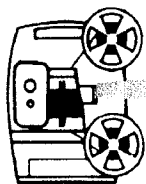


JUBILEE EDITION

Vol. 30, No. 3

PO Box 643, Milton, Florida 32572

Summer 2001



The PROJECTOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, EDITOR

"Projecting the Light of the Word of God on the Issues of the Day"

EARLY BIRD ISSUE!



The PROJECTOR is being mailed out early this issue to let readers know of a special event coming on the staff's schedule. Sunday, August 5, 2001, will be the 50th Anniversary of the founding of Grace Bible Church, which produces The PROJECTOR. *"The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad"* (Ps. 126:3); therefore, much of this issue will be given to the story of God's faithfulness and to letting readers know about the Anniversary. We hope it will be of interest, that you will pray that the Lord Jesus Christ will be exalted, and that you will join us for the occasion if possible.



50 YEAR MILESTONE

2001 is a milestone in the ministry of Grace Bible Church. Many PROJECTOR friends may not know much about the background of the ministry which produces the paper, so for our reader's information and, we trust, inspiration and blessing, we are printing in this special issue the following excerpts from the Anniversary History.

THE HISTORY OF GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

Grace Bible Church is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of its founding on Sunday, August 5, 2001. Fifty years of service is a landmark for any church, but it is especially noteworthy for one whose founder has pastored the church continuously all that time. In the days of the Law, Israel was commanded to keep the fiftieth year as a year of *Jubilee*, a year to be hallowed, when the trumpet would sound throughout the land, and the people would return to their own inheritance and keep God's statutes and judgments. (Lev. 25:8-24.) The people were to teach and review those judgments and testimonies before their children, *"shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done... That the generation to come might know them, ... That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments"* (Ps. 78:4,6,7). It is with that purpose that this short history of Grace Bible Church is offered.

FIRST LOCATION

God's work here really began when Dayton Hobbs, a young native of Santa Rosa County, received Jesus Christ as his Savior,

(Continued on page 4)

Grace Bible Church JUBILEE HIGHLIGHTS

Sun., Jul. 29	11:00 AM	Dr. Bill Hall, Evangelist
	6:00 PM	Dr. Bill Hall, Evangelist
Wed., Aug. 1	7:00 PM	Dr. Bill Hall
Sat., Aug. 4	4:00 PM	Bus Tour of Church's History (Pace, Bagdad, etc)
	6:00 PM	Buffet Supper (Dutch)
Sun., Aug. 5	11:00 AM	Dr. Bill Hall
	12:15 PM	Lunch at Church (Everyone welcome)
	2:00 PM	Jubilee Anniversary Service
		Dr. Bill Hall; Special Music, Testimonies & Letters, Introduction of Guests and Former co-laborers in Grace Bible Church
		Pastor's Review of God's Blessings
	4:00 PM	Anniversary Reception

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EDITOR'S DESK

Fifty Years

The focus in this issue is on the faithfulness of God in raising up, sustaining, and moving forward a ministry for a particular purpose, time, and place in His infinite plan. His almighty Hand has proved strong and sufficient for fifty years!

Fifty years is a very short time; or fifty years is a very long time. It all depends upon how you view it. It has passed by so quickly that it seems like only yesterday; that is, until I begin to review in my mind the wonderful events of these past fifty years and remember the unerring faithfulness of God throughout all. Time and time again, as we have encountered obstacles for which we had neither the wisdom, the knowledge, nor the strength to overcome, the Lord opened the way, often in ways we would never have dreamed. Every one of these trials led to greater victories without fail, and, in every case, to the strengthening of the ministry. To the best of my knowledge the only thing we have ever desired was that Christ be pre-eminent in our lives and in every phase of the ministry. Every failure over these fifty years has been human failure, and every victory has been divine victory, usually in spite of the instruments with which He had to work.

We lift up our voice in adoration and praise to the Lord Jesus Christ and find ourselves proclaiming with the angels (Rev. 5:12), "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing." Amen. Ω

GENUINE LOVE

by
Chester E. Tulga, D.D.

