

## **A Brief Report From Internationals USA, Inc.**

One of the quiet but significant developments within the FGBC in 2001 was the relocation of the O'Dell family to the US in order that they might pursue ministries among the Japanese living in the US. While this is by no means directly connected to IUSA, it is significant because in 1994, when we approached GBIM, which was then called FMS, about the possibility of our ministry coming under them, we received great encouragement but were told that their charter "didn't allow for that kind of ministry." The fact that O'Dell's are now in the US ministering among internationals is cause for great joy and illustrates how far we have come in this fellowship in embracing the vision for reaching the world in our doorstep. There is much work to be done, however, and we believe IUSA is uniquely qualified to help our local churches to get their hands to the plow in this area.

At board meetings in the fall of 2000 IUSA approved a directional course that calls for partnerships with local churches to place workers on strategic college campuses to work with internationals. We look to cities such as Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, Columbus, Washington D.C., etc., as potential cluster cities for this kind of project. In the next 3-5 years we intend to implement these partnerships with churches and individuals in this evangelistic thrust of IUSA's ministry.

As some of you know, IUSA had a significant shortfall in contributions this past fall. I am glad to report that after the need was made known many people rushed to respond with generous contributions the last two months of 2001. We are still not completely out of the woods, in the sense that we need to see how many of these "one-time" contributors will turn into regular contributors, but it is fair to say that we have turned a significant corner. I was personally encouraged (and humbled!) to see the response of so many to our need. Please continue to pray for us in this area.

I am very excited about the role pastor Oscar Stroede is playing with IUSA. He is already moving around churches in the East and I am encouraged to see how these churches are responding to the vision he brings for internationals type of ministries. As you know, Oscar is also raising support so he needs our prayers. With Oscar coming on board, my desire is to expand this ministry to the states of Washington, Arizona, Texas, as well as focus my attention more on developing new churches in California.

In 2001 we were able to make a significant contribution to our National Celebration in Anaheim, CA. Our multicultural tracts were well received and the dialogue they sparked is still continuing. We were also able to offer training in intercultural ministries to several area churches throughout the fellowship. This year we want to give a big push to our course on "Understanding Islam." This is a basic introduction to the history and theology of Islam, with a particular emphasis on how to befriend and extend the love of Christ to Muslims in our communities. It's being offered as a six-part series, starting in Simi Valley. Other churches have already expressed interest.

Other ministries we continue to offer are our seminar on "Hospitality to Internationals," and our training on "How to start a ministry to internationals from the local church." I am scheduling training now for the Spring and Fall of 2002.

As you think of us, remember to pray: 1. that every church located close to an international population will have a viable ministry to internationals; 2. that God's people will see 9/11 not as an obstacle but as a springboard for us to share the love of Christ with the people of the world living among us.

With God, for the nations,

Ivanildo C. Trindade

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# **AGBM REPORT FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL**

## **January 2002**

**What is AGBM doing to help GB Churches work together to love and honor Jesus Christ in the six identified objective areas?**

### **1. Seeking God**

Articles are printed in the Sharpening One Another that seek to inspire and challenge men to dwell in Jesus Christ and in His truth, which lead to greater devotion, expertise and more Spirit-filled ministry.

We establish AGBM assembly meetings at Conference that encourage men to be true and passionate about their devotion and call from God. Interaction time with one another is valuable.

We memorialize those of our ranks each year who have gone to be with the Lord, highlighting their devotion to God, their dedication to the ministry of Jesus Christ, and the faithfulness of their stewardship of life for God. This serves as motivation for those who follow in ministry for Christ.

### **2. Proclaiming the Word**

We seek to promote attendance and participation in the continuing education, such as, McClain days, CE National Workshops, Focus Rallies, and District Ministeriums, which encourage our men to keep growing in their faith, commitment, skills, and ministry expression for Christ.

Our members serve as workshop leaders in areas germane to pastoral and church ministries.

Our special speakers are chosen from those who are examples to those in ministry of the Word (Davis, Custer, Julien, Patrick, Bickel, etc.)

