

Grounded in Grace



GRACE ROADS COUNSELING CENTER PLLC

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WWW.GROUNDEDINGRACE.NET

WELCOME ZOE GRACE TO THE WORLD



Krista and I welcome ZOE GRACE BENSON into our world. She was born April 1, 2014 at 10:25 am in Pineville, NC. She weighed 7 lbs 10 oz and was 19.5 inches long. God has fulfilled our prayers and dreams. We are forever grateful to her birth parents for this miraculous and precious gift!

We and the birth parents (Hannah and Joe) named her. “Zoe” was picked because of a song dear to the birth parents’ hearts. The song is about a father loving his daughter enough to leave so she could have a better life. We felt this was an incredible tribute to her and them so we felt that God had called us to this name. Also, the etymology of the name means “life.”

Krista and I desired to have a daughter with

“Grace” in her name. “Grace” means to be given a gift of unmerited favor. And this is what she is to us - a gift given to us by God, just as Christ was a gift of grace to us. So her whole name means to be an “unmerited gift of life” to Krista and me. We are thankful to have her as our daughter.



The Other Side— Update on Book

The book is coming together. The first draft is about 90% complete. I also have found a person interested in editing it with me who lives right here in North Carolina. I have a great new subtitle (though it could

change again) which I believe captures the essence of the book: **Loving Beyond Barriers and Embracing Authentic Relationships.**

The book is a journey on the way to love others beyond our walls,

living an emotionally healthy life, and becoming authentic in our relationships. It also deals with conflict, forgiveness, and restoration. Please pray that I may finish the rough draft this spring.

Inside this issue:

SUMMER TEACHING COURSES	2
FALL ADDICTION SEMINAR	2
SUPERVISING MASTER LEVEL STUDENTS	2
PARABLE OF HIS GRACE	3

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Summer Teaching Courses at New Life

This will be a busy summer of teaching at New Life Theological Seminary. I will be teaching three classes:

- Addiction Issues
- Crisis, Loss, and Grief
- Developmental Stages of Life

I look forward to teaching the course on addictions. Some of this material I will be using in the seminar this Fall. The other two courses I will teach online. It will be a new challenge. God continues to be gracious as I hope to be apart of giving the gospel of grace to students

Addiction Seminar- Dethroning the King From His Kingdom



On October 20th I have been invited again to do a seminar through Charlotte AHEC (Area

Health Education Center). I will be presenting a seminar on addictions from a Christian perspective. The seminar is called: "Dethroning the King from His Kingdom." The goal of the seminar is to educate

an addictive family system and the principle of boundaries. Please continue to pray for God to be glorified through this upcoming seminar.

Supervising Master Level Students

Throughout the last year I have had the blessing of supervising master level students at Gordon– Conwell Seminary and Liberty University. It has been a great privilege to walk with students and to watch them grow into capable counselors.

In March, I sat in on a supervisory group and in May I will be co-leading a supervisory group at Gordon-Conwell with one of the faculty members. I am looking forward to learning and expanding upon my skills. I also will be taking a supervisory course in June to fulfill the requirements for NC law to become a supervisor in 2017.

4 FOR HE CHOSE US IN HIM BEFORE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD TO BE HOLY AND BLAMELESS IN HIS SIGHT. IN LOVE 5 HE PRE-DESTINED US FOR ADOPTION TO SONSHIP THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS PLEASURE AND WILL— 6 TO THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORIOUS GRACE, WHICH HE HAS FREELY GIVEN US IN THE ONE HE LOVES.

EPHESIANS 1:4-6

The Parable of His Grace

By Steve Benson © 2012

I wrote these lyrics in 2012 as we started the adoption process. Below is pictured Joe and Hannah (the birth parents) and Krista and me holding little Zoe Grace. This is dedicated to them and to our beautiful daughter.

In a decision of time, the one who gave you life-
Decided to love you by an act of sacrifice
She looked beyond into the great unknown
And passed you from her heart into our souls

You were loved by sovereign design
You were called before the start of time
To enjoy a life beyond belief
To be loved into our family

Chorus

From the sparkling stars to the depths of the sea
You were called to be ours from eternity
From the heavens above to the grains of the sand
You were passed from her heart into our hands
From the grief of barrenness to thoughts of your face
We now experience the power and parable of his grace

In a decision of time, the one who created life-
Decided to love us by an act of sacrifice
He looked beyond into the fiery known
He lived and died to keep us as his own

We were loved by sovereign design
We were called before the start of time
To enjoy a life beyond our reality
To be adopted and loved into His family



Chorus

From the sparkling stars to the depths of the sea
We were called to be his from eternity
From the heavens above to the grains of the sand
We were passed from his heart through his hands
From the grief of the cross to the joy beyond the grave
We were sealed and loved by the power of his grace

In the beauty of time, we waited for your life-
Decided to love you beyond our faith and sight
We looked into the impossible unknown
And prayed to hold you as our very own

As you walk through your unfolding story
We hope you will know His love and mercy
When you walk on the shore or stare into the sky
May you hold these words inside. . .

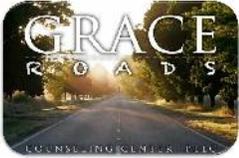
You were loved by sovereign design
You were called before the start of time
To enjoy a life beyond your reality
To be accepted and loved into His family

From the sparkling stars to the depths of the sea
You were called to be His from eternity
From the heavens above to the grains of the sand
We were passed from his heart through his hands
From the grief of the cross to the joy beyond the grave
You are sealed and loved by the power of his grace

Through you, because of you –
We have seen the power and parable of his grace

"Finding Grace Along the Roads of Life"

GRACE ROADS COUNSELING CENTER PLLC



Grace Roads Counseling Center PLLC

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

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

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