

Friday, November 1st, 2024 A.D. (GFM's 1st Anniversary!!!)

Dear Fellow Soldiers of the Cross & Christian Patriots,

“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:1-4 NKJV).

My family and I just returned from a 2,400+ mile ministry adventure trip to the mid-Atlantic and New England. We're grateful for the opportunity to minister in two never-before-visited states (NJ & NH) along with traveling through a total of nine new states throughout this region of our country. Several years ago, I drove solo to the Pacific Northwest and started reciting 1 Timothy 2:1-7 every time I would cross a state border and subsequently prayed for the governor, the state government, police, fire, EMTs, businesses, schools, churches, and families. This habit is a spiritual discipline that has now become a family tradition especially amidst the darkness of this present evil age. Suffice it to say that we were reciting a whole lot of Scripture and doing plenty of research to find out the names of all the governors throughout a very spiritually dark region of our country.

What an honor it was to serve at the historic *Preakness Bible Church* in Wayne, New Jersey along with enjoying pizza with the leadership of *Grace Bible Class Church* in Passaic nearby. Pastor Jim and Patti Spoerl of Concord, New Hampshire also welcomed us into their home as he donated a substantial portion of his library for training ministry leaders in the Philippines. Prior to all this, we're grateful for the opportunity to minister at both the Ohio and Pennsylvania Grace Family Conferences. *Grace Bible Church* in Springfield, Ohio hosted and coordinated everything this year with the theme, ***“Family Ties: Cultivating Relationships at Home.”*** The following weekend, *Altoona Bible Church* hosted the Pennsylvania Grace Family Conference, ***“Declaring the Greatness of GOD: Intentionally Passing on the Truth to Our Children & Grandchildren.”*** Many thanks to the leadership of all these churches which also includes Grace Family Bible Church in central PA for the opportunity to present GFM's mission, share special music, and preach God's Word with an emphasis on biblical marriage, family discipleship, and cultural engagement.

One of GFM's 10 Biblical Convictions is the ***“Stalwart Faithfulness of GOD's Providence in History”*** undergirds our passion to serve as a catalyst to ***“Mobilizing Church & Family to Engage Culture...with the Biblical Worldview & Gospel of Grace.”*** In that spirit, we're grateful to have recently visited Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, the National Monument to the Forefathers in Plymouth as featured in the movie “Monumental” with Kirk Cameron, the USS Constitution, Bunker Hill Monument, and the Old North Church along the historic Freedom Trail in Boston. Throughout all these historic family ministry adventures, we're grateful for your prayers and financial support on behalf of our family.

Last month, I shared a soul-stirring quote from *“The Eclipse of God: Our Nation's Disastrous Search for a More Inclusive Deity (And What We Must Do About It)”* by Erwin Lutzer. Here's what Al Mohler said in the Forward:

[This is] “The Crisis of Our Age: Any Christian living in this present age knows we are facing an epic crisis. That crisis is moral, but not merely moral. It is cultural, but not merely cultural. It is ideological, but not merely ideological. At its heart, our crisis is theological.”

“A look across today's conservative landscape reveals a near-universal sense of cultural crisis. But far too many conservatives place their confidence in some form of cultural rescue from our crisis. Biblically minded Christians know that we bear an important moral, cultural, and political stewardship in this age. And yet, we also know that salvation will not come by means of politics. The base problem is theological, and the only rescue that matters is, first of all, a theological rescue.”

“We do not face a set of isolated & disconnected challenges. The rebellion of this age is both comprehensive and systemic. We have been called to faithfulness in this generation, and that means engaging the battle and not running from it. [We must] start by outthinking the world by the development of a mind and heart truly grounded in God’s Word and fully alert to the critical challenge of our time.”

Come what may, let us pray that the Most High GOD would have mercy upon our country for the sake of His people and greater freedom than otherwise to be salt and light amidst the darkness engulfing America. Thank you for partnering with us even as we look forward to ministering this month at churches here in Indiana, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Join us in celebrating the first anniversary of launching Grace Family Ministries by praising the Lord for the great things He has done to the praise of His glory in Christ Jesus. We’re grateful to serve together with you in ***“Advancing the Cause of Christ to the Ends of the Earth...Beginning Right at Home.”***

Long May Our Land be Bright with Freedom’s Holy Light,

Pastor Tim Board
GFM Co-Founder & Director

P.S. Please make sure to check out our website, YouTube channel, and redemptive FB posts. Help us spread the word and prayerfully consider inviting GFM to your church!



Ohio Grace Family Conference
GBC - Springfield (October 2024)



Independence Hall



“Monumental”



Bunker Hill



USS Constitution



Sharing Special Music at
Grace Family Bible Church
in Duncansville, PA

(Check out the Board Family
Singers playlist
GFM’s YouTube channel)



Hallelujah for GFM’s 1st Anniversary!

Something Needs to Change: Learning from Our Reformation Heritage

www.GraceFamilyMinistries.org

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear...”

Psalm 46:1-2 NKJV

Pending a move of God’s Spirit on par with the “unquenchable flame” of the Protestant Reformation ignited in the 16th century through the likes of Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, Knox, and Tyndale (and prior to them Wycliffe and Hus), **our country is in big trouble**. We are facing perhaps the greatest existential crisis since the Civil War as Woke Neo-Marxism is a pagan worldview that is antithetical to Biblical Christianity, human flourishing, and the ideas that built Western Civilization. All ideas have consequences and bad ideas like Marxist ideology are destructive and have victims. Something needs to change in the American church and family before it’s too late and we must therefore learn all we can from our Reformation heritage.