### **3. Reaching the lost**

Sharpening One Another articles and interviews seek to motivate and challenge this aspect of making disciples. We have had special speakers at our meetings who emphasize this and who themselves carry this passion in their ministry. (Ivanilo Trindade, GBIM, International pastors, Cole)

### **4. Developing leaders**

Currently, our officers are wanting to advance means to reach, integrate, track and encourage young men who would be prospective career servants for Christ: 1) Set up and man display booths at appropriate youth and Christian college functions; 2) Produce graded literature to capture the God-given interest of prospects for ministry, arrest

attention of those outside the GBC who might be considering a switch in their careers and who are potential servants in the FGBC network, and encourage a follow-through commitment on the part of those currently in the preparation pipeline for the pastorate and other FGBC ministries; 3) Enlist our constituency in prayer for the Lord of Harvest to raise-up leaders; and 4) Seek to enlist our constituency to be recruiters and mentors with those persons in the prospective GBC ministry pipeline and encourage follow through with those committed and employed in GBC ministries.

Our special speakers, interviews, and panel discussions help us develop skill, responsibility and integrity in ministry (Patrick, Julien, Custer, etc.)

Annual recognition of a Pastor of the Year, a Lifetime Achievement, and a Excellence in Ministry awards helps promote and motivate others to lead with excellency, quality, dedication, and faithfulness.

## **5. Planting churches**

Encourage our constituency to possess a basic philosophy for church planting in their ministry through our publications, in selection of speakers and workshop leaders, and in recognition of church planting heroes both at home and abroad.

## **6. Nurturing relationships**

Our overall approach in all that we do is to encourage: speaking the truth in love, fellowship with fellow ministers, encourage faithful prayer for others, personally reach out in love to others going through hardships and difficulties, encourage ministry of care, and personal mentoring. This happens through individual contacts, through our fellowships, through our death gratuities, with special offerings such as for our brothers in Africa, and with benevolent gifts for our fellows and their families who have special crisis needs.

## **CE National Report For 2001 and Goals for the Future**

The following input is in response to Tom Avey and FGBC Fellowship Council's request concerning how CE National is accomplishing the six areas of continuing objectives of the FGBC.

*CE National exists to impact the church by serving as a catalyst for biblically accurate and culturally relevant ministries to children, youth and adults.*

In looking back over 2001, it has been a good year for CE National. Some blessings have been:

- God gave us our largest Youth Conference ever (over 2600)
- We had 500 trained in inner-city ministries at the Urban Hope Training Center
- We developed a new cross cultural ministry for youth—OBI in cooperation with GBIM
- Over 120 youth were trained, and adult leaders were also given training in leading ministry teams
- The National Institute for the Development of Ministries to Youth continues to grow with about 115 students in the program at Grace
- We began teaching youth classes at Washington Bible College (about 35 students in the program)

The following are examples of past and continuing ministries in the six areas of the FGBC objectives.

Most of the six areas listed are accomplished at CE National through a variety of ministry opportunities, publications and resources.

**Seeking God.** We have publications that help with this including *Mack and Co.* for children, the Children's WORD series, *40 Days and 40 Nights*, and *Cover to Cover*. Some of our "Readable" pamphlets are also in this category. Brethren National Youth Conference, Senior Adult Conference, THE BIG RETREAT, and seminars at Adult Conference are also under this objective. BNYC, Operation Barnabas and TIME all promote "An Hour with God." Our resource library has many resources to help those seeking God, His will or answers to questions.

**Proclaiming the Word.** Several on our staff travel throughout the year preaching in churches. *Challenge 180* does this in promoting reading and memorizing the Word. We do this through a variety of ministries—Urban Hope Training Center (weekend teams/week long teams/MAD (Make A Difference) and our team on location) with the weekly ministries and visitation there, TIME teams, Operation Barnabas, Brethren National Youth Conference, as well as through the different speakers we bring in for BNYC and other groups.

**Reaching the Lost.** This is much of what is done as we “Proclaim the Word.” The outreaches in Philadelphia at the Urban Hope Training Center with Friday Night R.O.C.K. (Reaching Our Community Kids) and Kingdom Kids, as well as with teams that come in for a weekend, the MAD Event, PrimeTIME, and the team on location. Operation Barnabas, TIME team members/MAD team members are all trained to use evangelistic tools. The Blitz (outreach) at BNYC offers opportunities to share the gospel as well. Our goal is to see youth learn to minister beyond “task-oriented ministries.”

**Developing Leaders.** This is accomplished through The National Institute, Operation Barnabas, TIME, leadership and intern roles at BNYC, and other internships. There are training times at BNYC in SEMP (Students Equipped to Minister to their Peers), Blueprints (training track), through sponsoring Walk Thru the Bible, Mentoring, endorsing and encouraging Sonlife’s Growing a Healthy Church, Growing a Healthy Youth Ministry and BNYC’s other leadership tracks.

