

News & Views

Spring/Summer
2023

Grace

Is God's grace
enough for us?



**The semi-annual publication of
Josiah White's Quakerdale Foundation**
Faith driven ... Community focused

GRACE: A GIVEN GIFT

by Rob Talbot, Executive Director

Executive Director

Josiah White's Quakerdale Foundation



Dear Friends,

My whole concept of grace has changed, or maybe I can say it has matured, through being a parent. Grace can be hard to give and

receive... And I realize today it's not easy to write about either. Through parenting adult children I better understand God's grace more than ever before.

I realize that God sees me and knows me. God wants the best for me as my Heavenly Father. God wants to give me his love and forgiveness NO MATTER WHAT I DO. God does not lower his values to give grace to me and he doesn't require me to change. I don't even have to love or even like God and he still gives me grace.

God's love and grace for me makes more sense now because of how I feel about my adult kids. We don't always agree on things. It can be heartbreaking to watch children go through self-inflicted hardship and pain. Sometimes our values conflict. You see, no matter what upset feelings or disagreements that might exist between me and my kids they always have my love just like my Heavenly Father offers me.

Grace doesn't require the other to accept or change their behavior or values. Grace is simply a gift given to someone who did nothing to earn

it. Grace is not conditional and it cannot be taken. It can only be given.

As you read the stories of Grace in the newsletter I hope they inspire and give you something positive. Please keep the Foundation and these organizations in your prayers as we strive to Serve as Christ Serves.

"⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; ⁹it is not from works, so no one may boast."

Ephesians 2:8-9

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GRACE: FOR OTHERS AND FOR SELF

by Mindy Hadley, Executive Director,
Quakerdale Business Services
<http://QuakerdaleBusiness.org>



I recently purchased a new Bible for a study I am doing with a few friends. Along with the Bible I purchased bible tabs to label each Book of the Bible. Now, I don't know if you've ever put tabs on your Bible, but it is a tedious job. The tabs came with a marker to help you with placement, and even though this was very helpful I still struggled to get them on without being crooked and wonky. I knew that I would have this Bible for years to come, and I wanted everything to look just right. Exodus was particularly difficult. I tried over and over to get that tab on without success. It stood out taller and more crooked than the rest. I finally came to the conclusion that this was God's way of telling me, once again, that I am not perfect and need to give myself some grace.

Grace. Ugh. Grace is something that I will gladly give to others. Myself, that is a completely different story. I am not sure why this is, but I have friends that experience the same trouble. As I was telling a friend this story, she affirmed what I was saying. She said, "I have plenty of grace for other people, but never enough for myself." I asked her how she copes with this and she said that she received great advice from a person in our church. He told her, "that is why it is important to have people in our lives to speak grace for us." Kind of stops you in your tracks. At least it did me. God places people in our lives to speak grace for us.

Jessica and I see this with new clients. They are so hard on themselves when they make a mistake. They think about a problem over and over again until they are no longer productive. We try to be the people in their lives that speak grace for them. You will make mistakes when starting your business, and you will continue to make mistakes as you grow your business. You can not let mistakes, large or small, drag you down. When you have an "Exodus" standing out all tall and wonky, you have to remember, God is telling you it is time to give yourself grace just as He gives us everyday.

MAKING GOD'S GRACE OUR GRACE

By Lois Hoksbergen, Board Member
Child Relief Foundation
www.childreliefoundationinc.org

When was the last time someone showed you grace? For me, it was when I showed up an hour late for a meeting, having confused the time! I was assured by others in the group that they had done the same thing at times, was told to think nothing of it, and then they followed



up personally with encouraging words! I was embarrassed, but shown grace.

In our ministry of providing education to remote Liberia, we have experienced misunderstandings, pride, and accusations—many of which have cultural leanings. In order to fortify our relationships, we are challenged to listen, try to understand the position of others, compromise if possible, and affirm our mutual goal of helping disadvantaged students grow in their skills, expand their minds, and experience more of God. Only by being grateful for the grace that God has shown us, do we have the courage and strength to extend it to others—especially when it's hard.

We can find many examples of God's grace in both Old and New Testaments. Noah and his family were allowed to experience grace by deliverance from God's judgment upon the

world. Time and again foolish Israel forsook God, yet He continued to offer restoration upon repentance, regardless of the unfaithfulness which had been flaunted in the face of His grace. But God, in the epitome of grace, sent the Messiah, His own Son, to pay for the sins of His people.

