



In The River



January 2010

Finishing 2009 Well!

Sharing the Message

Through the venues of Face Book, Twitter and Linked In Grace Rivers has spread to hundreds of folks who have been in contact with us. Our website surfers have increased significantly.

John Smid taught four local weekend conferences in September through December. He focused mainly on The Motivational Gifts and Family Systems.

Attendance was lower than was expected however, this is a new concept for us so we were grateful for those who came.

We are considering if this is where God wants us to spend our energy.

Life Transformation Groups

John Smid has continued to meet with the men that started with the Life Transformation Group ministry. "We are close to adding out third participant to each of these groups soon", John said recently.

The Journey of Thomas

Two small groups led their participants through The Journey of Thomas material this year. One was working with wives seeking support and the other was with women within a prison ministry. The plan have already been made to continue with a second group for using this material.

It is our objective to make sure that The Journey of Thomas book will in print sometime this

Speaking Engagements

John Smid has signed a contract with a speaking and talent agency which will promote opportunities for us to get the message of Grace Rivers out to places we might not otherwise have.

John has an Electronic Press Kit with marketing tools such as audio files, pictures, and eventually a promotional video representing his heart for ministry. <http://www.gracerivers.com/about/leadership-team/> Go to the Sonic Bids link. To see this wonderful tool.

Website Blogs

Extra energy has been placed in writing blogs for our website that reflect The Journey of Thomas. Sue DeRaad, has written many blogs geared to the heart of women.

John Smid has written articles and blogs to speak to the heart of individuals wanting to build healthier relationships.

year. I have met regularly with the publisher who is coaching me in completing the draft. I am very excited to see what he has done to add some things to this book I would have never thought of. It's going to be a great book when it is complete.

Working with an independent film producer, John Smid is creating a promotional DVD for The Journey of Thomas message.

Financial Report

With heartfelt thanks, we finished the year with over \$30,000 in donations to our ministry.. We have close to one hundred donors who have made this possible!

We are incredible grateful for what God has done this year.

2009 Objectives:

Spreading the vision of Grace Rivers and inviting partners into the mission with us.

Hosting topical conferences and seminars and speaking opportunities in the local area.

Imparting the vision of Life Transformation Groups to embrace the LTG small group model

It is our plan to have this completed in early 2010.

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Prayer Requests

- Pray for each family and individual that God brings to us.
- Pray for our LTG participants
- Pray for new Donors to come onboard
- Pray for speaking opportunities to increase
- Pray for two new board members
- Pray for completion and Publishing of "The Journey of Thomas"

Gifts Seminar Participants

Grace Rivers Ministry

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



Go to our Website!
www.gracervers.com

Our Vision and Mission

- **Our Vision** is to empower every follower of Jesus Christ to represent God's salvation and restoration to those to whom He sends them. (Matt. 28:19) (Gal. 6:1)
- **Our Mission** is calling and equipping followers of Jesus Christ to Authentic fellowship as disciples who will impact their communities with the gospel, drawing all people unto Christ. (2 Cor. 5:18-20)
- **We do this** through cultivating spiritual growth in individuals and groups that is focused on nine core relational values. (Heb. 6:1-3)
- **We are motivated** to remove our masks of fear, which may prevent us from revealing God's abundant grace in our lives to those to whom God is leading us. (Acts 28:30-31)
- **We believe** in the universal Body of Christ that functions through groups and individuals. (Eph. 4:4-6)

Outreach Development

It is our hope that throughout this coming year we will further grow in our ability to reach those who are lost or estranged from the Body of Christ.

At this time we are concentrating on telephone contact, one on one coffee meetings, lunches and other casual opportunities to show the love of Christ to those God seems to be sending us to reach.

It has been amazing to see the way God has opened up the doors with people that have trusted us with their hearts.

At Grace Rivers we believe strongly that God has led us to a very personal caring way of sharing Jesus heart of unconditional love and grace.

Numerous calls from families and individuals have come in

from those looking for hope. Many of them have already spoken of the miracles that have come about during the time we were walking alongside each other.

Homosexually related struggles have been common with those who have called. This excites me because it continues to show me God's still using my background to help others.

While I didn't ask for it nor did I expect it, God has opened up some amazing doors in the homosexual community for a heartfelt ministry.

Well, I say I didn't ask for it but really, 22 years ago I remember breaking down in tears begging God to provide me with opportunities to share His love with the gay community and he has. He has provided tremendous

favor with some significant folks that I am growing to love with His love and that is exciting.

Keep us in prayer for these awesome doors to remain open. I have every expectation that these opportunities will only increase in 2010!

Please Help Us Grow!

We want your partnership

Our goal:

100 monthly donors
by Dec. 31, 2009!

Currently 25

www.gracervers.com

PayPal—Credit / Debit / check/cash

Future Events being planned:

→Restoration Grace Conference in Clinton MS. This conference is being sponsored by In His Time ministry.

→Please go to our website for conference information.