



October 2023 update

"God's Grace has Appeared" and keeps appearing...

How often are we surprised by the grace of God in our lives (those times when God does what He says he would and will do and we are surprised)? **"What does the grace of God look like?"** you ask.



- **For Mary**, grace surprises had to come again and again as "Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart." Luke 2:19
- **To the criminal on the cross** next to Jesus, the surprise of Grace was when Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise." Luke 23:43



- **To all of us**, the work of God's continual grace given toward us is "to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good works". Titus 2:14

In Costa Rica, we have been **surprised by God's Grace over and over again** (so it really should not be a surprise, right?).

We told you in our previous letters of our need to sell more than half of our church property to get out from under the large mortgage we have. In July we were surprised by God's Grace when **we sold 10,000 square meters of land and paid off our mortgage**. For four years people said this was impossible and only by way of a miracle would we sell it. Many thought we would lose the entire property when our five-year timetable ended. But God opened up the door and a gasoline company purchased the land. God's grace was experienced through a buyer who surprised us while we were weak in faith. **And we are so thankful!**



One year ago I (Chuck) was very down and discouraged. We were in what felt like a stagnant place where people did not desire to grow and place their faith in our Savior and Lord.

But as I write this letter, three young men have spent the last year learning and growing in their faith. **We now have four men (including Chuck) teaching and preaching in our church and two more have just been added to the team** who will be preaching in the next two worship services.

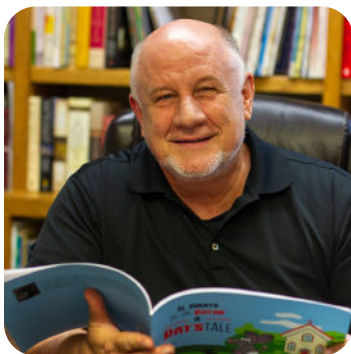


God's grace has been working in the hearts of five men who desire to give their lives to His service. What a surprise! It shouldn't be and where I once lacked faith, I now see God's Grace.



On the home front, **God's grace "surprises" are ever-present.** Terrah has been slowly getting back to a normal life as a mother and working with Oscar at Lifedge after her brain surgery.

God's grace was present **when our new grandchild, Rylan, was born** to Autumn and Austin Olson on August 29. We also learned that Elenrae and Nick Pileci are expecting a baby in March of 2024 (and this is after miscarrying their last baby). God is good all the time and His grace is ever present.



Last and certainly not really important, but a sure sign of a grace surprise is that Chuck is the author of a Christian children's book illustrated by Regan (Befus) Lorenz called **"A Rat's Tale"**. If you are interested, it is available at Xulon Books, Amazon, and Barnes & Noble.

Please keep praying for us and giving to the ministry here in Costa Rica!

We love you all!

Chuck and Joy Befus



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