



# GRACE MINISTRIES NEWS

## FROM THE DESK OF BERT WOODBURN

A trip to tour Israel to walk where Jesus walked, showing love to children at an orphanage in Mexico, building relationships at a world-class sporting clay club and learning about the faith journey of a former NFL player who serves on the Grace Ministries Board of Directors – we’ve been blessed so far in a very busy 2017. Let me share some of these and more exciting ways that God is working in the lives of those serving through Grace Ministries and our communities.

In January, we began weekly devotionals to explore how we live our lives according to His will. If you are not on our list to receive these, please sign up by entering your email address on our website at [www.graceministriesusa.org](http://www.graceministriesusa.org). Of course, you can read the devotionals directly on the website as well, or receive them each week through email.

Grace Ministries also served as a tour host for a trip to Israel in January. Our Board of Directors Chairman Bob Gallagher joined me and retired minister Ken Steigler, who meets with me regularly as a mentor for Grace Ministries. Rev. Ken spent four days in Alabama in 1965, marching alongside civil rights advocates and collaborating with Martin Luther King Jr. in the historic march that helped secure voting rights for African-Americans. Bob has written a story about the trip for this newsletter on page 3 or online <http://www.graceministriesusa.org/israel-201701/>

This summer, a mission team from Grace Ministries visited the Casa Hogar Emmanuel Orphanage and the surrounding community of Naco, Sonora, Mexico. Marty Simpkins, an editor at the Wake Weekly newspaper where I serve as their corporate chaplain, is a member of one of our many Open Study Groups, was a member of our missions team for the trip. His story is included in this newsletter on page 2 or online [http://www.graceministriesusa.org/ns\\_20170617/](http://www.graceministriesusa.org/ns_20170617/)

Also in the summer, Grace Ministries hosted the second annual “Top Gun” Christian Outdoor Enthusiasts sporting clay fundraising event at the Rose Hill Plantation in Nashville, N.C. Scott Yates, a Grace Ministries board member and study participant, and one of the many event sponsors through his business, has written a story with more details on page 2 or online <http://www.graceministriesusa.org/tg-20170603/>

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Chris Arendt, former NFL player, give his testimony at “Top Gun”
- Walking in the steps of Jesus in the Holy land
- Welcome Sue Meehan, Grace Ministries newest board member
- Mission service in Mexico



**Chris Arendt, Former NFL Player and Pastor Bert Woodburn**

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**THANK YOU TO OUR “TOP GUN” PARTNERS**

**Charron’s Deli**

**Chick-Fil-A (Wake Forest)**

**Deals on Guns**

**4 Fosters Candle Co.**

**Johnny Bulls Restaurant**

**Louisburg Tractor & Truck Co.**

**On Point Communications**

**PDQ Restaurant (Wake Forest)**

**Scoops on Main**

**Service Solutions Group**

**Tar River Lumber Co.**

**ANNUAL “TOP GUN” EVENT**

**BY SCOTT YATES**

A gathering with prayer, fellowship and grilled food under a giant live oak tree at the Rose Hill Plantation in Nashville, N.C. celebrated the second annual “Top Gun” Christian Outdoor Enthusiasts sporting clay fundraising event for Grace Ministries.

The event in June has become a tradition for the ministry at the historic country estate with an 18<sup>th</sup> century manor house. The sporting clay range has been featured on ESPN Outdoors and is home of the Rose Hill Sporting Clay Challenge, one of the country’s most elite clay tournaments.

Sporting clay participants and their family and friends gathered for the friendly competition and shared lunch prepared on the grounds. The shooting event consisted of 8 shooting stations and a pleasant walk through the woods filled with cheerful fellowship. Teams of 4 were formed and the scores were tallied individually to share among the participants.

During lunch, Grace Ministries Teaching Pastor Bert Woodburn interviewed Chris Arendt, a former NFL player with the Dallas Cowboys and Denver Broncos after a college football career at Duke University. Chris, who serves on the Grace Ministries

Board of Directors, shared perspective on the lifestyle and challenges of NFL players and how the experience shaped his spiritual journey.

Insights includes the pressure players were under to take performance enhancing drugs, and Chris’ refusal to tread down that path. Another fascinating perspective was the risk of injury at such as high level of competition with so many players trying to take a coveted position on the starting roster.

More than 13 corporate sponsors helped make the event possible and supported the ongoing work for Grace Ministries. Many sponsors also donated door prizes shared with participants.

Grace Ministries believes sharing God’s love is the cornerstone to building relationships and is the key in bringing the Gospel to the lost and empowering believers with the boldness to share the Gospel. Many people shared testimony about how Grace Ministries is shaping their hearts and helping them to reach out to others with God’s Word and love. Events like this one are just one example of how Grace Ministries is reaching the lost.

