



December 2008

Mission Statement

"Grace Meadow offers professional counseling and psychotherapy from a Christian perspective to individuals, families and groups with a wide variety of relationship issues. "We have special experience working with special needs families."

Grace Meadow, as a counseling/therapy ministry, serves a wide variety of people. We work in a traditional office setting, and in a unique outdoors setting, depending on the needs of each client.

Our staff includes Jim Flowers, a Licensed Professional Counselor, Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist, and certified Equine-assisted Psychotherapist.

And, part-time, Susan Flowers, MA, MA, with 25 years experience working with special education students and school counseling of adolescents. Susan is certified for Equine-assisted Psychotherapy work.

We are a 501-C-3 not-for-profit organization. Some income is derived from fees, but most income is from tax deductible contributions.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

This is our favorite time of year: Celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is a wonderful time to give gifts to our loved ones in honor of the Christ Child, and to teach our own children the true meaning of Christmas.

Jim, Susan and Rachel Flowers give thanks to our Lord for you.

We more than wish, we pray, and expect, our great God to bless his people during the coming seasons, regardless of circumstances.

May the Lord bless you mightily.

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Grace Meadow Counseling leases an office suite at 1511 West Sevier in Benton, one block off I-30, and easily located by anyone from anywhere. We "sub-let" two of the three office spaces and share common space.

All expenses, including rent, utilities, cleaning, are split three ways. Joe Heard, LPC, is moving to Bryant, leaving Jim Flowers, and Dr. Brenda Nobles, PhD, psychologist.

For more information: **501-920-1901**

HOLDING ON

By: Susan Flowers

I can't believe 2008 is almost over! I can't believe that in a month I will be 60! I can't believe that at the beginning of this month, Rachel, my BABY, turned 30! I AM TOO YOUNG TO BE THIS OLD!!! OK. Now that that is out of the way, we can move on.

Jim and I got to go to the National Reining Horse Association Futurity last weekend. I guess it is kind of like the Olympics of reining. There were people from all over the world there. As we sat in the stands, we heard French and German behind us, and Spanish in front of us. People got to ride in this thing by doing well in their countries and earning the right to come. There were fantastic riders, beautiful horses, and lots of money to be won. Jim and I quickly realized that we were out of our league. We went to the sales (there were 3). We picked out horses that we liked. We didn't get a number as

we didn't want to be "tempted". (Jim and I never met a horse we didn't like). We quickly found out that even if we had been tempted, as I said before, we were out of our league. I am amazed that people can drop \$35,000 + on an unproven filly or colt. As I sat there, the human side of me wondered what it would be like to bid and not worry about how much money I spent. Someone named Jody must have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars as it seemed that he or she bought just about every horse.

In Isaiah 43, God reminded His whiny and wayward children (of Israel) again and again of all that He had done for them. He pursued them, He *courted* them. But still, like spoiled children, they were never happy with what they had. And now, after all that, many are Jewish in name only and are offended by the idea that Jesus was their Messiah. But, not to be outdone, here are the Gentile children that the Father so graciously included in His plan of salvation. He blesses us and blesses us (especially here in America) and what do we do? We water down His word so that we do not "offend" anyone. We present the "God is love" part of His character and do not talk about the holiness, purity, and justice part. We become complacent and sit idly by as our culture makes evil good and good evil. But, we are quick to judge and slow to forgive. We are quick to condemn and slow to offer hope. We sit in the stands of a horse show and lust after more. So, as I read Isaiah and feel amazed that the children of Israel were so dense, I have to face the fact that in reality, I am just like them a lot of times.

God has blessed me incredibly beyond what I could even believe or imagine. First of all, He has given me Himself. He knows my name. I am inscribed on the palms of His hands. If He stopped right there with His blessings for me, that would be more than enough. But He didn't and doesn't.

He gave me two incredible daughters, Dawn and Rachel. After many years of being alone, He gave me Jim, who loves me as Christ loves His church, and loves my children enough to adopt the younger one. AND, He has given me an awesome stepson. AND, He has given me a wonderful son-in-law and daughter-in-law. AND William and Ebby and Harris to be my grandchildren. And on top of all that, He is letting me fulfill my lifelong dream of being a COWGIRL! (Really, at this stage of my life, the "girl" part is probably pushing it....maybe cow-woman would be a better fit). I think I was born loving horses. I always wanted one and had one as a child, but never expected to ever be able to have one again. Now, we have 7. And not only that, but we have not one, but TWO donkeys, TWO goats, AND Wally Llama. It just doesn't get any better than this!

So, who cares about Shining Spark, or Smart Chic Olena or Paddy's Irish Whiskey (famous reiners) or their babies? Who cares if someone can drop thousands of dollars in an afternoon on a horse? My Father owns the cattle on a thousand hills and He created all of those magnificent animals. The riches He offers last for eternity.