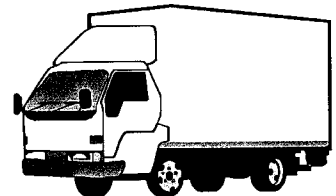
"Love, in Amos, denounced false priests, false religion and unrighteous conduct in words that still burn with holy indignation. Love, in Isaiah, denounced empty ritualisms and the backslidings of Israel, in words that penetrate to this day. Love, in Elijah, held the false priests of Baal up to scorn, and called the fire of God down upon their false worship, thus declaring a clear line of demarcation between truth and error. Love, in Jesus, exhausts the imagery of language in describing the hypocrisy of the Pharisees in Matthew 23. Love, in Paul, called the curses of God down upon a false gospel, even though it should be preached by an angel from heaven. Love, in John, the apostle of love, called upon Christians to refuse hospitality or fellowship to those who did not bring the doctrine of Christ or brought a false doctrine of Christ. Love, in Revelation, is seen destroying the forces of Satan which defy the Almighty God. An effeminate liberalism shudders when it hears the manly tones of the Biblical writers, and hastily assures the people that none of the Biblical writers really understood love."

From "The Doctrine of Right and Wrong In These Times" (Challenge Press, Little Rock, AR, 1988), p. 41

Ω

MOVING?

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The Projector



EDITOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs

The Projector is published quarterly by Gospel Projects, Inc., P.O. Box 643, 6331 Chestnut St., Milton, FL 32572, U.S.A. Third Class Permit at Milton, Florida.

The Projector is sent without charge to those who desire it. It is supported by the gifts of those who, voluntarily, desire to be a part of this ministry.

Postmaster send change of address to The Projector, P.O. Box 643, Milton, FL 32572, U.S.A.

PLEASE COME!



We want you to be here for the 50th Anniversary on August 5, 2001, but if you simply cannot come, here's a way you can have a part.

Write a letter or E-mail sharing how Grace Bible Church has been a blessing to you — thru the Church, The PROJECTOR, The Children's Bible Club, Santa Rosa Christian School, or other extension of the ministry. You can be a blessing and encouragement and have a share in the Jubilee. We will read as many letters as possible at the service and will put others on display for folks to read. Let us hear from you. Send your letter to:



Grace Bible Church
Anniversary Jubilee
P. O. Box 643, Milton, FL 32572
Or

E-Mail: childrensbibleclub@juno.com



The Lure of 'The Post Modern Church'

By
Ian Goligher

Every week between 500 and 600 people with an average age of 25 gather at an alternative church in Victoria, B.C. Pastor Randy Hein stated that "the emerging church is part of an emerging culture." He also confessed in an interview with the Vancouver Sun that, **"we're just making this up as we go."**

The church service is charged with a Charismatic atmosphere. Great emphasis is on music ministry which has no boundaries and no set format. Young worshippers are filling up this new modern church week after week to sing their quasi choruses to hard rock music.

While many evangelical churches fight the battle of low attendance this postmodern type of ministry is offering a 'make it up as we go' style of worship that has a strong attraction to many young people.

It appeals to the senses as something new, something acceptable no matter who you are and no matter how you think about God and the Bible. But will it last? More importantly, "Is it of God?"

To answer we must rely on criteria that go much further than the test of the numbers that attend and the appeal it has to those who leave gospel preaching churches.

Does it meet the test of keeping the royal law?

The royal law was given by our Lord Jesus. In it He summed up the whole law of God, *"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment"* [Matthew 22:37,38].

It is obvious from these words of Jesus Christ that love to God is the chief requirement of true worship. In contrast to the royal law the modern church has permitted a 'free for all' type of gathering.

They invite people to come as they are and enter into the music,

atmosphere and social life of their gatherings with little thought of the Bible, doctrine, or any standards of holiness. How can this meet the great commandment given by our Lord Jesus? Surely to love God with all our heart, soul and mind we must firstly know Him as He has revealed Himself to us.

A knowledge of God is required before we can love Him. The Bible is filled with examples of those to whom God revealed Himself before they could worship Him.

Paul, Abraham, Moses, Samuel and Isaiah all spring to mind when we think of this Biblical principle. Knowledge of God must precede our worship of Him. We cannot worship God with an empty head. Pharaoh asked, *"Who is the Lord that I should worship Him?"*

A hunger to understand more of God's name, glory, His holiness and majesty must grip our hearts before we can bow before Him and worship Him aright. Without some understanding of who God is and His essential attributes would-be worshippers are certain to fall into the error of worshipping the god of their own imaginations.

Therefore, the urgent need of all men is the knowledge of God. To reject the knowledge of God is to leave men in spiritual darkness.

The Lord has said, *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."* [Hosea 4:6]

"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." [Proverbs 29:18]

The primary focus of any gospel ministry, therefore, must be the preaching and teaching of God in His personal glory and grace to sinners. Wherever, the teaching ministry is lost so is true worship.

Amongst those people the royal law cannot be met, as love for God is impossible. God will be grieved and the Holy Spirit will not be present. This is the stark reality of the danger

which the rising generation faces when it is lured into such modern styles of worship.

