



GLOBAL GRACE NEWS

GGN is a teaching resource for ministers and churches all over the world. We advocate the gospel of the grace of Jesus Christ - Jesus alone, grace alone, faith alone. Our purpose is twofold: to help the Church rediscover Jesus and to take this message to the world.

AUGUST 2009

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

Messengers of Good News

Have you ever been appointed to go and tell someone great news that had just happened to them? I'm sure you didn't go with a nervous heart or a sad face, but with excitement and joy filling your heart. You *knew* the news was great! And you *knew* the news was real!

The news of the Gospel is not only real, but truly, *amazingly* good! Sins are already taken away, and the free favor and grace of God is available to *everyone* - no matter what religion or nationality.

God is not counting their sins (2 Cor. 5:18), so we will not count them either. Instead He is inviting people everywhere to receive the greatest gift of all. This is the time of grace, but still there are so many who have not yet heard the news!

In this newsletter Peter Youngren is expressing his heart on how to bring the good news to people no matter their religion. Muslims and others will listen when we focus on what our *commission* is- being messengers of Good News - instead of debating religions or politics. To get the rest of Youngren's message you might purchase his book.

Joseph Prince has blessed many with his teachings, and we are happy to bring another great teaching article to you! A great testimony from a young worker in a Muslim country is also included in this newsletter.



Send us an e-mail, we are looking forward to hearing from you.

Mary Felde
Editor

Take Another Look at Jesus

by Peter Youngren



Peter Youngren is not trying to convert people from one religion to another, but to bringing the good news about Jesus to people in ALL religions.

JESUS is a point of contact between Muslims and Christians. The only ancient religious writings that give Jesus a supreme position are the Bible and Islam's holy book, the Koran, which mentions Jesus ninety-seven times. Entire chapters are dedicated to Him. Though there are stark differences in how Christians and Muslims view Jesus, still without question He remains a person of common interest and a point of dialogue.

Let me be very clear where I stand. Jesus came for the world; no religion or culture owns Him. He loves the world, died for all, and rose again to give new life to everyone. His grace extends to all religions including Muslims and Christians alike. Jesus is the Savior of all people.

One of the first comments I make to Muslim friends is, "I am not trying to convert you to Christianity." That does not mean that I view Christianity in a negative light, though just like any religion, Christianity has its share of problems. It is just that no religion, no matter how well intentioned, has the power to make us righteous. That ability is in Jesus alone. For years I have endeavored to show Christians our need to receive new life through Jesus Christ. How we respond to Jesus is a crucial matter for every person regardless of religion. This is an area of complete equality; everyone, man or woman, Christian or Muslim, rich or poor, who believes and receives God's love revealed in Jesus has eternal life.

My mission in life is to share this

Good News of Jesus Christ. For thirty years I have enjoyed working with Christians of almost all denominations and in all parts of the world. Our common denominators are our love for people and our faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Muhammad, the Koran and Christians

In addition to working with Christians, I gladly work with all people who promote peace and mutual understanding. My travels have brought me into contact with many Muslims who are honest, hard-working and peace-loving

Himself is our Prince of Peace.

I remember how shocked I was to discover that the Koran speaks highly of the Gospel. Islam's prophet Muhammad taught that the Gospel is from God, but millions of Muslims and Christians know little or nothing about the Gospel. This ignorance makes the task of presenting Christ's Good News to all people extremely urgent.

In the early days of Islam, Muhammad had a particularly good relationship with Christians. Christians and Jews are called by the Arabic term "Ahl al Kitab," meaning the "People of the Book." The Koran puts forth this idea of goodwill towards Ahl al Kitab: "You will find that the closest to you in love are those who call themselves Christians, because there are priests and monks among them who do not behave arrogantly" (Surah 5:82).

Muslims were encouraged to accept the Scriptures of Jews and Christians, and to live in peace with them. "And argue not with the People of the Book unless it be in (a way) that is better, save with such of them as do wrong; and say: We believe in that which has been revealed unto us and revealed unto you; our God and your God is One, and unto Him we surrender" (Surah 29:46).

