



Grounded in Grace Summer 2017

Volume 4 Issue # 1



FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

A few years ago, I did an assessment on a couple. The husband was very volatile and abusive towards his wife. He also had an addiction issue, which complicated the problem. During the session, I gave some honest and hard truth about the condition of the husband's heart. I then shared some options for treatment. They now had some tough decisions. I asked them to pray about it and let me know what they decide. I never heard from them again until I received an e-mail a year later. Part of their letter to me is below:

"I wanted to thank you for being so honest with us when you first met us and steering us to get him on the right meds and joining a Celebrate Recovery program. I give God the praise and glory and am so thankful for God placing the right people in our path steering us in the right direction."

I had only met this couple once but my words made an impact. Letters like these allow me to see a glimpse of heaven in a broken world. I am humbled to be involved in people's lives and know God is using me for his kingdom purposes. August 2017 will mark the five-year anniversary of Grace Roads Counseling Center. Krista and I had no idea the journey we would be on during these years. God has done more than what we could ever imagine or think with the practice. We are blessed to watch God's Kingdom expand in people's hearts and our own.

LESSONS OF TRUTH AND GRACE

I have seen broken marriages be healed, people coming to repentance, and grace. I have witnessed people wrestle well and learn how to transform their lives. I have seen tears, joys, and sorrow. However, I have also seen people leave my office determined to be foolish, sabotage growth, and continue to self-destruct. Whatever the case, it has been a journey into the soul - both others and mine. So these are several lessons I have learned over the last five years:

1. When I am the messenger of his truth, he gives grace. God changes hearts. God gave me this sacred position to allow others to touch his grace and to take hold of truth through being faithful to my craft and calling as a counselor.
2. When I am obedient to my calling to be honest, ethical, and true, he gives back more. When I am a servant to humility, to always being a learner, and to willingly admit mistakes, I experience his blessing of confidence.
3. As a lover of people's souls, I walk, wrestle, and struggle with and for people so that they will be able to struggle and wrestle for themselves. In this process I experience the rewards of heaven on this earth.

Living in the soul is hard but rewarding. What an incredible journey. God is a God of transformation. May you experience his blessings of truth and grace in the wrestling of your soul.

Steve

Grace-Centered Marriage



In May I had the opportunity to teach a five-week seminar on marriage at New Song Church. About forty people came and wrestled with the truth of grace, power of marriage, and transformation in repentance. What a blessing to teach about God's design for marriage. God continues

to open up doors to teach the gospel of grace. In the near future, I hope to have the audios up on my website.



Waiting Hard

In May Krista and I had the opportunity to speak at One Life Church on our experiences with infertility. We were invited because many couples had been wrestling with infertility within the church. The title of the sermon came from something Zoe said earlier that week. We had been teaching her patience in not getting what she wants when she wants it. And then one day Zoe said, "Mommy- waiting hard." Indeed, waiting hard is sometimes painful but reaps a reward of fruitful harvest. We are so thankful to be able to minister to others who are struggling. And we are thankful to the Lord for our two children who are testimonies to his kindness.

[http://www.groundedingrace.net/attachments/File/even though \(waiting hard\) steve benson - 5-7-17.m4a](http://www.groundedingrace.net/attachments/File/even%20though%20(waiting%20hard)%20steve%20benson%20-%205-7-17.m4a)

Doctorate— Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

In April I was accepted into a doctorate program at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. I will be earning a Doctorate in Educational Ministries in Christian Ministry (D. Ed Min.). This degree allows you to pick your

own emphasis of study in order to enhance a field of interest. I desire to enhance my counseling skills along with emphasis in Biblical Spirituality. My goal is to teach practical courses on a seminary level which challenges the heart and mind to be trans-

formed. I will begin the program in the Winter of 2018. It will be another step and outlet in making a difference in this world. I am excited to start this new adventure.

Fall Teaching Ministry

I have the privilege of co-teaching a counseling class with my friend, who is lead pastor at Freedom Church in Lincolnton, North Carolina. This course is an extension of Southeastern Baptist Seminary. I am also continuing to teach college classes at Charlotte Christian College. What a blessing to teach and preach God's word and reach people's souls.

August – December

August– October

October- December

October 20th

Counseling Extension Course
Southeastern Baptist Seminary

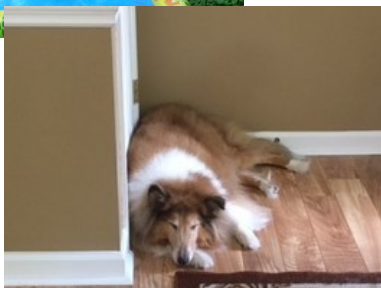
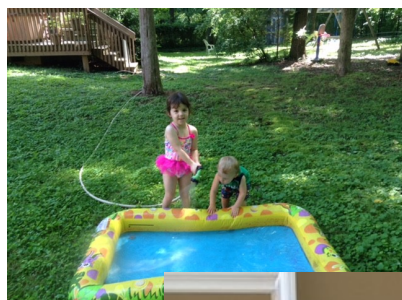
Emotional & Spiritual Preparation
for Ministry
Charlotte Christian College

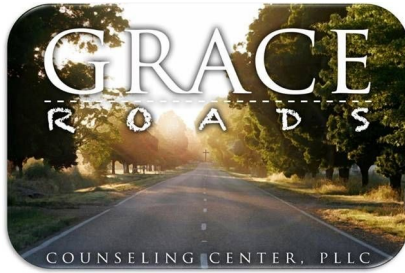
Sexuality and the Christian
Charlotte Christian College

Connecting the Dots– Discovering
The Themes of a Person's Inner
Narrative- AHEC Seminar

Family News

Starting this fall, Zoe and Christopher will start going to a weekday school at University City United Methodist Church three days a week. It is a joy to watch both of them grow into their own personality. And after a wonderful eight years of teaching at Enochville Elementary, Krista was offered a job at Cox Mill Elementary, which is only six miles from our home instead of the eighteen miles a day she was traveling. We are excited about the changes and the fact that our lives will be more centralized. And of course, Bry-Bry, our collie, enjoys his sleepy time when the kids are out and about.





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

Website

www.groundedingrace.net

E-mail

sbenson317@gmail.com