



GLOBAL GRACE NETWORK

GGN is a fellowship of ministers and churches that advocate the gospel of the grace of Jesus Christ; Jesus alone, grace alone, faith alone. Our purpose is two-fold: to help the church rediscover Jesus and to take this message to the world.

JULY 2008



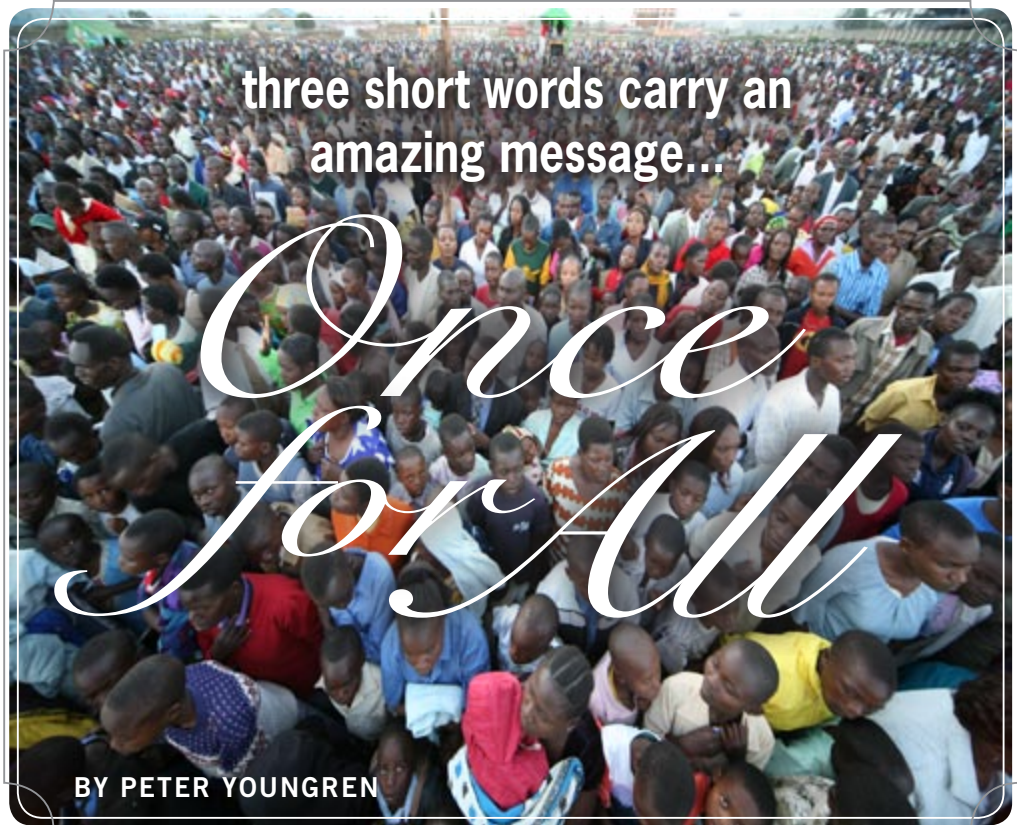
HAVE YOU HEARD GOOD NEWS LATELY that surprised and overwhelmed you to the point that your mouth just opened wide in amazement? And you asked yourself and others “can this really be true?” The word *gospel* means *good news*, and it also carries the meaning *news that is too good to be true*. Even though we may have been ministers for years, let us together ask God for revelation to rediscover Jesus and the effects of His finished work at the cross. This simple gospel is the power of God to salvation which includes everything! It's all ours because of Jesus!

In this newsletter you will find two teaching articles which both continue adding revelation about the “too good to be true news”. Every month new teaching articles will follow. We will also get acquainted with a pastor couple from Mexico and the transformation that took place in their life and ministry.

We pray that God will minister to you as you read the newsletter and study the Word of God.



Mary Felde
Editor



Most Christians believe that God can do anything, but are not sure that He has done much so far. Many put forth great efforts to persuade God to move, to touch, to heal, to send revival and to bless, while seemingly blinded to what Jesus has already provided. In short, many Christians don't know what we have. There is a poignant expression, “once for all”, found several times in Hebrews chapters nine and ten. **“Once”** leaves no room for misunderstanding. It means that the matter spoken of is not to be repeated, something which occurred at a specific time in history. **“For all”** eliminates any questions; no one is excluded, regardless of culture, religion, ethnicity or gender. What Jesus did, He did once for all.

