

Echoes of Grace

GRAYCIE



September 2016 – Vol. 87 – Number 3

contents

3 Graycie



10 Work-Free Zone



14 A Call From Afar



ECHOES OF GRACE (USPS 167-180) is published monthly by Bible Truth Publishers, 59 Industrial Road, P.O. Box 649, Addison, Illinois 60101, USA. Periodical postage paid at Addison, Illinois. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ECHOES OF GRACE, P.O. Box 649, Addison Illinois 60101.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Postage paid to one address within the United States \$10.50 per year (12 issues). Postage paid to one address outside the United States \$13.50 per year (12 issues). Special prices on quantities.

Printed in USA



GRAYCIE

Dr. Andy Mathis became a veterinarian many years ago because he loved animals. He worked at Granite Hills Animal Care Center near Athens, Georgia. Working around animals day after day, he had learned to understand what they thought or felt by the way they acted.

Graycie was a young dog who drooped her head, dropped her glance to the floor, and tried to hide in a corner whenever people approached. The doctor understood by these things that she had been abused and neglected by the people who once owned her.

A few days before, a lady driving down a country highway had found Graycie wandering all alone in pitiful shape and had brought her to the



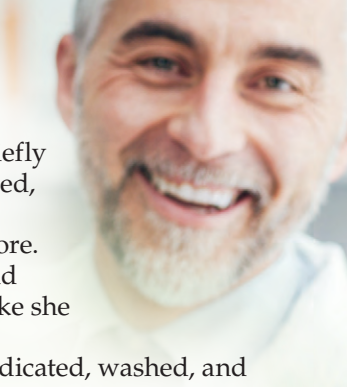
Animal Care Center. The doctor guessed she was a pit bull mixed breed and about a year old. She had short, gray hair and gray eyes, which is why someone at the center named her Graycie. She might have been a beautiful dog if she wasn't in such bad

During all that time, the dog had barely tasted any food. It was like she had given up wanting to live.

shape. She looked nearly starved to death. Her rib cage stuck out like the ribs of a boat stripped of its planking. For her size, the doctor figured she should have weighed 35 pounds. Graycie had suffered from hunger so long that she tipped the scale at only 20 pounds. She also suffered from dehydration and hypothermia. Dehydration happens when an animal doesn't get enough water to drink, and hypothermia is the condition of having a low body temperature.

All these things made Graycie deathly ill.

After Graycie was dropped off at the center and had been checked over, Dr. Mathis called the staff together and said, "Y'all come here and help me decide what to do with this dog. She is so bad off I am not sure we should use our limited resources



to help her. What do you think? Should we try to save her?"

His staff looked at the dog briefly and then unanimously responded, "Save her."

That had been a few days before. During all that time, the dog had barely tasted any food. It was like she had given up wanting to live.

At the clinic she had been medicated, washed, and given a nice clean, comfortable place to rest up in a pen. She had fresh, clean water in a steel bowl and a food bowl filled with a name-brand dog food, which she refused to eat.

The Secret Ingredient

One morning, Dr. Mathis skipped breakfast and went directly to the clinic. After making the rounds and checking up on his animal patients, he got an idea for how he might help Graycie. He knew Graycie needed a friend. She needed to be able to think there was kindness somewhere in the world. So he took a steel bowl like the dogs eat out of (they were very clean and sanitized) and poured himself a bowl of granola cereal and milk. He stuck a spoon in his shirt pocket and filled his steel coffee cup with coffee. Then he walked to the pen where Graycie was cowering in the corner. Without even looking at her or calling her name, he casually opened the door to the pen and entered. The pen was very clean. He calmly and deliberately sat down on the



Graycie took it gently out of his hand and ate it, then lowered her head and started eating the food out of her food dish.

concrete floor within reach of the dog and started eating his granola and sipping his coffee. He did this like the dog wasn't even in the pen with him.

After a few minutes of eating, he reached a hand over to the dog's food bowl and took some food out of it and

held it up to her mouth in the flat of his hand. Graycie took it gently out of his hand and ate it, and then she lowered her head and started eating the food out of her food dish. The doctor then went on to eat the rest of his own breakfast as if it was the most normal thing in the world to eat breakfast sitting on the floor in a dog pen. During the whole time, he didn't speak to the dog. A few times he just reached over and gently rubbed her behind her ears.

The doctor sat where Graycie sat, ate where she ate, and drank where she drank. After he finished eating, he got up and left.

Dr. Mathis felt hopeful afterwards. He felt like the dog had made a big step forward that morning towards recovery. She had allowed him to befriend her, and she had eaten a wholesome meal for the first time in a long time. The good food would help her get back on the path to health. The doctor knew she had a long road ahead of her for recovery, but it was a good beginning.



God's Kindness

Abused and neglected, Graycie needed to know such a thing as kindness still existed in the world. Many people living today don't know about God's kindness either. Living without a relationship with God, they don't know about the Saviour who loves them and gave His life for them.

Not knowing God and His kindness, they daily prove the sad truth of the verse, **“The way of transgressors is hard”** (Proverbs 13:15). Sins are actions, thoughts and desires that are contrary to God's right ways. Sin always leads souls away from God, who is the source of all goodness. It separates them from the love of God and instead places them under the influence of the prince of the power of the air — the fallen spirit that now works in the children of disobedience. Satan is the great abuser of the human race.

