

# mmct communiqué

The MMCT COMMUNIQUE is a periodic digest of member care resources and events delivered to your agency or personal e-mail. Click **HERE** to remove your address from future mailings. Click **HERE** to subscribe to the MMCT COMMUNIQUE or update your email address.

this month's communiqué focus: *the grace of the gospel*

Dear Friends,

Maybe you've noticed the focus of this Communiqué (above) and you're thinking to yourself, "What does the 'grace of the gospel' have to do with member care?" The answer: Only everything. The gospel isn't the ABC of Christianity, it's the A-to-Z. It's not just the elementary, beginning message of salvation by which we get into the kingdom of God; it's the message by which we Christians live, love, solve all of our problems, grow through every difficulty and are transformed into the likeness of Jesus himself. In other words, a sound, thorough-going, heart-deep understanding of the grace of the gospel is absolutely indispensable to missionary member care and missionary resilience because it's absolutely indispensable to being a Christian and living the Christian life.

*The Mobile Member Care Team*



Go to  
table of  
contents  
on p. 2

## what's in this issue?

**Quick Links** to this issue's resources:

- Page 3: [reminders of the gospel](#)
- Page 4: [reminders of the gospel \(cont.\)](#)
- Page 5: [reinvigorated by the gospel](#)
- Page 6: [reinvigorated by the gospel \(cont.\)](#)
- Page 7: [remade by the gospel](#)

*Links to resources are in **blue**...*

***Pictures** are linked too.*

### *Viewing Tip:*

This issue of the [communiqué](#) has been formatted so you can see an entire page on your computer screen without scrolling.

**For best viewing** choose:

**“View” > “Full Screen Mode”**  
in the **Adobe Reader** menu

## reminders of the gospel

### ***By Grace Alone*** A sermon by Dr.

James Boice, pastor and bible teacher

“We are bored by grace. That’s sad, because it certainly thrilled our forefathers and mothers.”

### ***Being the Beloved*** A video by Henri

Nouwen, teacher, author and chaplain

“To the core of my faith belongs the conviction that we are the beloved sons and daughters of God. One of the enormous spiritual tasks we have is to claim that and live a life based on that.”

### ***Jesus vs. Religion*** A video clip of a

sermon by pastor Mark Driscoll

“Religion is about me, my good works, my efforts. The Gospel? It’s about Jesus.”

“Your standing with God and people isn’t based on your missionary track record or the sacrifices you’ve made in the service of Christ. It’s based, rather, on our Lord’s track record (a perfect one) and on his finished work. ‘For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is *by faith* from first to last’ (Romans 1:17).”



*James Boice*

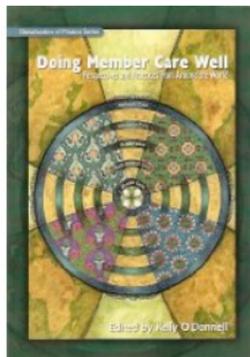


*Henri Nouwen*



*Mark Driscoll*

## reminders of the gospel (continued)

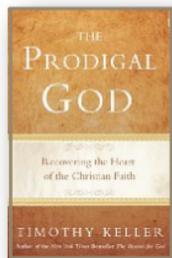


“Instead of starting with achievement and finishing with acceptance, **The Cycle of Grace** starts with acceptance and finishes with achievement. The foundation of the cycle is not based on *what I do* but on an acceptance and an assurance of *who I am* before God. It’s about *relationship* and it’s about *the Father’s pleasure*.”

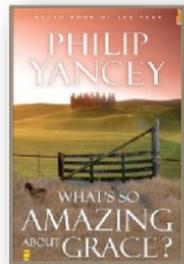
Kelly O'Donnell's ***Doing Member Care Well*** can be read in its entirety online thanks to Google Books. Check out the chapters **Jesus Christ, the Heart of Member Care** (p. 209) and **Joy and Sacrifice in the Lord** (223) for two perspectives on “Master Care” and “the joy that comes from a lifestyle of taking up the cross.”

