



May 25, 2010

Dear Friends,

I am asked almost every day "So, how is Grace Rivers going?" Now into its third year, we are coming into a greater understanding of what God is doing through us and what He may be leading us into. At a recent board meeting we developed a statement that more clearly describes our mission.

Grace Rivers is a ministry with the gay community that reveals the message of an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ and genuine community with His followers - because every person deserves to know that Jesus loves them.

"With" the gay community because I don't see the gay community as a project, rather we are learning and growing with and through relationships with each other. We are growing into a deeper walk in the knowledge of our Savior. I am excited about some upcoming events that will provide some awesome opportunities for me to do just that.

Last December we revealed the vision for 2011. This included a release of a documentary that I am featured in. We also talked about gathering leaders around the world who are focused on sharing the gospel within the homosexual community. With this in mind, I have three upcoming opportunities that are all focused on our 2011 vision.

June, 2011 - the release of Morgan Fox's documentary that is based on the protests that took place in 2005 at Love In Action. Interviews with me are featured and Grace Rivers is highlighted in the film. This release is an extraordinary opportunity to promote the future release of "The Journey of Grace" the book I have written that highlights my own process of that event. The premier will take place in San Francisco and I have been invited to be on the panel for questions after the film is shown.

It is my hope to publically communicate my heart and mission in front of those that will be attending the film. This will be a foundational opportunity for doing just that.

July, 2011 - a conference will take place in Austin Texas where several leaders will be present who have a heart to work with the homosexual community.

This will provide an opportunity for some quality face to face time with those I have been in contact with over the past year.

September, 2011 - a retreat with the gay community is being held in London England and I have been invited to participate in the event. This is being led by a leader who has a ministry that is focused on ministering within the gay community with the love of Christ.

Learning more about how to work with the gay community will be a primary goal of my trip. Another wonderful opportunity being that I'll be able to meet with two of the men that I have been mentoring over the last two years through Skype and FaceBook. This meeting would be very encouraging for each of us.

In order to make all of this happen, we will have to raise the money to do this. **In total we would need about \$2500 to fund all three trips.** You have been such a faithful supporter of our ministry that I am going to you first to present this opportunity. If you can send something extra above and beyond your regular gifts that would be awesome. We need extra income in addition to what we are getting each month in order for these trips to be possible.

Please consider praying for me and that God will provide for this vision. And, if you are led to make a contribution to these opportunities, thank you SO MUCH!

We believe God is leading us into this vision and it would be great to have you on board with us financially, and prayerfully.

John J. Smid

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Smid". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and "S".

Executive Director
Grace Rivers Ministry