

# Grace Freedom News

Changing lives through the Gospel and Biblical truth

January – March 2009

**“If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.” (John 8:36)**

Issue #2

Hello Partners,

God is good, compassionate, merciful, faithful, and awesome! He knows how to fulfill His plan for our lives. God has used you as a source of blessing and encouragement to this ministry. We have faced some battles but the Lord has delivered us out of them all. We know it is through faithful prayer warriors like you that we are delivered from every assault of the enemy. Please never cease to pray for G.P.M. God will continue to deliver and sustain us that we may fulfill His plan to those who are incarcerated and to the world. His plan for our lives can not be thwarted. Many of you have sacrificed much to see this ministry fulfill its responsibility to God and prisoners. We give thanks to God for your partnership with this ministry. Words can not express how grateful we are to have you on our team. God continues to answer your prayers and is using your financial gifts to impact the lives of those incarcerated. The good news that transformed our lives is definitely transforming the lives of prisoners.

*“For God loved the world so much that he gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)*

*“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.” (Acts 16:30)*

*“For by grace you have been saved [rescued from danger] through faith; and that [salvation] not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

*“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:26)*

*“Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.” (Romans 5:1-2)*

*“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 8:1)*

Satan would love to see prisoners remain hopeless and defeated. But God in His grace and love has established

Grace Prison Ministries for the purpose of setting those in his grip free.

Many of those incarcerated have been very discouraged because they do not know how to break away from the influence of the world, the flesh, and the devil. They find hope through learning that the Christian life is lived by God. He is the one who will give them the victory.

*“For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.” (Phil. 2:13)*

*“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be satisfied.”*

*–Jesus Christ*

God the Holy Spirit indwells and fills every believer at the moment of salvation for the purpose of empowerment, spiritual growth and production of divine good. Those incarcerated learn the importance of recovering from sin when they fail (1 John 1:9), and keeping their eyes on Jesus Christ through learning, thinking, and applying His Word to every area of their lives. This is what produces spiritual growth and freedom from the power of the sin-nature.

We consider it a privilege, that our father has considered us to be the ones to take His message of love, freedom, hope, and forgiveness, to those scorned by society. The year “2008” was a great year of opportunity given by God to this ministry. We traveled to over 15 jails, prisons, and youth facilities in Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, and Tennessee.



Nashville Inmates hunger for Truth

It is not just a biblical command to take the Gospel to them and teach them how to live, but it is our job.

Our Lord Jesus says:

*"...I was in prison, and you came to me."* (Matthew 25:36b)

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to observe all that I command you..."*

(Matthew 28:19a, 20)

We are convinced that G.P.M. is God's ministry because of the fruit and the harvest of people responding to the Gospel and their hunger for doctrine. Keithian finished

*"It is not those who are healthy who need a physician but those who are sick."*

—Jesus Christ

teaching at a jail and a man around forty years old came up to him with tears in his eyes. It was not because he was in Jail. It was because he understood for the first time the simple Gospel message and the teaching of the Word of God. God is truly using this ministry through the power of the Holy Spirit, and the Word of God to set the captives free. Please continue to pray for us and thank you for your support.

### Knowing God in difficult times

God is in control of every event in history and allows disaster for a reason. He allows disaster to awaken carnal believers to their need to amend their ways through confession of known sins in their lives, and to learn and apply His Word (**Jonah 1: 1-3:4 Luke 15:11-27, Hebrews 12: 4-11**). He also allows testing to increase the faith and godly character of believers positive to His Word. Trials in the growing believers are an opportunity to apply knowledge to experience.

