



# *The Grace*

## *Ministries Digest 2019*

**(Annual Newsmagazine of TCM-Philippines)**



**Reminiscing the  
Great Celebration of Praise & Thanksgiving!**

**The Grace Ministries Digest** is an annual newsmagazine of Things to Come Mission, Inc. published in Cebu City, Philippines.

This newsmagazine shares ministry updates common to the TCM family and friends. It carries News and Information about the ministries of the churches and workers of Things to Come Mission in the Philippines. Costs of publication is covered by gifts and donations to the Literature Ministry Fund.

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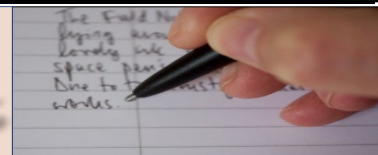
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**"If You Stop Learning Today, You Stop Leading Tomorrow."** (Howard Henricks)



## EDITOR'S NOTES



### A "Flashback" of TCM's 60th Foundation Anniversary

**"The countdown begins!"**

**This** microphone-deafening announcement came from the huge colorfully decorated platform of the new TCM Convention Center in the Philippines. A spectacular five-minute fireworks display followed which caught the full attention of more than 2,000-overly excited strong audience that attended the opening night of the 60th TCM Founding Anniversary & Thanksgiving Celebration in Lupagan where TCM missionaries, Vernon & Darlene Anderson and Joe & Pauline Watkins, began ministry in 1958!

The opening ceremonies paraded colorful flags representing the TCM mission fields of 17 countries from Southeast Asia, Africa, Africa, Europe, and America. More than 50 TCM missionaries and guests from these countries graced the historical event. Ben Anderson, Tim Heath, Don Sommer, Felix Rosales, Titus Kivilu, Nathan Killion, and James Bermejo took turns in delivering strong and spiritually-enriching messages during the worship services centering on the theme: *"TCM at 60: Faithfully Proclaiming the Mystery"*.

The special TCM celebration on April 23-26, 2018, featured the following: 60th founding anniversary (1958-2018); thanksgiving for TCM IMPACT 2017 (a five-year flagship project on church growth: 2012-2017); Grace National Annual Conference (GNAC); and

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## Two of the “Great Things”!

Ben N. Anderson

*“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him.”*

### ❖ 60th Grace National Annual Conference

Throughout the past three months I have seen a few of the great things God is doing.



At my last update I was heading for the 60th Grace National Annual Conference in the southern Philippines. It was a blessing to spend a week with 1500 faithful workers, leaders and missionaries remembering what God has done through Things to Come Mission in the Philippines since 1958. I enjoyed challenging 400

*The Grace Ministries Digest* ministers who graduated from the continuing education program (Grace School of Biblical Studies). Several men were ordained and dozens of new pastors and Bible women were recognized during the conference held in the new convention center. The count of Grace Gospel Churches now stands at 512.

### ❖ 12 Complete Mission Training



Congratulations to the 12 graduates of Grace Theological Center for Mission. They’ve spent 8 hours a day in classes followed by homework. The program is coordinated by Gerson & Marietta Bermejo. Ben & Joyce Anderson, Nathan Killion, James & Agape Bermejo, and Genesis Maraat have provided instruction.

This past week International Director Ben Anderson interviewed each student to determine their readiness and steps to becoming TCM missionaries. Pictured are students taking the pledge to be involved in mission, whether as mobilizes or missionaries. We trust the Holy Spirit will guide each student according to His will.



## GTCM MISSIONARY OATH

*“I solemnly promise to be faithful to Christ as a minister of His Word; to be loyally committed in preaching the gospel of the Grace of God according to the revelation of the mystery which is committed to and through the Apostle Paul. As a graduate of GTCM, I pledge my deepest commitment to carry out the Grace message as I move from this milestone to the regions beyond with the best of my ability, either by life or by death, until the Lord comes. So help me God.”*



## GTCM 2018

“Lost people matter to God, and so matter to us.” - Keith Wright

*“For this is what the Lord has commanded us: “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth” (Acts 13:47).*