**Planting Churches.** Though this is not our main emphasis, we have begun a “pre-church” in Philadelphia at the Urban Hope Training Center. We also promote church planting by sending information packets to new churches. Operation Barnabas will often be involved in the encouragement process of new church plants. The National Institute allows and encourages this as well. We have developed printed materials such as “Who are Grace Brethren People?” that will help with new church plants.

**Nurturing Relationships.** We do many mailings that encourage a relationship between CE National and the people of the Fellowship. We also offer seminars at Adult Conference. The Senior Adult Conference offers opportunities for relationship building, as does THE BIG RETREAT.

Timothy Kurtaneck is working directly with churches through church relations and Operation Barnabas. We have a website for CE National, which includes our resource listing where people can request resources off the website. We also have a BNYC website where students (and adults) can write in and we respond. There is also a website for Urban Hope through the CE National website.

The Urban Hope Training Center is developing relationships with the people of the Kensington neighborhood in Philadelphia.

The resource library is being used by many! It is based locally and is available free of charge to our churches. We offer a “resource review” regularly to allow churches to know of new or available help through books and videos.

We have several publications directed at specific groups. We have *Building Blocks* for children’s workers in the local church, *Connected* for youth workers in the local church, and *Seasoned to Serve* for senior adults. *CE News & Views* is published for the laymen in the FGBC that gives updates on the ministry of CE National. We also offer *Hmmm*, a monthly email communication for pastors and staff.

Attached is CE National's Financial Statement.

**The following is a visionary look to goals for the future (within the next ten years) in the areas of Youth, Children, Church Leadership, Leadership Development, Adult Ministries, and Biblical Training.**

Our goal is to be a catalyst to mobilize, train and deploy 43,000 believers into active service for God within the next ten years. Our goals include the following to incorporate people into ministry:

- To train and deploy 15,000 youth in sharing their faith boldly, lovingly, and regularly.
- To begin and or sustain 1,000 outreach Bible Clubs in schools through mobilizing, training and deploying students to this vision.
- To train and mobilize 2,000 children's workers to develop a Great Commission Children's Ministry that meets high, biblical standards of instruction and mobilized children for service.
- To mobilize 300 children's workers for career-related ministries.
- To train, mobilize and coach 2500 pastors, staff, church leaders, wives in Great Commission/Great Commandment ministries that produce health and growth.
- Prayerfully seek to have every church in the Grace Fellowship have a vision, plan and training program for local outreach that includes **cultivating** relationships, **planting** the Gospel and **prayerfully** seeking to **reap** results.
- Train and deploy 5000 persons in cross-cultural (urban) ministry experiences so that they will develop a plan of action for their local communities and desire to see their passion result in ministries to the lost.
- Train and deploy 200 adults who will serve for two or more years as tent-making workers in a cross-cultural setting.
- Educate, equip and mobilize 1000 persons who will commit to serving God in a Christian career. These persons will serve as pastors, youth leaders, church-planters and 350 of these would serve in locations outside the USA.
- To train and deploy 1000 senior adults to be involved in ministry outside their "Jerusalem."
- To train and deploy 5000 senior adults to be involved in ministry within their "Jerusalem."
- Educate and mobilize 10,000 adults and youth to know and believe biblical truth by seeking to train 10,000 people in Biblical Beliefs I and II.
- Educate and train attendees of Grace Fellowship churches in Bible truths and practices through making 15 resources (50,000 total) available to people for study and practice.

## Report to the FGBC Fellowship Council

Grace Brethren International Missions

Dave Guiles, Executive Director

January 16, 2002

The following report presents a brief summary of the principle objectives, activities and opportunities facing GBIM in 2002:

### **Objective: Mobilize Christians to impact the world through personal involvement in cross-cultural ministries**

*By 2010 our goal is for every man, woman and child in the GBC to be tangibly involved in cross-cultural ministry.*

The **Seize the Moment Initiative** is an effort to challenge our USA constituency to be *on mission* through *praying, sending, and going*. So far, over 100 churches were visited in the period from 9/00 – 12/01. Last year, our mobilization efforts helped churches produce the following encouraging results: 1) **Twenty-five men and women** are in the process of being deployed as missionaries, 2) Fifteen **GO Teams** (164 participants, incl. 11 GBC pastors) were send out, 3) **X-Teams** were launched to assist in taking the Gospel to difficult places. An interesting new “trend” involves **internships** – typically lasting from 3-12 months. We are currently processing 13 applications.

