

Trinity Bible Church

The Carpenter's House

December 3, 2006

**The Message:
The Issue of Grace
Romans 11:6-7**

Sun	3 Dec	The Lord's Table.
Tues	5 Dec	Gary Horton. 6:45-8:30
Wed	6 Dec	Class.
Thu	7 Dec	Greek Class.
Fri	8 Dec	Ladies' Class.
Wed	13 Dec	Class.
Thu	14 Dec	Greek Class.
Fri	15 Dec	Ladies' Class.
Sat	16 Dec	Christmas Party.

- ** Mark your calendars! Gary Horton will be in schools in OK Dec 4-8. Tuesday night will be desserts, treats and fellowship from 6:45-7:30 and then a message from Gary, 7:30-8:30. Please attend and bring a friend.
- ** December 10th is a question mark about being the first Sunday in the new building. Please pray that all the inspections are done in a timely manner and go well.
- ** Contributions for Glenhaven and for Sri Lanka Christmas are still being taken.
- ** Continue in your prayers for the new building construction. It is getting closer and closer. Check email for work crew announcements.
- ** Please check your name and information in the sample of the new church directory located in the kitchen. If all is correct put a check mark to show you have looked at it. If not, please make the necessary corrections. We will close it out in a couple of weeks.
- ** Be in prayer for someone to minister in the nursery.
- ** Remember that contributions to the building fund will be matched up to 75,000. We will finalize our new loan by the end of the year.

Offering & Hymns

**The Message:
Mark & Rusti Griffin
Nicaragua Report**

AN E-MAIL FROM BOB THOMPSON, VILLAGE MINISTRIES INTL.

I would like to let you see an e-mail received from Masilamany Abraham. We have the privilege of going to our churches without fear of being arrested. In Sri Lanka that is not a luxury.

Dear brothers Bob, Charles and Drue, By the grace of God our ministry is growing in the middle of many difficulties. But God is in control. Last Sunday brother Dorairaj finished the morning service in Galle and he, his wife and three co-workers went to two village churches and finished the evening services. After service Dorairaj and his wife returned by motorcycle and the other three co-workers waited for a bus but no last bus, therefore they returned to a believer's house and stayed that night. An outsider gave a telephone call to police station and told there are three suspects here. Police came at midnight and arrested them. I received the message in the morning and I prayed for God's help. Thank God who helped them? Brother Dorairaj and his co-workers are facing lots of problems and they find it difficult to visit other believers. We need your prayers.

Susi and I checked with doctor and taking medicine. Every month it cost much. This month I spent for doctor and medicine \$130 dollars. Last two weeks my van is in the garage. There are engine, electric and body repairs. I don't know how much it will cost. We have our workers and their families Christmas get together. I am not asking anything but please pray for God's providence. I believe God can meet our financial situation.
Yours in Christ, Masi

LARRY AND JANET GRAY
Condensed Report December 2006

IT'S BEEN A GREAT RUN, BUT IT'S NOT THE END OF THE RACE!! Dearest friends and supporters, Here we are at the end of 26 years of serving with The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM) in Chad, Africa. Like our long time friend and supporter Dr. Rick Heiser wrote us, "It's been a great run!" Thanks to you, our praying friends and supporters, it has been a most memorable season of life and ministry. While it has never been an easy time, there are two things that have made it a "great run": your incredible loving and generous friendship that has overwhelmed us year after year and how real our Lord Jesus has been to us proving over and over His precious promise, "I will be with you" Matt.28:20.

When we flew out of NY with Beth and little Brian (4 and 1 years respectively) in Aug 1980, Jan and I had never been overseas or on a short term mission trip. I became as sick as a dog just three hours into a six and a half hour transatlantic flight and was absolutely no help. God gave me a missionary heart but not a missionary stomach! What a beginning! We have not been among the brightest stars in the missionary corps, but thanks to you and our Lord we have been able to persevere through our human weakness and frailty to help train two generations of Church leadership, contribute in a direct way to two tribes coming to Christ, finish up in these past three years with numerous seminars for the renewing and strengthening of hundreds of church leaders, and help build two new churches. Three generations of Chadian Church leaders ask us to communicate to you their personal heartfelt thanks for enabling us to help them in these past 20 plus years.

Will this be the complete end to your Chadian ministry? No, we hope to return for a few weeks each year to continue seminars among the teachers and pastors of several tribes.

Do you have any idea what you will be doing? Yes, Larry is candidating to be pastor of a small multi-racial church near our home in Seminole. We have had three very positive interviews with the elders and the board, and Larry will be filling the pulpit for the five Sundays of December. The elders have been positive to view our teaching trips outside the church as an extension of their ministry.