Simeon and Ana, in their old age, were allowed to look upon the face of the infant Jesus. Jesus Himself offered grace to the crippled, the blind, and the lepers. The book of Romans affirms that God offers His grace toward all the world, not just the Jews, opening up the Gospel to the ends of the earth. If we were to imagine the most despicable sins, multiply them to the highest degree and by all whom He redeems—that would illustrate the depth of the grace of God. The acronym, God's Riches At Christ's Expense, describes the sacrifice He made to extend that grace. It's an amazing grace!



So where have you received grace? And where have you extended it? When we experience accusations, name calling, hurtful gossip, or other attacks, our ability to issue grace is tested. I pray that through our gratefulness for all God has done for us, we will accept the challenge to show grace to all we meet.

(References: Ephesians 1:7; 2:8; and Romans 5:20b)

GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT!

by Ryan Keller, Executive Director
Hope4Healing Resource Assistance Network
Hope4HealingCares.us

Greetings! As you may have noticed, the theme for this newsletter is about how God's grace has impacted our ministry. Grace is the foundation of what Hope4Healing does. In our experience, there are two types of grace; general grace that everyone can receive and saving grace. Hope4Healing connects people with both types of grace, and of course both types of grace come from God. God's unmerited grace is what provides salvation, but God's grace and mercy enable us to overcome obstacles we may face. God's grace allows us to rejoice in Him no matter what circumstances or infirmities are in our path.

At Hope4Healing, we work with individuals and families walking through difficult circumstances and trials, and have seen God's grace exhibited as physical needs have been met and broken hearts provided hope and healing. One of the most visible examples of grace is when an inmate looking for help to restart their lives, reaches out to Hope4Healing, to help find a home, employment, and daily essentials while looking for a church that will provide them with the essential supports to avoid falling back into those things that put them in prison in the first place.

As II Corinthians 12: 9-10 reminds us, God's grace is sufficient! This scripture is a timely reminder for all of us to choose to rejoice always,

praising the Lord despite what He allowed us to experience. Don't be defeated because of the trials you are facing, rely on Him, and trust in His Promises!

Hope4Healing's mission statement is Changing Lives, Preserving Families, and Strengthening Communities. As 2023 is underway, our staff is busy planning new ways to implement our mission statement. We are excited to continue our Statewide Resource Assistance Program,

Youth Camps, VBS programming, and will be launching new teen programs this year! If you would like to be a part of supporting our ministry, please consider donating your spare change to our "Changing Lives/Preserving Families" campaign. This campaign is a great way to support

our ministry/services so we can continue to be there for Iowans' in need. One way this Fundraiser can be done, is to have groups or individuals collect their spare change for a month in a mason jar, and then send in the campaign proceeds. This works well for groups who are looking to do a short, focused project. For more information, please visit our website <https://hope4healingcares.us> or call 1-855-584-HOPE (4673).

Donations: https://bit.ly/H4H_Investment



GRACE IS AN ACTION

*by Christine Balvanz, Board Member
Little Rock Ministries*

Grace is undeserved favor. Grace is lavishly given to us because of God's great love for us all. Because God gives us grace, we can bestow grace on each other. We can see each other through God's eyes, give each other the benefit of the doubt, think the best of others and fulfill God's commandment to love one another as we love ourselves. Grace and love go hand in hand.

At Little Rock Ministries (LRM) we act on our love for the residents of Pinecrest Mobile Home Park in Eldora. We offer twice weekly after school clubs for the children (K-12) and Bible study groups for both men and women. These programs are offered to spread the Gospel, teach God's grace, forgiveness, and love, which is available to all. We let them know they are precious to God. They need to be given a second chance or a new beginning, just like the rest of us have been given.

Our board members and volunteers also do what we can to see to not only to the spiritual needs of the residents but also their physical needs. We provide back-to-school supplies and generous Christmas gifts to all the children in the park, not just to the ones who attend the clubs. Scholarships are given so kids can attend local Bible camps. A trailer in the park is made available and maintained for our clubs and meetings. We can do these things with the substantial support of local churches,

organizations and individuals through their prayers and donations.

Grace, unmerited favor, is the focus of LRM and their supporters. One example is when teaching the club kids about good manners, such as saying please and thank you and taking turns when speaking. The adults give grace for the children



because the kids may not be used to behaving in this way, so it takes time for them to develop these polite habits. We are doubly blessed when grace is not only given by teachers and leaders but also when grace is given by the children to each

other. They are like brothers and sisters – they may quibble amongst themselves, but they also stand up for one another with understanding.

Thank you to all those who act in grace and love for our residents. They are people in need of support. LRM is a worthy cause and the residents we serve need and appreciate the support from our community.