**We are** beyond thankful for Grace Theological Center for Mission! We feel like God completely exploded our world upside-down and challenged our personal view and example. More than anything, we are very thankful for how this training challenged us to go to God’s Word for answers and to seek Him in order to find out what’s really true. We

don’t want to mindlessly believe things because people tell us, but because God’s Word has

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convinced, convicted and converted us that it’s true. GTCM encouraged the discovery method of learning, which really helped us take more ownership for what we believe about who God is and His heart in mission to the regions beyond. GTCM prepared us for lifelong learning, gave us an unquenchable passion for missions to unreached people groups and prepared us to be Agents of Transformation to the regions beyond. We believe every missionary should go through this training prior to hitting the mission field. You will be stretched and challenged spiritually in ways you may never have thought. We highly recommend GTCM to anyone who is seriously considering going into missions! *(Vincent & Shirley Quiñones, TCM missionary candidates to Taiwan)*

**TCM SURVEYS TAIWAN:** International Director Ben Anderson along with Team Taiwan missionaries Vincent Quinones



(TCM Taiwan) and Roland Improso will spend the next few days in Taiwan meeting contacts and learning how best to potentially live and minister in this

new TCM field. Please pray for the Lord's guidance and divinely appointed meetings and opportunities. *(Info & Photo Credit: Roland Improso, February 28, 2019)*

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**Editor's Notes** . . . From Page 2 presentation of "TCM Target 2023" (a new flagship plan on church growth: 2018-2023). Other notable features of the special event also included the following: inauguration of the new TCM Convention Center; graduation of 402 students of the Grace School of Biblical Studies; presentation before the general assembly of 62 new TCM-recognized pastors and Bible women; solemn ordination of 23 pastors; and the heart-moving singing of the 230-strong voice choir at the close of the momentous event! Indeed, God's faithfulness and super-abounding grace were the reasons for the great and historic celebration! *(Ehpjr.*

MGA ALAWITON SA PAGSIMBA  
(Efeso 5:19)  
(Cebuano)

Things to Come Mission Inc.  
Philippines  
Grace Gospel Church of Christ

TCM Foundation Anniversary Edition

Now Available!

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# Witness Statements



On April 19th, we flew literally half-way around the world to be a part of the 60th GRACE

NATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE for TCM-PHILIPPINES. As a benchmark anniversary, it was a wonderful time of celebration, thanksgiving, and praise! Over the course of the 4-day event, we were encouraged and challenged by many messages from God's Word, we were blessed by amazing choirs lifting up the name of our Lord and Savior, and we shared in the infectious excitement that well over 1000 participants exhibited for the life-changing gospel of the Grace of God. Probably the greatest blessing was the privilege of meeting and getting to

know so many of the Filipinos who are devoted to the gospel and to serving our Lord. We fellowshiped with patriarchs and matriarchs of the Grace movement in the Philippines, young pastors and Bible women, missionaries, singers and

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## **Witness . . .** From Page 5

musicians, cooks and organizers. They made us feel like family—which we are as brothers and sisters in Christ--and remain in the front of our minds and near our hearts. *(Mark & Cindy (Watkins) LaVier, Indianapolis)*

**Attending** the TCM-Philippines 60th Anniversary was a highlight of our year. We were so impressed with the quantity of people! They went through such struggles to be there, but it didn't matter; they were there! And most of them were pastors! Eh, that was hard to comprehend: more than 1500 people,



most of them laborers in the Lord's field. In South Africa the work is not that advanced, so the conference was a vivid glimpse

into what could be the future of our work - a vision we will not forget! Inspiring! *(Paul Craesmeyer, Missionary)*

**It was** really great to witness a multitude of Grace believers meeting together. I thank God for letting me realize that though we face a lot of challenges in life, we remain strong and faithful in the grace of God. I was

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encouraged and blessed by our ministers and church members for showing their zealously in the ministry through their preparation and effort just to attend this conference. Their lives have greatly impacted me. I also give tribute to the first American missionaries in the Philippines: because of them we celebrated 60 years of TCM Grace Church. Their memories will never be lost in our minds and we're forever grateful for them. TO GOD BE THE GLORY. *(Juna Umacob, Missionary)*