**Challenges/Opportunities:** The enthusiastic response of the USA church to short-term opportunities may result in what has been termed the *amateurization* of cross-cultural missions. Churches must be challenged to use their resources in accordance with good missiological principles to insure lasting results. In addition, GBIM must expand both the number and scope of strategic short-term opportunities, promoting partnerships that both meet local church objectives and insure long-term ministry impact.

### **Objective: Deploy highly trained teams in strategic areas to initiate and nurture church planting movements**

*By 2010 our goal is for one out of every two new GBC leaders to deploy in ministries that produce new churches.*

We are defining a **church-planting movement** as a measurable, spontaneous expansion of the church that is not generated, fueled or directed by outside interests. At this time we have identified these movements in Argentina (25 Points of Light), Brazil (20+), CAR (?), Cambodia (60+), Chad (160), Mexico (10) and the Philippines (21). Increased focus on implementing the principles of the **ACT Strategy** in other regions is helping lay the kind of foundations that will position the GBC for the moment when the “hard soil thaws.”

**Challenges/Opportunities:** Identifying and releasing leaders who are “apostolically wired” as leaders of church-planting teams, so as to insure that our energies are focused on laying strong foundations for church-planting movements. Also, setting up the infrastructure to provide on-going training and logistical support in areas where new churches are rapidly springing up.

### **Objective: Empower churches and leaders around the globe to reproduce through effective training and strategic assistance**

*By 2010 our goal is for every GBC worldwide have access to viable discipleship and leadership training systems.*



There are over **1200 established GBC's** outside of North America, which constitute over 90% of the men, women and children that form part of our movement. Many of them do not have access to effective systems for discipleship and leadership development. Steps have been taken to **realign our staffing** so as to allow more resources to be released for this task. The development and launching of a **Core Curriculum** for S.A.L.T. (Strategic Alliance for Leadership Training) in Africa represents a significant step forward in the area of decentralized leadership training.

**Challenges/Opportunities:** Recognition by the USA church and its organizations of the magnitude of the task should help foster **greater cooperation** in forming effective solutions. In areas of rapid church expansion, **creative and agile training systems** must be further developed to keep pace with churches planted over ever-widening geographical locations. In other areas, we must avoid the temptation of becoming absorbed by the internal problems that always surface where the church has existed for some time. Some existing educational institutions may even resist change. However, the inability of these structures even to meet the current demand for new leaders makes it imperative that we develop and implement **decentralized systems**.

#### **A final word:**

The FGBC continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to cross-cultural missions. We are grateful for the support of our pastors and churches, as reflected in the warm reception we experience in our churches. In spite of the effect of a downturn in the Stock Market and the impact of September 11 on charitable giving, we are pleased to report a slight increase in receipts over 2000. Most importantly, we are seeing a steady flow of men and women investigating, then committing themselves to cross-cultural ministry. Please pray with us that the FGBC will continue to *seize the moment!*

## MEMO

To: Tom Avey and Fellowship Council  
From: Larry N. Chamberlain  
Re: Organizational Report  
Date: January 10, 2002

I am very pleased to provide you with a report of how Grace Brethren North American Missions and its ancillary ministries are supporting the FGBC directional statement: “. . . Working together to love and honor Jesus Christ by Seeking God, Proclaiming the Word, Reaching the Lost, Planting Churches, Developing Leaders, and Nurturing Relationships.”

The act of seeking God permeates all that we do in our personal and corporate lives. I am very gratified to work with a staff and in association with church-planting missionaries and chaplains who exemplify in their daily walk a commitment to God, His Word, and His mission for this world. We support the regional FOCUS Retreats, the monthly prayer luncheons with the other national boards, and are planning a prayer and planning retreat for our staff in the spring. Also encouraged is regular church attendance and involvement.

