck, the owner of Bud's Tavern.

## Israel Pilgrimage 2022

Grace Ministries pastors continue to plan a Holy Land Pilgrimage, tentatively scheduled for February 2022. The trip will foster a deeper understanding of scriptures as the group of travelers tour through the lands of the Bible and walk where Jesus walked and taught.



The global pandemic continues to shift plans. The Israel Ministry of Tourism has reported that Israel has imposed even more stringent measures for people traveling from 18 countries, including the United States. Trip planner the Rev. Bob Gallagher, the Community Pastor for Grace Ministries, said Maranatha Tours, the tour operator, continues to monitor the situation and urge that the group travel program will continue.

Many people have already signed up but there is room for more. For more information, contact the trip leader Bob Gallagher at [bobggallagher@gmail.com](mailto:bobggallagher@gmail.com) or visit the Grace Ministries website <http://www.graceministriesusa.org/events/israel>

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through a monthly or annual donation to empower our ministry. We ask for your prayerful commitment to support Grace Ministries through your prayers, presence and stewardship of God's gifts. No matter how large or small, every gift matters for the cause of Christ, and His work in our lives and our communities. Grace Ministries USA is a non-profit, 501c3. All donations are tax deductible.

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# JOIN OUR MINISTRY

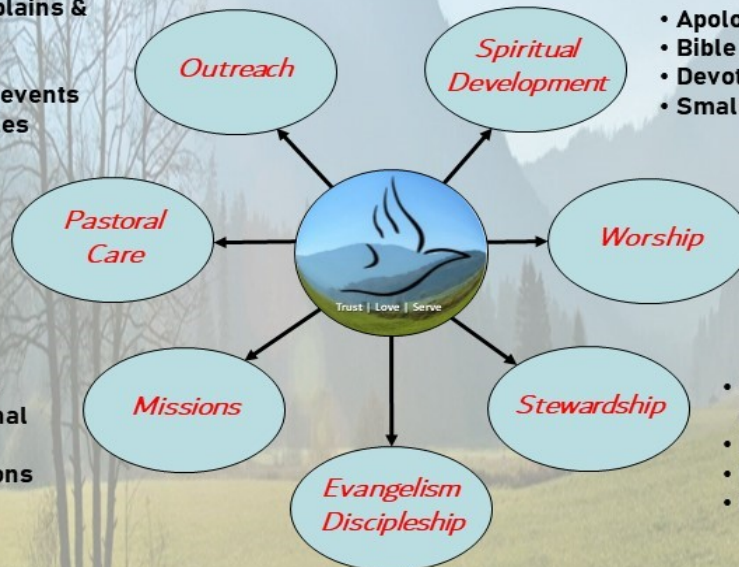
## Grace Ministries USA

A Christian Faith Based 501c3  
Organization

- Serving community
- Christian clergy, chaplains & missionaries (3CM)
- Prayer teams
- Sportsman outdoors events
- Men, Women & Couples Retreats

- Biblical counseling
- Marriage counseling
- Life coaching
- Visiting the sick

- Soup kitchen support
- Missions local, regional and international
- Support Israel missions through donations



- Apologetics – “Glad you Asked”
- Bible study groups
- Devotion writing team
- Small group Interaction

- Fellowship
- Communion
- Baptism

- Fundraising to support ministry
- Foundation support
- Local businesses
- Individual contributions

- Deepening Faith & Trust in God
- Equipping and Supporting Spiritual Leaders

### Who is Grace Ministries USA? What is our mission?

The graphic above shows the many areas of ministry supported by Grace Ministries USA. We are a growing ministry and are always looking into our vision of ministry so that all we do for our Lord Jesus' behalf is to bring Him glory, build up His church, and reach out to His world. We desire to be a ministry that points out that God wants to be prominent in all our lives. Our ultimate example of ministry is Jesus Christ Himself.

### Our Mission – Trust God / Love God / Serve God

We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. Because we believe that lost and sinful man must be saved, and that man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, we are devoted to helping all of us live the teachings of The Great Commission in our communities. The Great Commission at the end of the Book of Matthew is our guiding instruction to “make disciples of all nations.” We prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit to help us actively and compassionately share God's love. A foundation of our ministry is creating welcoming small-group meetings for believers in Christ to bring their family and friends.

### *The Great Commission*

Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. -- **Matthew 28:19-20**

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