**I can't** thank God enough for the opportunity to attend the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

It's tremendous to celebrate the Lord's doing together and be edified in the Word of God. I'm much inspired with thoughts about church growth, church planting and training of church leaders for the ministry. *(Titus Kivilu, TCM-Kenya Director)*



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## Cebu Grace Gospel Church Anniversary



This TCM's city Grace church celebrated her 46th anniversary, October 21, 2018. The members were reminded of God's super abounding grace since the late Pastor Joseph Watkins and his wife, Pauline, started the ministry 46 years ago. The powerful 40-Voice "Cebu Echo of Grace Choir" declared God's Faithfulness in Songs! Pastor Felix U. Rosales, director of IGBI-Ozamis City Campus, expounded the theme and

made his challenge from Deut. 7:6-9. Rey Nugas Ancero is the resident pastor of the Cebu Grace Gospel Church in Cebu City.

## Mindanao B Conference

250 DELEGATES from eight TCM Ministry Districts represented 145 TCM-Grace churches last February 14-15 during the annual Mindanao B Conference held on the IGBI-Tagum City Campus. Pastor Jesus G. Crescencio, Chairman of the TCM Board and new director of the Field Work

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### TCM VISION-MISSION STATEMENT

*"Things to Come Mission, Inc. endeavors to follow the global ministry concerns of the Apostle Paul as he follows Christ. It envisions to establish a Grace Church in every municipality and city in the Philippines, and commits itself to win the lost, edify the saints, plant reproducing Grace Churches, and produce committed believers in the teachings of Grace whose lives are Christ-like in character."*





Department, delivered the evening messages on reaching the TCM’s five-year financial goal, importance of evangelism, and church planting, while Brother Emiliano Cajés, Jr., TCM Board Member, gave a special lecture on knowing the rights of children. Conference theme: “Resiliency in Achieving the Ministry Goals”. *(Info & Photo Credit: Ted I. Plale*

Guinoman, Diplahan, Zamboanga Sibugay

THE PREPARATION: From Program, Food, Facilities, and Other Needs – everything was ready! The preparation was a testimony of hard work and “working together” by the church leaders and members! More than 700 church members and visitors came to witness and enjoy the once in a lifetime celebration!



“The Thanksgiving Worship Service”

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## Celebrating 60 Years of God’s Sufficient Grace!



Grace Gospel Church of Christ



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Reynaldo L. Centino  
Resident Church Pastor



**Mr. & Mrs. Mathusalem & Ludy Mantos** (ceremony sponsors) cut the ribbon and assisted by the Members of the TCM Trustees and Pastor Reynaldo L. Centino, resident church pastor. (The "Unveiling of Marker" remembers and honors Pastor Vernon-Darlene Anderson and Pastor Potenciano Undag, the pioneer missionaries.



**"The Church Building Dedication and Unveiling of Marker Ceremonies"**

AN AUDIENCE of 600 came and heard Pastor Melchor Guimba spoke on the theme: *"Train the Untrained, Reach the Unreached"* during the 40th CLAG Anniversary Celebration held at the Philippine University Auditorium last February 24, 2019. (Pastor Guimba is a missionary in an undisclosed country in Southeast Asia.) The celebration was a reminder of the ministry that has been going on for the past 40 years. The Lord has blessed the ministry in the TCM-CLAG Ministry District with 19 Grace churches. Pastor Noli M. Buagas is the Supervising Minister of the district. *(Info & Photo Credit: Ghen Improso Sande)*

### **37th Cuambugan Church Anniversary**

THE GRACE Gospel Church of Christ in Cuambugan, Tagum City celebrated her 37th Anniversary last February 17 and 18,

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## *The Grace Ministries Digest* **40th TCM-CLAG Ministry District Anniversary**




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*The Grace Monistries Digest* 2019 with the theme: *"Compassion for the Lost"*. February 17 was "Visitors' Sunday" and Pastor Rizalito Amlon Sr. delivered an evangelistic message to some 200 visitors. February 24, the thanksgiving proper. Pastor Zoe Lou Guasa expounded the Word before an



audience of 400 people. Pastor Ted I. Plale is the young pastor of the Cuambagan congregation under the TCM-Davao Ministry District I which is supervised by SM Pastor Elie L. Enate. The district has 16 TCM-Grace churches.

