

Sunday, March 23, 2014—Grace Life School of Theology—*Grace History Project*—Lesson 132
The Life and Ministry of C. Richard Jordan: After the Bible Society, Part 2

Freedom

- The first independent meeting Richard held after leaving the Berean Bible Society (BBS) took place in the spring of 1988 at Morris Chestnut’s assembly in Ridge Farm, IL.
- After leaving the BBS, Richard discovered a whole group of people that had been pushed out by Stam over the years. Many of these “wounded warriors,” as Richard called them, supported him in his independence and found new life and vitality for ministry.
- Once he was free from the Bible Society, Richard vowed never again to join or create any organization beyond the local church. Since that time Richard has remained independent from both mid-west Grace Organizations – the Grace Gospel Fellowship (GGF) and the Berean Bible Fellowship (BBF).
- Reflecting back on these events during our interview, Jordan said all that has come from Grace School of the Bible (GSB) comprises a new movement of growth within the Grace Movement that has been separate from the halls of the institutionalized Grace Movement. Simply stated, Richard was going somewhere in the ministry and used his new found freedom to press the ministry in new directions.
- According to Jordan, over 100 local, independent, self-sufficient grace churches have been established by the graduates of GSB in the United States alone.
- During the 1990s, Richard stressed Paul’s methodology for doing the work of the ministry in his teaching and challenged the graduates of GSB and those associated with the school to plant new churches. This became known as the “Start 50 Program”, a challenge to start fifty new grace churches in large metropolitan areas within the next ten years.
- Richard’s emphasis on local church based ministry served to round out the Pauline design for the ministry:
 - *Pauline Right Division*—Time Past, But Now, Ages to Come
 - *Pauline Edification*—My Gospel, The Mystery, The Scriptures of the Prophets
 - *Pauline Grace Life*—The Sufficiency of: The Cross; The Grace of God; The Scriptures
 - *Pauline Ministry Model*—Independent, Self-Sufficient, Local Churches
- All of this has created an impact upon the body of Christ that is much greater than the ministry’s apparent size. Since Richard’s relationship with the GGF was always mostly negative through Stam, he is always surprised by how many GGF people he meets who know who he is. In Richard’s words, this speaks to the following fact: politically his ministry is unknown but spiritually it is well known.

- Since the late 1980s, Richard has worked with Pastor Tom Bruscha and the saints of Grace Bible Church in Warren, MI to produce public access television programs. On Tuesday, March 18, 2014, I received the following email from Tom Bruscha in answer to my questions regarding the TV ministry.
 - “We began filming programs for Public Access Cable with Pastor Jordan in March 1990. The program is called: *“The Message of Grace.”* As of March 2014 (our 24 year anniversary) we have filmed 937 programs with Pastor Jordan. (Since in the early days we have made programs with local speakers – there are 1114 in all. The number of stations we have aired *“The Message of Grace”* on over the years is almost impossible to calculate. Our assembly has distributed programs to various stations covering from Flint to Toledo (N to S) and from Detroit to Lansing (E to W). At the same time GSB distributes programs all over the country. I have asked Pastor Jordan if they have a record of how many places but I have not heard back. The cable companies are always merging and consolidating as well as covering multiple communities so it would be best just to say: “Through the years, *The Message of Grace* public access program has been aired on hundreds of stations all over the country.” It would be interesting to know if it has been aired in every state, but only GSB would know that.” (Tom Bruscha, 3/18/14)
- About fourteen years ago the saints at GBC in Warren upgraded their equipment and began filming a television program for regular broadcast TV titled *Forgotten Truths*. According to Brother Bruscha: *“Forgotten Truths”* is known as a sister ministry of GSB, technically and legally it is a ministry of Warren – Grace Bible Church in cooperation with Grace School of the Bible. The following details regarding *Forgotten Truths* were provided by Tom Bruscha in the same email noted above.
 - *“Forgotten Truths”* came about by the Saints of Warren – Grace Bible Church desiring to take the Word of God’s Grace and the truth of Right Division to national commercial television. Planning began in January of 2000, a prospectus was written, the initial support was raised from within Warren – Grace Bible Church, equipment was purchased, a toll free number was obtained, a studio designed, programs were specially edited, and our first program was aired in July 2002.
 - The following is a list of all the stations we have aired *“Forgotten Truths”* on. We aired on some stations for as little as fourteen weeks up to one year, others for over ten years. The stations marked with * are the stations we are currently airing on. The stations are listed in order of the date first aired.
 - 1st – First aired on WWJ-TV, CBS-62 in Detroit in July 2002
 - 2nd – WLTC-TV26 The Christian Television Network in Detroit, December 2002
 - 3rd – WKBD UPN-50 in Detroit, January 2003
 - 4th – INSP The Inspiration Network, a National Cable Network, August 2003

