

Notes & Letters

With all the passion toward "The Passion" the article ["Does Mel Gibson's *Passion* Fall Short?" *GIF* (Mar/Apr 2004)] gives a realistic approach toward dealing with this emotional movie. The gospel should not be altered for the sake of ecumenical unity.

People are caught up with the glamour of Hollywood and not the truth of the grace of Christ. This movie gives the believer a springboard to present faith in Jesus Christ alone. I believe the Lord will even use Mel's blunders. Let's pray we Free Gracers take advantage of this [opportunity].

K.M. ~ Cedar Bluff, MS



FEBV missionaries at the conference

I was glad to see that GES addressed this movie ["The Passion of the Christ"]. Your concerns were mine. I loved the movie, but realized that the "HOW" to receive eternal life was not given, except for John 14:6 (as you had said). I also have been concerned for Mel Gibson. I hope believers who have access to him will share the "HOW to be saved" with him. Catholic doctrine is a works salvation...Christ PLUS works. It would be a tragedy for him to come this far and

yet never be presented the "HOW" to be saved because believers take for granted that he already is!!! I hope believers everywhere will pray for him. Thanks for putting this on your web-site. I'll recommend it to my many friends and family.

D.B. ~ Siloam Springs, AR

I do not agree with everything I read from GES (Wilkin, Hodges, Dillow, etc.), but I am glad to see that you have the courage to tell the truth about this movie. It has been disappointing to me to see Christians spending thousands of dollars to "buy out" complete theatres to promote this thing. It is a mixture of some

good and the rest misleading or at best incomplete. It's doubtful that Hollywood will now be our ally in Evangelism. If any good comes of this, it will only go to show that God can draw a straight line with a crooked stick!!

B.H. ~ Baytown, TX

Partners in Grace is a monthly magazine of:

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Financial Report

March Revenue	\$30,835
March Budget	\$25,919
YTD Revenue	\$246,204
YTD Budget	\$233,271



PARTNERS in Grace

International Ministry

March 12-15

Chesterfield, England

The last time that I was in Europe was 1970 when I was 18. Sharon had never been to Europe. So this was a new experience for her and a long forgotten one for me.

The Fellowship for Evangelising [British spelling] Britain's Villages (FEBV) had its annual spring meetings near Chesterfield England at the small but beautiful Cliff College. Around 30 missionary families attended.

I was privileged to speak five times on the following topics: Keep Your Eyes on the Prize (1 Cor 9:24-27), My Biggest Blunders in Evangelism and How to Share the Gospel Clearly, Why Not Live Like the Devil (1 Tim 4:8), You Can Be Sure (John 11:25-27), and How to Take the Lord's Supper in a Worthy Manner (1 Cor 11:17-34). Most of the sessions concluded with 15 to 20 minutes of Q & A. In addition, on Saturday afternoon there was one session set aside solely for Q & A.

The missionaries were extremely gracious, encouraging, and responsive. I had been told in advance that some of

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Kristi and Debbie Cowles with Sharon

Alvin (TX) Bible Church

February 28-29

It was good to be back at Alvin Bible Church again. I enjoyed staying and visiting with Roy and Carole Barskey and their daughter Lia.

On Saturday night I spoke to a small group at the Barskey's home on the topic of Commandments and the Christian. Two extremes are to be avoided: legalism and license. Legalism is believing the key to the Christian life is focusing on the commandments. Yet Romans 7 shows that doesn't work. License is believing that there are no commandments and no laws today. Yet a concordance study shows that there are NT laws and commandments for the believer. While our focus is to be on Christ and His glory (2 Cor 3:18; Rom 12:1-2) and not the commandments, this doesn't mean that there are no commandments.

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Roy & Carole Barskey with their daughter Lia

Highlights

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April 2004



Viewing lambs during a break



*Pam & Cecil Gil (outside) with
Colin & Sylvia Sinclair (middle)*



John and Len Schofield with Pete Smith

International Ministry

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*Bob and Sharon at the Airport
before they left Dallas*

them believed that eternal life could be lost. Yet if their responses were any indication, either I was misinformed or else the Lord used me to persuade those present to believe in eternal security.


These men and women minister only in villages—very small towns under one thousand people.

These missionaries have tough jobs in obscure places. They are primarily English, but there were also several Scots, Welch, Irish, and even a Korean couple with the FEBV. In addition, there was one American couple, Steve and Debbie Cowles [pronounced Coals], whom we knew and who recommended me to speak.

Len Schofield and his wife Jackie are the head of the FEBV and they were so encouraging and helpful to Sharon and me.

After the three-day conference Sharon and I rode with Steve and Debbie and their three children, Kristi, Jonathan, and Josh, a few hours north to where they live. We enjoyed supper with them and stayed in a nearby B&B. The next morning Steve drove us around the beautiful area.

We then went on what the Brits call “holiday” (vacation). We spent 3 days in Edinburgh, 2 days in York, and then the final day we spent in Surrey, a suburb of London.

What a great trip! We loved the ministry and the holiday too. Next year we are considering another trip to Europe to minister with some friends who are missionaries there. 




*Bob and Sharon returning
to Dallas (jet lag anyone?)*

DTS Discipleship Group

March 1, 10, 24, 31

The discipleship group has been very rewarding. On one occasion I walked the group through Jas 2:14-26. We had a super time of interaction. I questioned them about various phrases and words. All went away well prepared to handle this controversial passage which comes up so much in discussion.


Mike Makidon led the group for me while I was in England and when I had jury duty. His were very stimulating presentations on Postmodernism and the verb *to believe*. While the group is set to last one hour, one week it lasted over two hours due to all the discussion that followed Mike’s presentation on Postmodernism.

The group has grown a bit. It now includes Cord Miller, Shawn Leach, Mark Schmahl, Travis Hicks, Chris Herring, and Paul Gates. Please pray for these young men. They are all clear on the gospel and very committed to spreading the Free Grace message both now and after they graduate. 

Spotlight on Your Support

Humanly speaking your support has allowed GES to become more and more effective at spreading the Free Grace message. Our annual conference attendance exceeded 300 for the first time. I just took my first trip outside of North America to spread the Free Grace message in Great Britain. We are currently reprinting *You Can Be Sure* booklets, meaning over 100,000 will soon be in circulation. There are also printed copies in Spanish and an internet version in Russian.

Newsletter and journal articles posted on our website are reaching thousands around the world.

Because of your support, we are able to publish books and commentaries and have seminars and an internet school. Thank you for your partnership in this ministry. Together we are making a difference. 

Alvin Bible Church

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In Sunday School I spoke on the blessings and cursings motif in Leviticus 26. This was followed in the morning worship service with a message answering the question, “Why Not Live Like the Devil?” based on 1 Tim 4:8.

Everyone was very responsive to what I had to say and very encouraging. 



Tom & Ann Elsby visiting with Bob



Sharon with some of the kids at the conference



FEBV during a tea break