“The anniversary reminisced God’s provision and greatness for the physical and spiritual improvements of the church through soul- winning and disciple-making,” Pastor Ted emphasized. *(Info & Photo Credit: Ted I. Plale)*

**TCM’S FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2018-2023):**

1. Plant 135 new churches;
2. Add 9,275 new members;
3. Raise 25 million pesos; and,
4. Train laypeople and key leaders in Christian leadership in the local, ditrict and zonal levels.

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## A New TCM Church Building Rises in Davao City!



THE MEMBERS of the Grace Gospel Church of Christ in Davao City are excited

to see the progress on the work of their new building! The building proudly stands on the same location on Sandawa Rd., New Matina, Davao City. The congregation is one of the 17 TCM churches under the TCM-Davao Ministry District and a strong “beacon” of grace in the city and surrounding places! Bernardo P. Pesidas, the resident pastor of the congregation, disclosed that work on the 11-million peso- project started in November 2017 and the members are hoping to use the building by the 2nd week of April, 2019. *(Info & Photo Credit: Bernardo P. Pesidas)*

## NEW BIBLE SCHOOL GRADUATES

130 students were enrolled in the six TCM-IGBI campuses for School-Year 2018-2019. 46 of these students graduated during the last two weeks of March. We should be so grateful to the Lord for the hard work of our campus directors,



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teachers and staff! God bless the parents of these students for sending their sons and daughters to prepare for the ministry! God bless also the churches and individuals who, in one way or another, faithfully supported these students!



## 20<sup>th</sup> Foundation Anniversary of IGBI-Bataan Campus

Pastor Marco Ramos was the guest speaker during the anniversary last October 13, 2018. He spoke on the theme: *“Moving Together One Step*



*Higher”*. He used Philippians 3:13-16 as foundation of his challenge from the Word. IGBI-Bataan is one of the main TCM’s Bible schools training young men and women for the ministry. The school is located in Binukawan, Bagac, Bataan and directed by Pastor Renante Ramos.

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### *The Grace Ministries Digest* “Sharing the Gospel in Four Places”

THE 2ND YEAR students of IGBI-Tagum City Campus conducted evangelism in



four places of Davao del Norte from January to March. The group held Gospel

concert in the evening and went house-to-house to share the Gospel during the daytime. The endeavor was part of the Homiletics Class of the school under Ted I. Plale, pastor of the Cuambugan TCM-Grace congregation in Tagum City.

## Carael, Botolan, Zambales Grace Church Outreach



THIS IS AN OPEN-AIR meeting done mostly by young people! Leading the ministry of the church is Pastor Freddie Magtanong. *(News Feed, FB Account)*

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### *The Grace Ministries Digest* Kidapawan City Evangelism Seminar



THE ATTENDEES in the seminar took time learning how to use the Gospel booklet in sharing the Gospel with someone. The church is one of the growing congregations of TCM and the mother



church of several daughter churches in the North Cotabato area. Joed T. Amlon is the resident pastor of the Grace Gospel Church of Christ in Kidapawan City. *(Photo Credit: Joed T. Amlon)*



**THIS MEDICAL MISSION** was conducted in Guitas, Bunawan, Agusan del Sur. This is part of the outreach program of the Grace church in Bunawan Brook under Pastor Maxdor Carillo. The nucleus of believers in Guitas meets in a house. The local church leadership is nurturing this small group to become a full pledge daughter church of Bunawan Brook. *(Info & Photo Credit: Ted I. Plale)*

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## **“TCM Target 2023” ‘Mission: Impossible’?**



**This current five-year development plan of Things to Come Mission, Philippines aims at reaching the following goals from 2018-2023: Plant 135 new churches; Add 9,275 new members; Raise 25 million pesos; and, Train laypeople and key leaders in the local, district, and zonal levels.**

During the last five years (2013-2017), the Mission launched a development plan known as “TCM IMPACT”. The plan targeted to plant 115 new churches; add 7, 725 new members; raise 20 million pesos; and, train laypeople and key leaders through the Mission’s continuing education program. The results? 99 new churches were planted; number of individuals added overshoot the target; and, 120 laypeople and 282 key leaders completed the continuing education program. The targeted 20 million pesos, however, only a little more than half of the amount was raised.