*"...do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor your body, as to what you will put on...Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you [the believer in Jesus Christ] not worth much more than they...? Why are you worried...? You of little faith...For your heavenly Father knows that you need these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."*

(Matthew 6:25a, 26, 28a, 30b, 32b, 33)

### The Word of God reveals that God is:

**Sovereignty**- He is the supreme ruler of the universe. He is in control. (Psalm 47:2)

**Righteousness**- God is perfect and sinless in His character. He can't fellowship with sin. (Deuteronomy. 32:4)

**Justice**- God is always fair and shows no partiality. He judges with fairness and blesses with fairness; He never makes exceptions for anyone. (Deuteronomy. 32:4, Romans. 5:12, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Matthew 6:25-26, Hebrews 12:5-11)

**Love**- God is love and His love is unchangeable. (1 John 4:8b, 16, John 3:16, Romans. 5:8,)

**Eternal life**- God the self-existing One, has no beginning or end. (Psalms 90:2, 102: 29, John 3:36)

**Omnipotence**- God is all power and has unlimited ability. (Luke 1:37)

**Omniscience**- God is all knowing. (Job 37:14-16, John 18:4)

**Omnipresence**- God is everywhere without any limitations. (Psalm 139: 7-12)

**Immutability**- God is unchangeable. He is reliable. (Lamentations 3: 22-23, Hebrews. 6:17-19, 1 King 8:56)

**Veracity**- God can not lie. He means what He says. (Numbers 23:19, Titus 1:2)

How do we apply this knowledge of who God is to our lives? Let's take omnipotence for example and see how it applies to our lives. In Mark chapter 4 our Lord Jesus Christ manifested His omnipotence in calming the storm.

*"On that day, when evening came, He said to them [His disciples], 'Let us go on the other side.' Leaving the crowd, they took Him along with them in the boat, just as He was; and other boats were with Him. And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up. Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him and said to Him, "Teacher", do You not care that we are perishing?" And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. And He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"(Mark 4:35-40)*

Our Lord Jesus Christ truly cared for those in the boat just as He cares for us today. Peter says:

*"...casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you."* (1 Peter 5:7)

He allows things to happen sometime to prove our faith and cause us to depend on Him. We are challenged in trials to concentrate on who God is and His plan for our lives. It is sad that many do not know God or His plan for their lives



CDC Inmates Respond to Doctrine

so they panic and fear in adversity. It is sad to see how little we apply of what we learn from the Bible.

*"The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid"*

(Hebrews 13: 6a)

*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."*

(Hebrews 13:8)

The same Jesus Christ who calmed the storm is the same omnipotent One today that can handle my problems. Is there anything too hard for God? God knows how to fulfill His plan for our lives some way, some how. He just asks us to trust Him and continue to grow spiritually through learning and applying His word.

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart. And do not lean on your own (human) understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your path straight."* (Proverb 3:5, 6)

God's essence and His promises are our solace in hard times. He is always faithful to His Word. When we think of who and what God is we respond to man and problems with confidence and courage. We know that our God is greater than any problem we face in the devils world. He knows what He is doing and what we are going through. Therefore, we are to cast our cares on Him in prayer and relax because He is in control of the situation.

*"Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the Lord your God is the one who goes before you. He will not fail you or forsake you."* (Deut. 31:6)

## Letters from the inside

Dear Mr. Starling

I am currently incarcerated at the Criminal Justice Center. I'm one of the juveniles that attend your Bible study. The story you shared inspired me to want to get to know God even more. Pastor Charles H. Spurgeon mentioned in a sermon in 1876 *"should not the creature be submissive to the creator, to whom it owes its existence, without whom it had never been, and without whose good pleasure it would at once cease to be, for our creator is infinitely good, and His will is love."* I thank you for taking the time out and giving us a better understanding of God's word. Everyday I look forward to your Bible study lessons. The more I know Him, the more I get to know His plan for my life. I want to know all I need to know about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I want to know and fulfill His purpose for my life on earth. Again, thank you for giving us a better understanding of the Word of God.