The Koran goes as far as saying that if a Muslim has questions they can refer to the "People of the Book," "ask those who have been

reading the Book before thee" (Surah 10:94).

During the later part of Muhammad's life the Koran records instances of hostilities between Muslims and Christians, as well as rebukes of Christians. Still the verses quoted above show openness and good-will. I would rather focus on common denominators, and on building bridges, than on that which engenders further strife. Enough books have been written about wars between Christians and Muslims. My focus is Jesus and His love extended to all.

Promoting Jesus and not a religion

I am very serious when I say I do not try to convert people from one religion to another. This would be fruitless since no religion is able to save even one person. Christians are sometimes offended when I make this statement. It is very easy for us Christians to put our focus on the religion of Christianity rather than the person of Jesus. A quick look at the Bible will reveal that salvation is not found in adherence to a religion. Statements from the Bible like: "he who has the Son (Jesus) has life" and eternal life is in "no other name than Jesus" put the focus squarely on Jesus and Jesus alone (more about this later).

While I do not try to convert people from one religion to another, I seek to influence people of all religions

I remember how shocked I was to discover that the Koran speaks highly of the Gospel.

individuals. I have often received friendship and understanding from Muslims. It has been my joy to extend a hand of friendship to people of other religions than my own, according to the example given by Jesus and the apostle Paul, who refused to discriminate against any individual or groups of people. My friendship with Muslims has not caused me to compromise my belief in the Gospel. On the contrary it has helped me to really focus on the core of our message, which is Jesus and what He has done for the world. When we turn from self-righteousness and self-reliance and receive the Messiah sent from God into our hearts, we receive peace from God. Jesus

I am very serious when I say I do not try to convert people from one religion to another.

to embrace Jesus Christ and His righteousness, which is a free gift to all who believe. This is not all the same as trying to convert a person from one religion to another. In fact, millions claim adherence to Christianity, and still have no knowledge of the free gift of Jesus' righteousness.

Friendship, Not Riot

Like many Christians, I grew up in an environment where Muslims were mistrusted. Somehow the idea reached my young mind that Muslims wanted to kill Christians. While there is no question that fanatical Muslims have killed Christians, it is equally true that fanatical Christians have killed Muslims.

Have my contacts with Muslims been without confrontation or conflict? By and large, yes. There have been a few occasions when tension or conflict erupted, but each time it was because Muslims erroneously thought that I was about to attack their religion.

Why would some Muslims think I wanted to speak against their religion? Let me explain. For more than thirty years I have conducted

magnitude, almost all Festivals reach tens of thousands. It is impossible to conduct events on this scale without attracting attention from the media. On a few occasions Muslims have reacted negatively to our advertisements. On every occasion when I spoke with the Muslims who had opposed our event, I discovered the problem was based on their previous encounters with Christian preachers. They had heard Christian ministers who used the pulpit to belittle Islam and Muslims. When they saw our program advertised they assumed this was another event where Christians would bash Muslims.

I remember one tense occasion where rioting occurred in the streets before our Festival started. After the people heard my first message of Jesus they understood that I was not criticizing Islam. Fifteen Muslim leaders came late one night to my hotel. One by one these leaders asked my forgiveness. It was one of the most touching moments in my life when they said, "Mr. Youngren, we recognize now that you did not come to attack us or our religion, but you have only spoken lovingly about the Lord Jesus Christ."

When I was able to share about God's love revealed in Jesus with an attitude of friendship, the misunderstandings were removed. I do not mean that we agreed on every fact, or that those Muslim leaders received Jesus as their Savior that night. No, we still had differences. However, when I focused on God's love revealed in Jesus there was a willingness to listen.