- *5th – KAZQ – Alpha Omega Broadcasting station in Albuquerque, NM, November 2003
 - *6th – WHT – World Harvest Television, broadcasting nationally over Satellite on DirecTV, February 2004
 - *7th – ION Media Network in Detroit covering Metropolitan Detroit, January 2010
 - 8th – WJYS-TV a Christian TV Network in Chicago covering the Chicago land area, April 2010
 - 9th – TLN – Total Living Network covering the Chicago land area, April 2011
 - 10th – KWHS – TV51 in Colorado Springs, CO, December 2011
 - *11th – KET - TV 53.2 in Denver, CO, December 2011
 - *12th – WHMB - TV 40 in Indianapolis, IN, December 2011
 - 13th – WHNO - TV20 in New Orleans, LA, December 2011
 - 14th – WCFL TV22 CTN Christian Television Network, broadcasting Nationally over Satellite on both DirecTV and the Dish Network, April 2012
 - *15th – FETV – The Family Entertainment Network broadcasting Nationally over the Satellite Dish Network and on AT&T U-Verse Cable, March 2014
- We have made 218 “*Forgotten Truths*” programs to date.
 - Each “*Forgotten Truths*” program ends with an offer for a free pack of information which includes a letter, catalog, a possible church brochure, a “Salvation Examination” booklet, “The Key to Understanding the Scriptures,” and a fold out Bible Chart. We have sent out 13,122 free packs since we began to air. When we aired on CBS in Detroit we were given a viewership estimate based on their Neilson rating. From that we calculated that we received one call per every 1000 viewers. Christian stations most likely have a larger percentage, but at least that gives us an idea that somewhere around 10,000,000 households have been exposed to the Gospel of Grace and God’s Word “Rightly Divided” though this ministry.” (Tom Bruscha, 3/18/14)
- In addition, “The Riches of Grace” radio broadcast is the radio voice of Grace School of the Bible, and is broadcast in various markets around the country,” according to Richard’s graceimpact.org website. A list of radio stations airing the Riches of Grace can be obtained by contacting the home office. This past week I emailed Debbie Keable, at the GBS home office and inquired for some details regarding the radio ministry. On Tuesday, March 18, 2014, Debbie sent me the following reply:
 - "The Riches of Grace" is currently aired in eight metropolitan areas, plus some have affiliate stations also that simulcast the program, some of which are listed on the attached sheet and some are not. "Daily Bible Time" which airs Monday through Friday for fifteen minutes each day, is currently broadcast in five areas. Both of these programs are heard every week, some stations airing the program multiple times per day. We are not on as many stations as we used to be. More people listen on the internet now. All radio

broadcasts are available on MP3 and downloadable at the www.shorewoodbiblechurch.org website.

- In addition, Debbie also provided the following list of radio stations currently airing either “The Riches of Grace” or “Daily Bible Time.”

“The Riches of Grace”	“Daily Bible Time”
Anderson, SC area WRIX (FM 103.1) Sundays 7:00 pm	Dayton, OH area WGNZ (AM 1110) Weekdays 12:30 pm
Muncie, IN area WQME (FM 98.7) Sundays 6:30 am	Columbus, OH area WHKC (FM 91.5) Weekdays 6:30 am & 4:00 pm
WKPT family of stations simulcast on six stations; Sundays 7:00 am: Kingsport/Weber City, TN/VA area (FM 94.3 & AM1400) Bristol TN/VA area (FM 97.9 & AM 1490) Johnson City/Jonesborough, TN area (FM 97.7 & AM 1590)	South Bend, IN area WHME (FM 103.1) Weekdays 5:00 pm
	Chattanooga, TN area WJOC (AM 1490) Weekdays 12:30 pm
	Concord, NC area WTIX (AM 1410) Weekdays 12:00 pm
Detroit, MI area WLQV (AM 1500) Sundays 7:30 am	
Grand Rapids, MI area WFUR (AM 1570) Saturdays 9:30 am	
Orlando, FL area WTLN (AM 950) WHIM (AM 1520) Sundays 5:30 pm	
Chicago, IL area WYLL (AM 1160) Sundays 8:30 am	
Chattanooga, TN area WJOC (AM 1490) Saturdays 11:30 am Sundays 12:30 pm	

- Before moving on in our studies, in order to get a true picture of the impact of Richard’s ministry, we would like to resubmit for your consideration the following facts regarding the reach and impact of Grace School of the Bible. Please note that all of these facts were gleaned from personal emails from Richard Jordan, Debbie Keable (Pastor Jordan’s secretary), and Rita Bauschard who assists Brother Bob Barlow with his ministry.

- “We have not been answering you about how many GSB students there have been, because we don't really have an answer. How many hundreds (or maybe one or two thousand?) over 30+ years is hard to say. Many have come and gone off our mailing list, but we currently have 700 on our U.S. mailing list.