Sincerely,

Inmate at the Criminal Justice Center  
Tennessee Jail

Brother Keithian,

I want to start by saying I enjoyed your Bible study on the 5th. I really enjoy studying the Word the way you study. It makes it so much easier to understand. I was wondering could you send me two Bible study lessons at a time. I will be on 20 hour lock down for 3 or 4 weeks. I don't care though because I've gotten in the Word of God a lot lately and I enjoy my time with my Lord. I can not get enough of the Word. Brother Keithian, I can't understand why I never found it before. I could've saved myself so much pain and heartache. It was the pain though that got my heart and soul to the place it need to be. I'm now thirsting for God and His grace. It is truly a blessed feeling to know I'm forgiving and not alone. God is here to comfort me, teach me, and show me the way through His Word and others. Please pray for me. I will like to be part of your ministry to help those who are still where I was. I am very thankful for being here because I've found salvation and a purpose in life. I truly respect you and the teaching you bring, thanks for everything brother Keithian.

Your brother in Christ,  
Inmate in Robertson County Jail  
Tennessee Jail

Dear Mr. Starling,

I heard you speak at Men of Valor on January 21, 2009. I never have given God a thought or chance in my life but when I heard you speak it planted a seed in my life and it is growing everyday. I'm 51 years old and been behind bars 20 years. You told me God had a plan for my life. I didn't know what that plan was at first but now I awake every morning to pray and thank God for His grace and mercy. I know that no matter what problem I have. God will take care of me and see me through and comfort me. I understand now that He is the Almighty. He is the reason I'm here on earth and He has a reason for me being here. I believe that reason is to love and show compassion to everyone no matter what they have done and to praise and glorify Him. Mr. Keithian thank you for bring God into my life and showing me that am not alone and will never be alone again, because God is with me. I have peace, joy, and inner happiness all the time now and being locked up doesn't keep me from God. I am truly free. You showed me how much God really does love me and care about what happens to me and that is what set me free. Even though I am here I'm as set free than I ever been. So God bless you and thank you so much.

Your friend,

Inmate at Correctional Corporation of America  
Tennessee Prison

Dear Keithian,

I would like to start off by saying may God bless you and your family from the crown of their head and the sole of their feet. God has really blessed your life and it let's me know God has something great in store for me. I know God do not show respect of person. God says if you delight yourself in the Lord he will give you the desire of your heart. I am very interested in ministry school to be a missionary. Can you be of any assistance in this area? I am reading "Focus on Christian Marriage by Moses C. Onwubiko and it is an anointed book. The Holy Spirit made this book come to life and caused me to understand something about myself and marriage. It is a blessing to be up under your teaching. The teaching you all present is sound doctrine. I am so glad to have another chance at life. I love you and may God bless you and your family.

Love,  
Inmate  
Tennessee Prison

Dear Keithian,

Thank you, thank you, and thank you for the inspirational books by R.B. Thieme, Jr.; The plan of God; Slave Market of Sin; The Barrier and the Faith Rest Life. I'm in search for other authors that could help me learn biblical doctrine and grow spiritually. The books you sent started my thirst for guidance and the desire to better understand God's plan for my life, and the future destiny is to be shared now and in eternity with my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. If possible I would like to read more and share with other brothers here with me. Again, thank you and the staff at Grace Prison Ministries for your kind considerate approach to those incarcerated.

Respectfully yours,  
Inmate  
Georgia Prison

## Other Letters to Grace Prison Ministries

Dear Mr. Starling:

It was a pleasure and a very rewarding experience to travel with you to youth detention centers in Fort Lauderdale, Florida area and observe your Bible teaching and Christian motivational message to these hurting young people. There is certainly no one who can better relate to young people such as these (those who end up in the Justice system) than a person like yourself who has been "in their shoes" and turned around through Jesus Christ.

As you recall we went into three detention centers and spoke to about 120 young people giving them the Gospel of Jesus Christ and teaching them how to overcome the old lifestyle of crime and drugs through learning and applying God's Word on a daily basis. We will be excited to have you return to our area for a follow-up message in the near future.

It was also great to have you speak to our church about Grace Prison Ministries and your plans for it's growth and expansion into more prisons and detention centers as well as future plans for assisting post-release believers in their re-integration into productive society.