Based on the results of the previous plan, the present program has more encouraging advantages and strongly motivated challenges!

The participants of the TCM Philippines National Summit last February in Tagum City and Surigao City were unanimous in

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their strong declaration, that by the grace God, “TCM Target 2023” will again become an effective tool of church growth for Things to Come Mission, Philippines in the next five years! “Mission: Impossible”? Definitely not!

## **“Support Goals” of Literature Department for “TCM Target 2023”**

- Produce follow up materials for new believers;

- Assist in the production of training materials for laypeople and key leaders of the Mission;
- Participate in leadership training seminars in the local, district and zonal levels;
- Secure reference books and study materials for workers in the field;
- Organize teams in the churches to conduct seasonal massive gospel tracts distribution;
- Offer Bible courses on the basics of salvation as well as helps on spiritual growth through correspondence and seminars; and,
- Help keep people updated on the progress of the development plan both in the leadership and grassroots levels.



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## Where is TCM Now as a Mission?

**“God’s Word Challenges the Believers to Evangelize!”**



**TCM** is now in all 18 Regions in the Philippines; 54 out of 82 Provinces; 40 out of 145 Cities; 48 out 1,489 Municipalities; and 362 out 42,036 Barangays, or a total 512 Grace Gospel Churches. This means TCM’s membership represents a notable spectrum of society in the Philippines. However, our country’s present population is now 106,512,074 (2018 Philippine Statistics Authority)!

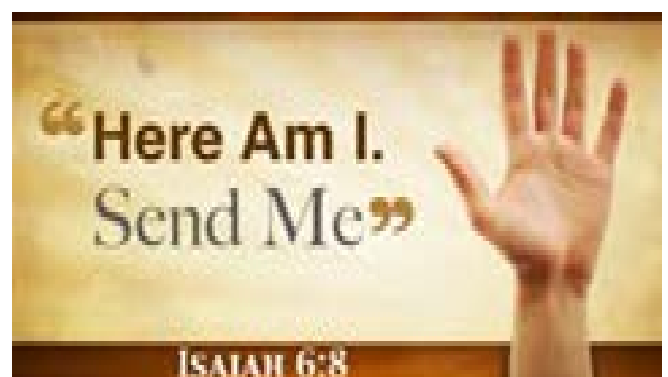
God’s Word strongly re-echoes the same challenge for believers to evangelize:

*“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” (Romans 10:14-15).*

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## Young Men Wanted!

As Ezra prepared to lead God’s people back to the Promised Land after the Babylonian captivity, he had plenty of money to buy animals for sacrifice in the newly rebuilt temple (Ezra 7:11-17), but no Levites to offer them (8:15). This reminds me of the situation in our own day. Grace churches frequently have



enough money to serve the Lord, but no men willing to offer their bodies as “a living sacrifice” to God (Rom. 12:1). Will you be such a man, willing to serve Him in

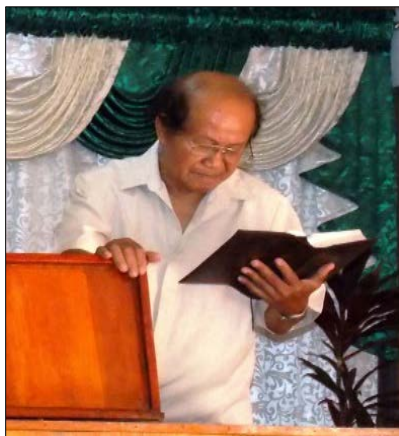
the ministry? I’m reminded of the Lord’s lament to men of God in Ezekiel’s day: *“Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the LORD”* (Ezek. 13:5). As grace pastors retire and others go to be with the Lord, there are always going to be gaps that need to be filled in the front lines of the battle for truth. If God is speaking to your heart about championing the cause of Paul’s gospel, why not say with Isaiah, *“Here am I; send me”* (Isa. 6:8). (Pastor Ricky Kurth, Berean Bible Society)

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## “LOSS, BUT GAIN”

Pastor Carlos F. Adrales, 80, “went home” to be with the Lord at 9:00 this morning, March 4.