Cartoons

In early 2006, European newspapers released cartoons of the prophet Muhammad. Muslims viewed these as blasphemous and

demonstrations erupted across the world. Sadly, some died as a result of the protests. Christians vigorously defended the cartoons on the basis of freedom of the press. Muslim clerics were equally vigorous in calling the depictions blasphemous. Again many Christian preachers got in the fray. Some claimed that the violent demonstrations showed the true face of Islam. I cherish the western freedom of expression and sadly, this freedom is lacking in many Muslim countries. Still, Christians should know better than to attack other religions. When the media desecrates Christian values, we are offended and ask for it to be stopped. Christians protest movies like, "The Last Temptation of Christ" and "The DaVinci Code" because they portray Jesus in a way that is blasphemous to us. It should be natural for us to show respect for others. Our real task is far more important than to defend or criticize a cartoon. Politicians deal in politics. Newspaper editors deal in editorials. Our concern is not freedom to speak ill against others, but freedom to express the good news of what God has done in Jesus Christ for the world. I challenge Christians to focus on our task, and I challenge Muslims to not be afraid to let the Gospel of Jesus Christ be heard.

Am I Naive?

To Christians who may consider me naive to propose friendship with Muslims in a world of violence and terrorism I ask, "How is your approach to the Muslim world working?" I question my Christian friends who attack and speak condescending words about Islam, "What results are you seeing?"

Most importantly, what is Jesus' approach? Jesus said, "If anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did

Enough books have been written about wars between Christians and Muslims. My focus is Jesus and His love extended to all.

large Gospel Festivals around the world. Crowds of up to 600,000 have attended a single service. While not all the events reach that

On each occasion, Jesus ignored the question and stayed focused on His message – to bring salvation and new life to all without discrimination.

not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him - the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day” (John 12:47-48). These are amazing statements.

Jesus says:

1. He will not now judge the one who does not believe Him;
2. The purpose now is to bring salvation to people; and
3. Judgment will come in the last day.

Do you see how this frees us from judging others? This does not mean that there will never be a judgment. No, God will judge everyone on the last day.

There are many opportunities today to be drawn into political debates.

Jesus also faced this challenge. The Samaritan woman who conversed with Jesus tried to get an argument started as to whether the correct place of worship was in the city of Jerusalem or in Samaria (John 4). The disciples wanted to discuss the establishment of the political kingdom of Israel (Acts 1:4-8). **On each occasion, Jesus ignored the question and stayed focused on His message – to bring salvation and new life to all without discrimination.** Jesus had not come to condemn, but to save. We follow Jesus!

PETER YOUNGREN

Founding Pastor of
Celebration Church, Canada
Founder of
World Impact Ministries
Member of
GGN Board of Directors
www.peteryoungren.org



This article is excerpted from the book, *My Muslim Friends*, by Peter Youngren. To obtain a copy of the book, visit their online store at www.peteryoungren.org

“In this sometimes provocative and challenging book, Christians are encouraged to discard bigoted views of Muslims, while Muslims are challenged to learn more of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The author quotes freely from the Bible as well as Islam’s holy book, the Koran, noting that these are the only ancient scriptures which give Jesus a supreme position. In a world that seemingly inches ever closer to the precipice of disaster, this book advocates a path of friendship rather than fanaticism, dialogue instead of division. Most of all, readers will be drawn into a deeper encounter with Jesus.”

DYNAMIC, JESUS-CENTERED TV

 **grace^{TV}**
www.gracetelevision.net

Available online 24/7 — new exciting programs daily!

Your Every Blessing *Is Found* IN THE PERSON OF JESUS

by Pastor Joseph Prince

When God ushered in the new covenant of grace, He sent His beloved Son Jesus and not a new set of commandments. So grace is a person, not a doctrine. And every blessing that we would ever need is inseparable from the person of Jesus!

Christianity is not a formula. God did not look down on us, see us in our sins and throw us an instruction manual. No.

God so loved the world that He gave us a person — His Son, Jesus Christ. The Lord being with you is all that you need because the Lord Himself is the one who blesses you with righteousness, holiness, success, victory, favour, provision, healing, wisdom and much more!