Jesus' death dealt with the separation between God and man, which was due to human sin. Contrary to popular thought, God never turned his back on people because of sin, rather sin made people withdraw from God. God lovingly sought for Adam after his sin, while Adam hid himself. God never left the first murderer, but rather Cain “left the presence of God.” (Genesis 4:16) John tells us that if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart and knows all things. Alternately, when our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence towards God. (1 John 3:18-20) God knows that the sin which condemns us has already been paid by Jesus. While we may doubt, and as a result lose our confidence, God doesn't view us differently because of

sin. The gospel is sometimes described as the “too good to be true news”, but it is true. No matter what you have done God looks at you in love. Does that mean we should continue to live in sin? Certainly not! Sin destroys our lives and damages our soul. When our heart condemns us we lose our boldness. However, no matter

with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.” (Hebrews 9:11-12)

What futility in relying on our own effort, when Jesus has once for all redeemed us. Our inability to redeem ourselves

through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (Hebrews 9:13-14) The blood of animals did purify the Jewish people, but that purification was very time limited. Contrast this with the blood of Jesus, which cleanses our conscience

The gospel is sometimes described as the “too good to be true news”, but it is true. No matter what you have done God looks at you in love.

what we do, God’s heart towards us remains unchanged.

The enmity between God and man was the law of commandments which were nailed to the cross and put away by Jesus once and for all. God dealt with the sin issue for the whole world. (1 John 2:2) His grace has appeared to all people; it is universally applied, and those willing to receive it are saved. When we respond to what Jesus has done God makes us a new creation in Christ. Then the new life in us affects our emotions, marriage, relationships, finances and every area of life. He is the new creation life in us, which makes us live holy.

ONCE FOR ALL REDEEMED

“But Christ came as High Priest... Not

is evident. James 4:17 tells us “to him who *knows* to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.” Again we read, “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.” (James 2:10) No one can live up to this standard. Being 99% obedient doesn’t help us, we are still “guilty in all.”

There is no proportional blessing. If we are 10% obedient, we don’t get 10% blessing. If we are 90% obedient, we don’t get 90% blessing. In fact, if we are 99.9% obedient, we get 100% of the curse. This ought to make everyone capitulate and exclaim that we need God’s grace, which is precisely why the Law was given. Sometimes I am asked, “Peter, don’t you believe in God’s Law?” Of course I do, I believe in the law for the purpose for which it was given. The Law was not to make us holy, but to make us recognize that we are hopeless without God’s grace. Many today abuse the Ten Commandments by suggesting that they are instruments to make us holy and righteous, while Paul tells us that those very commandments arouse in us a desire to sin. It is Jesus in us who causes us to live righteously.

The Hebrew writer continues, “...how much more shall the blood of Christ, who

from dead works. Notice the cleansing occurs in our conscience! What is it that we are no longer conscious of? Our “dead works”, which simply means our own religious efforts whether prayer, church attendance, Bible reading, giving, or any spiritual exercise which we think will make us holy.

Sin consciousness is regrettably present among Christians. Many grovel before God, with prayers like “Oh God, I am so sorry, I am such a failure! I come humbly before You with all my shortcomings.” You notice how these words are full of self, focusing on our own inability. The blood of Jesus was shed to cleanse us from self-consciousness, and from looking at our own efforts. Instead, our attention is totally turned to the only One able to save us.

ONCE FOR ALL OUR SINS ARE PUT AWAY

“...but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.” (Hebrews 9:26)

There is a tabernacle in heaven, which Moses built a replica of. We read about the morning and evening sacrifices, burnt offerings, sin offerings, Day of Atonement offerings, all presented in the tabernacle. Every offering was designed to deal with the sins of the people, though



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on a temporary basis. Now in stark contrast we see a provision that deals with sin once for all. The temporary sacrifices in the Old Testament could never “make those who approach perfect” (Hebrews 10:1), while Jesus’ sacrifice has made us “perfect forever.”

