

It appears Absalom lost all respect for his father David and launched a conspiracy to overthrow his kingdom. *“...So he stole the hearts of the people of Israel. ...A messenger came and told David, ‘The hearts of the people of Israel are with Absalom.’”* (II Samuel 15:6, 13)

For the sake of their safety, David, his officials and his household fled the palace. He left 10 concubines to care for it. The great king had to leave town. The whole countryside wept as they saw King David and his throng pass by. The Levites carried the Ark of the Covenant in the procession. They set it down and offered sacrifices until all the people finished leaving the city. Then David said to Zadok the priest, *“Take the ark of God back to the city. If I find favor in the Lord’s eyes, he will bring me back and let me see it and his dwelling place again. But if he says, ‘I am not pleased with you,’ then I am ready; let him do to me whatever seems good to me.”* (II Samuel 15:25-26)

David was anointed by the prophet Samuel when he was a teenager to become the next King of Israel. He was thirty when he became king. Though anointed, he didn’t take the kingship by force. He let God bring it to him. *“I will not lift my hand against the Lord’s anointed.”* His calling and position was a sacred trust of the Lord. In the face of rebellion from his own son to oust him as King, David never considered his position, his possession. Nor did he consider the Ark of the Covenant, signifying the Presence of God, as his to control. Lessor leaders could hold the Ark as leverage, to “use God” to defeat the competition and retain “their” Kingdom. In David’s mind, the Kingdom was an assignment to serve God’s people, he was never the entitled proprietor. Though there were unjust actions against him, the Ark belonged in the Temple at Jerusalem. He was never the owner. The humility of David is reflected in putting into the hands of the Lord, the length of his assignment. He says in effect, *“My Kingdom appointment is in the Lord’s hands. I will not use the Ark of God for my personal gain.”*

♦ **Humility doesn’t wrestle to retain possession of a Kingdom appointment.**

♦ **Humility doesn’t try to use spiritual leverage to selfishly cleave to a leadership position.**

*“But David continued up the Mount of Olives weeping as he went; his head was covered and he was barefoot. All the people with him covered their heads too and were weeping as they went up. Now David had been told, ‘Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom.’ So David prayed, ‘Lord, turn Ahithophel’s counsel to foolishness.’”* (II Samuel 15:30-31)

David had deep hurt. There was sorrow and shame, shared by those with him. There was deep mourning. He prayed to God for His help, humility doesn’t give up in a fight. But humility doesn’t lean on one’s own strength or concoct schemes of reprisals. A humble heart calls upon the Lord.

♦ **Humility petitions the Lord for His help, for His justice and restoration of Kingdom honor.**

Then there was Shimei of the household of Saul. He followed David, cursed him, called him a murderer and a scoundrel. He declared the Lord had given the Kingdom to Absalom because of David’s treatment of the household of Saul. It was a false accusation and assessment. He cursed, threw stones and showered David with dirt. His men wanted to take Shimei out. David restrained them saying, *“It may be that the Lord will look upon my misery and restore to me his covenant blessing instead of his curse today.”* (II Samuel 16:12) In his humility, David relied upon the Lord in the midst of unjust actions and accusations.

♦ **Humility restrains us from reacting to unjust actions and accusations, and enables us to trust the Lord for our vindication.**

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# Works of Grace

GRACE COVENANT INTERNATIONAL

June 2022



## Operation Encouragement

For over 20 years, GCI Missionaries in Spain, Bill and Marie Eddy and their ministry team, have been hosting a retreat for Spanish Pastors or Latin American missionaries serving in Spain. In Spanish it is called “Operación Bernabé” (Operation Barnabas). So named after “Barnabas” which means “son of encouragement.” It is a three night/four day stay at an all-inclusive four star hotel on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea in Peniscola, Spain. Everything is provided free of charge for the servants of God who attend. They are served and honored in every way. When they arrive their luggage is carried to the room by the team. When they enter their room and see

*Truly I tell you,  
 anyone who gives  
 you a cup of  
 water in my name  
 because you belong  
 to the Messiah  
 will certainly not  
 lose their reward.  
 Mark 9:41*

the gorgeous view overlooking the sea, they cry tears of joy. Most could never afford such a stay. There are fun activities to make them laugh and relieve the stresses of life and ministry. They fellowshiped with ministry peers over meals, received encouragement through the sessions of worship, messages and prayers. It is a life-giving cup of water for weary souls. This was the 20th Operation Barnabas, which for the first time included both Spanish Pastors and Latin American missionaries. Over the 20 retreats, 500 pastors and 300 missionaries have received encouragement in the Lord. “Operación Bernabé” has advanced the Kingdom of God in Spain.

