



Grounded in Grace

Grace Roads Counseling Center PLLC

VOLUME 2 SUMMER 2013

New Partnership with Providence Church in Denver, NC

Opening Grace Roads Home Office

Fall Training Seminar:

Counseling the Soul from a Christian

Perspective: Becoming Engaged in the Beauty

of Redemption

Training Seminar

Led by Steve Benson

9:00-4:30

Monday

September 30, 2013

Contact Amanda

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Charlotte Area Health and Education Center

In June of 2013, Grace Roads began a partnership with Providence Church in Denver, North Carolina.

www.providencenc.org



Denver is about twenty-five miles northeast of Charlotte. The leadership of Providence Church saw a great need for a grace-based counselor and through a series of providential con-

nections, God opened the door. I am now counseling there one night a week.

Ben Rudolf, the pastor, introduced me to the church in May and God has already provided opportunities there to walk with wounded people toward hope.

I am excited about the partnership and the opportunity to reach others with the gospel. It is another avenue that God has allowed me to expand the message of His love and grace.

Crisis, Loss, and Grief Course

This fall I will again be teaching at New Life Theological Seminary. New Life is an urban seminary that trains lay people and ministers in urban ministry. I will be teaching the course, "Crisis, Loss, and Grief." This is a new course that

was developed as part of a restructuring of the curriculum. The staff at New Life wanted to provide a foundation of good education for lay ministers or those continuing on to a Masters in Counseling.

In June, I also opened up my new home office. My wife, her parents, and I built it. We decided to move this direction as we look to start a family.

This would allow us to have most of my clients at our



home. The most incredible aspect of this project was the fact that my father-in-law needs to use



a wheelchair or walker to get

around. He worked tirelessly on this project, used his expertise, and

moved beyond his physical limitations to



help build this space so people can see the grace

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Ministry in the Mountains of West Virginia

In June, I was privileged to be the speaker at the Day Spring Camp for MTW (Mission to the World) work project. Over eighty youth and adults worked on homes in the community of Fairmont, West Virginia. During the evenings, I spoke on the book of Jonah throughout the week. The theme of the week was “God’s pursuing grace for our wayward hearts.” It was an in-

credible experience. I had many one-on-one conversations with youth and adults who were struggling through their brokenness, becoming open and honest with addictive patterns in their hearts, and falling before the Lord in repentance.

It was a powerful week of being an audience to God’s working power. It was great

watching people serve the broken-hearted during the day and then become broken hearted at night. What a taste of heaven.



Parable of Grace: The Journey Continues. . .

BUT IT IS A
JOURNEY
TOWARDS GRACE
AND TOWARDS
LOVING
ANOTHER MORE
THAN
OURSELVES.

In a couple of weeks, Krista and I will officially be in the waiting process for our little one. It has been a long bumpy road through the sadness of the discovery that we had infertility issues, then the possibility that treatments might work, and then the devastation that they did not result in pregnancy. There was mourning and grief over a loss of what might have been, anger of what was not, struggles of feeling alone in the dark days, and guarded hope for what might be while

not being sure if it will.

After much wresting in our hearts, we finally discovered the peace that God had a different plan. We came to believe that God wants us to adopt a child. In doing so, we discovered that our lives are just illustrating the parable of his grace because we are his adopted children.

There was a ton of paper work, interviews with a social worker, references to be filled out, questions about our life stories, and evaluations from many others. Finally, we had to put a profile book together to tell a birth mother about us. Along the way, there were unexpected bumps and bruises

that caused us to again wonder if we were making the right decision, but we never lost hope.

We had people cheering us on who wrote notes, called us out of the blue, and encouraged us to continue on even in our darkest days. Thank you for those sweet precious love letters of his grace! It has been a rollercoaster of emotions and a journey I never would have expected. But it is a journey towards grace and towards loving another more than ourselves.

WOW!!!!!! The Parable of God’s Grace! And the story continues. . .

Steve

The Door that Led to . . . Nowhere



During my week at Day Spring Camp, two churches from Maryland worked on building a deck to a house that had a door that went to nowhere. Well actually, it went to somewhere— a six- to eight-foot drop to the ground below! It was a door that served no function, but even more so it was a safety hazard and danger to the owners.

The team took down the old door, replaced it with a new door, put in posts, nailed in boards to form a new deck, and put in new railings. It was an incredible and impressive act of love and kindness.

As I thought about this act, I began to think about our hearts...

How often do we have doors in our hearts that leads to nowhere?

How often do we open our hearts to functions that will lead to a drop in our lives emotionally or spiritually?

How often do we open the doors of our souls to danger and possible destruction?

All of these questions led me to ponder more and more the power of idolatry in our lives. Let me define idolatry:

Idolatry is anything that I give my attention, adoration, allegiance or affection to other than the Lordship and worship of Jesus Christ.

As I looked at the progress of the deck, it became a visual representation of what needs to happen in our souls.

- 1) We need to recognize that the doors in our hearts can lead to danger and destruction. It could be pride, performance, or protection of what we might lose. All of these are doors that lead to nowhere.
- 2) There needs to be destruction of our former attitudes and actions. We need to examine our hearts' motivations and ask ourselves what we are trying to gain.
- 3) We need to trust in a bridge that leads to safety. God provided us a pathway of safety by building a bridge for our hearts with a hammer and the nails and wood of the cross.

Idolatry is anything that I give my attention, adoration, allegiance or affection to other than the Lordship and worship of Jesus Christ.

- 4) Walking on this bridge is living a life of repentance. Repentance is not only confession of wrong behaviors but also an act of changing our inner motivations.

As the team completed the deck, it was rearranged from its former condition. Instead of danger, the door provided a second floor escape and a beautiful balcony to enjoy. It became a functional part of the house. In the same way, when we live a life of repentance from idolatry, we begin to experience transformation of our souls. We discover proper functioning for our lives, the beauty of living a life with purpose, and the pathway towards greater life and safety.



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“Finding Grace Along the Roads
of Life”

WWW.GROUNDEDINGRACE.NET

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