

GRACE MINISTRIES NEWS

FROM THE DESK OF BERT WOODBURN

We live in a sinful, fallen world in need of a savior. It may seem that darkness is overwhelming at times. Yet Jesus always offers us hope. “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.” John 15:18

How can we sinners make a difference? We can share His Word with others. We can feed His sheep. We can lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Grace Ministries was founded to reach others to share hope and His grace. We equip our brothers and sisters in Christ to be light in the darkness. We know that God is in control. Goodness and light will prevail. As Paul wrote in Romans 12: 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Grace Ministries continues to foster Biblical stewardship of God’s resources throughout the year, We ask for your continued prayers and financial support of our ministry. Continue to pray for us to reach the lost and equip the saints through our events, mission programs and many open group Bible studies held throughout the week.

God bless you, and may God continue to bless Grace Ministries USA to make disciples by reaching the lost and equipping believers to seek the power of the Holy Spirit.

Your brother in Christ,
Bert Woodburn



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MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

This past year Grace Ministries partnered with local churches and community organizations to hold an Easter egg hunt in Youngsville with more than 400 children in attendance.



Youngsville East Egg Hunt.

Our 3CM ministry founder Rev. Ken Steigler led a “Freedom Trail” bus tour to Atlanta, Georgia, Selma, and Montgomery, Alabama. The attendees learned about milestone events in the civil rights movement. In honor of the National Day of Prayer 3CM organized the annual Prayer Walk in the town of Wake Forest. Citizens and members from area churches, professors and students from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and local government officials all participated in the walk.

Grace Ministries' sport and food ministry teams collected all the foods needed for an Easter dinner and fed more than 100 families. They also distributed nutritious meals for families



Food pantry distribution.

throughout the spring months. The ministry teams also supplied fresh produce, canned goods and healthy frozen items, to local food pantries. Local high school students assisted both teams in the collection and distribution of food.



Food distribution.

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The sports ministry team escorted some local athletes to the WinterJam Tour. This is an annual music tour that features contemporary Christian music artists of all genres, as well as a tour speaker. It is not just an evening of worship but also ministry, to encourage believers and share the good news with those who have yet to trust Christ. We witnessed a number of students come to Christ and have been able to follow up with discipleship.

A goal of the sports ministry team is to use sports and fitness as a tool for spreading God's word. Grace ministries was able to organize an area soccer game as an outreach which opened the door for conversations about the love of sport and Christ



Local outreach soccer game.

Sports ministry is unique in that it involves surrendering to God with an activity that tests the human body.



Another aspect of sports ministry is the great outdoors. Through fishing, hunting, hiking and other various activities is another way to tell others about the love of Christ. Grace partners with an area hunt club and does outreach outings.



Hunt club shooting bench.

To help spread the gospel of Christ Grace made a shooting bench for the hunt club. The following scripture was written on it: "But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us." Romans 5:8.

Our writing team continues to write a weekly devotion that is distributed through email, local newspapers, and our website. The prayer ministry teams receive prayer requests which are sent out weekly to volunteer prayer warriors. Grace's core activity is hosting small-group Bible studies in restaurants and homes. We are always interested in starting new studies and inviting others to join, including studies on Zoom so people can join from afar.

There are a number of upcoming events for Grace Ministries.

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A pilgrimage to Israel is slated for February 2023. This fall, we are planning to do two fundraising events: a sporting clay gathering and a golf tournament.

GOD'S MINISTRY

Thank you to all those that partner with Grace Ministries. You have helped provide over 100 Easter meals to families in need, enough food to sustain area food pantries for 5 months, outreach handouts to over 400 children, thousands of people received our devotional for a 52 week period, discipleship to over 150 men on a weekly basis, building relationships with the lost everyday, and so much more.

Please help us to continue our ministry programs and grow the kingdom of Christ by becoming a partner with Grace Ministries. Your gift of any size will help us proclaim the gospel, sharing hope in a world filled with lost souls. 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. 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. We welcome one-time gifts and recurring monthly gifts of any size. Even if a monthly financial commitment is "small" in your eyes, all commitments are huge to us and add up to substantial, reliable support!

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](#). Thank you.