It is a pleasure to observe someone who is so dedicated to spreading God's Word to hurting souls of the world and we salute your diligence and enthusiasm.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Steve Pomeroy  
G.P.M. Partner

Keithian my friend,

I just wanted to say thank you for the fellowship, hard work and tremendous headway we made during your visit here to Shreveport and Bossier City, LA. for the Christian youth outreach at both detention centers. I have taught these kids Bible Doctrine over the past two years with the Holy Spirit guiding me through the discussions, but you have been definitely blessed by God with an exceptional gift of Evangelism. I have never seen such attention to every word spoken before as I saw with most of those troubled kids. You can see that they have finally heard the Word of God at a level and viewpoint they could really understand and the way it was meant to be presented. Hopefully there will be a changing of the mind toward Christ in the near future. I was even surprised by the impact your teaching had on some of the prison guards. I look forward to your next visit. Once again, thank you for coming. Take care.

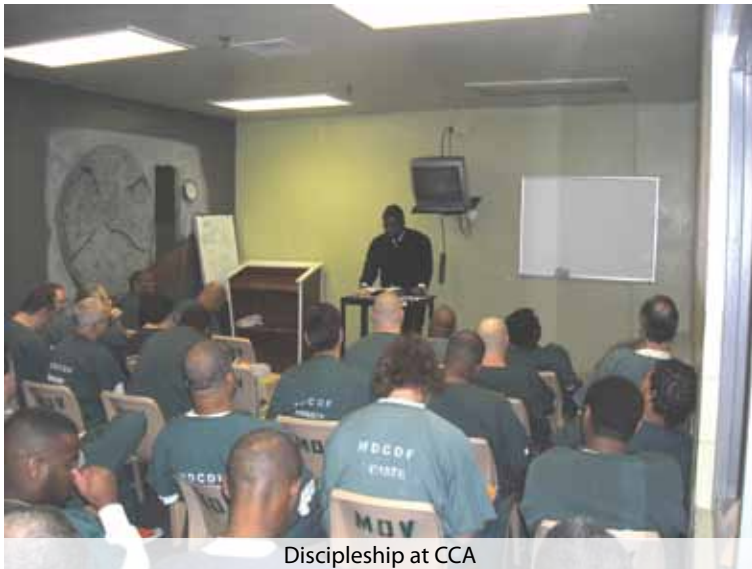
In Christ,  
Lt. Col Steve Pomeroy

Dear Keithian,

I just wanted to express my deep gratitude for your willingness to partner with Men of Valor. The men in Jericho look forward to your coming into our unit here at CCA every Wednesday morning – they know their time with you will be rich in the Word, and thus, rich in Truth. As long as you are able, I hope you will continue to disciple the men who have completed at least ten months of our program. We believe at this point in their journey, they should be more than ready for a deeper level of commitment and discipleship, and that their time with you will help move them in the direction of experiencing all that God has in store for them as they prepare to leave prison.

We pray God's richest blessings upon you, Keithian. We are blessed to have you as a part of our team for fulfilling the Great Commission!

Godspeed,  
Curt Campbell  
Men of Valor  
The Jericho Project  
Program Manager



Discipleship at CCA

## Letter written about Keithian's visit

On December 30, Keithian Starling, a former student of Bill E. Ireland Youth Detention Center, came back to speak with our youth. His message was a very passionate one as he shared how he had learned the hard way and wished that he had listened to those trying to provide guidance. His presentation was a powerful message to the youth about their sin-nature and how it can lead them to go negative or positive. He told the group his life story; how he came from a single parent home and tried to be a provider for his family at the age of 14, but he went about it the wrong way. He started selling drugs and everything to accommodate his life style. He spent the majority of his youth incarcerated; he thought he couldn't change until the Judge gave him 40 years. It was at that time that he decided to make a change and turn his life over to God and repent for his sins. He was blessed to do only two and a half years of his time. He started Grace Prison Ministries in Nashville Tennessee and travels to different prison and youth detention centers ministering to young adults to get them to change.