It is the Bible based preaching ministry that is owned and blessed of God. Where the Bible is central and the Bible is expounded we may expect souls to be fed and nurtured with the knowledge of the living God. Under such a ministry the Holy Spirit will apply the spoken Word and bless the people who hunger for God's truth.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. He cannot be siphoned off to modern loose styled gatherings where truth is absent. Such ministries must substitute the Spirit's ministry with emotion generating music such as hard rock with its ear crashing volume and mind blowing repetition.

The tragedy is that the emotional atmosphere and hypnotic frenzy dulls the desire for hearing God's truth. The ear for His word is lost and Bible preaching is considered boring. With the focus on feelings, faith in the Word has less emphasis to the point that the Word of God is insufficient in itself.

This is far removed from the Bible preaching church services where in the largest audience you can hear a pin drop while the gospel is set forth to hungry hearers.

Young person, and parents too, be warned that the age we now live in is luring many away from the true worship. The statistics speak for themselves. The battle is on for God honouring worship and you are called to stand fast in the faith.

Will it stand the test of time and eternity?

As I think of the modern alternative church with its bustling numbers, I cannot help think of the illustration our Lord gave at the close of His sermon on the mount.

He warned that those who hear His word but do not obey it are like a man building on sand. The work was easy, fast and impressive on the short term. But it was built in the

(Continued on page 11)



(Continued from page 1—50 Year Milestone)

April 5, 1950, and was called to preach. He studied for the ministry at Bob Jones University as one of Dr. Bob Jones, Sr.'s "preacher boys" and graduated in 1954. He founded the church while still in college driving from South Carolina one weekend each month to keep the work going until he finished school.

Having been saved in a Methodist revival, he thought at first he would preach and minister through the denominational church but soon realized the modern Methodist church had left its Bible moorings and was deep in modernism, apostasy, and compromise. In order to stand true to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Word of God, Hobbs left the Methodist Church and began this church with a small group of people who believed in what he was preaching and doing.



Barn Converted to Church, Pace, FL

The first service was held on Sunday, August 5, 1951, in a renovated barn at Pace, Florida. The church began under the name, "Free Methodist Tabernacle." A few men helped the pastor cut down weeds in the field and cut openings in one wall of the barn and install windows, thus giving "cross-breeze" circulation in the building in the hot Florida summer. The big sliding barn door was changed to a regular double door entry. The preacher's first pulpit was an old upright Victrola, and the church pews were homemade pine benches. Promise had been given by the building and landowner that

the property would be donated and deeded to the new church, but when the pastor refused to take the church into The Evangelical Methodist Church, the offer was harshly withdrawn.

Not to be thwarted by threats or pressure, the young pastor stood before the people and announced that for any who did not desire to commit to the denomination, he would be sure they would always have an independent church to attend. (His thought was that he would get the work started. He, then, would get someone else to come as pastor, and he would go out into evangelistic work. Time and experience have proved that the Lord had other plans.) He announced that the next service would be held the following Wednesday evening in a small rented building on Hwy. 90. That said, he and a faithful few (a "remnant") left the place where they had put in so many hours of hard work to begin all over again.

THE STORE FRONT ON HWY. 90

In June of 1953, services began in the second meeting place in Pace, an old, red block store building, which was rented for \$35. per month. The pastor and others cleaned out the store front for church. He stacked two apple boxes on top of each other for a pulpit and borrowed old, wooden, folding chairs out of the defunct Odd Fellows Lodge Hall in Bagdad for seating. Again, a new pulpit and new pine benches were built for the church. The three vacant, unceiled backrooms of the building were used as Sunday School rooms and provided housing for the pastor and his wife. The building had electricity but no water or bathroom, but arrangements were made and the services and ministry

were carried on without missing a beat.

With this move, the church name was changed to The Independent Bible Church. People came, and the flock grew. The problem was the "curiosity" of an *independent* church. In that day, there *were* no independent churches in Northwest Florida. Independent works were unheard of. Due to this, many people in the area, especially preachers, could not understand what Hobbs was doing, and in the early days the church services were visited by representatives of many surrounding churches, both cults and denominations. Follow-up visits were made to the pastor to try to influence him to join their group or become a mission of their large church. They could not conceive of a new church being independent without a large organization to back and support it. Of course, all these offers were rejected, and the tiny work stayed its course.

The church reached out to the community, especially the children. During this time, child evangelism classes were organized throughout the area, and The Children's Bible Club radio broadcast was begun as a "live" weekly, 30-minute program on the local radio station in Milton. Children were hauled to the station in an old 1948 Ford laundry van in which wooden benches were installed. The pastor led the children in singing, Bible quizzes, etc., while his wife played the piano and later told the Bible story. Response to the broadcast was good, and other children from the area often met the group at the station to join in the program.