Instead of concerning ourselves with getting God to do something, why not look at what He has already done. We put such focus on what we do, our spiritual efforts, while sadly, we know so little of what God has done in Christ. Jesus anticipated every sin we would ever commit and paid for it in advance. Does that mean sin is harmless? Not at all; sin will ruin your life, your business and your family. The Biblical admonition is clear: “do not sin.” Notice how I interject this time and again in my teaching, just like Paul did in his. When you teach the gospel, as good as it is, some will think you are making an excuse for sin, or legitimizing sin. Many preachers never have to pause in their sermon and explain, “I am not encouraging you to sin.” That is because most preachers do not preach the gospel that Paul preached. When we fully preach the finished work of Jesus on the cross, we need to remind ourselves from time to time, that we are not saved *to* sin but *from* sin. Those who teach a message that mixes law and grace never need to make such explanations.

ONCE FOR ALL SANCTIFIED

“By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all...For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.” (Hebrews 10:10-14)

What about holiness? We hear so much about grace, don’t we need to talk about sanctification also? Well, here you have it: we have been sanctified by what Jesus did once for all. Sanctification comes the same way as salvation; it is a work of God. Notice the obvious inferences in the following verses:

“Now may the God of peace Himself

sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.” (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

Who will sanctify you completely? Who will preserve you blameless? Who is faithful? Who is the One who will do it? The answer is the God of peace; He will do the work.

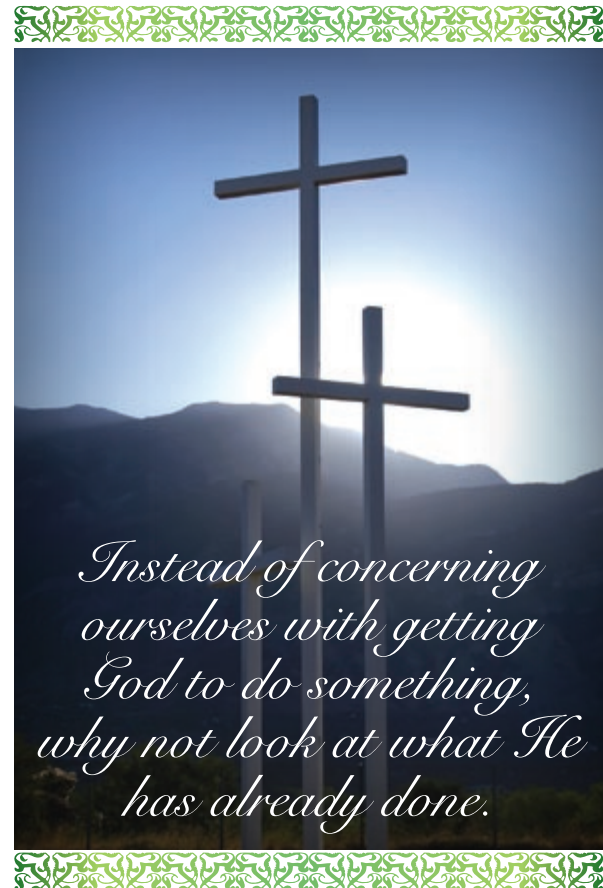
“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.” (Jude 24-25)

Who is able to keep us from stumbling? Who is able to present us faultless? Jesus Christ is the One! What is our part? To give him glory and praise, now and forever. Jesus has done all that needs to be done for our sanctification.

Stop condemning yourself. Stop saying prayers that disregard what God has done. Sometimes I hear people pray, “God, don’t take your Spirit from me, come and be with us, let your Spirit move, and hear our prayers.” What kind of prayer is this? This is Old Covenant thinking. Of course you don’t have to beg for God not to take His Spirit from you. Jesus has already promised that His Spirit would remain with you forever. You don’t need to ask God to be with us; Jesus Christ is in us! Of course God is not going to deny your prayers, since Jesus has already provided the answers for that which we pray for. People say, “Oh God, come and visit us.” God visited people in the Old Testament, but not anymore. He now lives permanently in us.

Acknowledge that

Jesus once and for all has put away your sins, redeemed you, and made you holy. He has made you holy and perfect. If you find that these provisions of Christ are not happening, then focus more on Jesus. Turn to Him, He will complete it, He is faithful.



Instead of concerning ourselves with getting God to do something, why not look at what He has already done.

Real holiness, dedication and righteous living doesn’t come from focusing on our effort. In fact, we are to fear and tremble that we take matters into our own hands, instead of letting God work in us. (Philippians 2:12-14) When we keep our focus on Jesus, He is working His life in us.

Lean on Jesus, rest in Him; He will complete the work in you!



Peter Youngren
Senior Pastor of
Celebration Church, Canada
Founder of
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Member of
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THE GIFT IS

Free & THE GIFT IS *Jesus!*

God loved the world so much that He gave; He gave His only begotten Son. Jesus called himself: "The gift of God."