FREEDOM TRAIL BUS TOUR

Grace Ministries' 3CM ministry founder Rev. Ken Steigler provided first hand perspective and led an educational "Freedom Trail" bus tour from Wake Forest to Atlanta, Selma, and Montgomery, Ala. in April to learn about milestone events in the civil rights movement. In May, 3CM organized the annual Prayer Walk in Wake Forest in conjunction with the National Day of Prayer.

Rev. Ken founded and leads Grace Ministries' Christian Clergy, Chaplains, and Missionaries ministry (3CM), an interdenominational Christian group with monthly prayer gatherings and community engagement. Rev. Ken is a retired pastor who works as a minister at Wake Forest United Methodist Church and All Nations Church in North Raleigh.

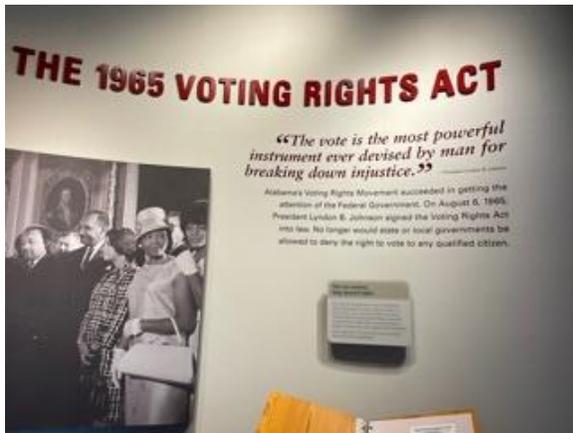


Reverend Ken Steigler

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As a young seminary student at the Boston University School of Theology, Rev. Ken led a team that traveled to Selma in 1965 to work with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders in the historic march that helped secure voting rights for African-Americans.



Highlight from the museum.

Rev. Ken shared insights throughout the trip, including how The Human Genome Project in April 2003 affirmed that we are all one race. God's Word tells us that we all are descended from Adam and Eve. The Human Genome Project to determine the DNA sequence, the genetic blueprint, revealed that all humans are 99.9 percent identical. The differences in the remaining 0.1 percent make each of us unique individuals.

“This information helped me understand God's design of everyone created in His image,” Rev. Ken said. “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works. Psalm 139:14. He asks us to see each other in His way with compassion. When He looks at my 0.1% difference, He rejoices in my uniqueness and asks me also to celebrate the unique differences He has created in me and in others.

We embrace each other in our commonality and rejoice with each other in our individuality.” How truly wonderful and delightful to see brothers and sisters living together in sweet unity! Psalm 133:1

The group on the tour was divided into four teams visiting museums, and churches, walking over the Pettus Bridge and along other historical trails. In Atlanta, a group of 20 people walked the street where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was born and visited the tombs of Dr. King and Coretta King. They walked to Ebenezer Church where his father and he served as a pastor. Across the street, we studied the presentation about the Martin Luther King Civil Rights Museum about the March to Montgomery.



Group picture of bus tour attendees.

With stops in Montgomery and Selma, the tour followed the 1965 march route in reverse on Highway 80. A tour guide explained each site and the history of the civil rights movement. The groups walked over the Edmund Pettus Bridge, named for the head of the Alabama KKK who also was a state senator and Confederate Brigadier General. Rev. Ken said it was an extremely deeply moving

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experience in light of the Bloody Sunday history that shocked the nation on March 7, 1965.

Rev. Ken recalled his own experience with the march as a 23-year-old seminary student. He was a first-year Boston University School of Theology beginning pastor that drove from Marstons Mills, Mass. to Boston every Monday through Thursday for classes.

He volunteered to become the Social Concerns Chairperson for the Seminary. “Soon after the Bloody Sunday march, Dr. King, who I worked with in Atlanta and Washington, D.C., called to ask the dean of the School of Theology to send busloads of seminarians – wearing collars – to Selma for support,” he said. The dean asked him to organize the Harvard Divinity School, Episcopal Theological Seminary, Boston University School of Theology, and Andover Newton Theological School to fill two large Greyhound buses.

“We had to turn in our Last Will and Testament note to our deans before boarding the buses - because they did not believe we were coming back,” Rev. Ken said. “After our arrival at Brown Chapel, we were taken to seats at the front of the church to hear Dr. King. The seminary students were directed to find their housing for the night. As the leader of the group, I was with the Brown Chapel Pastor and Dr. King for an all-night prayer meeting. After a few hours, I was tired and the pastor brought me to his parsonage.”