CHURCH MEETS IN HOME

In the spring of 1958, with little warning, the building was sold.

(Continued on page 6)



(Continued from page 4—50 Year Milestone)

With no options open, the church began to meet at the pastor's home. In summer the people met on the carport and in winter they moved into the living room. The Adult Sunday School class met in the living room and the children met in the two bedrooms and next door in Farrington's house. So it went until the next move in 1959.

THE BAGDAD YEARS

While still meeting in the pastor's house, the men of the church considered the possibility of purchasing the old Odd Fellows Lodge Hall in Bagdad. The two-story hall was in deplorable shape as it had been vacant for years, but the structure was sound, as it was built in 1902 of virgin, white, heart southern pine. No termite could penetrate such solid lumber! The building was purchased in September of 1958 for \$2,500. and renovation began immediately. The downstairs auditorium had earlier been the center of Bagdad *social* life, where everything from political elections, "picture shows," boxing matches, dances, etc., had been held. The secret meetings of the Odd Fellows Lodge were held in the large upstairs hall. Becoming a church was quite foreign to this building's being! Anyway, the downstairs auditorium was the first undertaking. The old wiring had to be completely stripped and new wiring installed. This was no simple job, especially because of the hard lumber tongue-and-groove walls, which were so often used in the early era of Bagdad. Plumbing had to be installed, since the original water system of Bagdad built by the Bagdad Land and Lumber Co. was of wood conduit. The windows had been destroyed by vandals, so the old frames were removed, new panes put in, and the

windows reinstalled. Weeds had grown as high as the second story, so cleaning out the yard was like clearing a forest or swamp. Cushioned seats, bubble gum and all, were purchased from an old movie theater in Loxley, Alabama, cleaned and installed in the renovated building.

Painting the monstrous building was a serious challenge. A soft green was the chosen color to minimize the structure's hulk. It had to first be scraped, then primed, and then get two coats of paint. High scaffolding was rented, and Pastor Hobbs and a few men tackled this job. They had to move that scaffolding around the building four times on big planks over the rough terrain to get the job done. There were some breathless moments. One was when the scaffolding fell with the pastor's father underneath. Another tense time came when they painted the high, sharply slanted, tin roof! God preserved and kept the men safe, and "The Gospel Tabernacle," as it was appropriately named, was dedicated on January 25, 1959.



The Gospel Tabernacle in Bagdad

In the beginning years, the church was not able to pay the pastor any salary, so he taught in the public schools for living expenses. In the spring of 1961, the pastor, who was also full-time principal in Bagdad Elementary School, became bedridden due to a thyroid collapse, but God used the circumstance for His purpose. During that period, Pastor Hobbs wrote the Articles of Incorporation of Gospel Projects,

Inc., the overall entity of the ministry. That document was subscribed to and signed on March 21, 1961, by the Board of Trustees and was forwarded to the Secretary of State.

The Bagdad years were important. For one thing, in the fall of 1962 the pastor received the first salary ever paid by the church - \$75. per month for house rent. The church grew and the pastor began a daily radio ministry on a local radio station, which continued for fifteen years. Some serious issues were faced on the air in the light of the Word of God. Certain subjects deeply stirred the community, which was prone to think in line with political parties or denominational beliefs, rather than Biblical truth. So the pastor faced opposition, but God was faithful and kept His man and flock safe through the fray. Souls were saved as a result of the broadcasts as well as in revival meetings and regular church services. Perhaps the highlight of those years was in February 1962, when Dr. Bob Jones, Sr. came for services one Sunday, especially the big afternoon rally. Of course, the crowd overflowed from the building onto the walk outside, and Dr. Bob, in his own inimitable way, poured out the message of God's wrath for compromising Christians and His matchless mercy for lost, helpless sinners! What a blessing!

An extensive youth ministry was begun with personal cars used as buses to bring children and youth on Sunday mornings, Sunday nights, Wednesday nights, and Saturday night youth rallies. As finances allowed, buses were purchased for church use and later for school use also. In Bagdad, the first baseball program was started and games were played with the

(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6—50 Year Milestone)

owner's permission on lots adjoining the church. In 1962, Santa Rosa Christian School was opened. The upstairs of the Tabernacle was renovated, divided into a hall and classrooms, bathrooms were added downstairs, and a metal fire escape was built on the back of the building, making it approved for school use. God showed His mighty Hand to keep us from ever having a fire there, except for one that was quickly extinguished in the radio room. That old virgin lumber building would have burned like a tinderbox!