Paul said: "Now thanks be to God for His indescribable gift."

This is actually the only thing we can do with a gift - receive it and be thankful! A gift is free to the one who receives it, even if it was very expensive. It is the one who gives the gift that pays for it. It costs nothing for the one who receives it. And here we are, at the core of the Gospel: God has in Christ done everything that could be done. ALL IS FINISHED.

Trygve Bjerkeim was a well known Norwegian preacher and writer. He says in one of his many songs: "What Jesus did is enough." This is a revelation that can give you a solid foundation to stand on. This is the light many Christians have not fully seen, so they strive as slaves and also make others strive. They have not experienced in real life what Jesus meant when he said: "My yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:30)

The whole world has been saved by Him, and all trespasses have been erased. God is reconciled with the world. The only thing we can do is to receive it! Salvation is not based on anything you and I have done or will do; it is founded on what He did!

IT IS DEEP-ROOTED...

There is something deeply rooted inside human beings when it comes to their need of "establishing their own righteousness" instead of "bowing to the righteousness of God" which is His free gift of salvation. Therefore all religions

are religions of "works or deeds" in one form or another. One must either give offerings, do penance, or carry out prayers and rituals.

Many people make Christianity a religion of works or deeds, but there is this big difference: The Christian message is that **WHAT JESUS DID IS ENOUGH!** This was the Jews' biggest problem in accepting the Gospel. Paul, who was of a Jewish heritage himself, says about them: "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For them being ignorant of God's righteousness and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God." (Romans 10:1-3)

SELF WORKS OR DEEDS— OR FREE GRACE

This is where all religions have a problem: They are zealous for God, but without the right wisdom or insight. The problem is that they try to "establish their own righteousness" instead of receiving what God has done through Christ! The answer to man's need of righteousness

before God is that "Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believes." (Romans 10:4)

The problem of receiving the finished work of Christ is shared by many Christians. Yes, they believe they have received salvation through grace alone and they know that everything is based on what Jesus has accomplished. However, their actions show that they don't quite trust in this. They struggle in their own efforts when dealing with righteousness, ministry, evangelization or prayer. They set up timetables and judge others if they can't keep their pace or keep up in their ministries.

"The Christian message is that what Jesus did is enough!"

Fundamentally, this cries out a need for this revelation; "What Jesus did is enough." When we see the light of this, we'll become like Paul. He worked more than any other, but he said: "— though not me, but God's grace which is within me!" There is a vast difference between working with this belief and working in one's own power and effort. The Bible tells us that when Jesus had fulfilled salvation for all mankind, He sat down at the right hand of the Father in Heaven. The fact that He sat down illustrates that the work is done and salvation is finished.

By Pastor Åge M. Åleskjær

"IF HE HAS SAT DOWN, SO WILL I!"

In a small chapel I used to attend, I listened carefully to the preaching, even as a child. Among those I remember, was one about how to enter into the rest of knowing that you are saved. That is why I still remember some of the stories the preachers told us. It was about a woman who had a great struggle and spiritual fight when it came to this issue. Her surroundings had given her the impression that as a Christian she was worthless and that she could not meet the standard of even calling herself a Christian.

"Well, if He has sat down,
so will I!" She had suddenly
seen the truth: "What Jesus
did is enough!"

While struggling with this and wondering how to have peace with God, she was listening to a message about Jesus. She heard that after Jesus completed our salvation, He sat down at the right hand of God in Heaven. And suddenly she realized that "by one offering he has perfected forever those who are sanctified." (Hebrews 10:14) After He had fulfilled the cleansing of our transgressions, He sat down at the Father's right hand. (Hebrews 1:3) When she realized this, she cried out: "Well, if He has sat down, so will I!" She had suddenly seen the truth: "What Jesus did is enough!"

Åge Åleskjær

Senior Pastor of
Oslo Kristne Center,
Norway
Member of
GGN Board of Directors

Get Co**NN**ected

To connect to this fellowship of ministers and Churches that advocate the gospel of the grace of Jesus Christ, you may register here: www.globalgracenetwork.org/register

The purpose of GGN is two-fold: to help the church rediscover Jesus and to take this message to the world. For more information about GGN read the questions and answers section of the Annual Newsletter 2008. www.globalgracenetwork.org/network

When ministers and pastors register their membership, there is an annual fee of USD \$60.

