

We connected. We had conversation. We had similar backgrounds. It ultimately resulted in Living Hope Christian Fellowship becoming part of GCI. This connection led to the four churches we have in the Central Valley, CA: Living Hope Christian Fellowship-Pastors Barry and Colleen Tuggle; LifePoint-Pastor Steve Neubaum; Pacto de El Sinai -Pastors Nancy and Jaime Garcia; and The Well-Pastors Ed and Kristi Rapinchuk/Max Viss. Then there are two churches that Pastor Kevin leads in Bremerton and Poulsbo, WA. Oh by the way, Pastor Kevin is our Director of the Board of Ministry and Vice President of GCI.

The Lord led Connie and me back to Missouri in 2003. Our GCI Office was relocated to Platte City. I needed an Office Manager. Linda Wagers had been part of my church office staff when I pastored in the area. She was available and came to work for our ministry family. When we wanted to begin weekly prayer in our office, we needed prayer partners. Linda connected in Carla Peniston and Terri Gann who had been members of the church. Linda introduced me to Apostle Pam Brown-Trinity Church-St. Joseph, MO. Apostle Pam became another strategic link in the Kingdom chain. Apostle Pam connected GCI to Pastors Glenn and Emma Hancock, who connected us to Pastors Makayla-Mission 418-Grandview, MO and Marquis Harris-GCI Executive Ministry Director. Apostle Pam connected us with Pastor Mary McDonald-Holsey Chapel-St. Joseph, MO. She connected us with Geony Rucker-Value Unconditional, who connected us with Lisa Gallagher our new GCI Office Accounting Analyst. I could go on and on. I don't want to bore you, but to give you a view of the supernatural ways God orchestrates Kingdom links. Apostle Pam serves on our Board of Ministry and our Executive Board. This gives you context for this ministry work that the Lord has built through the years. The links of our chains spread out through our GCI family. God continues to bring us miraculous connections. Don't underestimate His connections.

Then there are miracles of provision. Answering the call of God into ministry is a step of faith. Usually one of the tests of faith is relative to provision. Your Source and job Security are in the Lord. It is interesting how connections and provision go together. Like the old preacher said, "No test, no testimony." Here are two provision miracles.

When Jesus sent out His disciples on a ministry mission, these were the instructions: *"He told them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. 'When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. ...' LK 10:2-7*

From the beginning, the Lord called me to live by faith relative to provision. He continues to call me to be an example of faith for others. My first step of ministry preparation was to go to college. I had a wife and kids. It was 1977. I had mounting bills and our second daughter was just born. There was no way to pay family bills and for college. I reminded the Lord of His word, *"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." Malachi 3:10* I got frank with God, "If you want these bills to go unpaid, then it's on your credit!" The first thing that happened was that the doctor who delivered my daughter, Anna, heard I was going into ministry. He waived my bill. There were entry fees and conference fees that unsolicited people felt led to cover. I unexpectedly received scholarships and grants to cover college costs. In less than two months, I received the today's equivalent of \$8,150.

In 1984, the Lord led Connie and me to plant a church in St. Joseph, MO. About a year down the road, it was Friday and pay day. I got \$500 a week for salary. The treasurer lived across the street from me. He said, "We can't pay you today, but I will on Sunday as we will have offerings. I said that's fine. That evening at 10:30pm, a brother from another church called me. I hadn't seen him in months. He urgently said, I need to come to your house and give you some money. I told him it's late, can't this wait. He said "No, I need to bring it now!" He drove across town, knocked on my door. He handed me a check. Guess how much? \$500 I told the treasurer on Sunday, keep the check. God paid me.

Platte City, MO 64079

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Grace Covenant International

Grace Covenant International

Works of Grace

GRACE COVENANT INTERNATIONAL

March 2026



**Family
NOW!**



Our worship team was Roderick and Anita Bettis, Colleen and Barry Tuggle with Patti Cooper. Our drummer was Patrick Russell. Pastor Nancy Garcia of Waterford, CA raised up praise and adoration. She and her husband, Pastor Jaime, along with members of the church connected with Missionary Bill Eddy of Spain.

There is a line in "Danny's Song" by Kenny Loggins that says, "I now see a family where there once was none." Yeah that's real, and that's NOW! Dallas Elder received a vision from the Lord for Grace Covenant International in 1995 during his annual prayer and fasting retreat. The Lord said, "You will be a family for ministry orphans." That year GCI was incorporated. There were three US churches and one missionary family in Spain. We now have 12 US churches and ministries sprinkled across the US and mission works in 12 other nations. At our recent GCI Ministry Conference 2026, we rejoiced in all that the Lord has done. We celebrated our deep family relationships that have formed us and fused us together in Kingdom connection and partnership through the years. God manifested the reality of the vision. Our conference theme was

"Cornerstone and Capstone/Assignment and Anointing." Thirty years ago the cornerstone was laid for this work, this house, this family of God called Grace Covenant International. I (Dallas Elder) have labored in church planting and mission works in fulltime ministry spanning the past 42 years. In my younger days, I worked in home construction. When you begin to build the house, you begin with vacant ground. Then there is the foundation (Cornerstone). The walls go up, the rooms are formed. Ultimately the roof is finished (Capstone). Now stands a house and a home for this growing family of God. How beautiful to see the faith family God has formed! Each member has served to make this a reality. Look what God has done!