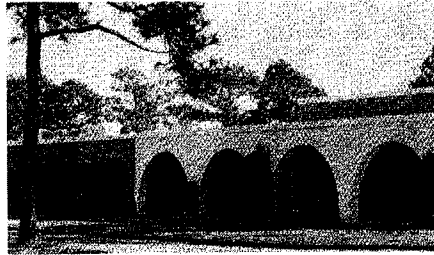
THE MILTON COMPLEX

Soon more space was needed for the growing ministry. The present location on Hwy. 89 in Milton was purchased in 1965.

The land was untamed woods and had to be cleared with bulldozers, axes, hard work, and sweat. When it was time to begin the main building, the Lord in His perfect timing sent a new man and his wife to the church. He was a civil engineer and large construction supervisor. He laid out the building and supervised the laying of the foundation. Pastor Hobbs served as contractor, and Linwood Jones joined the ministry as builder and carpenter. Subcontractors did the plumbing and electrical work and laid the block, but all the other work was done by the men of the church, which meant a great saving. The building was completed for \$8.50. per square foot.

The philosophy of the ministry was evident even in that first building – build for quality, practicality, economy, and the glory of God, not for opulence, splendor, or the prestige or praise of man. An architect for the Florida Dept. of

Education designed the main building, but the same purpose has been followed in all the construction on campus – usefulness and durability for the Lord's work.



Grace Bible Church
Santa Rosa Christian School

That building was completed and dedicated to the Lord's service on August 20, 1967. Dr. Bob Jones, III, and Dr. Walter Fremont from Bob Jones University came for the dedication as well as many relatives and friends in the community who supported the ministry in the expansion effort. God has shown His hand powerful and faithful in the following years with additional construction of the Field House, Academy Building, Nursery, dormitory, swimming pool, gymnasium, print shop, and maintenance shop. The Children's Bible Club wing was later added to the print shop. All these additions were steps of faith, but God has proved them useful and effective in His service.

In 1987, the metal folding chairs, so long used in the auditorium were replaced by padded pews. The stage area was reworked and carpeted, and a new altar rail and pulpit were built. Later the stage curtain was also replaced. All of this work was done by the people of Grace Bible Church and greatly improved its appearance and atmosphere. In 2001, in preparation for the 50th Anniversary Celebration, the Church people will refurbish the church furnishings and add carpet to the worship area.

With the move to Milton in 1967, the Church was renamed Grace Fellowship Church to reflect its emphasis on the fellowship of born-again believers rather than on church membership. The ministry is directed by the Board of Trustees. The Pastor is Chairman of the Board, and the Board consists of elders and deacons. For several years the pastor did not appoint any elders or deacons. Acutely aware of the requirements of elders/bishops in I Timothy 3:2-7 and I Peter 5:1-4, and deacons in I Timothy 3:8-12, he purposed to have none unless they were qualified according to the Word of God. In 1961, the first deacons were appointed and others have been added since that time as needed to replace those who moved or passed away.

After months of consideration and prayer, on January 6, 1991, the Board voted unanimously to change the church name to Grace Bible Church. This decision was made due to the climate in the country at this time, which seems to associate the word "fellowship" with the charismatic movement as well as with certain neo-evangelical ministries and some with a psychological emphasis. The Board noted that any word can be misused but that "Grace" and "Bible" would be less easy to misuse or misunderstand. So the church name has been changed five times, but each expresses the continued growth in depth of Biblical understanding and emphasis of the ministry and its determination to be forthright and faithful in its stand and message.

Many people have invested time, work, and prayer in the ministry of Grace Bible Church since its

(Continued on page 9)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



In this fast declining world it is a blessing to see the Lord's remnant, eager to tell the truth of a matter and unwilling to step one step away from the boundaries of the Book!

FL

Thank you for standing firm on God's Word and its precepts. You have been an example and encouragement to many of us who are a part of the next generation. Keep up the excellent work with the Projector.



PA

Thanks for "The Projector". A conservative, fundamental, Bible stand is not common but your stand is a help. May God bless you in this ministry!



MS

What a blessing your publication has been over the last several years. It is difficult in our area to find a church that still stands on God's true unadulterated Word (of God) . . . May God richly bless your ministry as you steadfastly preach the truth.



NH

We appreciate the good work you are doing to keep us informed. Please don't change. Amen!



MI

...we enjoy The Projector and then pass it on to our friends. Your articles are very pertinent for this day of compromise. Thanks to your dear wife for the great articles and stories, too.



SC

JUST HOEING MY ROW

By Dayton Hobbs



The story of Grace Bible Church and its ministries.

