

Words from the Woodwards

February, 2025

“See what an incredible quality of love the Father has shown to us, that we would [be permitted to] be named and called and counted the children of God! And so we are! For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, we are [even here and] now children of God, and it is not yet made clear what we will be [after His coming]. We know that when He comes and is revealed, we will [as His children] be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is [in all His glory].” 1 John 3:1,2
Amplified translation

It is such a privilege to continue to serve on the front lines of Christ-centered counseling and equipping. We’re staying busy on the phone. Recently we had 11 **counseling** inquiries in an 8 day period! Some of these involve recommending resources and offering encouragement and prayer, and others are ready to start counseling sessions. I rejoice when the counselee is eager to cooperate with the Holy Spirit. Examples from this past week include a businessman from California and British soldier overseas; both reported major improvement in their lives as they have been prayerfully learning from the reading and videos.

Some aspects of our **international ministry** can be conducted from our home base. Rob Semco, Cherri and I recently took turns teaching zoom sessions for our daughter ministry in India. Mark and I are in touch with coworkers and pastors in South Africa. And sometimes we travel...

In the last six months I’ve had the opportunity to assist a missionary and a Sudanese pastor in Cairo, **Egypt**. (There are many displaced Sudanese there who are in need of the gospel, pastoral care and counseling.) GFI has provided materials and these leaders have facilitated a class there. They have asked me to come and teach the concluding sessions and minister to larger groups. I would appreciate prayers for God’s anointing on this trip **March 18-25**.

After Linda and I had a refreshing vacation trip last month, I resumed the weekly Monday night online video Bible study. (All are welcome and most of the sessions are recorded and available at [/vimeo.com/channels/1621148](https://vimeo.com/channels/1621148) .)

Currently my role with **GFI publishing** includes helping with John Best’s book, *The Great News of Grace*, and the Discippler’s Guide edition of *Life in Christ: A Personalized Discipleship Notebook*. We hope they will



be published and available in the bookstores in a month or two.

Equipping is such a joy. For example,

- Elizabeth (Texas) beginning the IFOC chaplaincy course
- Ian (local) co-teaching *For Me to Live is Christ* with his pastor
- Russell (Texas) reporting of how God has transformed his life and his desire to be equipped to help others
- Monica (South Carolina) discipling on-to-one and addressing recovery groups
- Luther Rice seminary students coming to the GFI workshops for their practicum.

Our **chaplaincy** track is also moving forward. Congratulations to Rob Semco and Steve Ranz who received their Exchanged Life Chaplaincy certification. My wife, Linda, has moved from the H.R. training department at Dollywood to joining the Wellness Team as her exclusive role. Now she serves as a chaplain for the 4,000 employees of the two parks and two resorts. What an opportunity!

We appreciate prayer for the local seminar and workshop, March 1,3-6 and we hope many of you can attend the 55th anniversary event April 25th in Knoxville - in person or by livestream.

Thank you so much for your prayers and faithful financial support. May God's love continue to encourage you and confirm your new identity in Christ.

Yours in Him,
John

Mailbox:

"It was so good seeing you. I am forever grateful to you [and Jane]. Please share with Mark that I just finished his book and enjoyed it. [He writes] "depression is living in the past, anxiety is in the future and they begin when we are at the center of our own lives, trying to live out what God wants to live out through us." This was so true for me and once this became a reality for me, I was set free of anxiety and depression. I credit the teaching of GFI... Galatians 2:20 did not become a reality until you explained it to me and through study of the suggested GFI material... Enjoyed the book. Thank you!"



Linda's at Dollywood's Leadership U event

Grace Fellowship International
P.O. Box 368, Pigeon Forge, TN 37868
GFI 1-865-429-0450 Cell 1-865-740-7847
jbwoodward@mac.com