

Oldham-Trimble Baptist Association

Twenty-two Baptist churches
and two church plants
serving the Oldham-Trimble area

the CALL

www.otba-ky.com

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April 29, 2008

REFLECTIONS REFLECTIONS

—from rick

Costly Grace

Grace: the unmerited favor of God.

In a world gone mad, it seems an appropriate Christian response for us to be ready to pull out the Law and read offenders the riot act. And certainly many believers respond that way and quote the Bible to justify their actions.

But it's hard to do that when you examine Jesus' life. Time and time again, he chose the response of grace.

Sure, he had some harsh words that took people to task for their behavior. But if you look closely you'll see that they usually were reserved for the religious crowd, the leaders who rejected him for the sake of their own comfort.

For the type of offenders with which we religious types usually get most upset, Jesus chose the way of grace. As examples, consider the Samaritan woman, the woman caught in adultery, and Zaccheus. The parable of the prodigal son underscores that the above definition of grace may be technically accurate, but it does not go far enough.

You see, grace costs something. It cost the prodigal's father money, time, and grief. Grace is different from mercy. The latter says, "I won't press charges." Grace says, "I not only won't press charges, I'll also pay for your rehab."

This costly grace transforms the life of the recipient. Read 2 Cor. 11:21-29 and see what Paul went through because grace had won him over. The Law could never lead him to that kind of sacrifice.

Victor Hugo in *Les Miserables* tells the story of a peasant, Jean Valjean, sentenced to hard labor for stealing bread. Finally released, he was offered sanctuary in a priest's home. He returned the priest's kindness by stealing his valuable silverware and, when caught in the act, beat the priest in order to escape.

Caught the next day by police, the thief was brought back to the priest's house. They laughingly said, "This man claims you gave him this silver."

The priest immediately replied, "Why yes! There you are, my friend! You left so quickly that you forgot to take the candelabras that I gave you also."

The priest went back into the house and returned with the candelabras. As he handed them to Valjean, he whispered, "Don't forget what your freedom has cost. Now live your life accordingly."

-And Valjean does, going on to live a
(Continued bottom of next column)

Salazar Memorial Trust for
International Missions

Capital Campaign Celebration Event

May 17, 6 p.m.

The Salazar Mission Fund Committee is overseeing a capital fundraising campaign at present. Victory goal for the campaign is \$50,000, with a challenge goal of \$70,000. The campaign will conclude with a **Celebration Event** scheduled for **Saturday, May 17**, at Ballardsville Baptist's Family Life Center.

Tickets for the Celebration Event will cost \$25.00 per person. Baptist Hospital Northeast has graciously agreed to fund the dinner, which is being catered by Personal Touch Catering. (Many thanks to BHNE and Director Dennis Johnson!) So, all ticket proceeds will send more volunteers on mission.

In addition to hearing final results of the campaign, there will be a mission testimony from one of the recent recipients of Salazar Fund scholarships and a "roast" of your Director of Missions.

Ticket purchase has been extended to **May 9**. Checks should be made to OTBA and mailed to the association office.

Join us in this event to 1) support international missions, 2) give a gift that will keep on giving for years to come, and 3) enjoy an evening of good food, fun, and fellowship.

Scholarship Note:

Funds are still available for volunteers who need additional support in order to go on international missions trips through the Luis & Raquel Salazar Trust for International Missions. But applications need to be sent soon.

Applicants may call the OTBA office for more specifics or to request an application form.



life of supporting the poor and adopting a young orphan whom he must ransom out of servitude.

We must never forget what our sinfulness has cost Christ and must live our lives accordingly. Such an appreciation of God's grace will transform not only our lives, but those around us to whom we show that same costly grace.

Do we truly understand and appreciate what our sins cost Christ? Do we really believe that grace has the power to transform our world? Are we willing to pay the price of showing grace to those around us?



Oldham-Trimble
Baptist
Builders

HELP WANTED! Project: July 19-25

Lighthouse Ministries
providing emergency housing in
Mayfield, Kentucky
\$70/person for the week

Banquet: May 8
6:00 p.m.

Milton Baptist Church

For more info about either or to sign up, contact the OTBA office or Shane Courtney at 255-7718 or wscourtney@bellsouth.net

New Dawn Report:

God was able to work through New Dawn Baptist Church in a beautiful illustration of partnership. A mariachi concert was led by Pepe Franco, an evangelist from Texas, on April 11. There were 250-300 persons in attendance, with 80-100 being unchurched. Several came forward to rededicate themselves or make professions of faith.

They were reached by the prayers and faithful outreach efforts of NDBC—assisted by community outreach efforts from a team from a Georgia Baptist Church on mission here that week.

Central Region Hispanic Ministry had organized three of these concerts in the region and resourced the effort. This particular concert was supported by NDBC and churches in Shelbyville and Simpsonville. Eliza Broadus Offering funds provided additional support for the effort. Ballardsville, New Dawn's sponsor church, provided their family life center for the event. The OTBA tent was used for youth activities.

What a powerful example of how God can use coworkers in Kingdom ministry!

KBC Event for Your Church...