Do you have anyone to commend to us for support? Thank you for asking, and yes we do. There are two we would like to commend to you:

First, our colleague and neighbor in Kelo these past three years, Janet Murray. She is a single gal who has worked in Kelo since 1985. Many of these years she has worked all by herself with an emphasis in, but not limited to women's ministries. She promotes Bible translation for all the surrounding tribes, and what really impressed us was how many pastors and Church leaders come from miles and miles to talk to her and seek her counsel. Janet receives minimum support so operates on a shoe string. Her truck was over 20 years old, and baling wire couldn't keep holding it together. We so believe in her character and ministry that we left our Land Cruiser to her so she can continue to move among the many peoples and tribes with which she has built a rapport. If you are looking for someone to support in our place for ongoing ministry in Africa - this is your girl! She is a TEAM missionary, so all you would need to do is to switch our name to her name when you send your check into TEAM. Here is her email if you would like to support her. She will send more specifics and a prayer card: janmurray2003@yahoo.com

Secondly, Troy and Beth Hamilton (our kids) work in Central Asia - though they do not need personal support, they have some very worthy projects to reach out to the highly resistant people of their country. Please contact them at tahamilton@pobox.com, and they will bring you up to speed.

How is Jan doing? The traveling and speaking has been draining for her, and she was clearly not up to pre-Chad energy levels. However, in the last two weeks we believe we have seen a significant improvement in her energy. She got five days of rest while the mini van was repaired. We got to be with our kids and grandkids in the mountains of North Georgia (Nov 11-20), and that seemed to be just the right kind of medicine!! Our son, Brian, in China, was not able to make it.

How can we stay in contact with you? Our mailing address is: PO Box 4594, Seminole, FL 33775. Our home phone is: 727-394-1857. Our email is ljgray3@gmail.com. It is with very full hearts of gratitude and love and eyes brimming with tears that we close this last letter and chapter of our life. May our Lord reward you beyond what you would ever expect for all you have done for us and the Chadian people whom you will one day meet in heaven! With abiding affection, Larry and Jan

- V. **Vindication: The Scope of God's Righteousness. (9:1-11:36)**
- A. **Israel's Past: Election of God (9:1-29)**
 - B. **Israel's Present: Rejection of God (9:30-10:21)**
 - C. **Israel's Future: Restoration by God (11:1-36)**
 - 1. **The Remnant Of Israel. 11:1-10**

Rom 11:6 = The Grace Of God.

11:6 C.T. = But since *it is* grace, no longer out of works, otherwise the grace is no longer becoming grace.

Summary:

1. **When personal performance (works) is the measure, grace ceases to show itself as that which according to its nature it is. Rom 4:4**
2. **Grace would then become what according to its essence it is not.**
3. **Grace refers to unmerited favor and is a picture of unconditional love, defined in the person of Jesus Christ. John 1:14-17**
4. **Grace is:**
 - A. **At the core of our redemption. Rom 3:23-24**
 - B. **At the heart of being "called out." Rom 11:5**
 - C. **Our teacher so that we may learn to respond in love to God and others. Rom 6:15-18**
 - D. **Designed to teach us humility by learning to identify arrogance. Rom 12:3**
 - E. **Designed to conquer sin. Rom 6:12-14**
 - F. **Responded to with righteousness. Rom 5:20-21**
 - G. **Not to be abused. Rom 6:1-2**
 - H. **Our opening to the promises of God. Rom 4:13-17**
 - I. **The foundation on which the Believer stands. Rom 5:1-2**
 - J. **The basis of victory in the Christian life. Rom 5:15-17**
 - K. **Given to give away. Rom 1:5**
 - L. **To be desired for all believers. Rom 1:7**
 - M. **Tested by loving one's enemies. Luke 6:32-36**
 - N. **The basis of a gift to use in service to Him. Rom 12:6**
5. **Grace is a chief part of the message of a shepherd. Acts 20:28-32**

Principle: Grace excludes works.

Rom 11:7 = The Chosen And The Hardened.

C.T. = What then? What Israel is intensely seeking, it has not landed upon, but the called out one has landed upon it, and the rest were scar-tissued.

Summary:

1. **Israel intensely sought to walk a path that paid for sins and thus arrive at the destination of salvation.**
2. **They had not arrived at the desired location.**
3. **When they heard the message of grace they constantly sought for a sign to verify the offer. Matt 12:39**
4. **They often sought worldly things that the Gentiles also sought. Matt 6:32-33**
5. **They should have sought profit for others and thus loved one another. Phil 4:17**
6. **They should have followed their heritage of faith and set their minds on things above. Heb 11:14; 13:14**
7. **The "called out one" refers to the one who has left the legalistic trap and pursued the grace of God, thus obtaining salvation.**
8. **The faithful obtain the promises:**
 - A. **Abraham. Heb 6:13-16**
 - B. **Others. Heb 11:32-34**
9. **The lustful and envious do not obtain their desires. James 4:2-4**
10. **Hardening or scar-tissue occurs when:**
 - A. **We do not consider His past faithfulness in our present situation. Mark 6:49-52**
 - B. **We fail to believe He cares for us. Mark 8:14-21**
 - C. **We refuse to see the "signs" of His working. John 12:36-43**
 - D. **We don't walk in liberty. 2 Cor 3:12-18**

Principle: Those who don't accept His offer become hardened to it.