JESUS IS THE I AM

1 Corinthians 1:30

³⁰But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God —and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—

Now, that is wonderful! Notice that God does not dispense wisdom apart from Jesus. He is our wisdom! We don't have a sanctification or holiness that is manufactured or flawed. Jesus is our holiness! His person is our redemption!

Health, healing, provision and supply, are not just things or gifts that God gives you. God gives you Jesus. He is whatever you need.

On Mount Moriah where God provided Abraham with a ram for sacrifice in place of Isaac, we see the first mention of the compound names of God — Jehovah-Jireh. (Genesis 22:1–14) “Jireh” means “to see and to provide,” but what the Hebrew means literally is that the Lord, Jehovah, **is** Jireh! Just as you cannot separate forgiveness from the forgiver, you do not have prosperity apart from Jehovah. He **is** your provision, prosperity and supply!

In Exodus 15:26, we find mention of the name Jehovah-Rapha at the place where God healed the bitter waters of Marah so that the children of Israel could drink. In English, that name is often translated to “the Lord who heals you,” but in the Hebrew, it literally means “I **am** healing, I **am** health!”

God is not saying, “I will give you healing,” or “I will provide you with health.” He is saying, “I **AM** your health! I **AM** your healing!”

First Samuel 15:29 says, “*And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent...*” The word “strength” here, *natsach* in Hebrew, means “victory that abides” — perpetual victory. Notice that victory is a person — God Himself. Even **victory** is the Lord! He is the Strength, success and victory of His people!

Whatever your station in life, whatever career you are in, the Lord being with you is all that you need because the blessing is not in your company or situation. Your prosperity is

not dependent on things that are subject to change. It's all dependent on the unchanging person of the Lord Jesus, who is the same yesterday, today and forever!

WISDOM HAS TWO HANDS, SO TAKE BOTH!

Many people want wisdom. Many want to have riches and honour, and long life. But they don't see that wisdom is a person, and that it is being in the Lord's presence that makes you wise. Neither do they realize that long life is inseparable from the One who **is** life.

Jesus has been made unto us wisdom — and He is seated at the right hand of the Father. (Hebrews 12:2) He is true wisdom.

In the Bible, wisdom is said to have two hands. In the left hand are riches and honour, and in the right is length of days. (Proverbs 3:16) So in Christ Himself are both the right and left hands of wisdom — riches and honour, and length of days!

In Deuteronomy 30:19, God told the children of Israel, “I set before you blessing and cursing, life and death” and just in case some of us don't get it, He added,

Deuteronomy 30:19–20

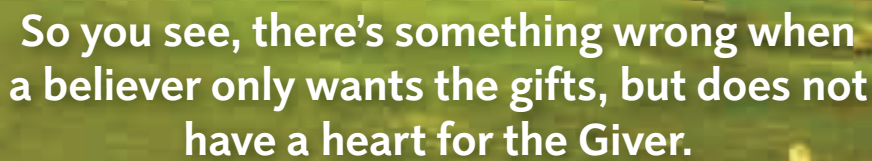
¹⁹... therefore choose life, that both you and your descendents may live;
²⁰... and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days...

The length of your days is a person! The Lord is your life and the length of your days. He is life, and in His presence is life.

SOLOMON'S MISTAKE

Solomon was probably about 20 years old when the Lord appeared to him in a dream

God is not saying, “I will give you healing,” or “I will provide you with health.” He is saying, “I **AM** your health! I **AM** your healing!”



So you see, there's something wrong when a believer only wants the gifts, but does not have a heart for the Giver.

and said, "Ask! What shall I give you?" Solomon said, "Lord, give me wisdom." And God replied, "Lo, I have given you a wise and understanding heart like no other king before or after you." (1 Kings 3:12)

Most people don't notice that God also said this:

1 Kings 3:13-14

¹³And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honour... ¹⁴So if you walk in My ways... as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.

Notice that long life — length of days — was conditional? God said, "If you continue to walk in My ways, **then** I will lengthen your days."