“Proclaiming the Word, Reaching the Lost, Planting Churches, Developing Leaders, and Nurturing Relationships” simply describes the nature and activity of what we do on a regular basis across North America. Kurt Miller, with the assistance of his career missionaries and partnering with district leadership, is actively engaged in creating networks, training opportunities, and platforms of discussion for the purpose of leadership development and the establishment of new churches in three strategic areas: world class cities, ethnic-American ministries, and regional church-planting movements. Steve Galegor is working with two teams of missionaries in Albuquerque and Farmington to reach Native Americans and train indigenous leadership.

We remain committed to the support of our Grace Brethren Chaplains who minister to our nation's sons and daughters in uniform. We are thankful for the confidence of the Fellowship Council in our ministry in behalf of our chaplains and their families. Through the gifts from members of the Eagle Commission, we are able to underwrite expenses in excess of \$30,000 per year for the office of John Schumacher, Endorsing Agent, conference expenses for our chaplains, and other related expenses, at no cost to the Fellowship Council.

The Grace Brethren Investment Foundation, under the direction of Ken Seyfert, continues to provide respectable rates of return for our investors and affordable loans for our churches. The deposit base is approaching \$60 million and the operating margins, combined with low overhead

Memo to Tom Avey and Fellowship Council  
January 10, 2002  
Page 2

expenses, allow us to maintain a stable rate offering in the midst of considerable market volatility. All of our reserve investments are in secure, safe, government guaranteed securities that are not subject to capital market risks. This allows us to extend that stability to our investor base and allows us to have funds available, when requested, for the growth and expansion of our churches in the Fellowship.

As an aside, staff from GBNAM and GBIF also provide logistical and administrative support for the FGBC Promise of Honor and Pension Investment Plan. It remains our joy to provide this service in behalf of current and future retirees who have given their lives, at great sacrifice, in Christian ministry. The services of Grace Brethren Estate and Financial Planning Ministries, under the direction of Bud Barger, are also provided for the benefit of our churches and parishioners across the Fellowship.

It is a great honor to serve and work alongside the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches in the awesome task of the Great Commission. I am very pleased with the servant's heart attitude of our staff in this regard. Be assured that I am most supportive of Tom Avey's initiatives in the development of a vision statement for the FGBC and pledge our ministry's commitment to the accomplishment of those worthy objectives.

Respectfully, with appreciation and admiration . . .

Larry N. Chamberlain  
President and Executive Director

**Report to the Fellowship Council Regarding Grace College and Seminary's  
Pursuit of the Continuing Objectives of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren  
Churches During the 30 January – 2 February 2002 Meeting  
Prepared by Ronald E. Manahan, President**

At the request of the Fellowship Council the following report is submitted. It includes accomplishments of 2001 and plans for 2002 with respect to the directional statement (continuing objectives) of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches: "...work together to love and honor Jesus Christ by seeking God, proclaiming the Word, reaching the lost, planting churches, developing leaders and nurturing relationships." As a cooperating organization, Grace College and Seminary is committed to pursuing these objectives within the sphere of its incorporated activity, namely Christian higher education, and its stated mission:

Grace is an evangelical Christian community of higher education which applies biblical values in strengthening character, sharpening competence, and preparing for service.

**Seeking God:** 2001: 2 campus-wide days of prayer were held as was a conference on mission. There were 89 chapels and more than 2000 growth group meetings. 225 one-on-one mentoring relationships with students were completed. Weekly employee prayer meetings were held. Biblical teamwork was a campus priority. Periodic spiritual challenges were given to employees. Student discipline, student dismissal, employee discipline, and employee dismissal were a part of seeking God. 2002: Plans include the 2001 accomplishments listed above plus starting a campus leaders study group to examine anew the Bible to learn more about how spiritual transformation happens and apply the results to campus life. This is especially important because of relativism and post-modernism in the culture.

**Proclaiming the Word:** 2001: 284 credit hours (one credit hour equals one class hour per week for 15 weeks) of Bible, theology and intercultural missions were taught. 265 students majored or minored in Bible, Intercultural Missions, or Youth Ministries, 14 faculty were involved in a weekly preaching and teaching ministry, 5 faculty wrote for publication in biblical and theological areas. 2002: Plans include the general patterns accomplished during 2001 plus definitive steps to revitalize the seminary and increase biblical and theological publications.