Mr. Starling's message was one of encouragement to our students to go straight and listen to what is being instilled in them. It was great having this young man to come and speak to our youth because he, like many of our youth, once believed that he would never amount to anything in life and his story goes to show that people can change.

Wilbert Ruff Jr.  
Assistant Director  
Bill E. Ireland YDC

"Changing the mindset of our youth one student at a time."



## **Please...**

### **Give Thanks: (Col. 4:2, 1 Thess. 5:18)**

1. For the love of God in providing salvation through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross
2. For the power of the Holy Spirit at salvation
3. For the Bible
4. For Pastor-teachers who study and teach the Word of God
5. For local churches as classrooms to learn God's Word
6. For evangelist who sacrifice their life is to take the gospel of Christ to the lost all over the world
7. For those who support missionary activity and the dissemination of the Word of God
8. For the gift of freedom
9. For the knowledge that Jesus Christ controls human history
10. For His grace in meeting our needs in the devil's world

### **Pray for others: (1 Timothy 2:1-2)**

1. For peace for our nation
2. For our President- wisdom and divine guidance
3. For Congress- salvation of the unbeliever's and divine viewpoint as they make decisions
4. For our military- protection
5. For provision for those desiring full time work in the mission field
6. For spiritual revival among believers
7. For more positive volition in the prisons
8. For the spiritual and physical needs of those released from prisons
9. For believers who are persecuted for their faith
10. For unbelievers- circumstances to direct their attention to Christ.

### **Pray for Grace Prison Ministries:**

1. For good health, wisdom, and guidance for Keithian
2. For more laborers
3. For more partners
4. For our existing partners-that God will meet their needs

5. For more open doors for the Word
6. For transportation to get ex-prisoners to church
7. For property and resources to build a transition house for homeless ex-prisoners

## **Grace Prison Ministries: Overview**

Grace Prison Ministries is incorporated in the State of Tennessee as a Christian, non-profit organization. We are a non-denominational ministry focusing on changing the lives of prisoners through evangelism and sound Bible teaching. We endeavor to restore individuals one by one, thereby making a positive contribution to our neighborhoods and our society.

### **Our Mission:**

In obedience to the command of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...teaching them to observe all that I commanded you..." (Matthew 28:19a, 20a)*

### **We have the following objectives:**

1. Evangelize the unbeliever with the simple grace gospel: salvation by "faith alone in Christ alone." With this in mind, our primary job is to make the gospel as clear as possible, without gimmicks and without imposing our personal views on anyone. Rather, we leave the gospel matter between God the Holy Spirit and the person. Our duty is to present the gospel and leave the decision "to believe" or "to reject" solely to the individual.
2. Assist those who have responded positively to the Gospel in the following manner:
  - a) Encourage and help them form study groups.
  - b) Teach them sound Bible doctrine, provide Bibles and doctrinal materials such as Bible teaching on CD, and written literature which will enable them to fulfill the command to "grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18a); thus enabling them to re-enter society as productive citizens and good role models.
  - c) Assist those who possess the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher to obtain study Bibles and resources to help them prepare so they may

minister effectively to others both during their stay in prison and upon release.

- d) Direct believers upon release to a doctrinally sound local Church or study group.
- e) Direct the poor but positive believer, with a teaching gift, to acquire seminary training.

3. To assist inmates, upon release from custody, who are homeless and jobless.

- a) Network with employers to assist with jobs so they can become self-sustaining.
- b) Direct those released from incarceration to grace-oriented transition housing where Bible doctrine is the cornerstone of a structured environment.

4. To assist the needy as God provides and directs us. These may include but are not limited to:

- a) Provision of food.
- b) Provision of clothing.
- c) Assistance to those who are associated with Grace Prison Ministries when needed.

5. Occasionally hold crusades in prisons that we have visited inviting guest evangelists and pastors. Giving those who have the call, to serve the Lord in prisons, an opportunity to serve.

