

Some Good News



Pictured above is the Young Pros bible study

Here's what happened in the last year and what's to come

Welcome to our Grace Ministries USA 'Some Good News.' A new way to keep you connected and informed on the ministry. Each issue will focus on different aspects of the ministry and keep you up to date with our staff, current events, and how God is working in and through Grace.

First and foremost, we would like to express our gratitude to all of our members, donors, and volunteers who have continued to support us. Your generosity and dedication have allowed us to touch many lives for Christ.

We have seen tremendous growth in our bible studies. Through these bible studies we have seen people grow in their knowledge and in their relationship with the Lord. We have had several members give their lives to Christ and follow through with baptism. If you would like to join one of our ongoing studies, please contact Pastor Bert Woodburn at (919)495-5749.

Grace Ministries has partnered with local churches and other organizations to help support those in need in Franklin and Wake counties. Your financial support has helped to feed, clothe, and deliver the gospel to over 6,000 families just in the past year alone. We cannot thank you enough for your continued generosity and faithful giving. Matthew 25:35-36 states: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

Grace Ministries USA continues to write and distribute a devotional each week through our writing team. They meet twice monthly to write, review, and publish the devotionals which are then put into the local newspapers, our Grace Ministries USA webpage, and our weekly emails. If you have not signed up for our weekly

email, please do so at: www.graceministriesusa.org. The Grace Ministries USA writing team created a devotional book titled, "Grace for 90 Days". You can find it for sale on Amazon.com if you would like a copy.

Our prayer ministry will continue this year with our prayer team committing to pray daily for any prayer requests received. To submit a prayer request, please email us at gmsapray@gmail.com "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7, NIV).

If you'd like make a donation to support Grace Ministries USA, please visit www.graceministriesusa.org



Pictured above is the boat that survived the storm



Dave Hopkins and his wife, Debbie

Volunteer Spotlight

This month's volunteer is Dave Hopkins. He joined Grace Ministries USA as a board member 8 years ago and has been faithfully serving as our IT Specialist. He maintains the Grace Ministries webpage, distributes the weekly devotional, and manages any and all IT issues. He also serves on our fundraising team, which helps raise financial support for our homeless and food ministry. Dave currently leads the Thursday morning Bible study each week at one of the local restaurants.

Dave met Bert Woodburn 12 years ago, while at a men's Bible study. He was attending a large church at that time and wanted a more personal setting to grow closer to the Lord. Dave stumbled across Bert at a local restaurant when he saw a small group of guys praying at a table nearby. Dave invited Bert and the other men to join their Bible study groups together. Since then, Dave has faithfully been inviting other men to join their Bible study. He said, "We are called to share the Word and make disciples."

Dave spent 25 years as a merchant marine, 20 of those years were spent as a boat captain. He recalled a time when he saw God's mercy and grace upon his life when he was the captain of a 48-foot Grand Banks during a hurricane in 2005. As Hurricane Rita was beginning to bear down on the United States, Dave, his first mate, and dad were just off the coast of Norfolk, VA trying to get into port for safety. As the sea became more intense as time went on, Dave said all they could do was pray. "We bounced off the bottom floor in an all mahogany boat, saying a prayer each time we hit bottom. We sent out multiple maydays, but there wasn't much anyone could do. There was no way we should have made it through that storm alive, but God wanted us to live. He had other plans for us and guided us to safety with the help of some good Samaritans blasting their high beams of their car from the dock.", Dave said. Dave has never forgotten the second chance he was given, and savors the opportunity each and every day to tell others about Christ and what He has done in his life.

When he isn't volunteering his time with Grace Ministries USA, you'll find him spending time with his wife, Debbie, of 31 years and beautiful daughter.

We thank God for Dave and all he does for Grace Ministries USA.