

GRACE FOX

Author • Speaker

Leading Women in Fearless Faith



Spring 2008
Newsletter

Ministry Carries a Price

It was Wednesday, March 5th. I was in Eastern Europe, eating breakfast at a missionary conference when a friend's husband approached carrying his cell phone. "This call is for you," he said, "It's Gene."

I took the phone and said hello. Gene – my husband – answered from our home in British Columbia. His voice sounded strangely subdued.

"Grace...I'm sorry to tell you...your dad passed away a half hour ago."

The chatter and clatter around me continued, but I heard none of it. The news of Dad's death, though not unexpected, left me grappling with a question that immediately came to mind: *Why now?* I'd left North America only two days prior to speak at several women's conferences in Poland. Returning home for the funeral would send the events' organizers scrambling for a replacement – an unfair task considering that advertisements had been posted and my handouts had already been translated into Polish. Remaining in Europe would mean not celebrating Dad's life with my family – a sacrifice that seemed nearly too big to bear at the time. What was I to do?

I chose to fulfill my ministry commitment. My decision was reaffirmed the next morning when a friend read Matthew 10:37-38 to me: "If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine...If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine."

The verses forced me to examine the depth of my commitment to Christ and to His call on my life. They caused me to ask, "What's my response when ministry requires painful sacrifice? Do I complain, or do I count it a privilege and willingly take up my cross for the sake of Christ – the One who made the ultimate sacrifice on my behalf?"

Ministry involvement and sacrifice walk hand-in-hand. As leaders, our schedules far surpass a 40-hour week. Our paychecks (if they exist) pale in comparison to most secular positions. Sometimes we're misunderstood, or our popularity wanes if our stance for truth opposes the majority. So, what's our response on occasions when the cost seems too great?

I pray that we, as ministry leaders, will respond by embracing the sacrifice. In my case, doing so allowed me to experience the comfort of several caring coworkers on the day of Dad's funeral. It gave me the opportunity to see Polish women's lives transformed as they responded to the message of overcoming fear. And it gave me the ability to empathize with others who face similar circumstances in loss.

Yes, ministry requires sacrifice. The cost may be high, but the returns are higher.

Upcoming Events

May 2-3 – Northwest Christian Writers Renewal Conference – Bothell, Washington

May 5 – Church librarians' meeting – House of James bookstore – Abbotsford, B.C.

May 9-11 – International Messengers (I.M.) training weekend – Keyport, Washington

May 23-24 – I.M. training weekend – Abbotsford, B.C.

May 26-June 9 – Girls Night Out tour with World Vision – Saskatchewan and Manitoba

July 23-25 – I.M. women's retreat – Poland

July 30-Aug. 6 – I.M. evangelistic family camp – Poland

August 15-23 – I.M. evangelistic family camp – Slovakia

Testimonials

"I watched you on *It's a New Day*. Your message about overcoming fear has changed my life. Thank you for reminding me to focus on the truth of God's Word rather than on the enemy's lies. Please keep doing what you do – women need to hear more of this." (see interview at www.gracefox.com/media)

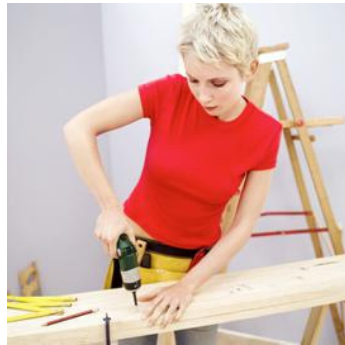
- Merle B. – a television viewer

Resources for Women

Revival is a key element in a nation's spiritual transformation. Heaven knows that North America needs it! *Extreme Makeover: Heart Edition* is a three-part retreat or conference package that stirs revival in women's hearts by helping them to:

- identify sinful habits or negative character qualities that require demolition.
- trust the Master Contractor with the details of their lives even when they don't understand His blueprint.
- live their lives fully surrendered to the Master Contractor, writing Him a blank check so He can work unhindered in their hearts.

Invite Grace to share this powerful, life-changing package at your next women's event. To book her, call **604-755-8285** or email grace@gracefox.com. Plan ahead to ensure your preferred date.



What's New?

Did you know that more than 30,000 Romanian teenagers are living with HIV/AIDS? They acquired the disease when healthcare workers immunized them against childhood diseases, using contaminated needles.

In March, Gene and I spent a day with a dozen of these precious young people. They captured our hearts, asking for hugs and a promise that we'd return someday. We agreed and told them that we'd bring others with us if possible.

Our I.M. missionaries are planning teen camps for these kids. If you'd like to receive more information about how you can participate, give us a call at 604-755-8285 or Email grace@gracefox.com.



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