NEXGEN TAKING FLIGHT!



Our GCI Executive Ministry Director, Marquis Harris, brought a timely and anointed message: "Shepherding the New Wineskin." Marquis and his wife Makayla co-pastor the church Mission 418 in Grandview, MO. They also serve in connecting our NEXGEN leaders into our GCI Family.



Makayla Harris blessed us with beautiful, flowing, artful expression in our praise and worship at our conference.



Derek and Amanda Muller attended our March Conference for the first time. They serve at Living Hope Christian Fellowship-Oakdale, CA with Pastors Barry and Colleen Tuggle. They are emerging NEXGEN leaders. Derek brought a powerful message: "From Pain to Purpose."

Celebration of Years of Service



Linda Wagers has served as our GCI Office Manager for the past 23 years. We took the time at our conference to thank her and recognize her contributions to our ministry family. We celebrated her years of service. People shared about the blessing Linda has been as part of our office support and blessed her in return. Apostle Pam Brown of Trinity Church-St. Joseph, MO and Missionaries Marie and Bill Eddy-Spain joined others in blessing Linda. We are grateful for her. She continues to serve on our GCI Office Team.

Maria Ester



This pastor's daughter from Spain, Maria Ester, has served with her husband in Spain and with GCI since 1995. We finally thought it was time to commission her. (chuckle) Seriously, we are grateful for all of her years of service in Spain and the world. She is pictured with our Board of Ministry. She has a wealth of wisdom to offer our NEXGEN.



Tenth Anniversary!

In March, Value Unconditional of Kansas City, MO celebrated 10 years as an advocate and healing ministry to trafficked and traumatized individuals. This ministry was founded by Geony Rucker, who while in college, was sexually assaulted and exploited. The pain of her trauma ran deep. Apostle Pam Brown-Trinity Church-St. Joseph, MO was instrumental in bringing her inner healing and wholeness. Geony, then received a calling from the Lord to offer faith-based help and healing to other victims. VU was launched and has grown exponentially over the past 10 years, touching hundreds of lives. At the anniversary celebration, Pam Brown was recognized as a co-founder of this wonderful ministry. She continues to bring healing to individuals through VU.



MSI Zoom Course

"Sharing Your Faith in Christ"

May 2, 9, 16



Our next MSI Zoom course will be "Sharing Your Faith in Christ" taught by Dallas Elder and Kevin Clancey. The dates and times will be Saturdays: May 2, May 9 & 16 from 10am-1:30pm (Central time). **Contact our GCI Office to register.**

SPIRITUAL GROWTH SEMINAR

MSI will present a Spiritual Growth Seminar at Living Hope Christian Fellowship-Oakdale, CA on **Saturday, May 16 (9am-12:30pm)**. Topic will be "**Final Instructions**" led by Dallas Elder. This seminar examines the powerful lessons and instructions Jesus gave to the apostles in His last hours with them. Register through our GCI Office. Cost: \$45 per person.

"Miracles of Connections and Provision"

By Dallas Elder

People ask me, "What will you do when you retire?" One thing on the top of my list, is to write a "Book of Miracles." It will be a legacy of the leading of the Lord for future generations. At our recently completed March conference, we reflected on 30 years of ministry with GCI. God calls, and you step out in faith. We began in 1995 with three churches and one missionary family. He has grown us from there. We shared the stories of miracle connections that have linked us together and built our ministry family. From our humble beginnings, there have been a number of links in the chain. In other words, God orchestrated Divine Appointments that linked and led us to relationships that were key foundational stones, which God built into our ministry house. This newsletter highlighted a portion of those connections. God enfolded these strategic people into our ministry family.

The Apostle Peter proclaimed to the saints, "*As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*" **I Peter 2:4-5**

God does a myriad of different kinds of miracles. There are Divine healings, deliverances, and etc. Through the years, I've been used in a few of those. There are two categories of miracles I have consistently seen God do in my life: Divine connections and provision. Let me share.

The call to establish Grace Covenant International began with this mandate: "GCI will be a family for ministry orphans." Honestly, I had no idea what that meant. The call led me from pastoring the church Connie and I planted in St. Joseph, MO, back to Wilmore, Kentucky where I attended seminary. I had a number of ministry friends there. It's a crossroads of ministries from around the globe. Soon after we arrived, we were in a Sunday morning service. The pastor asked if anyone needed prayer. A man stood up behind me as did a few others in the church. The pastor asked people to stretch out their hands in agreement toward the person in need of prayer. I did so. As the prayer time ended I found my hand resting on the shoulder of the man near me. It gave us an opportunity to get acquainted. The brother said he had just moved to Wilmore from Oakdale, CA to become a professor at Asbury Seminary. I told him what God had called me to do. He said to me, "There is a pastor in Oakdale, CA that you need to talk to." That pastor was Kevin Clancey. He recently planted a church. *Continued >>>*

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