**EMMANUEL ORPHANAGE MISSION TRIP**

**BY MARTY SIMPKINS**

On June 17, 2017 Grace Ministries lead a team of eight individuals on a weeklong mission trip to Naco, Sonora Mexico. The team consisted of myself, ministry leaders Bert Woodburn of Grace Ministries USA and Bob Gallagher, plus Heather Diamond, Becky Bradley, Carol Kump, Kerry Murphy, Jacob Woodburn. The purpose of the trip was to full fill the great commission by ministering to the children and staff of Casa Hogar Emmanuel Orphanage, as well as the community that surrounds it. We did this through working on building and maintenance projects at the orphanage, assisting in the care of the children at the orphanage, holding vacation Bible school (VBS), community food distribution, assisting orphanage staff with their duties, community visitation and prayer.

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*Mount of Olives, Kidron Valley*

## ***A TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND***

***BY BOB GALLAGHER***

On January 17, 2017 I joined Bert Woodburn and Reverend Ken Steigler for a trip to the Holy Land of Israel for 8 days with 23 additional passengers. We referred to ourselves as Pilgrims on a Pilgrimage to “Walk where Jesus walked and will walk again.”

The “Pilgrims” spent time visiting the major sites of Israel such as the Western Wall, the Via Dolorosa, the city of Jericho, The Garden Tomb and much more. We also had our fair share of indulgences: breakfasts, lunches and dinners with plenty of good Mediterranean cuisine and learned about camel rides in the desert.

The main focus of the Holy Land trip was to create an intimate memory through the experience and knowledge that our Lord Jesus Christ once walked these lands as well as kings and prophets. The Bible comes alive having been in the lands where all this happened. For example, when we visit the hometown of a close friend for the first time, we connect the stories we heard about people and places where the stories took place. We literally “step into their story.” Now, imagine having the same experience with the Gospel stories and the life of Our Lord! Visiting the Holy Land allows us to connect the stories we have heard about Jesus with the sites we see. Those stories ‘enter’ us in a way that change our hearts. Ask anyone who has been!

### **Why do we go to the Holy Land?**

The Holy Land is an experience of the people we support. Who among our pilgrims will ever forget the visit to the Church of the Nativity to kneel, see and touch the place of Jesus’s birth or the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and place your hands the “Stone of Annunciation” where Jesus’s body was taken from the cross and prepared for the tomb.

By traveling to the Holy Land, we meet the Jewish people we support, and we see and hear how our support changes lives for the better. The Holy Land is an experience of the community and fellowship of Christian brothers and sisters and the opportunity to make new friends.

A lifelong memory for every member of this journey was sharing in a service with Holy communion at the Garden Tomb. Our journey to the Land of Our Lord, marking us as a Pilgrim, forever changed our hearts and drew us closer to Christ. We cherish our connection with the people of this land and our deepened connection with each other.

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### **FROM THE DESK OF BERT WOODBURN**

As you can see, we are creating great momentum and continue to build relationships to bring the Gospel to the lost and empower believers with the confidence and courage to boldly share the Word. We are continuing to collaborate closely with local churches, businesses and community groups. We are currently conducting 13 study group meetings each week in addition to many one-on-one mentoring and counseling relationships.

A new board member with extensive ministry experience, Sue Meehan, is leading the development of women’s Open Group Studies. Our prayer team continues to be blessed to pray for thousands and celebrate prayers answered. Please check out the Prayer Request link on the website to submit prayers and let us know if you want to join the Prayer Team. You can submit a prayer request by email at [gmusapray-er@gmail.com](mailto:gmusapray-er@gmail.com)

As always, we continue to ask for your prayers and support. Pray for us to continue to reach the lost and equip the saints through our events, mission trips and many open group studies each week. We are a non-profit, Christian, non-denominational ministry that seeks common ground to deepen faith in our communities. More information about how to support Grace Ministries through checks or online giving is on the website.

Thank you for considering supporting our ministry and please let me know if I can provide any additional information. God bless you, and may God bless Grace Ministries.

Bert Woodburn  
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(919)495-5749

## GRACE MINISTRIES DEVOTIONAL

You can start off your week reading God's word, along with an encouraging message and Biblical challenge by signing up for Grace Ministries USA weekly devotional. Just go to our website

[www.graceministriesusa.org](http://www.graceministriesusa.org)

and enter your email address or you can read the devotional every Monday on our website.



***“As I entered the church of the Holy Sepulcher, in the Solemn Entry procession, I could not hold back the tears.”***



“One of the blessings of the trip for me was to baptize over 16 pilgrims, along with Bob Gallagher, in the Jordan River.”

Pastor Bert Woodburn,



### ***A TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND (CONTINUED)***

#### **We visited the following sites:**

Tel Aviv, Tiberias, Sea of Galilee, Mount of Beatitudes, The Primacy of Peter, Tabgha, Capernaum, Wadi Hammam, Migdal, Cliffs of Arbel, Baptism in the Jordan River, Sephoris, Nazareth Cana, Ein Harod Gideon Springs, Bet Shean, Megiddo, Caesarea, Jerusalem, Ein Gedi, Kalia Swim in the Dead Sea, Jericho, Qumran, Masada, Mt of Olives, Dominus Flevit, Gethsemane, Southern Wall, Herodium, Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, Shepherds Field, Temple Mount, St. Anne's, Ecce Homo, Via Dolorosa, Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Cardo, Mt Zion, Gallicantu, Old City of Jerusalem, Upper Room and the Garden Tomb.