We know that Solomon's wisdom did not stay intact and that he became very disillusioned in his later years. In contrast to the wise sayings recorded in Proverbs, in Ecclesiastes he wrote things like, "For in much wisdom is much grief, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow." (Ecclesiastes 1:18) And he died young — probably around the age of 60. (1 Kings 11:42-43) What happened?

Solomon exchanged gods in his later years. He forgot that God was his true wisdom, success, and source. Without the Lord, the Giver, the gift became unfulfilling and corrupted. Solomon only had the left hand of wisdom. He never had the right hand, because the right hand of God is our Lord Jesus Christ and Solomon had given up the Lord.

So you see, there's something wrong when a believer only wants the gifts, but does not have a heart for the Giver.

It's not about thinking, "Jesus is all I need, I don't need a career or money." It's about making Him your focus.

DAVID KNEW WHO HIS SOURCE WAS

Now, David was a man after God's own heart. (Acts 13:22) He valued the presence of the

Lord. He was someone who talked to the Lord a lot. He cultivated the presence of God. He sang in the wilderness in front of the sheep, where nobody cared he existed! In 1 Samuel 16:1-11, when the prophet Samuel came to anoint one of Jesse's sons as king, Jesse forgot all about David.

David was in the field, singing psalms of praise and worship. "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. (Psalm 118:1) ... Your lovingkindness is better than life... (Psalm 63:3)" He played his harp with no one listening but God. That is not doctrine or religion. That is a relationship!

When David met Goliath, even though he was still just a youth, he was not afraid because he was not conscious of the giant, but of God:

1 Samuel 17:45-46

⁴⁵Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts... ⁴⁶This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand... that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

Years later, after David became king, when he committed adultery with Bathsheba, he sinned against her, her husband Uriah, and his people. But when God sent the prophet Nathan to confront him, David fell on his knees and said, "Against You, You only, have I sinned..." (Psalm 51:4) He was conscious that the person who got hurt most was the Lord!

"Take not your presence from me," (Psalm 51:11) was the plea he made. "God, please don't take Your presence from me. It is what has blessed me."

WHAT THE LORD WANTS IS YOU

Today we don't have to be concerned in the same way as David, because we have no fear that the Lord will leave us. God loves us and He has promised that He will never leave nor forsake us. (Hebrews 13:5) But sometimes we take things for granted. We forget to cultivate

His presence. Sometimes we forget to talk to Him until we come to church on Sunday, almost like, "Hello, Lord!"

When you love someone, you value his or her presence. You long for it. You will cultivate it and be conscious of it because to you, it is precious! It's one thing to know theoretically that the Lord never leaves nor forsakes you, but another thing to cultivate His presence and show Him that you believe it.

The Lord is jealous for **your** presence. He loves you. He wants to have a personal relationship with you. He's not a respecter of persons, but He's a respecter of those who respect Him and value His presence. And God does not give in doses and portions — He Himself is your healing, your provision, and your wisdom.

So the more you honour His presence, the more you will see Him manifest in glory!

When my daughter Jessica was just a baby, there were times when she had a fever and would be crying at night. I would lay hands a number of times, pray, rebuke... all the formulas I know, but without result. But whenever I stopped seeking the healing and started seeking the Healer, things changed! It's when my focus was no longer on my child and when Jesus became bigger in my consciousness than her sickness, that the results came.

Seek the Lord's presence! He is Jehovah-Rapha, He Himself is healing, and His presence heals you!

THE LORD'S PRESENCE IS YOUR SUCCESS

Now let's look at the story of Joseph. In Genesis 39:2, the Bible says, "The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian."

Just in case you were wondering, Joseph was not in a high-level office somewhere, with a huge office and wearing a three-piece suit. Genesis 39:1 tells us, "Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there."

Conversely, that tells us that many of us experience death in many shapes and forms because we don't cultivate the Lord's presence.

We are looking at a slave boy! A young slave boy around 17 years old. Standing there in the slave market, naked for inspection, but the first thing the Bible says about him was that the Lord was with him, "and he was a successful man." How was Joseph successful?