**Reaching the Lost:** 2001: Grace, because of its admissions policy and campus environment, must especially work at this objective. Specific things were completed: There were presentations of the gospel (Funfest; Heart of the Holidays; American Lyceum Lecture Series), a conference on mission, pre-evangelism and evangelism on a university campus, and numerous ministry team initiatives. Faculty-led seminars on intercultural training from a Christian perspective were given with unsaved people in attendance. \$25,000 was distributed from the institution's Ministry Endowment (new outreach initiatives). A Missionary-in-Residence program was approved. 2002: Plans include the general

patterns accomplished during 2001 plus implementation of the Missionary-in-Residence program. 2002 will see further steps taken to implement a commitment by every graduate to evangelize and/or disciple 20 persons a year.

**Planting Churches:** 2001: Other than direct (classroom) and indirect (mentoring situations) the importance of church planting was underscored by offering seminary tuition to one Hispanic student (in cooperation with GBNAM) and one Canadian student (in cooperation with Team Canada's church planting strategy). 2002: Continue 2001 activities plus explore other partnerships.

**Developing Leaders:** 2001: 229 graduates were sent out to become leaders in their calling. 46 masters degree in counseling students were educated for leadership roles in a state-certified program. 82 modern language majors and minors interacted with those in the GBIM building. 130 seminary students were enrolled in masters and doctoral programs with specific coursework on leadership. 87 Youth Ministries majors and minors were educated for leadership roles in youth and related ministries. 90 student leaders (resident assistants, class officers, student body officers, etc.) received specific leadership training. 2002: Continue 2001 activities and broaden and deepen campus leadership training.

**Nurturing Relationships:** 2001: Every residential student lived in an aggressive relationship-nurturing environment. A more aggressive non-residential student program intensified relationship building among that cohort. Campus personnel actively participated in multiple FGBC settings: FOCUS Retreats, National Conference, joint meetings with heads of national organizations, and representation in FGBC churches. Partnerships continued or were instituted with GBIM (Missionary-in-Residence program), GBNAM (Church Planting Scholarship), and CE National (Youth Ministries). 386 FGBC students on campus built relationships with each other and with FGBC leaders. 2002: Continue 2001 activities and develop and begin implementation of strategy to connect to individual Fellowship churches across the United States. Development of a consortium of pastors to advise the seminary is also planned.

These reports and projections indicate that institutional effort and resources continue being directed toward the pursuit of the FGBC continuing objectives. Grace is grateful for the opportunity to be a cooperating organization of the FGBC.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronald E. Manahan  
President

Dear Brethren:

The following items highlight progress at Grace Village Retirement Community for the calendar year 2001:

- We raised from our churches \$32,301 to repay the former Directors and Defendants legal expenses. Among donors were BMH and GBIF, as well as one individual.
- Also gave \$58,283 out of operations for former Directors and Defendants judgment repayment.
- Completed plans and broke ground for the new Robin Hood Phase III condominium style units.
- Completed plans for twenty-six additional assisted living units to begin construction in May 2002.
- Assisted in local merger of Extenda Care and Prairie View Nursing Homes with resultant goodwill of community.
- Completed the renovation of the Retirement Chapel, entirely funded by gifts.
- Continue to give a significant discount to several former GBC missionaries and pastors.
- Financial health is very strong.
- Continuing to investigate branch campus in Columbus, Ohio.

The process has been amazing, the challenges ahead seem overwhelming, but with God, all things are possible. Because of our success and commitment to quality care for our senior population, demand for our services has increased significantly. As we evaluate where we are, I do not know if we can keep up with the needs of our community. So as we face the road ahead, we will pray, we will plan, and at times, we may have to call a halt and adjust our plans as circumstances dictate changes.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Carroll  
CEO  
Grace Village Retirement Community

# **Women of Grace USA**

*On mission to share God's love next door and around the world*

## **REPORT TO FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL**

*January 2002*

The year 2000 was a year of transition and a year of blessing for Women of Grace USA. Prayers were answered and women served and gave generously. Statistically WGUSA dropped slightly below 100 groups, but we are hearing reports of more young women attending retreats, younger women taking the leadership in districts and local groups, and requests for information on starting new groups. Members of the WGUSA Board last summer observed that our new name, along with a broader understanding of missions and greater flexibility in the structure of new groups, are helping us to be a more personal organization, able to meet more needs and encourage more personal involvement. Women across the Fellowship, whether linked to WGUSA or not, are accepting the challenge to be "on mission to share God's love next door and around the world." Women of Grace USA is helping the Fellowship to accomplish its objectives in the following ways:

