

GRACE MINISTRIES USA NEWSLETTER

September 2020



Founder's Corner



In the last two months Grace Ministries has started back with “in person” meetings and Bible studies in restaurants. Other studies remain on Zoom, and others are a mix with people meeting in person with some joining by Zoom.

We are also innovating by holding meetings with walks in the park and having round table discussions in the park.

We have joined a partnership and created a new ministry we call Church in the Wild. This is a Sunday morning service outdoors and literally in the wild. With the backdrop of 100-year-old pines and oaks, we are gathering people and putting on a Sunday morning service outdoors. Daniel Whitlock, a current seminary student working on his PHD, is leading this ministry. The ministry includes Rev. Bob Gallagher and me doing some of the preaching duties. This ministry is a little unusual because it is sponsored by Bud's Tavern and is on the grounds of this business.

So, when I say things are a little bit different, these are some of the unique opportunities that we have said “yes” to that God has given us to reach people for Christ. Of course, we continue to reach, support and pray for pastors, missionaries and clergy in our C3M ministry. We have also had more baptisms in the last month and weddings (all social distancing).

We are excited to see what God has in store for the rest of 2020.

GMUSA New Board Member

Grace Ministries USA introduces the latest addition to the Board of Directors, Gabe Bowman. The



Greensboro native grew up going to church and accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior at 7 years old. Gabe was very active at his church by going to Vacation Bible School, mission trips and even helped with audio and video on Sunday mornings. However,

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Miracles Surround Us – Victor Gonzales Celebrates Life While Awaiting Transplants

Victor Gonzales is a witness for faith, endurance and trust in God's love. Given a whisper of a chance to survive a horrifying workplace accident, the 23-year-old today is in Indianapolis awaiting organ donations for transplant surgery. The journey has brought challenges since the accident in January 2018 when he was injured in a ditch while installing storm drain pipes. He was airlifted by helicopter to a hospital and underwent five surgeries in the first week.

Today, Victor continues to wait on God's timing and he is grateful for each day. He is waiting to receive organ transplants for a stomach, small intestine, pancreas and liver. God's grace and healing has guided him, and many more around him, into a healing light.



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. It was a joy when he could drive

his car again, including trips to Grace Ministries Bible study groups before moving to Indianapolis in November 2019 to await a transplant at one of the world's leading transplant hospitals.

Victor endured a false start in January when a possible donor was identified and surgery was scheduled. He was at the hospital waiting since 4 a.m. into the late afternoon before a surgeon determined that match was not ideal. “It wasn't meant to be,” he said. Naturally, he was disappointed. But a sense of peace and calm settled over him when the doctor finally told him that the surgery would have to wait.

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as Gabe grew older, his spiritual walk faltered for a short period of time.

“I compartmentalized my faith and I lived two different lives, a church life then a student life,” Gabe recalled. “When it was time to go to college, I was pretty upset and mad about some things that happened in life, so I went to school wanting to do my own thing and live my own life. I partied a lot. In essence I became the modern day version of the prodigal son. After school, I had some eye-opening experiences that turned me back to Christ and going to church.

Along the way, Jesus also put people in my life that would have positive impacts on me. Looking back, I see Him there alongside me even during the lost days. I am thankful for those people and those experiences, because I would not be where I am today. God has certainly blessed me through grace beyond what I deserve.”

Currently, Gabe attends Richland Creek Community Church where he is a member of a Young Professional Bible Study Fellowship group there. He now works at Edward Jones as a financial advisor. “I have always wanted to make a difference and have an impact in our broken world. My job allows me to do that

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 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. Visit us at:

www.graceministriesusa.org/donate

*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***

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“At the time, my younger sister had the flu so my family could not be with me. I was going to be by myself,” Victor said. Now with the COVID-19 virus, hospitals are not allowing visitors again. “I am ready now, but only God knows when the right time will come.”

Before the injury, he played high school soccer at Franklinton High School for coach Bert Woodburn, Grace Ministries lead pastor 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.

Since moving to Indianapolis, he has to stay within four hours of the hospital until a donor is located. For now, his days are filled with waiting and being ready at a moment’s notice for a call to come to the hospital. “Only God knows when the right time will arrive,” Victor said. “The surgeons know what they are looking for.” Recent experience has led him to serve people, and surgeons, as a surgical technician. “I can share with patients that I have been in their situation, and I want to help give other people a second chance to live again.” He plans to start an 18-month training program right after his transplant surgery.

“When I was in Atlanta for rehab to learn how to walk, I met a lot of people who will never be able to walk again because of spinal cord or brain injuries. I couldn’t eat or drink, but they were not able to walk. I realized then to not let sadness control me. I thank God every day and am grateful to still be here. God wants me here and He is with me,” Victor said.

He also gives thanks for the Bible studies over Zoom. “I have been able to keep up with the people in our studies,” he said. “I can do so many things now that I wasn’t able to do before the surgeries. I look normal and I am not as focused on myself and situation as I was before. I am thankful to still be here, and I know it is just a matter of time. This whole journey has taught me patience and now I am just filled with gratitude. I know God has bigger plans for me.”

If You Would like to Know More Visit Our Website at www.graceministriesusa.org