



A WORD FROM CHARLIE

"I don't want to see that fool!" exclaimed one lady walking by. But I did. I was in New York City anyway, and I had to walk right by the Lincoln Center where magician David Blaine was living in a glass bubble of water.

Blaine was trying to break a world record by holding his breath and escaping from chains after eight days under water. He broke one record for staying under water 177 hours, but could not break another record by holding his breath for nine minutes.

That same evening Blaine was pulled out of the tank in front of a media circus that put him on display to the whole world. What did the half-drowned stunt magician have to say to the world? "Thank you . . . I love you . . . I've failed."



New York City, May 8

I think I would rather be called a fool for a cause worthier than self glorification. I would rather be like Paul and the apostles who could say "We have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake" (1 Corinthians 4:9-10). They were willing to be considered fools by the world because they knew they had a message that the world desperately needed to hear.

Preaching grace in a graceless world has always invited ridicule, scorn, and opposition. But we must teach it wherever God sends us, because bad treatment puts us in good company. Inside this newsletter you will see where God is sending me with the grace message.

As Christians, we are on display to the whole world which is watching and waiting to hear from us. What will we say to them?

Until all hear,

Charlie

Charlie Bing

*Need grace for the future?
See GraceNotes 32 inside!*

Up Close: An Open Door in Africa

Travel and pray with the Ghana team!

Read up-to-date reports and see photos when the team is in Ghana by clicking on www.MyTripJournal.com/BingGhana or send an email to Charlie@GraceLife.org now and let him know you want to view the travel journal.

Though it is becoming less and less true, in some places people still welcome the good news of Jesus Christ. Ghana is such a place. Whether by literature distribution, home visitation, or Christian films, people are enthusiastic and receptive toward the gospel.

June 29-July 16 Charlie will lead a team to Ghana to reap a field ripe for harvest. The team will work with Ghanaian Christians to spread the gospel message in the capital city of Accra by visiting homes and by showing Christian films to larger groups. Also, in two very strategic opportunities, Charlie will teach the grace message to the staff of a nation-wide evangelism organization, and do



a second conference for pastors and Christian leaders.

The team will see God change people's lives—beginning with their own! You too can be a part of our team through your prayer and support. We greatly appreciate your help so far, but we still need a substantial amount of funds to meet our goals and be on our way. Thanks for praying and being a part of the team!



Charlie teaching Christian leaders in Ghana.

Keep in Touch!

If we can help you or you can help us bring grace to life, contact:

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Free Grace Alliance

About the time this newsletter goes to press, the FGA will gather with Christian leaders from the Northwest United States for a time of connecting, encouraging, and strategizing about the advancement of the grace message.

The Northwest Regional Retreat is June 5-6 at Corban College in Salem, Oregon. Charlie will help lead the retreat along with FGA board members Earl Radmacher, and Dave Anderson.

As a result of the National Retreat last September, the FGA has begun work on a resource clearinghouse, a Missions & Ministry Master List, radio broadcasts of the grace message over Europe, and streaming grace messages on the internet. We hope to see great things come from this meeting also.

You can get connected to the greatest movement on earth by going to www.FreeGraceAlliance.com.

Ministry in Focus



March: GraceLife friends at the Grace Conference in Dallas.

Early May:
Meet good guys,
Jay and Tony,
growing in grace
at Pinelands
Community
Church (NJ).



April: Charlie had a great time preaching at Shreveport Bible Church (LA) pastored by Dr. Roger Fankhauser, here with wife Debbie.



Mid-May: Charlie preached on "Grace for Tough Times" in a 3-night conference at St. Francis Protestant Fellowship in Fort Worth pastored by Ken Parlin (wife, Joyce).