Learn More:

<https://www.facebook.com/littlerockministries>

Donations:

Little Rock Ministries
%Isaac Good
PO Box 262
Union IA 50258

GRACE IS GOD'S UNMERITED FAVOR

*by Carla Tripp, Chapter Director, Central and Eastern
Safe Families for Children
www.safe-families.org*

Grace is God's unmerited favor; it is His kindness and forgiveness that we did not earn or deserve. But He gives us grace for our transgressions anyway. God commands us to give grace to others as we continue to become more like Jesus. At Safe Families for Children, we strive to create extended family-like relationships in our ministry. It seems fair to state there is a solid correlation of giving and receiving grace in any healthy relationship.

Giving grace is an important aspect in our daily efforts as we work to establish healthy and trusting connections with those who have reached out for support. I often remind myself and encourage others to 'give a little grace' when providing support. We are given the gift of grace by Him and are to pass this grace on to others, without judgment. It's not unusual for us to take a needed step back while trying to understand the situation from the lens of the parent. When we misunderstand someone's situation or actions, we can choose assumptions and judgement, or we can choose to listen with grace and understanding. What might seem like a simple fix to those on the outside, generally is a manifestation of a lifetime of events adding layers to years of despair, disappointment, and isolation. So...we give grace.

I witness grace in our ministry daily. I see host families bring children into their homes knowing the parent is in prison for assault, heading to substance abuse treatment for the fourth time, or perhaps in a situation where they have become homeless due to the inability

to maintain stable employment. I see our host families give grace, not judging the past but rather simply focusing on the future. I have also seen our host families open their homes to the child's mother for Sunday dinner, for the weekend, or even weeks at a time. Our focus at Safe Families is to support the parents through long-term relationships while giving them grace through some of the most challenging moments of their life. It is truly 'amazing grace'.

We extend God's grace to others because it is the foundation of relationships. His abundant grace works through us and provides us with the ability to have compassion for those who need us most. If you would like to join our efforts in supporting your local community by extending yourself as a grace-filled support to families in need, please reach out to Carla Tripp at 515 815 5124 or ctripp@safefamilies.net. You can find additional information on our website, including ways to get involved with Safe Families for Children at www.safe-families.org.

 A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE



"WHEN I DIDN'T KNOW WHICH WAY TO GO OR WHO TO CALL, SAFE FAMILIES CONNECTED ME WITH SO MANY RESOURCES AND AMAZING FAMILIES. I CAN HONESTLY SAY THIS ORGANIZATION IS THE REASON I AM WHERE I AM NOW."

Children **SAFE** Families **TOGETHER**

News & Views

GOD'S GRACE TEACHES US TO LISTEN

by Dr. Cynthia Knight CEO/Director
Choice Charter School

Grace, what is it? It is not something we can touch, but we are touched by grace. It is not something that we see, but we are “seen” by grace. It is not something we hear, but we are heard by grace. Because God’s grace is what breathes new life into our sinful mind, body and soul. It is through being heard by our gracious God that our lives can be changed. It is through His seeing our fallibilities and loving us anyway that God’s grace moves us toward Him.

I have been witness to much of God’s grace. Our human nature is to fight or flight when things get tough. It is through God’s grace that I can calm my mind, body and soul in order to do what is right. Our young people need this as well. They need to see it from the adults around them. Some of our young people have not made the best decisions; however, if we take the example of God’s grace that He has given us and apply it to these young people, we can change their lives.

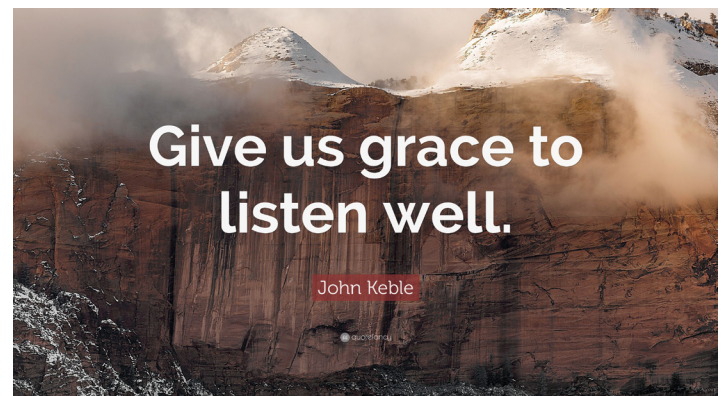
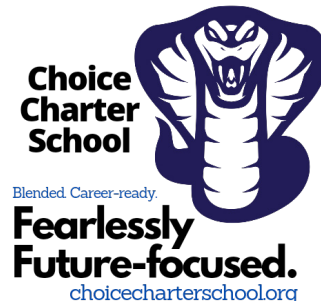
Take the young man who was drunk on the bus and got into a fight at 16. God’s grace would tell us to get to the root cause. What is causing him to act in this way? Listening and “seeing” this young man will help us grant him grace so he can begin to see things differently.

