

Call of Grace Ministries

Come unto Me. . . I will give you rest

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“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD. . .”

Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)

Thus begins a statement of hope spoken for the Lord through the prophet Jeremiah. In a time of trouble, the deceiving tongues of false prophets were proclaiming the troubles of those in captivity would soon be over. Speaking for the Lord, Jeremiah said (paraphrased), “Don’t listen to the liars. They don’t speak for Me. Don’t rebel against where I have caused you to be; you are going to be there awhile. Be at peace where you are and live your life trusting in this promise. I won’t leave you here forever. I still have a plan and purpose for you that is beneficial. In My time I will restore you to it. This will happen because you called upon Me and, seeking Me, you found Me because your heart was in it.”

In love (Hebrews 12:7-11), the Lord was disciplining Judah for their transgressions, idolatry being but one of them. However, this would not last forever. In His set time, the Lord would provide the opportunity for them to return home. He would restore them to their homeland because they called upon Him once again. This occurred when Cyrus, the king of Persia, decreed that the temple be rebuilt in Jerusalem and that the exiles could return home.

The event above was a specific promise in prophecy with regard to the Judeans taken captive by the Babylonians. There is also an overarching truth inherent in this event for the Believer. There are seasons when we go through things that aren’t pleasant to us. Whether these times occur by the Lord’s sovereign decree or simply because we live in a fallen, sinful world, the Lord has allowed them to be a part of our life.

When these things happen, regardless of the reason, we need to remember that, like the Judeans, the Lord also thinks of us. And His plan for each of us is never to harm us; His plan is to build us up and restore us to Himself. Because of this, we need to follow Jeremiah’s advice to the captives. Cease struggling. Be at peace. Be still before the Lord and seek His face trusting that, in His time, be it discipline or hardship, the Lord will deliver and restore us. Why? Because the Lord has said, “. . . I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you” (Jeremiah 31:3 (ESV)).

In September, we served with our Brothers and Sisters from Believers Southern Baptist Church (Wichita, KS) in the John 3:16 Horseshoe Ministry. In this ministry, a personalized horseshoe is given away for the privilege of sharing the Gospel with the one who receives it. There are many tasks involved in this ministry, yet there is one purpose: the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus! We have been involved with them since 2015 and I am always amazed at what the Lord does through this ministry.

This year, well over 4,000 people had the truth of the mercy and grace available through the Lord Jesus shared with them. And close to 700 responded to the Holy Spirit's conviction (John 16:8-11), making decisions for salvation or rededication! Praise to God for His grace outpoured! Please be in prayer for the follow-up and assimilation of these new children of God (John 1:12) into His church, which is ongoing.

We are in the process of sending additional Gospel tracts in the Chichewa language to Brother Francis in Malawi. This shipment will contain about 9,000 tracts for distribution as well as some other items. Please be in prayer for the seed of the Gospel to fall on good soil in Malawi.

This semester's Good News Club will be starting November 7th for our group. As the adults involved prepare to engage the children with the Gospel through music, Bible lessons, memory verses, counseling, and other activities, we ask for your prayers. May the Lord be glorified in all we do and may He draw the children to Himself as they hear the truth of mercy and grace available to them because of Jesus.

The time for us to ring the bell for the Salvation Army is coming up. Although it tends to be cold, we look forward to this facet of our ministry to the Lord. As we ring the bell, we distribute Gospel tracts to everyone going in the door who will receive it. As we do this, the Lord has provided opportunities for us to share the Gospel one-on-one and to minister to others through conversation and prayer. As we do this, the Lord blesses the Salvation Army with a bucket full of funds that will be used to help others locally.

There is a great need for people to do this regardless of where you live. Why? Because, as with many things, personal presence makes a difference! In our area, an unmanned bucket will average 84¢/day. That same bucket is capable of generating hundreds of dollars in a day if a volunteer rings the bell. This is money that stays in the area to help those in need who live there. I encourage you to consider volunteering for a couple of hours or organizing your church, S.S. class, or small group to sign up to ring the bell in shifts at a bucket for a day or two this year. If you desire to do this and want some Christmas-themed tracts to distribute, call or text us at the numbers on the front of the newsletter. We will gladly send you some tracts and share with you in detail what we do. If you live in Southern Illinois, you can contact the Salvation Army at (618) 993-5854.

The **Mission to Mardi Gras** is not that far away (mission dates are 2/27-3/2 or 2/27-3/5, 2025). Men, be in prayer concerning your participation in this undertaking for the Lord. If you have questions, please contact Bro. Joe Toy (610-324-1671) or myself (618-694-8199).

Election day is almost upon us! Many have already voted through absentee or early voting opportunities. I encourage you not only to vote but to encourage your Brothers and Sisters in Christ to vote. Before you vote, I ask you to consider the following:

“We should be proud to be Americans because of what Americans have accomplished for the good of the world, and we should be grateful because of the benefits we enjoy as citizens of this country. But we should also be concerned for our country’s future. However, that doesn’t mean we should look to a political figure to save our nation from its precipitous descent. Our faith should never be placed in a human leader. Rather, our faith should be placed in the Savior alone—in Jesus, who is the only true hope for America.

But until Jesus comes again, He has charged us with being His ambassadors and representing Him to this world. We are to be both salt and light (Matthew 5:13-14). In Bible times, salt was widely used as a preservative to prevent decay. It works as an antiseptic that has a purifying effect, which is what we’re to do as Christians. We’re also to shine the light of truth into a dark world.

Political engagement is one very significant way we can be ambassadors as well as salt and light. And by political engagement, I mean the following:

- Advocating for policies that promote righteousness
- Voting for candidates who most closely represent our biblical values
- Praying for our elected leaders and holding them accountable
- Running for elected office

If Christians are not politically engaged, guess what will fill the vacuum? Every evil and demonic practice. We, as the church of Jesus Christ, are God’s restraining force against evil. And if the church does not rise up to fight the good fight of faith, who will? *If we abdicate our role and responsibility as ambassadors for Christ and as agents of truth, then evil will triumph.”*

(Excerpt above from “Why Your Vote Matters” by Gary Hamrick; Harvest House Publishers; 2024; last sentence emphasis mine)

In my last newsletter, I stated that this election shouldn’t be about, “personalities, minorities, race, or relationships. It should be about which candidate has a platform that more closely adheres to the moral commands of the One who desires only His best for us: the Most High God.” I urge you therefore, to vote for God’s best for our country. Vote for His precepts.

The choice is yours.

We also request your prayers for the following:

- Pray the Lord will heal our land (2 Chron 7:14).
- Be in prayer for all the saints. (Eph 6:18).
- Pray for the peace of Israel.
- Pray for our nation's leaders at every level.
- Pray for those impacted by hurricanes Helene and Milton.
- Pray for those Disaster Relief teams that have boots on the ground because of the above.
- We ask that you pray for the ongoing ministry of Call of Grace.

Is there something we can pray for you? If so please let us know.

Thank you for your prayers and support. We are truly grateful you are a part of this ministry to the Lord. Everything the Lord calls us to do is done with your help. If you believe we could be of service to you, please contact us.

Until Jesus comes,

Dennis & Cindy

~Cindy's Bottom Line

May we strive to love others in the same way Jesus loves us. Let our desire to live in obedience to Christ be what guides our actions.

“The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining brighter till the full light of day.”

Proverbs 4:18 (NIV)

Call of Grace Ministries is a 501(c)3 ministry and your contributions are tax deductible. All donations to Call of Grace are used for ministry expenses. We go as God provides and your support of this ministry is a blessing to us as we move forward in the Lord's call.