Grace Means Go! Charlie's itinerary:

- June 4 – North Umpqua Bible Fellowship, Glide, OR
- June 5-6 – Free Grace Alliance retreat, Salem, OR
- June 11 – North Salem Baptist Church, OR
- June 18 – Victor Street Bible Fellowship, Dallas, TX
- June 29-July 16 – Ghana Team Mission trip
- July 30-August 5 – Montana Wilderness Trip with Fellowship Bible Church of Winchester, VA
- August 6 – Alberton Community Church, MT

Encouraging Words

*Please let Charlie know how much I've appreciated his work **Living in the Family of Grace**. It's been refreshing to read. I've sensed the Holy Spirit's perfect refreshment as I've voraciously consumed the workbook. – Pastor R.L., OR*

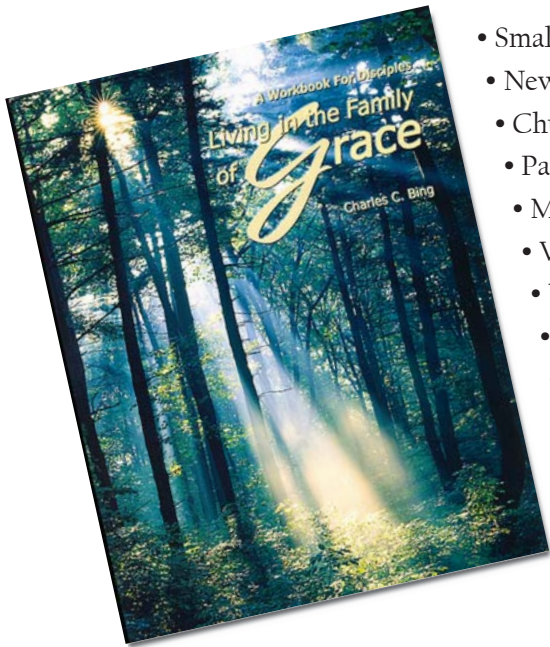
- Now you can order resources online on our NEW website: www.GraceLife.org!
- Praise the Lord for the 3rd printing of *How to Share the Gospel Clearly* and for the completion of Charlie's journal article on Colossians 1:21-23!

Falling from Grace

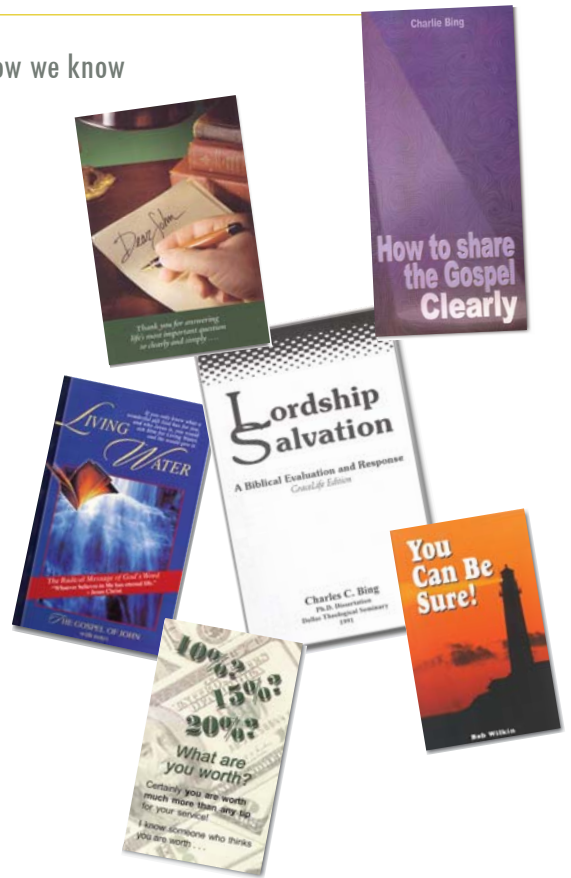


Tools you can use

How can you use *Living in the Family of Grace: A Workbook for Disciples*? Here's how we know others use it around the world:



- Small groups
- New members' course
- Church leadership training
- Pastors' conferences
- Men's groups
- Women's groups
- Youth groups
- Online course
- Sunday school classes
- One-on-one
- Cross-cultural groups
- Personal study



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