“The just shall live by faith” (Rom.1:17b NKJV). Christ Himself used such Pauline truth to transform Martin Luther and God’s Spirit ignited a passion in his heart to stand with resolute biblical conviction in his generation because something needed to change. And change they did as just over 500 years ago, on October 31st, 1517, this Augustinian monk, nailed his (now famous) 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenburg, Germany. The document detailed his protests against the corrupt practices of the Roman Catholic Church which dominated Medieval Christendom. This historic event thus fanned the flames of reformation that had been stirring in Europe for hundreds of years.

Something did indeed change because Luther and the other Reformers understood the sacrifice of separation for the sake of rescuing the gospel from religious tyranny. Their legacy is the unquenchable flame of the Protestant Reformation that resulted in the salvation of multitudes, founding of Christian churches that sought to be faithful to biblical doctrine, translation of the Bible into English, widespread persecution, establishment of western Christian civilization, and the rise of cross-cultural missions in the modern era. This is a historic glimpse into our Christian heritage as Evangelicals in general and Mid-Acts Dispensational Grace Believers in particular living today in 21st century America.

We are heirs to the past and ancestors to the future. The Reformation was a rediscovery of the Pauline truth of justification which later generations built upon by recovering the pre-tribulational rapture of the Church, the Body of Christ, as well as the distinctive apostleship and message of Paul. Just as those who have gone before us were faithful in their generation, we too must face the challenges of this era of history with resolute biblical conviction because, once again, something needs to change especially with the American church and family.

Demographics are grim and radical changes must be made by churches and families moving forward as co-champions of the next generation. The strength of our gospel outreach both here and abroad depends on the spiritual health and vitality of American Grace churches. Therefore, if you and I care about God’s glory being magnified through the salvation of rebel sinners among all nations worldwide, then we must care about our country, our churches, and especially our homes. Since advancing the cause of Christ to the ends of the earth begins right at home with biblical marriage and family life, we must take very seriously how students of history like **Rod Drehr** encourage **“Christian parents [to] be intentionally countercultural in their approach to family dynamics.”ⁱ**

In the New York Times bestselling book, *“Live Not By Lies: A Manual for Christian Dissidents”*, Dreher further explains the following...

“In the coming soft totalitarianism, **Christians will have to regard family life in a much more focused, serious way**. The traditional Christian family is not merely a good idea—it is also a survival strategy for the faith in a time of persecution. **Christians should stop taking family life for granted, instead approaching it in a more thoughtful, disciplined way**. We cannot simply live as all other families live, except that we go to church on Sunday. Holding the correct theological beliefs and having the right intentions will not be enough. **Christian parents must be intentionally countercultural in**

their approach to family dynamics. The days of living like everybody else and hoping our children turn out for the best are over” (emphasis mine).ⁱⁱ

We must wake-up and connect the dots between MISSION MOBILIZATION & POLITICS & HISTORY and therefore be enlisted as religious dissidents, like the Reformers, and be devoted to counter-cultural Christian intentionality. The secularization of the culture and apostasy of the church capitulating to woke paganism and cultural Marxism is wreaking havoc upon our civilization because of its effects on the home and family. Our diabolical enemy also understands that as the American church decreases in strength so will our missionary impact upon the unreached people groups among the nations. Something needs to change indeed.

This change must begin with the grass roots level of hearth and home. A biblical reformation, spiritual revival, and revitalization of the church must come through the family otherwise there is no long-term or generational sustainability of any semblance of church growth. The stewardship responsibility of our Grace Commission begins right at home and encompasses the comprehensive nature of the biblical worldview, in general, and the gospel of the grace of God, in particular.

Just as the Reformers understood that something needed to change in their generation and subsequently led the way forward, those who have eyes to see in our day must also be catalysts toward positive change for such a time as this. This is why Grace Family Ministries has a passion for **“Strengthening Church and Family as Co-Champions of the Next Generation.”** The church must equip the family, and the family must enrich the church through the practical relevance of biblical convictions which include: **1. Solid Theology of GOD’s Design for the Family, 2. Singing of GOD’s Praise & Inter-Generational Worship, and 3. Scheduled Priorities of GOD’s Time Restructured.**

Every generation must take personal ownership of the truth and therefore stand with resolute biblical conviction in this present evil age just as spiritual giants, as it were, did in the Protestant Reformation. Their godly legacy was passed down and the 17th century English Puritans were champions of biblical marriage and family life. The beloved commentator, *Matthew Henry* (1662-1714) experienced this firsthand in his father’s household and later explained that **“here [at home] must the reformation begin.”**ⁱⁱⁱ Once again, something needs to change. May it be so in our generation for a mighty fortress is our GOD (Ps.46:1). Soli Deo Gloria!

Recommended Resources:

“Rescuing the Gospel: The Story and Significance of the Reformation” by Erwin W. Lutzer

“The Eclipse of God: Our Nation’s Disastrous Search for a More Inclusive Deity (And What We Must Do About It)” by Erwin W. Lutzer

“The Gathering Storm: Secularism, Culture, and the Church” by R. Albert Mohler, Jr.

“Family Driven Faith: Doing What It Takes to Raise Sons and Daughters Who Walk With God” by Voddie T. Baucham, Jr.

“On the Shoulders of Giants: What the Reformers Would Say to Us Today” DVD by Todd Friel

ⁱ Drehr, R. (2020) *Live not by lies: a manual for Christian dissidents*. New York, NY: Sentinel.

ⁱⁱ IBID

ⁱⁱⁱ Whitney, D. S. (2019) *Family worship: in the Bible, in history, and in your home*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.