

Words from the Woodwards

April, 2024

"And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all." Acts 4:33

Dear ministry friend,

Thank you for your prayers and support. I trust you had a meaningful and joyful Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday. Our twin **baby grandsons** were with us again. They're now 4 months old, but Levi has been slow to thrive and put on weight. Not so, with his brother, Lincoln, who is 5 pounds heavier!

The **counseling** ministry continues with in-person, telephone and zoom sessions. I also rejoice in how our Guides are reporting monthly on their ministry sessions.

On March 23rd I had the honor of ministering at the celebration of life service for our ministry associate, **Paul Travis** (1933-2023). He has been a good friend and role model over the years. A video of the service and testimonies is at ELCmatters.org

Last week I was happy to receive a copy of the **Transformation** newsletter, published by the Biblical Counseling and Spiritual Formation Network of the American Association of Christian Counselors. The editor, Dr. Ian Jones, included my article titled "Sorting Your Self Out." Years ago he featured an article by Dr. Solomon. If you would like a copy of this newsletter, just let me know (for a PDF or printed copy).

Over a year ago I was impacted by the autobiography of Nick and Rozanne Savoca. Their book, *Five Little Words*, is about how God raised up the ministry of

Prayer Stations community outreach, where attendants sincerely ask "May I pray for you?" Last month GFI purchased a Prayer Station kit and the PS leaders, Ron and Anita Setran, made a presentation to leaders here in Pigeon Forge. We will take a baby step with it April 18-20 at the local "rod run".

That will be a busy three days since I fly to **Boston** on the 19th and present our Finding Joy seminar there on the 20th. I will be joined by our Guide, Rob Semco, who will assist me in the teaching.

The leaders at First Baptist Church of Proctorville, **Ohio** have been special friends, coworkers and supporters for over two decades. Linda and I are due to return there for Linda to speak at a women's event on



John & Linda with Anita & Ron Setran

the 27th, and I'm to preach on Sunday morning and evening the next day. We appreciate your prayers for these ministry events.

Mark just had his two year "anniversary" as GFI's Executive Director. I'm so thankful for him, and for our new Office Administrator, Kristy.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry. May God encourage us to live and share the glad tidings of the victorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

Yours in Him,

John

Mailbox

Re: Grace Notes: *Who Caused the Death of Christ?*

“Excellent! Thank you! This will be used in our sessions with some pastors in the near future!”

Re: *Glimpses of Grace* podcast

“I just got done taking 3 pages of notes on your anxiety podcast. Thank you and Mark for making it! It really ministered to me. I thought it was a very healthy and balanced perspective. I felt heard, accepted, and validated, not judged. What a blessings you both are to the body of Christ who are dealing with anxiety. May I add “fawn” to your fight, flight, freeze repertoire? I am a flight/fawn response.

Your vulnerability, humility, and acceptance was felt and appreciated. I'm so sorry for the loss of your daughter, Sarah. Sarah was the name I was going to name another daughter if I had one. I can only imagine that kind of loss and to hear the faithfulness of God in your voice is the testimony of Jesus living in you.”

Re: The March Workshop

“I am so grateful for the way you guys are carrying on the legacy of Dr. Solomon. I am amazed at how God orchestrated this moment in history to minister to me and to equip me for a new journey of encouraging Christian leaders.”

“This has been the most beautiful Christian experience! I would like to pursue the certification program. Thank you for sowing into my life!”

Grace Fellowship International
GraceFellowshipInternational.com
P. O. Box 368, Pigeon Forge, TN 37868
Office: 865-429-0450 Cell: 865-740-7847