We also have at least a few hundred students studying GSB in prisons, either as a group or individually and do not have applications on file for the majority of them. We have, or have had, students in other countries as well: Canada, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Scotland, Switzerland. Des Strydom has students studying under his direction in a few countries in Africa. Bob Barlow had some GSB classes translated into Mandarin and has students studying in China, some in English and some in Mandarin. Johny Varghese has his Grace India website and has a few hundred Indian students studying there in English and Malayalam. There may be a group studying in Belize but we are not sure, and we just found out that a believer hopes to start a group in Haiti once classes are translated into Haitian Creole (whether that will ever happen we cannot say).” (Debbie Keable, 1/27/14)

- “We currently have about 700 active units in the US. The difficulty in knowing the exact number of students is that a good number of these are group classes. For example, Rick has a group in his church: it is his branch; he operates it to fit his needs, we simply provide the curriculum; individual students are overseen by/responsible to him and the leadership there. Because of our conviction that training should be local church based, this has always been our vision for the school. When there is no local church, we of course oversee students from our office. . . Our first foreign graduate was in Singapore. The country with the most is the Philippines, with over 100--here again the above class structure issue is involved, as we have provided at least a dozen sets of the class to various churches there. . . Canada, New Zealand, Australia, England, Switzerland, Netherlands, Scotland, Germany, Ireland, India, Dubai, Israel, Lithuania, South Africa, Kenya, Ethiopia, Puerto Rico, Belize, Mexico, Guatemala, and Fiji can be added as of now. Most of these are individual students but at least six are multiples.

And how do we count China. Over 10,000 sets of the Romans class alone has been distributed through the house church network Bobby Barlow reached (this is his figure given to me a couple of years ago). I gave them three sets of the whole school to use as they thought best. Obviously we are not statistic driven. But this should give you some idea of what the trail looks like.” (Richard Jordan, 1/27/14)

- On Monday, February 3, 2014 Rita Bauschard from Pennsylvania sent me an email sharing some further details regarding the ministry in China. Rita said that Bob trained a Chinese National using GSB when he was still in China, who in turn is actively training some of his countrymen. In addition, to establishing some underground house churches in China, this dear Brother has crossed the border and founded seven or eight churches in Tibet as well, using the model he learned from GSB. (Rita Bauschard, 2/3/14)

Looking Forward

- At the end of our interview, I asked Richard what he thought the future might hold with respect to the work of the ministry. I also enquired what areas of Grace Theology he thought might be in need of further refinement in the future.
- Richard said that there was no way for him to speculate regarding future horizons in terms of Bible study. Instead he stressed the need to maintain what has already been uncovered and understood in a core group of people that can continue to move forward and pass the baton intact to the next generation.
- Having read *The Fourth Turning* in the 1990s, Richard is convinced that we are living in the most important decade of most of our lives. The culture is changing, according to Jordan. We cannot look back to the O’Hair era to determine the way things are going to be moving forward. What worked in the 30s and 40s is not going to work in the 21st century. The form and structure of the ministry will change along with the culture. The work of the ministry in terms of function, i.e., preaching the word, does not change the fact that form has to follow function. He used the internet ministry of Shorewood Bible Church to illustrate his point.
- Richard spoke of the need for new leaders to be forward thinking in terms how to do ministry without changing or altering the Pauline pattern for how ministry should be done. For example, in O’Hair’s day the culture was still very Bible literate and savvy. O’Hair could teach on Ephesians 3 because most of the people listening to him already had Romans 1 in their frame of reference.
- Today people need to understand basic things from the Bible. Richard spoke of being forward thinking in terms of striking a balance between teaching Romans 1 but at the same time not losing Ephesians 3.
- Finally, Richard spoke about the need to build into the saints a respect and appreciation for “good traditions” and teach them what they are about. Marking milestones was an important way in which O’Hair built loyalty into his congregation that lived on in the lives of his people long after O’Hair was dead.

Conclusion

- Richard Jordan has been one of the most misrepresented and most maligned figures in the recent history of dispensational Bible study. His friends, students, and colleagues in the ministry are routinely referred to as Jordanites.
- I have known Richard since my childhood but my dealings with him as an adult began in the late 1990s when I went to him after one of the evening sessions at the April meeting and told him that I wanted to preach. Since that time Richard has supported and encouraged me and never once demanded anything of me.

- Richard has never sought to have dominion over my faith or demand that I be anything but fully persuaded in my own mind regarding doctrine. I have seen Richard show more grace towards those that were attacking him personally than I have ever seen exhibited by another member of the body of Christ.
- In the last thirty years no one has had a greater impact upon the body of Christ for the truth of the word of God rightly divided than Richard Jordan. Richard is to be honored and respected for his work's sake and faithfulness to the Grace Message and the principles of the Grace Life.