



In The River

December 1, 2010



Followers of Jesus Christ—
Impacting our community
one person at a time!

Our Second Year In Review by John Smid



Dear Friends,
One of the best ways to summarize the year is to share a letter I received. The letter describes my heart's greatest desire for the ministry of Grace Rivers, that as followers of Jesus we have an impact on others.

Dear John,

I don't follow FaceBook much, but I had a bit of time yesterday and I noticed your post which led me to your website articles. www.gracerivers.com/articles.

I was raised and lived in a cultish religion. I have broken free but now I am always skeptical and distrustful of any religion. I am squeamish around Christians of any ilk, or religious dogma for that matter. I have chosen to seek traditional Indian spirituality. It has been a very personal search because it has no religious dogma.

I went to your website to read the whole thing. I was nervous. I do not handle 'preaching', 'piousness', or religious 'judgment' very well at all. After having read some of your writing I have to say that I'm greatly impressed with your insight in regards to the Gay/Christian issue.

When I read what you have written, I realized that there is a possibility that Christians really can be "Christian" towards others. Until now, I don't believe I have met one that is like that.

But your writing might make me more hopeful.

My own painful experiences have taken away dreams, beliefs and trust; and in their place they have left me with fear, cynicism, anger, and many wounds. My experience with the those in the cult I was with, was just as damaging. It left even deeper wounds for me

than sexual injury, it left my soul scarred for life.

It was a breath of fresh air to read your piece and hear compassion, a non-judgmental approach. You have given the opportunity for others to think for themselves and act like the Christians they profess to be.

Thank you, John. Not only for your story, but for being a respectful voice in a din of noisy cackling religious zealots.

Your Friend

"Your Writing might make me more hopeful."

I spent two years writing "The Journey of Grace" with the hope that by practicing honesty, listening, and honoring communication the outcome would be just as it has been with this person.

- Prayer Requests
- Pray for the publishing of "The Journey of Grace"
- Pray for positive change from two documentaries featuring myself in 2011
- Pray that outreach to the homosexual community will be filled with grace
- Pray that we touch our families and friends with our hearts

Support 2011 Vision

Our Board is really excited and encouraged about what John Smid and Grace Rivers has accomplished this year. John's vision to reach out with grace to those who are hungry for a deeper love relationship with Jesus Christ is at the core of our hearts.

In this newsletter you will see the number of people who have been impacted by John and Grace Rivers in 2010.

It is the Board's desire to increase the financial foundation of Grace Rivers so that John will be able to reach even more people in 2011.

In order for John to continue to devote himself to the full-time ministry at Grace Rivers, we have established an annual budget of \$89,000.

Please consider supporting (or increasing your support) so that John and Grace Rivers will continue impacting others in 2011!

Michael D. Watt, Secretary / Treasurer



2010 Review in Numbers!

This year I decided to embrace the numbers style of reviewing our work for 2010. As I compiled these figures I found myself feeling very encouraged and in some ways surprised! Take a look.

Individual Support

- **345** one on one meetings with individuals for encouragement, support, counsel and discipleship
- Weekly meetings with **6** men
- **4** one on one meetings with youth who are struggling with homosexuality and whom I am also talking with their parents regularly
- **45** lunch appointments for mutual support, networking and fund raising.
- Dialogues with **8** individuals on Facebook for discussion and support.
- Building relationships with **25** leaders within the homosexual community to listen, share, learn and reconcile.

Speaking Engagements

- John Smid was keynote speaker at **2** conferences in Spokane WA and Glendale CA
- **5** speaking engagements in Memphis and other locations

Written Material

- **35** informational articles written and added to our website
- Completion of the editing process for my soon-to-be-released book "The Journey of Grace"

Communications

- Wrote, designed and mailed **6** editions of our mail out newsletter, "In the River"
- Wrote, designed and emailed **54** editions of our E-Newsletter to **630** people each mailing

Website Activity

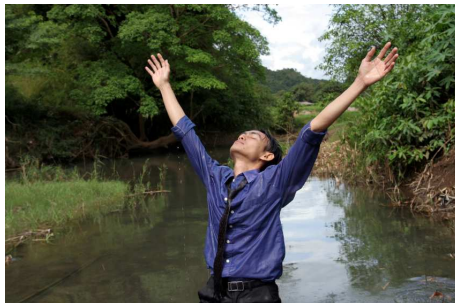
- An average of **240** people actively clicked into our website to read entire articles through our E-Newsletter
- **208** comments written in response to our articles and blogposts

- Over **5800** visits to our website this year with the highest visits on one day being **537** and an average of **40** visits per day

Miscellaneous Involvement

- **209** Grace Rivers friends on Facebook
- **20** meetings with our "house church" "Celebration Fellowship"
- **8** Family Support group meetings

We have a lot to celebrate! God is at work building His kingdom.



2011 Vision

- Release John Smid's first published book "The Journey of Grace" (formerly titled "The Journey of Thomas")
- Release of **2** documentaries that feature John Smid
- Speaking opportunities as result of these documentaries and the release of "The Journey of Grace"
- Gathering leaders from around the world who are focusing on reaching the homosexual community with a message of hope and faith in Jesus Christ
- Please join us in prayer and support as these dreams become a reality

Written for YOU!

This year John has written numerous articles and webposts that are available as devotionals, resources, or just food for thought.

Faith and Trust Series

These articles are based on pictures on our website homepage.

A series of 16 devotionals based on encouraging our walk of faith and trust as we encounter real life.

Through the Windshield of My

Life- A series of biographical stories based on automobiles that bring John Smid's life to each of us in spiritual and memorable ways.

From Our Mailbag - John Smid responds to some very challenging and poignant questions that we have received from our readers.

The readership of this series has proven to exceed our expectations. This is a collection that includes answers to challenging questions about homosexuality and Christianity.

Please take advantage of this rich collection of articles!

You can read them all by going to our "Resources" page and clicking on "Articles by John Smid."

Or you can go directly to this link:

www.gracerivers.com/articles

Please consider a year-end gift to the ministry of Grace Rivers!

We are making a difference, one person at a time.

www.gracerivers.com
PayPal/Credit / Debit / Check / Cash

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