Genesis 39:3

³And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand.

Wow! Potiphar **saw** that the Lord was with Joseph. He **saw** that God made all Joseph did to prosper. The man was a heathen without an ounce of discernment in his bones, yet he saw this!

Potiphar saw the manifest presence of the Lord in this slave boy's life. God was not there just to be a spiritual hitchhiker! I believe that when Joseph planted tomatoes, his tomatoes were bigger than anyone else's. When he tamed horses (the Egyptians were famous for their horses), all the horses responded like he was the horse whisperer. This young slave had so much favour that he even caught the attention of his master's wife!

I believe that Joseph was conscious of the Lord's presence because when Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him, he rejected her saying, "How can I do this and sin against God?" (Genesis 39:7-9) No one was around to hear him say it except the woman. It was not for show. Joseph was saying, "God is here!"

Joseph's later experiences in Egypt also proved that he trusted the Lord for his provision, wisdom and success. He enjoyed such favour and success that he ended up as Pharaoh's second-in-command!

Do you want this kind of success? Then, don't forget the very first thing — "The Lord

was with Joseph."

SEE JESUS RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW

The Bible says that the Lord is a very present help. (Psalm 46:1) When He arrived at Lazarus' tomb, Lazarus had already been dead for four days. Martha, Lazarus' sister, said to Jesus, "If You had been here when my brother was sick, he would not have died." And when Jesus told her, "*Your brother will rise again,*" she responded with, "*I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.*" (John 11:20-24) She pushed Jesus to the past and to the future, not realising that His present presence was her answer!

Jesus declared to her, "I am the resurrection and the life!" (John 11:25) God is always **I AM**. He is not **I was** or **I will be**. Notice that in the gospels, no one ever died or stayed dead in His presence?

Conversely, that tells us that many of us experience death in many shapes and forms because we don't cultivate the Lord's presence.

We are not conscious that He is our very present help in time of need.

So cultivate the Lord's presence like you would cultivate a friend's or your spouse's presence. If you enjoy your friend's or spouse's presence, talk, converse, express your appreciation! Don't act like they are part of the furniture! Make eyes at your wife across the room, run back from the door before leaving to kiss her. Say "hello" to the lift or petrol kiosk attendant.

Walking in a crowded place, say to Jesus, "Wow, Lord, it's a squeeze here today!" Guys, you can say, "Lord Jesus, now that is a pretty girl!" After all, He created woman, and He is your holiness! And even if something upsets you, tell Him! "Lord, I don't appreciate that about this person."

Look out for the winds of heaven in little things, like when a child turns and smiles at you, or when you happen to get prime parking space. These things are not coincidence — God is saying, "Hey, I'm with you."

Whatever it is, just turn your eyes to Jesus. Worship Him. If you can't sing, just talk! The Bible says, "Speak to yourself in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs." (Colossians 3:16)

Talk to the Lord. He, His presence, **is** your answer.

FIND REST IN HIS PRESENCE

Wherever the Lord is, and wherever His presence is, there is rest.

A rest that is not subject to atmospheric forces or outward circumstances.

Moses once said to God, "If I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way that I may know You and find grace in Your sight." (Exodus 33:13) The Lord replied,

Exodus 33:14

¹⁴... My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.

The One who spoke to Moses came in the flesh, stood before the Jewish people of His day who were heavily burdened by laws and rules, and said,

Matthew 11:28

²⁸Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

The Amplified Bible says it this way — "I will cause you to rest." And in the Greek, it literally says, "I will rest you."

"Come to Me," Jesus says. Not to a country, or a mountain, or a religion, but to Himself.

"Come to Me, and My presence will cause you to rest. In My presence is rest. I am rest." Wherever His presence manifests, there is rest. And the devil cannot operate where there is rest — his territory is unrest, agitation and stress.