Some of you might live in a nation facing financial or political disadvantages, thus making

Welcome to each one of the 1129 pastors and ministers from KENYA that registered as members in June. We greatly rejoice at the opportunity of staying connected with you, and together we will take the Good News to the world!

It is hard to meet with a full annual fee. You may then choose a subsidized membership, equal in level, value and importance. The annual fee of a subsidized membership is USD \$10.

When Churches register their membership, there is a one time fee of USD \$150. The Church will receive a decorative plaque that identifies the Church and ministry as a part of GGN.

GLOBAL GRACE NETWORK'S STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Bible is the inspired Word of God and the revealed Will of God.

There is only one true and triune God, being The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit.

The gospel is for people of all cultures and religions without discrimination.

We were reconciled to God through His Son's death, whereby He made peace by His blood on the cross. Salvation is already fully provided for and made available for every human being. There still needs to be a response from the individual to receive this gift of salvation. A person is saved by confessing with his/her mouth that Jesus is Lord, and by believing in his/her heart that God has raised Him from the dead.

There is no salvation in works (neither in the presence of good works nor in the absence of bad works), but only in Jesus Christ. Repentance is turning away from trusting in other means for attaining salvation and turn to Jesus who is the one and only Savior.

The Mosaic Law with the Ten Commandments belonged to the Covenant given through Moses. This covenant has been replaced with the New

Covenant established in Jesus. The law of the New Covenant is the Law of Love.

We believe in the whole Word of God. We believe everything Jesus said to be true, both what Jesus said while walking here on the earth and what He said after being resurrected and seated in heaven.

We are saved by free grace, and the same grace that saved us is also able to change our lifestyle and behavior. The teaching about righteousness and grace does not set people free to sin, but rather sets people free from sin.

We believe in the baptism of water, after a person has come to faith in Jesus and confessed Him as Lord.

The Holy Spirit is given to all Believers in Jesus as our comforter and guide in all areas of life.

Everyone has been given healing by the redemption of Jesus. We therefore practice prayer for the sick.

All Believers in Jesus are one. We therefore desire to keep this unity of the Spirit, and we seek to maintain good relations with all other Believers in Jesus.

GLOBAL GRACE NETWORK AFFILIATED BIBLE SCHOOLS



Celebration Bible College

P.O.Box 968, St Catharines, Ontario, L2R 6Z4, Canada

Language: English

Coming school year begins Sept. 2, 2008

www.CelebrationBibleCollege.com

E-mail: info@celebrationbiblecollege.com

Call: +1.905.646.0970 ext 314



Bibelskolen Oslo Kristne Senter

Fetveien 1, N-2008 Kjeller, Norway

Language: Norwegian

Coming school year begins Aug. 20, 2008

www.bibelskolenoks.no

E-mail: bibelskolen@oks.no

Call: +47 64 84 64 30



Logos-Tampere Bible School

P.O. Box 165, 33201 Tampere, Finland

Language: Finnish

Coming school year begins Sept. 8, 2008

www.logostampere.net

E-mail: info@logostampere.net

Call: +358 3 2120210



Sekolah Alkitab Celebration (SAC)

Medan, Sumatra Utara, Indonesia

Language: Indonesian

Planned start of school: Sept. 2008

E-mail: sac.medan@gmail.com



Celebration Bible College of East Africa

P.O. Box 99 – 00242 Kitengela, Nairobi, Kenya

Language: Swahili/English

E-mail: kencelebrationbiblecollege@yahoo.com

Call: +254 726 612 548



International Pastoral Training Center

Eldoret, Kenya

Language: English, English/Swahili

Fall semester fully booked – Openings available Feb. 2009

E-mail: fmeastafrica@gmail.com



To The Nations Bible College

5073 E. Post Falls, Idaho U.S.A. 83854

Language: English

Coming school year begins Sept. 2, 2008

www.ttnbc.net

E-mail: ttn_ft@hotmail.com

Centro Ensenanza Biblico Oasis

Honduras

Coming school year begins January 2009

Language: Spanish

E-mail: walterah@hotmail.com

HIM RESTING IN



THE BEGINNING OF A PROCESS THAT EVER SINCE HAS BEEN TRANSFORMING OUR BELIEFS AND LIVES COMPLETELY

I met my husband in Kristiansand, Norway, the summer of 1990. Miguel was a young Mexican man working on a missionary ship lying at the dock, and I was a curious visitor from a little town close to Kristiansand. I believed I had a mission call from God upon my life, and I was excited to get to know this beautiful, white, old ship getting ready to go and serve in Africa. I almost envied the people on board...

