

Words from the Woodward

November-December, 2024

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth...And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." John 1:14,16,17

Dear ministry friends,

Thank you so much for your prayers and support. This biblical text reveals the profound miracle of Christ's incarnation and the wonderful benefits we have: "And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace."

I am staying busy with **counseling** and supervision. Whether counseling face to face at GFI or by telephone or zoom, it is a privilege to help people find hope and renewal in Christ. Requests for help come in almost daily. My counselee in Sydney Australia is 16 hours ahead; that makes scheduling a challenge. :-)

It is a joy to **supervise** our GFI Guides, those in the counseling and chaplaincy certification tracks, and Luther Rice Seminary students (for this joint venture practicum). Two of these students completed their practicum with us this week, completing their Masters degree.

I also maintain our monthly **blogs**: RevitalizingPastors.org, ELCmatters.org, BiblicalPsychology.net and others. Grace Notes still go out weekly (since 1998). The web site indicates that there have been 421,000 page views at GraceNotebook.com internationally this year. Hallelujah! I thank my friend, Danny Parks, for creating the web site.

This morning I had a planning meeting on zoom with two leaders in Cairo, **Egypt**. They have requested Christ centered counseling trying for the Sudanese pastors there. (Many Christians from Sudan have been forced to flee to Egypt due to persecution by Muslim extremists.) So we have the opportunity to provide online and printed resources for them, and I may travel there for a workshop next year.

We continue with **book publishing** projects. Mark's new book, *Who Do You Think You Are?* is arriving from the printers next week! And I am editing John Best's next book, *The Great News of Grace*.

Chaplaincy activity has also been developing. I had two opportunities to minister in Newport, TN where there was catastrophic flooding from hurricane Helene. You recall that Linda is on the Wellness Team at Dollywood. She is sometimes called upon for chaplaincy visits and takes a turn writing a column for the biweekly newsletter that is distributed to the over 4,000 employees. On December 19th we will assist with a Blue Christmas service (for those dealing with grief) and we have been asked to lead a Christmas Eve service for the

guests of Dollywood's DreamMore Resort. May God let His light shine through these opportunities.

Family matters

Linda was able to travel to Ontario, Canada last month for a visit with Laura's family. We hope to see the rest of our children and grandchildren during December. Stephen and Maci's twins, Lincoln and Levi, turned one last month. Levi is still helped by a feeding tube but they are both healthy and growth. Praise the Lord.

Thank you so much for your prayer and financial support this year. God is so faithful. May the peace and hope provided by our Savior's advent give you a joyful and meaningful Christmas season.

Yours in Christ,
John

Mailbox

Hi John, we hope you and yours are well! Our times on Monday evening's zoom Bible study are extraordinary. [My wife] and I are always blessed. Thank you for your years of faithful service. I attended the workshop during which you celebrated Dr. Solomon before his death. The Lord has used you to navigate GFI through a number of transitions. It seems the GFI ministry continues to honor the Lord while serving Him. The Lord bless you all.

T. - Illinois



John, son, Linda's Dad, Linda, & Linda's sister



Levi & Lincoln

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