At the end of our pilgrimage we walked away with a treasure of memories that will remain with us forever to share with others

and the possibility that we will return one day to see and learn more.

#### **THE IMPACT OF A HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE**

I want to share two powerful comments from other Pilgrims. “I will never read the Gospel the same again!”

“As I entered the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, in the Solemn Entry procession, I could not hold back the tears. To visit the Empty Tomb, the stillness and peace I felt in that Tomb stays with me till today.”

#### **Invitation for Next Trip**

I hope you will join us on our next spiritual pilgrimage and additional quest for the best and latest exciting archaeological discoveries in the Holy Land in Jan/Feb 2019. Contact Bob Gallagher at [bobgallagher@gmail.com](mailto:bobgallagher@gmail.com) or 919-630-1718 for more details.

## ***EMMANUEL ORPHANAGE MISSION TRIP (CONTINUED)***

Casa Hogar Emmanuel Orphanage is home to more than fifteen children ranging in ages of three to sixteen. Many of the children do not know where their parents are. In some instances human smugglers, called “Coyotes”, who employ Mexican immigrants for labor in the United States, illegally transported the parents across border promising them to help their children to go with them later, but never do. Some of the children’s parents have disappeared while crossing the border. Other children are there, because their parents are unable to financially care for them.

When we arrived at the orphanage we were greeted by smiling faces and open arms. Immediately, the fun started by playing soccer in the dirt field in front of the orphanage building. The children were excited because they had just received a brand new ball from the mission team that had served the week before us.

We started each day early with devotion, prayer and a planning breakfast meeting. Though we were divided into teams we all pitched in whenever there was something to be done. I worked with Bob, Jacob and Bert on the construction of a new orphanage building. We built a wall, a window frame and the placement of a new front door. We also trimmed weeds that were around the basketball court and took out thorn bushes around the baseball field.

Our teaching team, Heather, Becky, Carol and Kerry held VBS for the children. They taught the children about our Lord through Bible stories, songs, crafts and activities. I was amazed how they were able to teach in Spanish and help the children with their English. When VBS was over everyone spent time praying, talking and playing with the children. We were always actively engaging with the children and the staff.

Later in the week we took the children to Agua Prieta , a city 35 miles east of Naco. There we

took the children to the movies to see Cars 3. Afterwards we all went to dinner at a restaurant called La Cabana. The children loved it. This was something that they rarely ever get to do. It was great to share in their excitement.

In addition, to serving at the orphanage we did food distribution. We shopped at a local store in Naco and purchased sacks of flour, rice, and beans, along with canned tomatoes and candy. All of us spent a day making bags that contained the above ingredients to give to families in the town of Naco. We went from home to home distributing these bags of food and sharing the love of Christ.

Close to the end of our week we had a cookout for the children and grilled hot dogs and hamburgers. We surprised them with a piñata full of candy. Later in the evening we took them to a carnival that was held in the town. We bought the children ice cream, enjoyed a concert and had a great time dancing. The next morning we had to pack up and head back home. Tears were shed, hugs exchanged and the children begged us to come back soon.

Our trip back home was long for we all missed the children. It was a blessing to be able to share the love of Christ with children and staff of the orphanage, as well as with the entire community of Naco. Our team bonded through our trip and made plenty of memories.

Thanks to the support of Grace Ministries, and all those that donated money for this mission. We were able share Christ with others but also provide, food, clothing, shoes and toys to the children of the orphanage and the people of Naco.

Grace Ministries USA is already planning the mission trip for next year. I hope you will consider joining us for it and be the vessel that God uses to change someone’s life.



“Last year alone, we met nearly 800 individuals . But we need to do more because the need is so great.”

Bert Woodburn,  
Teaching Pastor  
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.” *Matthew 28:19-20*

## GRACE MINISTRIES NEWS

Grace Ministries USA is a 501 ©(3) nonprofit, non-denominational Christian organization dedicated to strengthening the faith of those who trust in Jesus Christ and to building relationships with those who are seeking to learn more about Christ, His teachings and His significance to our lives.

We are known for building meaningful relationships, one-on-one and through small groups. Small group approaches help us walk together through the Bible searching for answers to our lives—answers that provide meaning, purpose, fulfillment, peace and hope to our individual lives.

We are asking you to prayerfully consider making a monthly, annual or one-time donation. We cannot enlarge our ministry reach without your financial support! Even if a monthly financial commitment is “small” in your eyes, all commitments are huge to us and add up to substantial, reliable support!

To support Grace Ministries USA go to the following link: <http://www.graceministriesusa.org/donate/> or mail your donation to: Grace Ministries USA, P.O. Box 595, Wake Forest, NC 27588

**GRACE MINISTRIES  
USA**

P.O. Box 595  
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[www.graceministriesusa.or](http://www.graceministriesusa.or)

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