We got married in 1993 and at the same time we pioneered a mission centre in Culiacan, a city of one million people located on the Northwest coast of Mexico. We struggled a lot but filled with determination we were running training schools for young people interested in missions, traveling all over the world with youth teams. It was challenging and exciting years where we boldly faced the financial and practical challenges in the ministry.

Determined to serve God

Our favorite verse in the Bible was

Ephesians 2:10 where it says that we are made to do good works. We were determined to serve God no matter at what cost, doing these good works we believed He needed us to do. We even thought it would make us earn His blessings and favor in our lives. We had heard a lot of teachings about how we should renounce our rights for the Lord and how we could lose His blessings if we disobeyed Him.

Nine years ago we started a Bible study group in Miguel's parent's living room. Little by little the group started to grow and after a while it became Centro

Right doings does not mean right believing, but right believing leads you to right doings.

Cristiano La Campiña, a church we believed God wanted to use to make an impact in our city. Culiacan is known for its agriculture as well as for the drug traffic ran by huge mafia families who are



MIGUEL & NORUNN INZUNZA
Senior Pastors of Centro Cristiano La Campiña, Culiacan, Sinaloa, Mexico

some of the main suppliers to the USA. Even though there is a lot of poverty around the city, it is remarkable how money laundering makes it one of the fastest growing and prosperous cities in Mexico. God put a vision in our heart believing the city will become known for what God is doing here more than for its agriculture and drug traffic. At this point we were both leading the mission centre and serving as senior pastors in the church. We were starting to get tired of all the pressure and sacrifice and started to feel a sense of discouragement.

Amazed and touched by the message

The summer of 2003 we went on vacation to Norway with our three sons and we got to know a new church in my home town, Vennesla.

We were amazed and touched by the message they were sharing about the grace of God and His unconditional favor upon His children. We knew at that point that this was something we wanted more



We decided to open our hearts to the secrets He had been longing to show us for all these years.

of. In 2005 we left our youth pastor in charge of the congregation and we went together with our kids to Norway to join the leadership year of the Bible school of the mother church in Oslo, Oslo Kristne Senter.

Beginning the school year we got impacted with a sentence: "Right doings does not mean right believing, but right believing leads you to right doings". Wow! That was the beginning of a process that ever since has been transforming our beliefs and lives completely

We decided to open our hearts to the secrets He had been longing to show us for all these years: He is not only God Emmanuel, God with us, but He is Christ in us, the hope of glory! We got to know the word of God in a new way that really made us free! Free from condemnation, free from self justification, free from fear and free from pressure.

We understood that Jesus is our justification, our holiness, our strength, our blessing – He is all we need! Everything is a gift and it is freely given to us. We realized that the second part of the verse in Ephesians 2:10 was the key to live victoriously: to rest in the assurance that God has prepared works for us, and the Lord himself will do them through us in Christ!

Sharing the message to the Church

We went back to our church in Culiacan very excited about this new revelation and with a huge expectation of the things God had prepared for our church. Arriving there the people could immediately notice that God had transformed our lives during the year we had been gone. We started to share with the congregation about the life in the New Covenant and the powerful grace of God. It was amazing how God had prepared the hearts of the people and how they just started to eagerly receive the message.

God showed us that this is the time for the church. He wants to build His church and we feel excited to be a part of it. We decided to let go of the mission centre and put ourselves into what God is doing, resting in His prepared work. We still want to reach the nations through the church, but with a transformed motivation and a transformed message: The gospel of grace and reconciliation.

Two years have gone since then. Sadly a handful of people have left because of the changes that have happened. But

many more have come, the church is growing and the members are seeing fruit of the message in their marriages, in their children, in their jobs and in their daily lives. People are set free from condemnation and fear, enjoying the life in Jesus.

We are so grateful to God for what He has done in our lives. We believe that

We can rest in the assurance that God has prepared works for us, and the Lord himself will do them through us in Christ!



His plans for us are wonderful and prosperous as a family and as a church. We are so blessed in every way and our family is growing as well, since we expect a new little baby this summer. It is so exciting to have the best still to come, and to be able to rest in Him in every step of the way.