GCI Ministry Director Dallas Elder and wife, Connie, joined Bill, Marie and their team which included YWAM missionaries, a Spanish pastoral couple and a Latin American missionary couple. They posed for this fun picture. Bill and Marie directed the retreat for the attendees; Connie Elder and Ally Barnreuther (YWAM) wrapped gifts for the ministry couples. It was amazing to see pastors and missionaries being revived before your very eyes. Many expressed how badly they needed the retreat setting and spiritual experience. They were loved, served and strengthened to reengage ministry with new fervor.



## OB Team Rocks!



## DR Missions Update



After a two-year pause, DR Missions is hosting summer interns and a few mission teams. Rick Bernard has been onsite recently to assist Tyler and Callie Franca with the teams. The refugee area is always a target of touches for the teams. This woman, "Grandma," as she is affectionately called, lives in that place. Carie Bernard continues to face some health challenges.

## Raquens & Family Transition



Raquens Turenne has been associated with our GCI ministry family for over 15 years. Because of the violence and uncertainty in Haiti over the past 18 months, for a time he sought residence for his family here in the US. He and his wife, Lucienne are now in Canada seeking a work visa. His children are still in Haiti. We bring our relationship with this precious family forward, however GCI will not be continuing ministry in Haiti. We pray God's best for the Turenne family's transition and are grateful for our years of Kingdom partnership.



Our Ignite Ministry Conference is scheduled for September 21-24 (Wednesday-Saturday). It will feature our Wednesday "Stir It Up" Seminar and ministry equipping workshops Thursday-Saturday.

### SEMINAR SESSIONS

- ◆ Ministry with a Shared Heart —Dallas Elder
- ◆ Ministry and Unhealed Hurts—Geony Rucker
- ◆ Go The Distance —Tim Doyle

### CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

- ⇒ End Times Encouragement —Dallas Elder
- ⇒ Contextualized Faith —Bill Eddy
- ⇒ Who, Where, When Are You —Greg Hartman

**Make your plans now to attend!**

**GCI Midyear Ministry Conference**  
**LifePoint Church-Oakdale, CA**  
**August 15-16**

## A Lesson in Humility!

By Dallas Elder

Some wisecracker said: "Humility is one of those things you can't really brag about having." Humility is a supreme heart quality to position us in the Presence of the Lord. Our kneeling reflects our standing of our surrender to God. E. Stanley Jones said in his book *The Unshakable Kingdom and The Unchanging Person*: "The more I belong to Jesus and his kingdom, the more I belong to myself. Bound to him, I walk the earth free. Low at his feet, I stand straight before everything else." The completeness of ourselves comes from being humbly centered in Jesus. Humility is a primary leadership quality. It maximizes our influence and our ability to lead others. My good friend Larry Cochran (former Director of GO International) stated at one of our training conferences, "We don't use people to fulfill vision, we use vision to fulfill people," this statement reflects humble, servant leadership, humility guards our heart. Rick Joyner (Morningstar Ministries) stated, "You put on the full armor of God (helmet of salvation, breastplate of righteousness, girdle of truth, shod your feet with the gospel of peace, take up shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit) and, you put on the undergarment of humility which covers your backside." The sneak attacks of the enemy are often aimed at vulnerable points of pride.

David was a courageous leader, "a man after God's own heart", and he had some blind spots. One of his blind spots was that he didn't hold the sons of his household accountable for their actions. Actually, it became a consequence from his affair with Bathsheba and the schemed murder of her husband. The Prophet Nathan prophesied that calamity would rise from his own family. His daughter Tamar was raped by her half-brother Amnon. While David was furious, it went unchecked. As a result, Absalom killed his half-brother Amnon to avenge his sister's assault.

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## The War Is Real!



I (Dallas Elder) preached from this pulpit in Ghana when I visited and served with missionaries, Rob and Lori Mangus last October. The church was a lighthouse for Christ set on a hill, serving the community. A few months ago, while the Manguses were finishing their furlough in the US, they received word that an arsonist had torched the church. Using some type of accelerant, the fire turned the contents to ashes and burned so hot, the walls cracked. It is considered a spiritual attack against the Kingdom of God and the ministry of Jesus in the area.



Now Pastor Paul (GCI-Ghana pastor) and the congregation of 30-plus meet under a large tree weather permitting. What remains of the church will need to be leveled. Along with the small congregation, Rob and Lori are raising funds with the assistance of VisionVestors to help rebuild and enlarge the church structure. Our VisionVestors goal of \$5,000 toward this project has been met. PTL! You can contact Rob and Lori or our GCI office if you would like to help. ***This work of God will arise from the ashes!***