Don't miss this story of an old-fashioned conversion, of hard fought battles for the Word of God, and a unique man and ministry raised up by God out of the sand and cinders of a southern sawmill town.

A fist fight challenge at church?

A stogie puffing Elder?

A sleeping Evangelist?

Frogs in the preacher's house?



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"My deepest appreciation for your book, 'Just Hoeing My Row'...I sat up last night and read it through. I was very impressed with the power of our Lord in it?"

PA

"I read (your book) with great interest. It is good for you 'founding fathers' of The Christian School movement and church planting 'pioneers' to write your memoirs. This is a great encouragement for the younger preachers!"

MD

"I am halfway through your book, and I have trouble putting it down."

FL

"I finished reading your book... This younger generation knows nothing of what we went through, and your book helps to refresh them on some history that they know little of. Thank you for your valuable contribution. I hope that it receives wide circulation."

NC

"I especially liked your prayer at the beginning of the book, p. 19... 'No matter what it might cost'. The Christian life isn't an easy life but very rewarding life."

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(Continued from page 7—50 Year Milestone)

founding fifty years ago. Many were faithful and stood true to Christ while here but had to move on (military transfers, job transfers, etc.), and some have been called home to be with the Lord but their support of the ministry is noted as very important and much appreciated.

Music has always been important to believers, and in this ministry the leadership has purposed to use only music that exalts the Lord Jesus Christ and focuses hearts on Him. Grace Bible Church adheres to the old hymns of the faith and Gospel songs which emphasize the Gospel message and Christ's work for sinners. We avoid and denounce contemporary Christian music (so-called), "Christian" rock, and other music forms that smack of the world's sound and beat.

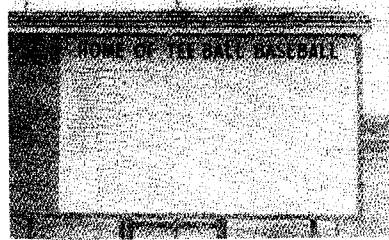
**OUTREACH MINISTRIES
of Grace Bible Church**

From the beginning, our Founder and Pastor has desired and envisioned a ministry and outreach broader than "a little white church on the corner" with only Sunday and Wednesday meetings. As a result, the Church reaches out into the local community, across the country, and abroad through various means.

MISSIONS – Early on, reaching the lost through foreign missions was emphasized. Though a tiny work, the church supported foreign missionaries in Japan and gradually took on the support of others as it was able. Missionaries often come to preach, to tell of their field, and to stir interest, prayer, and financial support. In January of 1990, an official Missionary Selection Committee was formed by the Board. This committee oversees the Faith Promise Program and gives periodic financial reports and

missionary updates to the Church.

YOUTH WORK - From the beginning, the Church has emphasized reaching children and young people for the Lord Jesus Christ and training them for His service. This has been carried out in a number of ways: Child evangelism classes; youth rallies and camping trips, and youth baseball.



TEE BALL World Series Bracket

The pastor began the first youth baseball program in Santa Rosa County as a means to interest young people to attend church. (The requirement at that time was that if a youngster played baseball, he/she had to come to Sunday School and Church.) Dr. Hobbs also invented and founded TEE BALL Baseball, a game for five through seven-year-olds, which "caught on" and became a real winner from the start. Gospel Projects now has the patent on the game, franchises teams, and prints the official rule books. Due to N.A.S. Whiting Field's proximity, the Navy men have learned the game here and then taken it wherever they have been transferred, thus spreading it to many other countries. The TEE BALL World Series is held at Gospel Projects Park every June.

The church is also the home of Gospel Projects Baseball, a baseball program with leagues for ages 3 ½ thru 14 providing a well-supervised, clean recreation program for youngsters in Milton and the surrounding area. Hundreds of children participate each year, are given the Gospel, and receive good

sports as well as character training.

YAC - The Youth Athletic Club is a year-round youth sports program, which provides for the physical, moral, and spiritual well being of children and young people. It offers baseball in the spring, day-camp and swimming in the summer, soccer in the fall, and basketball in the winter. It is a time and energy-consuming task, and many adults in the church as well as in the community put their heart and strength into working with the young folks.

RADIO - Radio is an effective tool in giving out the Gospel. For fifteen years the pastor had a fifteen-minute daily radio broadcast on the local station and aired the Sunday morning service for a number of years. Many people wrote or gave comments that they enjoyed the programs and some received Christ as their Savior as a result of that radio ministry.

