

Partners In Grace



Jansen Bible Church

Jansen, Nebraska

February 28-29, March 1



Pastor Paul Carpenter invites me out almost every year for a three-day Bible conference. On this occasion I covered six of the chapters from my hopefully soon to be finished book, *The Ten Most Amazing Words in the Bible*.

I spoke on Friday night on *faith* and *eternal life*. It was a bit of a challenge going back to my hotel since 4 inches of snow fell while I spoke. On Saturday night, *heaven* and *gospel* were my topics. Then on Sunday morning my two messages were on *perishing* and *salvation*. We had a great time discussing these vital Bible themes. The response of the audience really showed me the need for this book.

Sharon was scheduled to come with me. But on Friday morning she had a sore throat and ear ache. She was sick all weekend.



Jansen Bible Church

Prayer Requests

Please pray for: many to be able to come to the conference despite the economy; the conference to be highly edifying; the health of conference speakers and conferees; the finances needed to run the ministry; Bob as he has lost 10 pounds since the death of his Mom on December 6th; new staff (part-time) we've recently hired: Mark, Holly, and Mafalda; completion of the editing of our NT commentary by April 16; churches on our Grace Church Tracker list; the publishing of Zane's Roman's commentary and other writings (GES is nearing an agreement with Kerugma on this); and the impact of our newsletter, journal, and website in the lives of people all over the world.

March 2009



Ridge Pointe Fellowship Church

Dallas, TX

February 8

Pastor Bob Vacendak invited me to speak at his church for both adult Sunday school and church. It was an opportunity once again to ministry to the fine people at his church and to urge them to come to our upcoming conference, March 30 through April 2. I spoke on the Rapture from 1 Thess 4:13-5:11 in the Sunday school. Then in the morning worship service I spoke on Acts 16:6-40, "The Salvation of a Repentant Woman (Lydia) and an Unrepentant Man (the unnamed Philippian jailer)." Afterwards I enjoyed a nice time of discussion with Bobby V, as he known to many of us, over lunch.

Victor Street Bible Chapel

Dallas, TX

February 1

The series on Acts made it way to Acts 17:1-15 and Paul's ministry in Thessalonica and Berea. In both cities Paul and his team experienced much opposition. Their lives were in danger. Yet they continued to boldly teach and minister in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We had a good time of interaction, as well, in the Lord's Supper afterwards.



Fourteenth Annual GES Conference

March 30–April 2
SWBTS, Fort Worth

We are getting close now. At press time, with about a month to go before the conference, there are 125 people registered. It looks likely that we will have around the same number as last year (200).

If you aren't able to attend this year, you can get the MP3s of all 44 messages, or you can get DVDs of the 12 plenary sessions.



Jordan Bible Study

Spotlight on Your Support

These are tough times financially. I wonder if we aren't in for Joseph's seven lean years. I hope it isn't that long. But it looks like this might last for multiple years.

Your partnership makes this ministry possible. You are investing in this work. Hopefully, unlike the stock market, GES will prove to be an effective Bema investment. We are trying very hard to maximize the money you send in. We have no private jet. We aren't having extravagant parties. There is no pork here. We run a lean operation that has been debt free from the start and we aim to keep it that way.

You are much appreciated. Our prayer is that your fellowship in this ministry will bring much benefit to your eternal account (Phil 4:17). Thank you for your fellowship in this gospel ministry.

Notes and Letters

Questions about Lon Gregg's Article

Dear brothers, I received your newsletter today and need clarification on an article by Lon Gregg. I believe his point to be that we need not bog down people with all the details surrounding the Person of Jesus Christ in order to present the Gospel of eternal life. (e.g., the virgin birth, birth in Bethlehem, sinless life, etc.). In this I agree. No one need have a perfect understanding of theology/soteriology to receive the free gift that Jesus offers to the one who believes in Him for it. However, isn't there anything that one needs to know about the Person of Christ before making that act of faith?... In conclusion, I want to personally thank you so much for your time and all you have done over the years for the Grace message. You are greatly appreciated and a needed part of the body of Christ. It is my privilege and honor to serve along side you in the gospel of Grace.

—Pastor SS, Email.

I wrote him back and explained that we will cover this issue further in the upcoming conference and in future articles. I also pointed out that no sane person hearing a message from the Bible about Jesus would think that someone living on earth today was the Guarantor of eternal life. Only a crazy person could possibly think that way. But a person might have a very weak understanding of Christology and yet believe in Jesus for eternal life. I pointed out to S. that I doubt that less than one in ten first-year Dallas Theological Seminary students would be able to pass a final exam on Christology without having taken the course.

Liked Article on MacArthur and Evaluating What Preachers Say

So often preachers put on a truth cloak but don't tell the truth. Too much interpretation smudges out what God is saying. It becomes only words of the orator. It is especially harmful when the orator stands behind the pulpit signifying truth itself. Thanks for the article. MacArthur is not the only one... Grace in Focus newer reader. I look forward to more great info in Grace in Focus.

—CB, email



Jansen Bible Church Members

February Financial Report

February Budget	\$27,740	YTD* Budget	\$221,920
February Revenue	\$15,632 <- \$12,108 >	YTD Revenue	\$200,819 <- \$21,101 >

* Our fiscal year runs from July to June

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