

**GRACE ROADS  
COUNSELING  
CENTER**

**Steve Benson's  
Office Information:**

Mallard Creek/  
University Area  
(Right off of Prosperity  
Church Road)  
Charlotte, NC 28269

Hours: Monday, Tuesday,  
Saturday

Denver/Lincolnton Area  
Providence Church  
274 North Highway 16  
Suite 200  
Denver, NC 28037

Hours: Tuesday and Thurs-  
day  
Evenings

Freedom Church  
125 East Main St  
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Hours: Thursday Afternoons

704-550-4792  
[sbenson317@gmail.com](mailto:sbenson317@gmail.com)

**Inside this issue:**

Lake View           **2**  
Podcast

Partnership       **2**  
Freedom Church

Suffering Pro-   **2**  
duces Strength-  
ened Weakness

Excerpt from      **3**  
Embracing Love:  
We are all hiding.

# Grounded in Grace Fall 2015

## Embracing Love—Now Available

Have you felt con-  
fused and isolated in  
relationships?

Have you felt lost in  
conflicted relational  
chaos?

Do you feel an emo-  
tional disconnection  
between you, others,  
and God?

If so, keep reading...



“Embracing Love” invites us to explore what it means to love others well, live beyond fear, and embrace an authentic life. Through the author’s personal story and those of others, we will understand the intricacies of giving and receiving love. This book is for those who are tired of hiding, willing to risk being exposed, and desiring to be transformed by God’s embracing love. “Embracing Love” dares you to discover the other side of just living in loveless, chaotic, and disconnected relationships.

There is a preview on page three about the way we hide in fear. It can be purchased from Amazon and Barnes and Noble online and from your local book store. Go to my website [www.groundedingrace.net](http://www.groundedingrace.net) for the link to Amazon.

In a few weeks I will have copies available through my website. Thank you for your help. In everything, may you be gripped by his grace, find his mercy meddling, and fall forward into his love!

Remember- you are his beloved!

Steve

## Podcast with Lake View Health



In August I was invited to spend a day at Lake View Health in Jacksonville, Florida. Lake View Health is a substance abuse recovery program. I met with many of the counselors, program directors, and counselors. One great aspect of this program is that they have a Christian Substance Abuse Program.

Click on the link for a podcast about the ministry of Grace Roads Counseling:  
[Lake View Health Podcast about Grace Roads Counseling Center](#)



## Partnership with Freedom Church



Over the last year, I have had the opportunity to get to know Clint Darst and the pastoral staff at Freedom Church. In October 2015, Grace Roads Counseling Center started a counseling office with Freedom Church in Lincolnton, North Carolina. This office will allow people in the Hickory and Lincolnton areas to receive counseling services as well. I will be there one day a week and continue to be in Denver two evenings a week. I also see clients at my home office in Charlotte several days a week.

## Suffering Produces Strengthened Weakness



During the last week in September, I had the privilege of going to the American Association of Christian Counselors Conference in Nashville. It was an overall great time. I enjoyed many of the speakers. However one in particular, Joni Eareckson Tada (pictured with me), was very moving.

If you don't know her story, she was in a diving accident when she was a teenager. She is a quadriplegic and started a ministry called Joni and

Friends. She gave an incredible talk on suffering and how God can use suffering to produce strength through our weakness.

She pondered with us that in God's eyes, "a day is like a thousand years." With this being true, how many thousand years can we invest in the kingdom by loving others through our weaknesses? She challenged us to invest in other people's stories by understanding that God will use our disabilities, pains, and struggles if

we move away from ourselves and focus on others.

In an incredible way, she echoed many of the thoughts I have been writing about for the last several years.

I was blessed to meet her and her husband Ken. I am thankful for testimonies of ordinary people living extraordinary lives for the kingdom.

### Excerpt From “Embracing Love”: Fear– We are all hiding . . .

Ironically, fear keeps us from entering into those costs and then winds up costing us more than we thought we were willing to risk. We choose protection over intimacy, stagnation over growth, and comfort over challenge. Fear leads us toward immaturity. Fear costs us the ability to love with power, with strength, and with endurance. Fear becomes a driving force of our relational bondage: It keeps us in chains to an isolated life.

Lastly, fear keeps us living in denial. Instead of willingly dealing with our pain and past wounds, we hide from the reality of our own heart. In fact, all of us will hide in some form or fashion. If we open our eyes and look— really look—at the world around us, we are able to see many people hiding. We see parents hiding from their children when they are too wrapped up in themselves but don’t even know it. We see spouses hiding from intimacy when they would rather “be right” than to admit their own insecurity. We see executives hiding from failure so they manipulate others in order to remain in power. We see teenagers hiding in fear of not being loved when they go to the extreme to receive any kind of affection before the silence of night befalls them. We see people hiding from loved ones when they can’t admit their darkest, shameful hours of pain because now they will need to give up the façade that they have spent years creating. We see many

rich people hiding in their spiritual poverty. We see many poor people hiding in their quest to become rich. We see the majority of the middle class hiding in their discontentment. We see many doctors, pastors, nurses, teachers, and yes, even counselors hiding from each other. The helping field can be a silent wasteland of suffering because we don’t want to admit that we need help ourselves. Hiding is the ultimate addiction of fear.

*Fear leads us toward immaturity. Fear costs us the ability to love with power, with strength and with endurance.*

We hide in busyness, reputations, materialism, and denial. We hide in power, insecurity, inability, and inferiority. We hide in theology, divisions, self-righteousness, and hatred. We hide in loss, grief, pain, and denial. We hide in entitlements, ingenuity, indifference, and intolerance. We hide in anything that will give us comfort, worth, allegiance, or affection. We are all hiding—where we are hiding is the ultimate question. In hiding, we will continue to live in our most dreaded fear—being and feeling alone.

**(From “Embracing Love– Living on The Other Side of Disconnected Relationships” pg 13)**

### What Others are saying about “Embracing Love”:

“Steve Benson leaves no stone unturned and you will marvel at how deeply he makes you look into your soul as you begin the process of seeing yourself, your spouse, and God in a complete and loving light. ‘Embracing Love’ is a book which opens you up to giving as well as receiving life’s greatest gift— love.”  
Coach Mike Sherman— former Green Bay Packers Head Coach

“I would highly recommend ‘Embracing Love’ to anyone who desires to have a better framework for life. Steve is able to present these truths in a honest, but gentle way. This is one of those books that you would want to share with others!”

Mark Thompson— Operations Manager for 1&2 Week Mission Trips for Mission to the World

## *Finding Grace Along the Roads of Life*

**Vision:** To provide teaching, training, and counseling that will enable individuals, families, churches to experience God's powerful grace in transforming their stories.

**Mission:** To provide a pathway for people struggling on their journey to find hope for their broken hearts, healing for their wounds, and a hiding place to wrestle with the grace of God

Grace Roads Counseling Center  
4001 Thistledown CT  
Charlotte, NC 28269

Phone: 704-550-4792

E-mail: [sbenson317@gmail.com](mailto:sbenson317@gmail.com)

[www.groundedin grace.net](http://www.groundedin grace.net)