Beyond the First Visit

What's Your Church Saying to Guests?
May 22, 10am-3pm
KY Baptist Building

Cost: \$25, cover lunch, materials, book.
Led by Gary McIntosh, author, church growth consultant, and leader coach.

For reservations or more info, check out
www.kybaptist.org/beyond

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Rick Lucas, Director of Missions
4901 So. Hwy 53
Crestwood, KY 40014

Non-profit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
LaGrange, KY 40031
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Treasurer's Report April, 2008

Sep. 1, 2007 – April 28, 2008

*Church Income:

Antioch-----	\$60.92
Ballardsville-----	5,521.44
Bedford-----	3,791.62
Beulah Land-----	563.86
Buckner-----	1,685.52
Centerfield-----	0.00
Corn Creek-----	291.77
Covington-----	1,583.03
Crestwood-----	8,750.00
DeHaven-----	3,523.65
Eighteen Mile-----	633.96
Harrods Creek-----	1,449.58
LaGrange-----	15,155.52
LaGrange Heights-----	0.00
Liberty-----	160.00
Milton-----	4,375.00
Pleasant View-----	100.00
Poplar Ridge-----	1,000.00
Providence-----	844.31
Sligo-----	3,034.08
Union Grove-----	270.00
Westport-----	7,121.97
Total Church Income-----	59,916.23

Undesignated Indiv. Gifts----- 300.00
Total Undes'd Receipts ----- 60,216.23

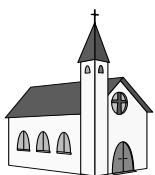
Designated Funds

Salazar Capital Campaign-----	275.00
B.M.C. Building Fund-----	3,074.60
New Equipment Fund-----	1,489.13
Salazar Fund-----	2,233.75
Total Designated Funds-----	7,072.48

Summary

Total Balance, 4/28/08-----	\$42,301.09
Designated Funds-----	7,072.48
Undesignated Balance-----	\$35,220.61

*Reflects checks received & deposited on 4/28/08



AMONG THE CHURCHES

Please pray for BALLARDSVILLE, CRESTWOOD,

PROVIDENCE, and UNION GROVE churches as they seek pastors.

To BALLARDSVILLE: Thank you to all who helped make our Spring Meeting and Mission Rally so meaningful with your exceptional hospitality!

BEULAH LAND is sponsoring a youth jam with Christian bands Sonic Ministry and Bloom on Sat. June 7, 1:00-?? at Foundation of Hope. All are invited.

COVINGTON youth pastor K. J. Pugh will graduate with an M. Div. from Southern Seminary this month.

CRESTWOOD will have a small team go to Ekaterinburg, Russia to assist missionaries Patrick and Janet Goodman in work there. Patrick and Janet were at CBC prior to their departure for Russia.

LaGRANGE is preparing to conduct LaGrange Missions June 16-20, providing home repairs for homeowners in special need.

MILTON held a retirement celebration for Bro. Ferrill Davis on April 19. New pastor Tom Stark has been commuting to minister but his family will soon move into the community at the conclusion of the school year.

PLEASANT VIEW pastor Matt Privett and his wife announce the birth of Lilyann Elizabeth, born March 24. Congratulations!

PROVIDENCE on May 10th will hold their annual fish fry, to benefit the youth camp fund.

UNION GROVE pastor Dennis Plank announced his retirement, effective May 31st after almost 8 years of ministry there. He will be available for pulpit supply and interim work.

WESTPORT: DeWayne and Gail Sowell will direct a youth camp at Boone's Creek Camp, June 9-14. Registration is open to youth grades 6-12, completed. Cost: \$135. For info, contact Gail at 222-7294.

HUMAN NEEDS MINISTRIES

Adult Clothes Closet

Baptist Ministry Center, Ballardsville
Mondays: 6:00—8:00 p.m.

Special needs now: men's blue jeans, men's shoes, spring clothes in general. Volunteers are needed.

Infant/Child Resource Center

2nd floor, 210 E. Madison, LaGrange
Mondays: 6:00—8:00 p.m.

Special needs now: diapers sized 3 to 6, baby powder, shampoo, and diaper cream. Volunteers to help on the 3rd or 4th Mondays of each month.

Foundation of Hope

3509 W. Hwy. 146, in Buckner
Mondays: 9:00a.m.-1:00p.m.; Wednesdays: 9:00a.m.-1:00p.m.; Fridays: 3:00-7:00p.m.

Special needs now: Canned goods (commercially packaged only). Monetary donations are needed as well.



Marriage Enrichment Opportunities

The Marriage Enrichment Resource Center (MERCY) will present a marriage enrichment seminar May 26, entitled "How Your Family of Origin Impacts Your Marriage." Presenter will be Heather Brooks, a marriage and family therapy associate. It will be held at Baptist Hospital Northeast from 9:30-11:00 a.m. There will be no fee, though an offering will be taken to help cover expenses.

To register for this event or for more info check out the website (www.kymrc.com), call Penny Hudson at 939-0121, or email her at pdhud9@aol.com.

Next Vision Team Meeting
Monday, June 16, 2008
OTBA Ministry Center
6:30, Dinner