



The G.E.M.

Edition 11

The Grace Electronic Magazine

November 2007

FOCUS ON MINISTRY

Pastors — you are at the core of our customer base — we appreciate you and all that you do, and just wanted to take a moment to say “Thank you!”

November is Pastor Appreciation Month at Grace Media. This month, take the time to show some appreciation to your pastor, in fact to anyone who ministers into your life and the lives of others, on a regular basis, by telling them how much you appreciate them. You could even buy them a book or other gift that you know they are wanting or needing.

In this month's edition of *The G.E.M.* we feature a few excerpts from the amazing biography of an unlikely martyr, killed at the tender age of 17. If you had fun completing last month's *Word Soduko*, be sure to try this month's on page 3, along with some items of a lighter note.

If you are at a loss of what to buy your family and friends for Christmas, be sure to have a look at our promotions page for some ideas.

And don't forget to pay us a visit for lots more exciting gift ideas in store.

Be sure to also check out the next book in our *Top 25 Must Reads*, a devotional that will complete any pastor's library.

Until next time,
God bless.✝



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PASTOR APPRECIATION

“Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant — not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”

2 Corinthians 3:5-6 (NIV)

Pastors and other church leaders are often the loneliest people in the church. Many work long hours, are on call 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, and sacrifice their families' needs for those of the congregation.

Pastors come to our churches with training in theology and Biblical matters, yet are expected to be effective in handling matters of politics, finance, DIY, psychology, business management, and so much more. No one can handle such a wide range of responsibilities by themselves, yet we expect our pastors to be able to.

But what is a pastor's job? Is it to be able to handle all of these tasks skilfully, or is it quite simply to turn people to God?

I see a pastor to be somewhat like a tour guide. Anybody can find out about God on their own with a Bible, just like one can find their way

around a foreign country with a map, but it is much easier, more informative and captivating to have an experienced person who knows the territory to help.

A pastor is one who serves — serves God, and people, by turning people to God so they can receive God's gift of salvation and His help.

How then can we help our pastors to effectively complete this task? By being ministers ourselves. Being a minister does not require you to have a title such as pastor or bishop.

While it is true that God does call some to special places of ministry, it is a mistake to think that we all cannot, or should not, minister.

You can be a “minister” by helping others, listening to them, and giving them the greatest gift of all, love.

So, support your pastors by offering words of encouragement and assist wherever possible. If your gift is DIY, help fix what needs to be fixed. If it is accounting, offer your services in keeping the churches finances in order. We are all called to be ministers. Let us use our gifts wherever and whenever possible to help our pastors see to the more spiritual needs of the body.

Finally, do not forget the most important, pray regularly for them.✝

DIARY OF EVENTS

BE SURE TO DIARISE THE FOLLOWING EXCITING EVENTS

Paint & Palette Group Annual Art Exhibition

1-3 November at the Edenvale Community Centre
Thurs: 18:30-20:30, Fri: 10:00-18:30, Sat: 10:00-16:00

Parachute Band SA Tour

4-11 Novemberber 2007 at various venues around the country
Book at www.iTickets.co.za

Rhythms of Life – an afternoon of light entertainment

Sunday 18 November at Trinity Presbyterian Church
Contact them on 011-453-7729 for more information

Mighty Men 2008 Conference

18-20 April 2008 at Shalom Farm, Greytown
For more information visit: www.shalomtrust.co.za



MISSIONS SPOTLIGHT

Republic of India

(भारत गणराज्य)

Capital:
New Delhi

Official Languages:
Hindi and English

Largest City:
Mumbai



Motto:
"Satyameva Jayate" (Sanskrit)
"Truth Alone Triumphs"

Currency:
Indian Rupee

Population:
1.087 billion



Government:
Federal Republic

India is the world's second most populous country and the seventh largest country by area. Since the 1980s the country's level of development has improved quite significantly, but there are still wide disparities in access to healthcare, education and infrastructure.

The caste system continues to influence society despite anti-discrimination laws. Traditionally, there were four castes plus 'untouchables' or 'scheduled castes'. In reality, there are thousands of sub-castes that function as separate social groups.

Indian parents often favour boys. Although gender disparities have declined, gender-biased attitudes still result in early marriage and childbirth, lack of autonomy, low levels of literacy, poor nutrition and high maternal mortality.

The civilisation in the Indus valley is one of the oldest in the world. In the early 1800s, Britain took control of the area stretching from Afghanistan to Burma, ruling until 1947. With independence, the colony was partitioned into Muslim (Pakistan and Bangladesh) and Hindu (India) countries.

Missionary Organisation in India:

Gospel for Asia

Website: www.gfa.org

SHE SAID YES

This month we have a special free download available on our website. It is the e-book *She Said Yes*, about the story of Cassie Bernall. One of the eleven victims of the Columbine High School shooting on April 20, 1999.

