



A WORD FROM CHARLIE

I recently made one of the most exciting, important—and difficult—decisions of my life. I decided to step down as pastor of Burlson Bible Church and transition into full-time ministry with GraceLife beginning June 1. After much counsel and after discussing it with the church leaders, I announced this to the church in March.

It was a life-shaping decision to start Burlson Bible Church 19 years ago. I thought I would shape the church as pastor, but the pastorate shaped me as a person. In my opinion, there is no vocation that can similarly develop one's character, integrity, creativity,

compassion, flexibility, love, persistence, faith, and much more. My 19 years as pastor of BBC (plus 8 previous years in part-time pastoral work) deepened and defined me as a Christian man. Working so closely with so many different people, stepping up to lead, bowing down to serve, having to prepare fresh biblical messages every week—these are pressures that can turn the character's coal into diamond.

But neither did I know 8 years ago that beginning GraceLife would shape my life forever. My decision was not so much about leaving the pastorate as it was about extending my ministry to meet more opportunities for the grace message. As I see God's hand in it, He used my years as pastor to prepare me for this ministry with GraceLife. I have a deep appreciation for churches, their people, and their pastors. I also have a deep burden for the church's ministry of evangelism and discipleship.

So it is with a great mix of emotion that I step down as pastor of a people I love and a church that is doing well. I step down on good terms and with the church's blessing. I know it will result in something better for the church, for me, and for GraceLife, and I can't wait to see it all come together.

This is a big step of faith for me and the family, a life-shaping decision. Please remember us in your prayers.

Until all hear,

Charlie Bing



Burlson Bible Church folks

The problem with fruit inspection.
See GraceNotes 28 inside!

Up Close: Transition of a lifetime

After 19 years as pastor of Burleson Bible Church, Charlie will become full-time director and president of GraceLife Ministries. He planted BBC with the help of Cleburne Bible Church when he was on staff there and in the doctoral program at Dallas Theological Seminary. BBC is now known as “A Community of Grace.”

The church supports his decision to transition to GraceLife full-time. Charlie has offered his help in finding a new pastor.



As full-time director of GraceLife, Charlie will work strategically to make disciples of grace around the world. This will involve more of what he has been doing: Speaking, writing, mission trips, etc.. But now there will be more time and opportunity to develop new resources, literature, and messages that will help churches, Christians, and Christian leaders everywhere.

Some encouraging notes:

From church members:

Thank you for teaching me about God's abundant grace, and how we can receive His gift each day (or hour at times). You have helped me reconnect with my God and His church through BBC. ~ Kevin & Amy

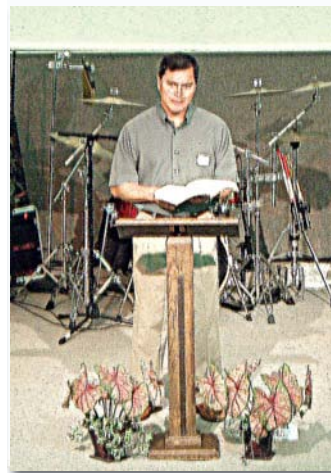
I wanted to thank you for your teaching, support, prayers, time, dedication, hard work, and for clearly conveying the message of grace (I was listening!). Now, instead of feeling like I have to do more or feel guilty, I know that I can grow under an umbrella of grace that covers me through Christ. ~ Dana

From colleagues in ministry:

I recently received your letter that you will soon be fulltime with GraceLife and I wanted to encourage you in that decision. I am sure that your GraceLife ministry is already affecting many more than you can know, as I am an example. I am just one person, but I have learned much from your dissertation and your GraceNotes and I am passing on what I have learned to whoever will hear it. ~ R.A., AZ

Congratulations on finishing well at BBC and now embarking with GL full-time. This is fantastic! I appreciate you and your ministry. I wish you God's very best. ~ K.K., WA

I'm sure there are many mixed emotions around your house and church these days. I'm excited for you and



Charlie preaches his last sermon as pastor.

From church kids:

Thank you for talking a lot and for telling my mom and dad some things. ~ Nicolas, 3

I like how you talk to us about Jesus. ~ Micah, 4

for what you will be doing, but I also know the pain of leaving your role as pastor. I've been and will continue to pray for you. I know the Lord will use you greatly as you can spend more time on the GraceLife ministry. ~ B.E., TX

I have received your ministry letter that explains to all what you shared with us [earlier]. First, may the Lord bless you for the integrity of heart and ministry and the approach you took. We will stand with you in prayer. We will pray that the Lord will broaden ministry, give wisdom and provide every need according to his graciousness.

