

# Celebrating God's Grace Through the Years

**Linda Hill**

*This new magazine is produced by Glimpses of Grace, a ministry dedicated to making difficult Bible truth understandable. The work is headed by Dr. and Mrs. Richard J. Hill. Linda Hill shares the story of how the work began, what is happening, and plans for the future.*

The history of Glimpses of Grace is His story of God's abiding love and faithfulness. It is the story of a handful of grace champions who believe in what this ministry is all about.

While Dick and I were on our daily walk in 1991, he shared with me that he had a great burden and desire of having a ministry that would come alongside the local church in helping to grow believers to maturity. God even planted in his mind the name "Glimpses of Grace," because, after all, when we receive insight into God's Word, it is only small glimpses at a time.

Fast forward three years. Dick is pastoring a church in Batesville, Mississippi, and has met and discipled a young man by the name of John Howell, Jr. John caught Dick's vision for such a ministry and Glimpses of Grace was born.

In the fall of 1994 Glimpses of Grace was incorporated in the State of Mississippi. We received our tax exempt status from the IRS the following year. The original board of Glimpses consisted of Dale Beach, Nap Clark, John Howell, Sr., Helen Nelson, Nan Sullivan, and Fay Tolleson. Half of these dear family and friends are now in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Glimpses of Grace began sending out newsletters in a 4-page format. They included updates on the ministry, but the main focus was topical Bible studies, most of which can be found on our webpage [www.glimpsesofgrace.org](http://www.glimpsesofgrace.org).

Dick began writing 13-week Bible studies which could be used for personal study or in small group settings. We produced them in our home office with the help of a spiral binding machine. Eventually, these Bible studies were compiled and became the thesis for Dick's doctorate at Tyndale Theological Seminary.

In 1997 we self-published *A Glimpse of Galatians*. It has been republished by print-on-demand companies four times and continues to be one of the books most used. In the same year Dick recorded a music album, *Just a Glimpse*, with the help of our talented friend, Steve McGregory.

Newsletters were sent out monthly or bi-monthly until 2001. With changes in ministry for us personally and moves to Texas then Georgia, our main focus with Glimpses became the web ministry. We no longer sent out mailings, but Dick continued to write articles to add to our website.

In 2004, church work brought us back to Mississippi, and we knew it was time to crank up the Glimpses of Grace print ministry again. Dick wrote the books *A Glimpse of the Christ* (2007) and *A Glimpse of the Christian* (2009), which were produced by the print-on-demand

company, PleasantWord, a division of WinePress. We also republished *A Glimpse of Galatians* through them.

Crossbooks, a new self-publishing arm of B&H Publishing, published the book *A Glimpse of the Chosen* in 2010.

We were again incorporated in the State of Mississippi in 2010, and received our 501(c)(3) status from the IRS as Glimpses of Grace Ministries, Inc. the following year.

It was with much dismay that we discovered in January 2014, that WinePress had closed its doors without notification. We were left with no way of ordering our books or even retrieving our files. Crossbooks made us a great offer to reproduce the books through them, so we went through the vetting process and republished all the books between 2012 and 2014. The next year, Crossbooks closed their doors! God, what are you trying to tell us?

The Lord put us in touch with Westbow Press, a self-publishing division of Thomas Nelson and Zondervan. They made us a great offer to reproduce the books through them. By the end of 2016 all four books were under one roof again.

In July 2017, the verse-by-verse commentary, *A Glimpse of Romans*, was completed and published by Westbow Press. No single New Testament book has made more of an impact on the church of Jesus Christ than Paul's letter to the Roman Christians. The book of Romans is the spiritual compass holding a steady needle pointing to the truth of the gospel of God's magnificent grace and the immense value of the Christian's life.

In addition to the print ministry of the books, we resumed our newsletters but these are more of ministry updates and of a personal nature. They are sent to donors every month and to a larger data base quarterly, including a personal Christmas letter from the Hills in December and a flyer on the Glimpses of Grace Conference in the spring.

We began our annual conferences in June 2010. The current board members (Dick Hill, Danny Forrest, John Howell, Jr., and Quinn Hill) have spoken at the conferences. We had guest speaker and mentor Ken Sheppard speak one year. The conferences have been well attended and there is a balance between fellowship and teaching. It is a great family affair, with children not only attending but participating!

Dick had the opportunity to record another music CD. With the help of friends David Shipley and Charlie Murphey, the *I See* album was completed in 2009 in Nashville with studio musicians. It is available on iTunes.

The audio book *A Glimpse of the Christian* was produced in 2014 with the help of my nephew Jason Little. Dick narrated the book and Jason edited and put it together. It is available on Audible, Amazon and iTunes.

It has never been the goal of Glimpses of Grace to make money. We give away more books than we sell. Prisons, rehab facilities, and pastors have benefitted from the clear teaching of God's Word.

We have made it into the new age by getting on board with social media. We have a Glimpses of Grace Facebook page and a Twitter account, and we have added blogs to our website.

The mainspring of our ministry has been our consistent web presence since 1996. Our website host is The Gracenet, the oldest Christian hosting company on the web. Friends Buzz and Kathy Nofal have been instrumental in helping Glimpses have a presence in every corner of the world. We are amazed each month when we see the countries that are represented by those who have logged on to our site.

Our mission statement on our website is “to make difficult Bible truth understandable. Within the pages of this site readers will discover simple answers to many hard Bible questions. Christians can receive the tools that are needed to help them mature in their faith.”

What does the future of Glimpses of Grace look like?

This article is appearing in our first e-magazine! Plans are for a print edition to follow. More audio books? Dick is working on two new books. *A Glimpse of the Coming King* should be completed next year and *A Glimpse of Revelation* maybe the year following. We are working on study guides for the books that they might be used more effectively in small group studies. We would like to see the Glimpses Conferences grow and reach more people and have mini-conferences in various cities. Glimpses of Grace has the potential to be the umbrella for various other ministries, as the Lord leads.

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord.” God has been faithful to provide through faithful supporters that this ministry might go on. His Word is penetrating dark places, and for each person who has supported, encouraged, and prayed for us, we are eternally grateful.