The KKK shot at the houses where many seminarians were staying. “Bobby McClain and I rushed over to Dr. King and asked him to address the group.

Dr. King came to the training room and held up the morning Selma News headline – Northern Agitators Arrive,” Rev. Ken said. “Dr. King told us, ‘You never get dirty wash clean without agitation!’”

Rev. Ken said the students were trained as small teams to protect each other if attacked. After morning worship and prayer, the students marched daily to the courthouse.” Rev. Ken helped many to register to vote but had a commitment to return to Milford, Conn. to remarry his mother and father for their 25th wedding anniversary.

The bus tour continued to the Tuskegee History Center and visited Montgomery, with stops including the National Legacy Museum for Peace and Justice, The Rosa Parks Museum, The Civil Rights Memorial Center, The Freedom Rides Museum, and the National Legacy Memorial of Peace and Justice.

ANNUAL PRAYER WALK

The Annual Wake Forest Prayer Walk was held on May 5, 2022 which was held in conjunction with the National Day of Prayer



Attendees of annual prayer walk.

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The National Day of Prayer is an annual day of observance that was designated by the United States Congress, when people are asked “to turn to God in prayer and meditation.” As all Americans are encouraged to pray on this day, Grace Ministries organized a local payer walk.

Prayer teams from throughout the community converged at the Wake Forest Town Hall Plaza flagpole. The mayor of Wake Forest declared a proclamation, and proceeded to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary for a prayer meeting.



Praying on the seminary campus

“Prayer Walking helps us humble ourselves as we pray and seek God’s face for each family, person, shop or business we walk past,” said Rev. Ken. “Most of the time while prayer walking, God reveals special needs to pray for and blessings needed for the families. Our prayers often begin, ‘Oh My God, in your

mercy bring healing, comfort, and provision ...’ Sometimes as we walk, people come out to ask for prayer and we will step out of the walk and pray.”

ISRAEL TRIP

Grace Ministries Community Pastor Bob Gallagher is leading another pilgrimage tour of Israel next year along with Grace Ministries founder and Teaching Pastor Bert Woodburn.



Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee

“Described as a land flowing with milk and honey, Israel is the site of Christianity’s most important events,” said Gallagher. “Where David defeated Goliath, where Solomon built his temple, and where conquerors sought to build and expand their empires.

The trip is planned for Feb. 1, 2023, for a 10-day spiritual journey into the Holy Land where Jesus walked and will walk again, Gallagher said. “I am looking forward to seeing the Holy Land again through your eyes as we visit many incredible places like Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jericho, and the region around the Sea of Galilee. More importantly, we will be in the places where Jesus Christ lived, died, and rose from the dead.”

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Gallagher said “there is room for more to join the tour group – to ride a boat on the Sea of Galilee, stand atop the Mount of Olives looking over the Holy City, climb the steps to the Temple Mount, pray at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, meditate about Christ’s sacrifice in the Garden of Gethsemane, ride a camel in the Judean wilderness and be baptized in the Jordan River.”



The City of Jerusalem.

Visiting Israel is a life-changing experience. We love God’s word, and the story of Israel and God’s relationship to the Israelites makes up a gigantic part of scripture. That means it is not only a treat to visit the Holy Land: It’s also a great way to understand God better and rejuvenate your relationship with Him. To walk where Jesus walked and to stand in the land so central to all scripture is a special opportunity to strengthen your faith by physically seeing places you’ve only read about in

the Bible. Only by visiting Israel you can understand how people of the promised land live today.



Scenic Israel

You won’t regret investing in a trip to Israel. It might be one of the greatest memories of your life. A time of spiritual refreshment and intimacy with your Savior.



For more information or to join the tour, please contact Bob Gallagher at bobgallagher@gmail.com

JOIN OUR MINISTRY



Who is Grace Ministries USA?

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

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

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

If You Would like to Know More Visit Our Website at

www.graceministriesusa.org



The SOAP Method stands for **S**cripture, **O**bservation, **A**pplication, and **P**rayer.



The SOAP form we use can be downloaded from our website. Below is a sample of what the form looks like.

Proverbs
Self-Examination

A. Scripture Highlight

B. Observation

QUESTION: What observations have you made about this passage of scriptures?

C. Application

QUESTION: How can I apply this scripture to my life?

D. Prayer

QUESTION: How should I pray to God, my Father, after reading this passage of scripture?