Commercial Radio – From 1969 to 1972 the ministry had the opportunity to operate two local radio stations, WONF-FM (100,000 watts) and WSRA-AM (1,000 watts). The AM station had been a "rock" station, so when the format was changed to easy listening, sacred music, news and Gospel preaching broadcasts, a great rebellion rose among the community's teenagers. We had expected opposition but not to the peak it quickly reached – protest demonstrations, "sit-ins", petitions, vandalism, placards and signs such as "Peace, Love, Shoot Hobbs!" The young people addicted to "rock" were having withdrawals from their music drug. The new format of the FM station also presented quality programming of sacred, light classical, and easy listening music, national and local

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news, community concerns and public relations broadcasts, as well as Gospel broadcasts true to the Word of God. Much of the community response to this effort was very good, but due to the pastor's refusal to allow radio time to liberal preachers from denominations associated with the National Council of Churches, the Federal Communications Commission was bombarded with complaints. The FCC never found the stations guilty of the many accusations or issued any fines, but because of the continual hassle and drain of time and finances, the stations were returned to the owner from whom they had been leased.

In 1954, The Children's Bible Club was begun as a weekly program on the local station. Although growth has seemed slow, God has blessed and used the ministry. The broadcasts are presently on forty-four stations in the U.S., the Caribbean, the South Pacific, and now worldwide on the internet and short wave. The CBC also publishes "Aunt Carolyn's" visualized Gospel stories, which are widely used by children's workers in schools, churches, and other ministries.

EDUCATION – *"All thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children" (Isaiah 54:13).*

"And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean" (Ezekiel 44:23).

Sunday School - This ministry has long emphasized Bible instruction and Biblical education. This has been evidenced in the Sunday School program, which is vitally important to a church's ministry. Great care has been given to teach

the Bible, not man's philosophy, writings, or thought. Early on, some Sunday School literature was used, but as time passed it became more and more difficult to find Biblically sound literature with a true emphasis on the teaching of sin, salvation, and separated Christian living. Little by little the use of publishers' literature was dropped and the Bible was/is the textbook. Some doctrinally sound literature is purchased for the young children's classes providing interesting handwork for them. The Sunday School work and activities are directed by the Sunday School Superintendent.

Santa Rosa Christian School – Education in Grace Bible Church is not limited to Sunday School. In 1962, Santa Rosa Christian School, a Christian Day School ministry, was founded in Bagdad in the old Gospel Tabernacle. It began with Grades K-5 thru Grade 5 and, adding a grade each year, expanded through Grade 12. Thirty-one High School graduations have now been completed, and the fall of 2001 will begin SRCS's fortieth year. This is a great testimony to the grace and provision of God for students, teachers, and finances. During the 1970's the school faced a desperate financial crisis. After a long, trying struggle, God in His mercy brought the ministry through and enabled it not only to continue but to be stronger and wiser from such an experience.

Century Christian School – With a large constituency from the Brewton – Century areas, the Board felt it feasible to begin a school in that area. The Algier-Sullivan Lumber Company, which had closed, had a two-acre lot with a large office building and a hotel in Century assessed at \$161,000., which they donated to Gospel

Projects. God laid that property in Gospel Projects' lap! The office building was renovated for the school. The school was a wonderful blessing to the children and community for ten years. When a local church opened a school, our school's enrollment dropped significantly making the Century Christian School ministry unable to operate financially. The school was closed in May of 1983, and the property was sold in July of 1986.

Santa Rosa Christian College – In 1980, after much prayer and consideration, the Board opened Santa Rosa Christian College. The faculty already on hand was strong with advanced degrees, so hiring new faculty was not necessary nor added any new expense. The purpose was not bigness but quality and a deep desire to ground young people in the Word of God, teach discernment concerning religious issues of the times, and establish their faith, giving them at least two years of solid training before they went on to a four-year college atmosphere. The college operated only five years, but out of those students came several strong, full-time servants for the Lord.

The PROJECTOR – The ministry of Grace Bible Church has been greatly expanded through the quarterly publication, The PROJECTOR. First published in January 1972, it has been "projecting the light of the Word of God on the issues of the day" since that time. The pastor is the editor. A few writers have regular columns in the paper while others contribute articles from time to time. Sermons of great preachers from the past have also been printed for the blessing and benefit of God's people in this day.

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days of sunshine with no regard for the storms that must eventually come. Then without a solid foundation it was suddenly and hopelessly washed away.

Such shall be the sad end of false religion. There is nothing new under the sun. Such faddish ministries as the one described here have sprung up before only to crash under the test of time. Personality ministries are like building on sand. They cannot endure the rough storms of life.

The tragedy is that people who find no lasting gospel peace are left confused and disillusioned about their experience with religion. When it comes to fighting the enemies of disease, sickness and death, which are the common enemies of all men in this fallen world, the emptiness of emotionalism will only add to the sorrow and grief of their suffering.