We have blessings that are resilient, because they depend on Jesus who lives in us. Because our healing, longevity, prosperity and success are all based on someone who is unshakeable, all-powerful, all-knowing and best of all, all-loving, we have a security that is immovable! A peace unspeakable!

JOSEPH PRINCE

Senior pastor of
New Creation Church
Singapore
www.josephprince.org



WITH JESUS WORKING

IN ME

I MOVED TO INDONESIA AS A missionary when I was twenty years old. The task of bringing the Gospel to the largest Muslim country in the world was more than I ever asked for. So many times I felt like I could not do anything worthwhile there that would make a difference. There were many times that the struggle to make something happen became exhausting. Trying to save a country or building up a great ministry could feel like such a heavy burden on my back. I never imagined I could continue this in the long term. But when I discovered the message of God's grace, it changed my life, my ministry - it changed everything. The simple realization that it was all about Jesus and not about me truly freed me and allowed me to enjoy preaching the Gospel! My name is Susan Hoover and I have now been a missionary in Indonesia for six amazing years.

BEGAN TO ENJOY THE MINISTRY

And since learning to truly trust in Jesus and not trying to accomplish anything by self effort, I not only began to enjoy my ministry much more, but I also saw effects as the ministry grew by leaps and bounds that I never could have imagined! I never could have imagined that by the time I was 25, I would be preaching the Gospel before crowds of thousands and directing a Bible college - and all of it taking place in a Muslim country. It just doesn't make sense. People often ask me how it is even possible for a young woman to be doing all of this. I only have one answer. I have stolen this answer from the Apostle Paul, "I am what I am, by the grace of God."

CROWDS IN MUSLIM AREAS

In our beginning, we would see thousands of people responding to the

beautiful Gospel and receiving Jesus into their lives over a year's time. But now, by the grace of God, we are seeing thousands respond in a single night as we do outreaches that draw crowds larger than they have ever seen before! And some of these are in Muslim areas where locals have claimed that such a thing cannot be done.

I have seen the impossible happen right before my eyes and I know that it is not one little bit because of anything I have done.

I could not have persuaded the Muslim leaders to work together with us. I could not have raised all of the finances that were needed. I could not have brought all those people to gather on the field. I do not have the wisdom needed to make all the decisions and direct everything and everyone. And I could never produce results, touch hearts and make the people believe. And instead of trying to do all of that I can simply allow Jesus to work through me and count on Him that He will work it all out. There is no burden on my shoulders and no stress of trying to force something to happen. I can stand in the midst of it with a smile on my face as I actually enjoy it!

THIS ISN'T ABOUT DESERVING ANYTHING

I am well aware that I do not deserve all of this. But when we really stop and think about it, we realize that we don't deserve anything. I don't deserve salvation, healing, blessing, prosperity, or any other thing that God wants to give to me. I don't deserve

to receive anything from God and I don't deserve to be used by God. But because of His grace He has saved me, given me all things and now continues to work through me, regardless of my weaknesses and failures.

I'm far from perfect. I'm just a young person with little education, money, and everything else that the world says you need for success. But I have all that I need - a revelation of the almighty Jesus living and working in me by His love and grace. I know that on my own I could never do anything worth writing about. But with Jesus working in me I have seen history being changed many times and I continue to see the nation of Indonesia being filled with the gospel of grace!

I SEE A NATION LOVED BY GOD

I have seen so many lives being changed, so many amazing miracles taking place, and so many locals catching the burning passion to spread the Gospel and become the history makers of the future! Words, even thousands of them, could not tell of all the beautiful things that are taking place as the Gospel shines further and further into the dark areas! *The world may see a nation full of terrorists, bombs, and disasters but I see a nation loved by God.* And although bringing God's love to a nation with 220 million people seems like it would be an exhausting and stressful task, I look forward to it with joy and excitement. I can enjoy miracles and preaching the Gospel, even in the hardest of areas, because it is not me working it out, but the grace of God working through me.

SUSAN HOOVER, Canada
Missionary in Indonesia
Director of Celebration
Bible College,
Medan, Indonesia