Some confusion still exists about the motives and order of events of the shootings, but never the less, this biography, written by her mother, is a fitting tribute to the life of a teenager who dedicated her life 100% to Christ.

Here are a few quotes from the book.

"I couldn't see anything when those guys came up to Cassie, but I could recognize her voice. I could hear everything like it was right next to me. One of them asked her if she believed in God. She paused, like she didn't know what she was going to answer, and then she said yes. She must have been scared, but her voice didn't sound shaky. It was strong. Then they asked her why, though they didn't give her a chance to respond. They just blew her away."

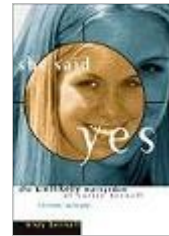
"P.S. Honestly, I want to live completely for God. It's hard and

scary, but totally worth it." - From a note written by Cassie the night before she was killed and handed to her friend Amanda the next morning at school.

*It is easy to die for Christ.
It is hard to live for him.
Dying takes only an hour or two,
but to live for Christ
means to die daily.
Only during the few years of this life
are we given the privilege of serving
each other and Christ...
We shall have heaven forever,
but only a short time for service here,
and therefore
we must not waste the opportunity.*

Sadhu Sundar Singh

Cassie's short life was one of faith and utter devotion to Christ. I would like to encourage you to download and read this inspirational e-book for yourself.



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This e-book is available to download for free at www.ploughbooks.co.uk or from the downloads page on our website at www.gracemedia.co.za ☩

DEAR PASTOR

Each day, countless numbers of people respond on your behalf to the gentle nudging of the Holy Spirit, and pray for you.

The prayers are as diverse as our backgrounds, but they are as unified as the one who prompts them into action. The content of the prayers are as varied as your needs. One appeals for wisdom, another for strength or encouragement. Your health and well-being and your families are regular petitions.

Even though we are all called to be ministers, we thank God for people like you who have been given the special task of being our pastors.

We would like to take this moment to thank you for all that you are doing for the Kingdom of God, and to encourage you to keep up the good work. God bless you!

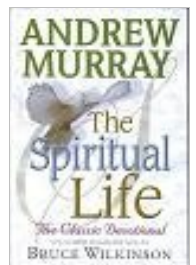
"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." - Matt. 9:37-38

Top 25 Must Reads

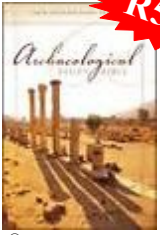
THE SPIRITUAL LIFE by Andrew Murray

The Spiritual Life is a daily devotional based on twelve of Andrew Murray's earlier books. It is unique in the sense that nowhere else is the core of his teaching regarding the Christian life more conveniently arranged, and the wealth of his spiritual experience better summarised, than in this devotional.

R110.00

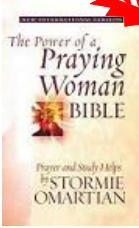


FABULOUS CHRISTMAS GIFTS



R520

NIV® Archaeological Study Bible



R380

The Power of a Praying Woman Study Bible



R290

Psalty's Kids Bible



From R90

Bible Covers



R100

Children's Bible Covers

Teachers' and Sunday School Gifts NOW IN!



R100

Dickens' A Christmas Carol CD Set



R88

The Birthday Party Kiddies Christmas Story CD



R200

The Nativity Story DVD



R135

Georg Friedrich Handel's The Messiah DVD



R85

The Once Upon a Stable Activity Pack



R75

Lights of Joy



From R12

Exclusive to Grace Media Cross Stitch Christmas Cards



R30

Kids' A'Peel Peel & Play Sticker Packs



R15

Flip-Over Activity Playpads



R300

The Bible-Man Adventure Board Game



R330

Bible Challenge Board Game
Also Available:
Pocket Version
R80

EXTENDED SUMMER TRADING HOURS:

(5 November – 2 February)

Monday – Friday:

9am – 6pm

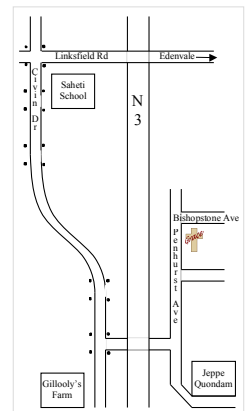
Saturday:

9am – 2pm

Closed Sundays and some Public Holidays

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From the N3, take the Linksfield Rd off ramp. Turn right up hill. Stay in left lane. Turn left into Civin Dr. At 4th set of lights, turn left under bridge. At t-junction turn left. Through the boom. We are ± 200m on the right hand side. Entrance is in Penhurst Ave.



R40



R80



R30



R20



R100

2008 CALENDARS & DIARIES