6. To write periodic reports to update our associates regarding our ministry.



Keithian at Nashville Prison

**Financial Policy:** Grace Prison Ministries offers its services free of charge. We do not solicit funds but operate entirely on voluntary contributions. When understanding the need to reach lost souls with the Gospel and sound Bible teaching motivates you to contribute, you have the privilege of giving and sharing in the dissemination of the Word of God. This is a grace ministry.

## Grace Prison Ministries Planned Upcoming Trips & Schedule

*Colquitt, Georgia*

March 15- Colquitt County Jail

*Albany, Georgia*

March 16 – Albany Bible Church

*Frankfort, Indiana*

April 3rd - Grace Church of Frankfort

*St. Louis, Missouri*

April 5th- Grace Doctrine Church

*Keithian Weekly Prison & Jail Ministries (Nashville)*

Monday 1:00pm- 2:00pm - Correctional Development Center

Monday evening 7:00pm - 8:00pm - Released inmates discipleship class

Wednesday 8:30am – 10:00am - Correctional Cooperation of America

Thursday 6:00pm -8:00pm -Criminal Justice Center (Juveniles)

Friday 8:30am -9:30am Criminal Justice Center (Adult males)

## Biography

Keithian L. Starling is a native of Albany, Georgia and grew up in a single-parent home in a poor neighborhood of drugs, gangs, and violence. Keithian was so far behind in his work to pass the eighth grade. Due to constant incarceration, he dropped out of school. He turned to a life of drug dealing, partying, and crime. He spent most of his young adult life incarcerated.

In 2000, while incarcerated in Albany, Georgia, he prayed and asked God to reveal His ways to him and a few days later he had the privilege of receiving books by R.B. Theime Jr. from Ernest Smith of Lost & Found Ministries. Mr. Smith is a member of Albany Bible Church. These books opened Keithian's eyes to salvation—by grace, through faith—and how to live the unique spiritual life through the power of the Spirit and the word of God. When he understood the doctrine of "Faith alone in Christ alone, confession of sins & keep moving, faith-rest, the filling of the Holy Spirit, and other doctrines taught by R.B. Theime Jr., he became a lover of truth and became burdened for those suffering for lack of truth. Keithian started teaching the doctrine he was learning to the inmates and guards. When he was released from prison in 2003, he continued his pursuit of doctrine at Albany Bible Church where Pete Daughtry is the Pastor-teacher.

From 2003-2006, while attending Albany Bible Church, God opened doors for Keithian to visit schools, prisons, jails and youth detention centers presenting the gospel and basic procedures to living the Christian life.

In 2004, Keithian went to a community college and got his G.E.D and started pursuing a diploma so he could become a radiology technician. After the first two courses he dropped out and enrolled in seminary through extension at Tyndale Theological Seminary in order to be a better trained minister of the Word.

From July 2004 to August 2006, Keithian worked for Nanze Spings Water Company as a salesman. While working at this company his daily route brought him in contact with many who needed the gospel. This kindled his desire to do full-time mission work. He began to see what the Lord meant by "the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few."

In August 2006, Keithian moved to Nashville, Tennessee to partner with Moses C. Onwubiko, founder of Grace Evangelistic Ministries. While working for Grace Evangelistic Ministries and reading many letters from prisoners all over the world, Keithian sensed the call by God to go back into the prisons, jails and detention centers, taking them the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and sound Bible teaching. Therefore he incorporated Grace Prison Ministries.

Currently, Keithian teaches weekly at two Nashville jails and one prison. He travels to youth detention centers, jails and prisons in Georgia, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Florida. Keithian shares our Lord's heart for the lost, and a heart for prisoners. He has already walked a mile in their shoes and knows that the only way for them to change is by becoming a new creature in Christ and renewing the mind. The grace and love of God has transformed his life and now he is reaching out and sharing the truth that set him free.



*"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who strengthened me, because he considered me faithful, putting me into service...It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all". (1 Timothy 1:12, 15)*