*“Kuya Carling, you’re no longer with us physically but your legacy of faithfulness in serving the Lord still remains with many of us!”*

God has used this brother to start the local missionary work for TCM in the Isabela area, northern Luzon, together

with his beloved, wife Mila! The hardships that they have gone through have been rewarded with many souls won to the Lord, churches planted, workers faithfully serving Him, and the expanse of the ministry has been manifestly enlarged!

Pastor Adrales’ “going home” may be a loss to some but the place where he is now is far better than his earthly life, for he is present with his Lord and Savior whom he loved and served so faithfully! And the place where he is now is devoid of sin, sickness, and death (2 Corinthians 5:8). What he lost in life is gain in heaven!

Truly, for Pastor Adrales: *“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain”!*

“Thank you, Kuya Carling, for leaving with us the legacy of faithfulness in serving God!”

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## Reference Books Needed!

Many of our TCM Pastors are poorly equipped with good Christian books for their references and studies. Our TCM Literature Department is in need of these ministry tools for our needy workers in the Philippines! We are also raising funds for the purchase of Bibles for our Cebuano speaking churches, other local versions, and “selected” books for our church workers. These





“tools” will be sold to church members and workers at a much lower price through our literature office. Thank you for praying.

Goals of the Literature Department for the Next Fiscal Year (April 2019-March 2020):

1. Print revised copy of the TCM Handbook (The Leader’s Personal Ministry Guide);
2. Reprint “Ang Pagmatoto”;
3. Reprint “Highway of Life” ;
4. Reprint “Ang Mataas nga Dalan sa Kinabuhi”;
5. Promote TCM Literature Ministry in the churches;
6. Translate “Basic Bible Doctrines Series” by Donald Webb;
7. Coordinate with Supervising Ministers for a massive Gospel tracts distribution in selected communities of their districts;
8. Prepare bi-monthly issue of “Praise & Prayer Notes” and annual issue of “The Grace Ministries Digest”; and,
10. Renovate Literature Office and make new book shelves.

Please pray and ask others to pray for the literature ministry and its needs. Thank you!

- Reveals that Christ died for all mankind equally;
- Teaches that we receive salvation the moment we believe and are sealed to the end; and,
- Anticipates Christ’s coming to catch away the Body of Christ (believers) into Heaven (Rapture).

❖ *The “Gospel of the Kingdom”:*

- Message under the Kingdom Dispensation (Prophecy Program);
- Prophesied since the world began and entrusted to the 12 Apostles;
- Focuses on the physical kingdom on earth;
- Focuses on Christ being King of Israel (His nation);
- Teaches that salvation is faith plus works (keeping the commandments);
- Revealed that Christ would die for Israel (many);
- Teaches that salvation is achieved

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**Gospel of the Grace of God and Gospel of the Kingdom Compared**

❖ *“The Gospel of the Grace of God”:*

- Message under the present Dispensation of Grace (Mystery Program) ;
- Kept secret until revealed through the Apostle Paul;
- Focuses on Heaven;
- Focuses on Christ being the Head of the Church, the Body of Christ;
- Teaches that salvation is by faith with no works;

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by overcoming and enduring to the end; and,

- Anticipates Christ’s coming to earth to take vengeance on the wicked and set up His kingdom (Second Coming).
- Studying the Bible “rightly divided” will save us from many doctrinal errors, and will enlighten us to the power of God’s will.

*“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the*

*riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints” (Ephesians 1:18).*

*“Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (I Timothy 2:4).*

- The Bible “rightly divided” is not only important; it is necessary, both for Christian service and Christian life!
- “While all the Word is FOR US, it is not all addressed TO US or written about us.”



**Vision-Mission Statement:**

*“TCM Literature Department seeks to help TCM workers and church members strengthened their Christian life and service through Bible reference books, study helps, and other printed materials which are dispensational, doctrinal, educational, evangelical, and foundational.”*