So, as I thought about the weekend, I realized that a life spent pursuing fame and success, whether in the show ring or other areas, is futile, for fame and success can be gone in an instant. Horses become unsound. Stars lose their youth and popularity. Millionaires lose their money. Then what? Where is the meaning, the hope?

Jesus offers true meaning and lasting hope. And He will never be gone. And we can never lose our inheritance in Him. He will never leave us or forsake us. His love and life are forever.

Merry Christmas and we pray that your New Year will be full of blessings. You bless us!

Grace Meadow Prayers

- Pray for clients to come to *Grace Meadow* for our services.
- Please pray for additional sources of income, and especially for new regular contributors.
- Please pray for the good health of our animals.
- Please pray our equipment will not need any extensive repairs.
- Please pray for the fruition of the youth services contract.
- Please pray for active ministry partners.
- Please pray for just the right counselor/therapist to share our Benton office.
- Please pray for a hippotherapist associate.

Tis the Season: the “holidays”, and the next few years

By Jim Flowers

These are interesting times to be alive, and even more interesting times to be striving to serve the Lord.

Traditionally the holidays in this country—Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years—are when retailers and charities have a lot in common: at least a little bit more income.

Not so this year. Conversations with other folks in Christian ministry lead to the realization that Hurricane Katrina was the beginning of a dramatic downturn of an already steady decline in even Christian giving. This year has been a disaster for a lot of hard scrap ministries all over the world, even this one.

Now, however it happened, Christians and Americans are going to experience our first blatantly anti-Christian, anti-American, Marxist president. He is fully supported by a similarly inclined Congress. He has declared his intention to “share the wealth”, which means an increasingly oppressive government will decide what will be done with our earnings, our property and even our lives.

Wheat Vs Chaff

Hard times have always served to weed out the wheat from the chaff; the sheep from the goats, the givers from the takers. Those who look to the Lord rather than false messiahs.

Now is such a time. Again.

Years ago I attended a small, very old church, mostly attended by elderly survivors of the Great Depression. They told stories of how during that devastating worldwide famine they made huge sacrifices to keep that little church alive and serving the Lord.

Do Americans still have that spiri-

tual grit? We are now in the process of finding out.

Saints I know

I am blessed to personally know a number of folks who are powerful in their faith and who have been faithfully and sacrificially giving for years. Some of them have been donors to Grace Meadow since, even before, the beginning, and words cannot express my appreciation for them and my admiration.

Time to Celebrate!

Celebrate? Yessir. Celebrate. Finally, American Christians may have the opportunity and privilege of actually sacrificing something for the Lord.

Celebrate the birth of our Savior and Lord...openly and without fear as in most of the rest of the world.

Celebrate in a way similar to the Christians in China, India, Africa and other parts of the world must do in secret. There may not be a manger scene in the public square anymore, but there are still some in our neighborhoods. An old silo up the road from us annually hosts a 40-foot tall, bright cross and inspired us to build a lighted cross in our yard.

Celebrate because we have read the last chapter of The Book, and we are filled with glorious hope even as we labor in our little field.

Spend or Invest

“News” media report retail spending way down. Surprise. But the real question is for Christians, not for non-believers. Are you just buying less junk for your kids and grandkids, or are you redirecting

your resources to eternal investments? What say you?

Scientific studies have already proven the mental and physical detriments of video/electronic games, including television. Our culture testifies to the spiritual destruction.

Are Christians still buying the stuff, or are they taking their kids downtown to spend some quality Christmas time at LTCare?

Awesome Season

This is an absolutely awesome season of opportunity to renew our own faith, store up treasure in heaven, spread the gospel of Christ, and teach our young folk that Jesus Christ is Lord regardless of the economy or whomever controls government. Our awesome God controls destiny.

Does He control our spending Vs investing, or does our gimme wants?

We are going to continue our support of carefully selected Christian ministries, including: our own Healing Waters Church; Grace Meadow; LTCare; Glenhaven Youth Ranch; Right To Life; Bethany Christian Adoption Services...a missionary.

It aint much, believe me, but as long as some dribbles in, we'll dish some out.

Remember: when you grow weary of the world's litany of woes, return to the Word and be filled with eager anticipation of our future.

Carpe Diem, yawl.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A BLESSED NEW YEAR

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*No weapon brought against
us shall prosper.*

Job Opportunities **At Grace Meadow**

- Fund raising and "membership" inviting.
- Helpers for "Special Needs" Groups who visit from local schools and day centers.

Web Link: Check It Out:

<http://www.the-solution.org>

If anyone wants a tour of *Grace Meadow Farm*, and its therapy facilities, just call and we'll set a time. We can't invite you to "just drop by", because, by law, therapy sessions are confidential. Thanks.

***"Serving Christ
by serving His people."***

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