~ Fred, Ghana

Your help is needed!

To become a part of Charlie's GraceLife support team and help make disciples of grace around the world, use the special response envelope. Thank you.

Ministry Projects Update

● June 17-27 Charlie will be in Ukraine with pastor and GraceLife board member David Den Hartog to train Eurasian leaders of Evangelism Explosion International. They will also travel to Romania for a second conference for pastors. It is a unique opportunity to impact 12 nations of the former Soviet Union with the message of grace. Pray for fruit that remains!

● Other upcoming ministry opportunities include a session with the men of Victor Street Bible Chapel in August (Dallas), a men's retreat in October (Ohio), teaching in India in January '06, and a leadership training conference

in Ghana in July '06. Charlie has also been asked to write an article for a theological journal.



GraceLife's group at conference: Chris, Dr. Richard Ngun (Indonesia Gospel Mission), Charlie, Mabel & Fred Amoah-Darko (Ambassadors for Christ, International)

● GraceLife invited some wonderful ministers of grace to the Grace Evangelical Society's conference in March. Chris McMasters (New Tribes Mission) writes: "Amanda and I could not be more appreciative to you,

Charlie, and GraceLife for inviting us to attend the GES conference. Thank you for allowing us to share a table with you and for introducing us to so many people. We were able to share about our ministry and began many relationships that we hope will last for many years.

We couldn't have asked for a better opportunity as we look ahead to a future in missions. In fact, we have already seen amazing fruit from our time!"

● A testimony about Charlie's book on Lordship Salvation: "I have appreciated your work for the Free Grace position very much. I have read through your book, *Lordship Salvation*, almost 4 times now. I think that it is the best book on the subject for a pastor theologian, etc." B.H., PA

Encouraging Words

Dear Charlie,

I don't usually send notes to organizations, but I just had to today. Your [recent] letter was the most loving tactful, sincere, and prayerful one I have ever received. God really used it to move my heart, stir my soul, and quicken my spirit to commit to GraceLife Ministries!

I have used your GraceNotes a lot and shared them. They've really been a blessing. I'm excited to be a small part in helping you to spread the Gospel of Grace!

God bless you.

Love in Him, P.V., MN

P.S. Please write longer newsletters. Please consider writing a "lay person's" version of Lordship Salvation. Thank you.

P.V., Thank you for your kind words and commitment. You have been reading my mind about some of the things I can do now that I am full-time with GraceLife! God bless you.
~ Charlie

Falling from Grace



A website (greetingpen.com) sells this "Salvation Pen."

Salvation Pen
Item# 003
UPC# 813851000033
4 Rotating Messages

1. CONFESS your sins
2. REPENT of your sins
3. ACCEPT Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
4. RECEIVE Jesus Christ into your life

A clever idea, but something doesn't click with John 3:16! We hope it doesn't inspire anyone to *write* a wrong."

Keep in Touch!

If we can help you or you can help us make disciples of the gospel of grace, contact:

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GraceLife Ministries Newsletter is published quarterly. Subscriptions are free.
Editor: Charlie Bing

Tools you can use

For prices and ordering, see the enclosed order form envelope, or visit us at www.GraceLife.org.

Living in the Family of Grace: A Workbook for Disciples (by Charlie Bing), our newest product, is designed to establish people in the basic principles of salvation by grace and how to live the Christian life by grace.

How to Share the Gospel Clearly (by Charlie Bing), our best-selling booklet, will help you keep the gospel clear.

Dear John (by Charlie Bing), is a booklet that will help those who are confused about salvation or are unsure about their salvation.

Lordship Salvation (by Charlie Bing) is a clear, in-depth discussion of over 60 key Bible passages on four controversial issues in salvation: faith, repentance, Christ's lordship, and discipleship. Paperback book.

You Can Be Sure (by Bob Wilkin) is a booklet that has helped many find a firm assurance of salvation.

Living Water is a modern translation of the Gospel of John with simple notes about salvation.

GraceNotes (by Charlie Bing) is a collection of concise biblical studies on grace-related topics in easy to duplicate form for use as teaching supplements or witnessing tools.

How a Good Person Gets to Heaven (by Charlie Bing) is an evangelistic message on tape or CD from John 3:1-16.



GraceLife

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