### **Reaching the Lost/Planting Churches**

Women of Grace USA shares in the work of reaching the lost and planting churches in three ways: praying, giving, and personal involvement. WGUSA women provide prayer support for pastors, church planters, missionaries and ministry leaders in the US and around the world. In the fiscal year 2000-2001 women gave nearly \$57,450 to District and National projects, offerings that went toward

- renovating and equipping the Center for Intercultural Studies, housed in the International Missions Building and used by the Language Department of Grace College;
- computers, printers and other supplies for the Hispanic Pastor's Training Center in Tampa, FL;
- *Discover the Dream*, the new GBIM video being used to enlist workers for Europe;
- helping to sponsor SMM;
- and other projects, too numerous to list, that assist each of the NatOrgs in fulfilling their mission.

Finally, women's groups are encouraged to plan events geared to reaching unsaved women, and to participate in GO Teams, the PrimeTIME Women's Ministry Team at Urban Hope and other short-term missions.

### **Developing Leaders**

Nearly 100 women attended the "Growing Healthy Women in Ministry" seminar at National Conference last summer. Typical comments were: *This really helped me to focus more accurately on where we need to build next ... [most valuable was] the challenge to get "out of our comfort zone" and befriend the lost people in my neighborhood ... emphasis on our ministries being reproducible, fueled by my life being reproducible ... we sometimes get lost in the "program" and forget the real reason for doing things.* We praise God for the response to this seminar, and trust that He will provide the opportunity to repeat it at a future conference.

### **Nurturing Relationships**

One area of relationship building has been with our sisters, the OTN women of Central African Republic. One national offering bought a computer and subsidized the cost of OTN lesson books, and helped to finance the trip taken by OTN President Marie-Hélène HIBAILE to visit and minister to her Grace Brethren sisters in Argentina and Uruguay.

Personal contact is essential to nurture relationships, so WGUSA leaders are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to meet with Grace Brethren women around the country. We want to be an encouragement, offer resources and materials if needed, celebrate what each one is doing to fulfill the Great Commission, and help individual groups feel connected to the rest of the Fellowship and the global Grace Brethren family. In 2001 meetings were held with women's leaders in Southern California, Southern Ohio, the Columbus, OH, GBC, and Women of Grace groups in the Allegheny District. In addition, WGUSA was represented at the Nor-Cal District Women's Retreat and rallies in Southern California, Indiana and Southern Ohio.

**Plans for this year:**

- 2001-2002 WGUSA resources include a study of Proverbs 31, plus glimpses into the lives of international and cross-cultural women, as shared by the missionaries who know them.
- 2002-2003 materials, *Cross Sections of the World*, will present information about different cultures, challenges to sharing the gospel in those cultures, and testimonies from people who have struggled to overcome the challenges.
- 2001-2002 national offerings will go to The Grace Ministry Endowment (Grace Schools), Office complex for Literacy Work ~ CAR (GBIM), MetroGrace Philadelphia (GBNAM), SMM, Internationals USA, four Missionaries of the Year, and WGUSA.
- With a stronger emphasis on each woman being personally committed to mission, we are working on a revision of our annual reporting to include information such as group outreach activities, women involved in short-term missions or ministries, etc. I.e., we want to begin reporting on the things we value most.
- We will continue to present *Challenge 10,000* to women in local churches, inviting them to ask themselves, "What have I come to the kingdom for?"
- In addition to providing missions resources, materials and direction for WGUSA groups, we wish to find ways to serve all the women of the FGBC, to discover and celebrate what women are doing to be "on mission". Using communication tools such as the printed page, the WGUSA web site and video will enable us to share information more effectively, present missions projects to all women, gather feedback for celebration, and help Grace Brethren women see their connection and partnership with the rest of the Grace Brethren family.
- Additional travel and correspondence have caused the President's workload to increase significantly during the last five years. In addition, our search for the right woman to serve as the next president of WGUSA has revealed that qualified, capable women are holding jobs and are not available to serve. At our request, the Moderator appointed three advisors to review our financial status and help us discover how we might generate additional income to pay a part-time clerical assistant for the National President, possibly enabling a woman who has another job to also serve as president of WGUSA.

It is a privilege to be a part of the Grace Brethren Fellowship, to share with every one of you in fulfilling our God-given mission. May God continue to keep His hand of blessing on us and enlarge our borders to even greater things for His glory.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Minnix, President  
Women of Grace USA