*“Too many of us make the mistake of thinking we become Christians by believing the gospel and then grow as Christians by trying very, very hard to live according to Biblical principles. The truth, though, is that the only way we grow as Christians is by reapplying, re-grasping and better understanding the gospel.”*

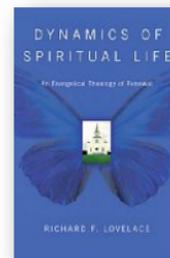
## reinvigorated by the gospel



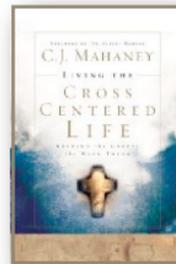
**The Prodigal God** by Timothy Keller. “We deserve alienation, isolation, and rejection. Because of Jesus, we are clothed with a dignity and standing we don't deserve...”



**What's so Amazing about Grace?** by Philip Yancey. “We are each starving for grace... and it is through grace that all other hungers -- for justice, for righteousness, for love -- are satisfied.”



**Dynamics of Spiritual Life** by Richard Lovelace. “Deeply biblical, theologically rich, and spiritually heartening. Few books are as profound, wise and challenging on the matters of grace and spiritual formation.”



**Living the Cross-Centered Life** by C.J. Mahaney. “Never lay it aside. Never move on. Escape the pitfalls of legalism, condemnation, and feelings-driven faith by living a cross-centered life.”

## reinvigorated by the gospel (cont.)

*“The gospel is not moral conformity, which is religion, nor is it self-discovery, which is secularism. The gospel is something else altogether — a grid through which we see the world. There are three results of the gospel: the restructuring of our hearts, the removal of our sin, and the reversal of our values.”* Dr. Timothy Keller, pastor

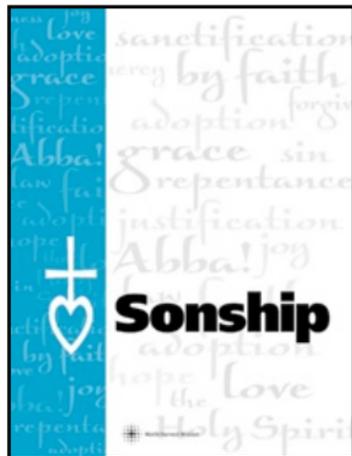
Many of Dr. Keller’s thought-provoking sermons can be downloaded for free from the Redeemer Presbyterian Church website. Two outstanding series on the gospel’s implications for mature Christians include [The Prodigal God](#) and [What is the Gospel?](#)

**THE GOSPEL COALITION**

**The Gospel Coalition** seeks “to renew the contemporary church in the ancient gospel of Christ so that it truly speaks and lives for Jesus in a way that clearly communicates to our age.” Thousands of gospel-focused articles, sermons, books and courses are available for free download on its [resource page](#).

## remade by the gospel

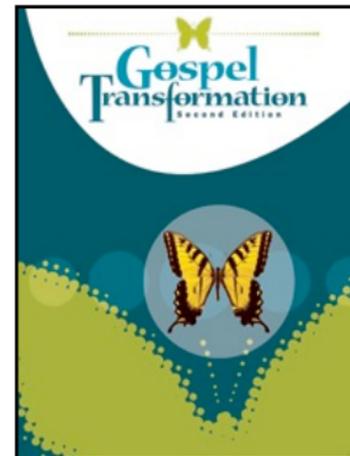
“Many of us understand our faith intellectually, but our hearts have not quite kept up with our heads. The glorious theological truths of the gospel that we know in our heads have to be written onto the tablets of our hearts. The gospel is meant for the gritty reality of everyday life.”



**SONSHIP** is a 16-lesson, study of the gospel that takes aim at pretense – one of the great hindrances to healthy relationships and strong communities – and promotes personal and group transformation through a right-understanding and application of the grace of the gospel.

## GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION

is a 36-lesson inductive study focusing on our ongoing need for the transforming power of the gospel. Intended for use in small groups or personal study, Gospel Transformation explores such issues as: justification, repentance, forgiveness and compassion.



*Sonship and Gospel Transformation are among several [programs published by World Harvest Mission \(WHM\)](#) that are suitable for use by missionaries and missionary teams. For information about German and Spanish versions of these renewal courses, contact [Meredith Elder](#).*