Another example is the young woman who is going to have a child. Society can shame her, but I am not sure that is what Jesus would do. Through grace we can touch this young woman’s heart and show her a way to create a good life for the two of them.

God’s grace teaches us to listen, “see” and touch those around us in a way that is kind, compassionate and caring. There are consequences to all our actions and some are negative; however, grace helps us approach the issues in a way that changes the impact of the consequences in so many ways. By listening, seeing and touching these young people’s lives as our Father has done for us, we show God’s grace ... and it is Life CHANGING.

Donation: https://bit.ly/CCS_DonatePP

Learn More: www.choicecharterschool.org



Memorials & Special Tributes

Memorials

Adam Toronto

Steven and Somjit Pagel

Alberta and Dale

Nelson

Tom and Margaret Elgersma

Cheryl Haupt

Kevin and Beth Nederhoff

Clara and Ray Millett

Elaine Wedeking

Dan Drury

Jeff and Brenda Gore

Leon and Barb Herndon

Darlene Perrin

Jeff and Brenda Gore

Kevin and Beth Nederhoff

Leon and Barb Herndon

Deb Malone's Birthday

Dan and Suzie Smith

Don Humrichouse

Marjorie Miller

Doris Smith's Birthday

Dan and Suzie Smith

Gerald Peters

Kevin and Beth Nederhoff

Harvin Meyer

Kevin and Beth Nederhoff

Henry and Doris

Smith's Wedding

Anniversary

Dan and Suzie Smith

Ike Rooks

Leon and Barb Herndon

Jack Rogers

Leon and Barb Herndon

Joanne Smith

Kevin and Beth Nederhoff

Joylyn Stoehr

Leon and Barb Herndon

Leon Doughty

Jeff and Brenda Gore

Kay Griffel

Kevin and Beth Nederhoff

Leon and Barb Herndon

Margaret Schuneman

Leon and Barb Herndon

Marjorie (Robbins)

Smith's Birthday

Dan and Suzie Smith

Marvin Granzow

Jeff and Brenda Gore

Kevin and Beth Nederhoff

Laura, Charm and Daniel Ruhnke

Leon and Barb Herndon

Steven and Somjit Pagel

Mike Crosser

Jeff and Brenda Gore

Leon and Barb Herndon

Ordie Eekhoff

Kevin and Beth Nederhoff

Retha Adams

Jeff and Brenda Gore

Kevin and Beth Nederhoff

Rev. Allen Robbins'

Birthday

Dan and Suzie Smith

Ryan McEwen

Kevin and Beth Nederhoff

Leon and Barb Herndon

Sandy Strum

Jeff and Brenda Gore

Kevin and Beth Nederhoff

Leon and Barb Herndon

Sandy Williams

Jeff and Brenda Gore

Kevin and Beth Nederhoff

Wayne Cahoon's

Birthday

Dan and Suzie Smith

RECEIVED: September 1, 2022

through January 31, 2023

Doug and Cathy

Gienger

Cassandra Bowyer

Dwight Smith's

Birthday

Dan and Suzie Smith

Gabriel Mata's Birthday

Dan and Suzie Smith

Jesus Christ's Birthday

Dan and Suzie Smith

Joyce Castonguay-

Smith's Birthday

Dan and Suzie Smith

Keith & Nancy Smith's

50th Wedding

Anniversary

Wes and Lynn Blanchard

Ken & Lila Smith's

50th Wedding Anniversary

Wes and Lynn Blanchard

In Lieu of a Christmas

Gift to Larry and Linda

Eliason

Joyce Street

LeRoi and Joyce

Castonguay-Smith's

Wedding Anniversary

Dan and Suzie Smith

In Lieu of Christmas

Gifts to Friends

Jane Whitehead

Nick Miller's Birthday

Dan and Suzie Smith

Rebecca Smith's

Birthday

Dan and Suzie Smith

Susan Repanich's

Birthday

Dan and Suzie Smith

Suzie Smith's Birthday

Dan and Suzie Smith

Special Tributes



THE GIFT THAT GROWS GENEROSITY

*by Dan Smith, Director of Development
Josiah White's Quakerdale Foundation*

GRACE is a gift in that it is not earned. It is unexpected and has value to the receiver.