Then it will be absolutely necessary that the soul's foundation is the solid rock. Then the eternal values of the gospel that satisfies the justice of God, reconciles sinners through the blood of the Redeemer will be all important. If our gospel is of no use to a dying man it is only a deceit to the thoughtless man.

General William Booth founder of the salvation Army said, "The chief danger of the 20th century will be religion without the Holy Spirit, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, and heaven without hell."

Sadly, he was right. If we were to examine present day modern styled ministries they have a false notion of the work of the Holy Spirit. They forget His first and foremost work is to "convict of sin" [John 16:8]. They proclaim a Jesus without adherence to the teaching of the Christ of the Bible. Heaven is promised to all worshippers with no warning of hell fire. How shall souls be saved from sin and ruin when these essential truths of the gospel are neglected?

All gospel loving people will abhor these unbiblical ministries. The atmosphere of noise, the music chaos and the soft peddling messages will

neither satisfy the heart of the spiritually hungry, nor bring sinners into a right relationship with God.

We, of course, also mourn that this interest in spurious religion is the fruit of great apostasy in mainline churches. If the life and power of God were being experienced in Bible-centred ministries there would be no interest in the spurious.

This is a warning to us all. Seek the power of God in the preaching of the gospel, or live to see the demise of our churches scattering our people to sensational styles of religion. Yes, we are in a battle for the genuine gospel and for true worship. So let us awaken to the reality of the times in which we live and the seriousness of our task to maintain the faith once delivered to the saints.

All Bible believing Christians must consecrate themselves to give their time, money, energy and hearts to greater service for God. Our focus must be to exalt Christ by the preaching of His gospel. Our worship must be the overflow of that gospel as it changes our lives. Our burning desire must be to glorify God's great Name who has saved us through the death and resurrection of His Son.

It is this consecration and the overflow of grace in our lives that will keep us from floundering in the mire of modern worldly fads. Surely we want the true emotion of the Holy Ghost who gives power to the preaching of the gospel. Then let us rise up to honour God by the means which He has ordained.

Let us be found true worshipers refusing the lure of modern ministries. Let us be on guard in this evil day holding the fort of Biblical worship till the Lord comes to bring us into that heavenly worship that focuses on the Lamb.

Parents should carefully review these issues with their children giving the reasons for avoiding such places of worship. Young people can be drawn into them by occasional visits with friends under the guise of para-church ministries.

Do not be fooled by the appendage of the term 'Christian' to

such ministries. We must apply the wisdom that God has given us in spiritual things to check out the false. What young people become excited about when attending these places may well be the arousing of the flesh and the appeasing of the conscience, which is troubled under fiery gospel preaching.

No doubt if left to themselves, young people, even those raised in Christian homes, may fall into the snare which fails to keep the Person and work of Christ at its centre. Where that happens they will be without true gospel emotion—**repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ** Ω

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"Preach The Word"

This was Paul's charge to Timothy shortly before his death. "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His Kingdom: Preach the Word" (*II Timothy 4:1-2*).

Today we have men doing everything but that! Their goal is not to obey this charge, but to see "growth" in their churches. Therefore they package the word in various ways to make it more appealing to the flesh. Because growth is their goal, they alter the message and the method that is consistent with the message, in order to accommodate their end. The appeal is to families, to singles, to the divorced, to generation X, to baby boomers, the unchurched, or some other target audience. They have a product they are selling (church growth), and will package their product to appeal to the target market they are seeking to reach. In their zeal to package the word, they never preach the Word! Ω

Author Unknown

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First & Second Generation Leadership
Rev. Tod Brainard & Dr. Dayton Hobbs

LOOKING FORWARD

The Psalmist wrote, *O LORD, how manifold are Thy works!* (*Ps. 104:24*). Grace Bible Church is a living testimony to God's faithfulness and the wonders He has wrought. As we look forward, we are assured that what God has promised He is able also to perform (*Romans 4:12*). God has brought this ministry thus far by His almighty Hand, and who knows

what the future holds or what He will accomplish if the Lord delays His coming? In deep gratitude for what Jesus Christ did for us at Calvary and what He has done to bring us to this *Jubilee* year, it is the undeniable duty and incomparable privilege of Grace Bible Church, its leadership and people, to stand resolutely against apostasy, compromise, and worldliness, to stand militantly true, faithful, and loyal to the Lord Jesus Christ and to His Word at any cost, to occupy 'til He comes, and to be found faithful at His appearing! *Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*

If you would like to know more about God's leading in this unusual ministry, read "*Just Hoeing My Row*" by Pastor Dayton Hobbs. See special offer on page 8.

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