GRACE deepens the relationship between the giver and the receiver. It takes the gift beyond the transactional and places it into the transformational: both the giver and receiver are changed. It reminds us that we were created to love and be loved.

GRACE touches every part of the giver and receiver. Grace specifically grows our generosity. It connects us with that God-given part of our character He placed within all of us when He created us. It focuses the giver on the needs and desires of the receiver. It rewards the giver with a sense of purpose and fulfillment and inspires the receiver to look beyond their circumstances.

Grace is the one gift that anyone can give, and everyone needs. "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." This is a snapshot of God's Grace. His gift of Christ dying on the cross was unearned, unexpected, and has had tremendous value to those that receive it. When received, it deepens our relationship with God. It transforms us from death to life, and it makes Him our Father, and us His child.

His Grace connects us to God through generosity. It allows us to see others as God sees them. He is then able to give us insight into how we can serve others in meaningful ways and with purpose. It inspires us to serve as He serves.

STANDING IN THE GAP WITH GRACE

*by Arlen Daleske, Founder
Providential Homes, LLC*

Ephesians 4: 32 states: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. That commandment is not a suggestion on how we should treat each other, it is simply stated as a command. Any ministry under God's authority needs to adhere to the message of that verse. As God has been gracious to us, so we must be gracious to others, no matter what their condition. Because their condition is everyone's condition - all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

Somewhere along the line Christians feel better about giving when there is a reward to be had. (Did we give donations or our tithe for the tax write off?) Christian ministries should look at giving the way Christ gave: without worrying whether there is a payback, demanding that any recipient must attend the next week's church service, sowing even on the hard ground.

Grace is given, freely. Perhaps, to review, the difference between grace and mercy can be exemplified by a courtroom situation. You have committed a crime. You plead the mercy of the court and the judge grants mercy and you are free without penalty. We like that, no one has to pay. But, the wages of sin is death, so in the spiritual realm, the penalty must be paid. God is just and the judge. Christ advocates for us and by His life, death and resurrection the penalty of our sin(s) is paid by Christ's actions. We will incur expenditures that there is no way to recoup, so be it. We must ask ourselves if we have always repaid the gifts and kindnesses given to us.

May it be with Providential Homes and your ministry that we stand in the gap and be gracious.

GRACE THROUGH WOLFE RANCH

by Sydney York, Ranch Manager
Wolfe Ranch of Quakerdale

Grace can have a variation of meanings, but I like to think of unconditional love when it comes to the meaning of grace. Grace has a very important role at Wolfe Ranch in all of the services we provide. Our horses provide the most unconditional love to each and every



person who comes through our gate whether it be for our Equine Assisted Learning, Equine Assisted Psychotherapy, riding lessons, or camps. Not only do our horse partners show their love for each person they meet, they have the capability to sense each individual's needs and abilities. Not only do our horses show their grace through unconditional love, the people of Wolfe Ranch also strive for this same impact. Wolfe Ranch is not able to do what we do without grace being an important value within our ministry.

Within Wolfe Ranch, we have seen a variety of different ways grace has been shown. The most impactful show of grace I have witnessed has been with one of our equine therapy personnel. Our equine partners show this individual extreme grace despite their disability. The true unconditional love shown by these horses is absolutely incredible. Horses don't see

differences or disabilities. Instead, all they see are the kind hearted individuals inside. Not only do the horses show this type of grace, but this individual shows an undeniable amount of grace to both our horses and people.

Outside of Wolfe Ranch, the most inspiring show of grace I have witnessed is through my younger brother. My youngest brother has Down Syndrome and is the most pure definition of unconditional love. Not only does he receive grace, but the amount he shares with others is astonishing. Although some people may view him as different, he never lets that define him nor show any less grace to anyone he meets. I was nervous to watch him grow up in today's society because of how inconsiderate some people may be, but the amount of compassion, love, and grace he shows to people of all ages is something the entire world should aspire to become.

To stay up to date with what's going on and to learn more about Wolfe Ranch, you can visit our website wolferanchquakerdale.org or like us on

Facebook at @WolfeRanchofQuakerdale. If you would like to volunteer at the ranch, you can send us an email at info@wolferanchquakerdale.org or stop out at the ranch to visit with us in person! If you'd like to make a donation to help out the ranch, you can use this link ...

(<https://wolferanchquakerdale.org/donate>) or, mail to ...

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WOLFE RANCH



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