God was not pleased about this state of affairs. Even before He made the world, He drew up a plan of salvation to draw souls back to Himself. In this plan, He would send His Son into the world. The Lord Jesus Christ would be born as a baby, grow up to manhood, and go about telling others many truths about God. The truth of His preaching would be confirmed by the miracles He performed on those who were sick and infirm.

He ate, sat, slept and walked among us. God became a man and visited the earth.



Why did the Lord
Jesus come? He came
so humankind that had
fallen away from God
might see how much He

loved them. He came because


He wanted the relationship that had
been broken by sin to be restored, so
that souls might be able to live a life
of faith and love. He came so that men
and women might see God was a far
better friend to them than the devil.
He wanted them to realize that they
didn't need to stay under Satan's dark
power, but that God intended far better
things for them.

So that we might return to God, He
even gave His life on Calvary's cross.

No one ever loved you like God does!
No one ever wanted to bring goodness
and kindness into your life like He
does. Will you return to His love?

The first step in returning to His love is to repent
and believe on the name of Jesus Christ to receive
the gift of eternal life. To repent of our sins means
to come to see them for what they are, hateful and
destructive in God's sight, then turn away from
them, and no longer do them. Then He wants us to
put our trust and confidence in the God who made

The Lo
has don
could t
fallen
back to
becomin
coming
world, a
going
cross t
and die



rd Jesus
ne all He
to bring
sinners
God by
ng a man,
g to this
and even
g to the
o suffer
for them.

us. When sinners put their faith in the Lord Jesus, God forgives their sins and sets them on the road to heaven, a road they have never been on before.

Dr. Mathis did what he could to be friends with Graycie and to get her to eat again. The Lord Jesus has done all He could to bring fallen sinners back to God by becoming a man, coming to this world, and even going to the cross to suffer and die for them.

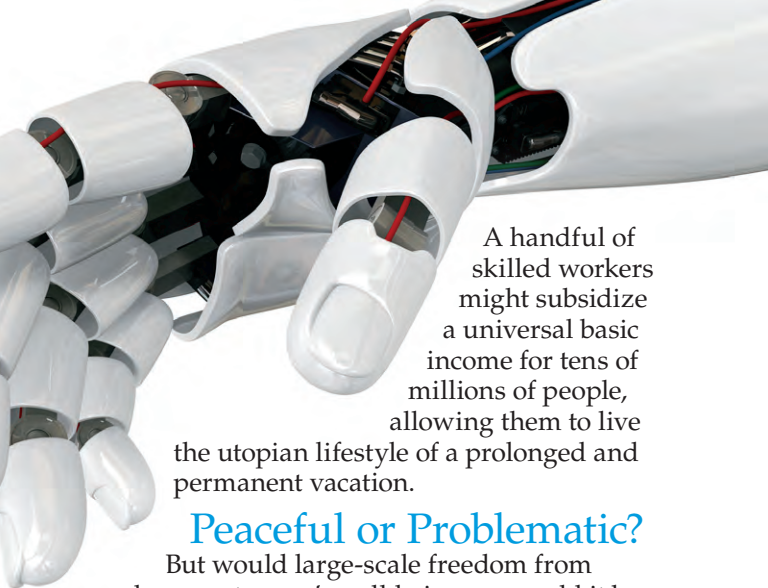
When the good news of His love and grace is presented to you, will you receive it? Although it might be a neighbor, a friend or a preacher who presents the gospel to you, know that it is ultimately the Lord Jesus Himself who is holding out the wonderful truth of His salvation to you and is waiting for you to take it. **“O taste and see that the Lord is good”** (Psalm 34:8). Take the salvation He freely offers. He truly is the sinner’s friend.

Discover more of the unearned favor of God in *Work-Free Zone*. ◀

Work-Free Zone



Let us imagine a society where machines and robots rule in the workplace, giving people the time for limitless leisure and the ability to fill their days with endless personal freedom. There would be no more stress, pressure and drudgery due to the work environment, no more having to meet deadlines or answer to a boss. Instead, America's most common jobs—which are retail salesperson, cashier, food and beverage server and office clerk—which employ 15.4 million people, or 10% of the workforce, would be taken over by automation. In fact, Oxford researchers have forecasted that machines might be able to do half of all U. S. jobs within two decades! There are already robots in the operating room and in warehouses, so it's easy to imagine them behind fast-food counters, at gas stations, supermarkets and retail stores. Self-driving cars would crowd the highways and Amazon drones would fill the skies, replacing millions of drivers, warehouse stockers and retail workers.



A handful of skilled workers might subsidize a universal basic income for tens of millions of people, allowing them to live the utopian lifestyle of a prolonged and permanent vacation.

Peaceful or Problematic?

But would large-scale freedom from work promote man's well-being, or would it be a social disaster? Would it bring the happiness and peace of mind that man is searching for, or would it bring frustration and misery?

History gives us a true-life example in Youngstown, Ohio. After World War II, the steel industry moved abroad, causing the collapse of the steel industry in the city. When the Campbell Works mill closed in September, 1977, it was the start of widespread unemployment. Over the next five years, the city lost 50,000 jobs and \$1.3 billion in



God did not put Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden to live a life of idleness and slothfulness. We are told that He put “him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.”

manufacturing income. Not only was there an economic breakdown, but there was also a cultural breakdown. Depression, spousal abuse and suicide became much more prevalent. The caseload of the area’s mental-health-care center tripled within a decade. The city built four prisons in the mid 1990s—a rare growth industry.

That same dissatisfaction even applies to people who make their own choice to lounge around and not

to work. Some researchers have coined the term “guilty couch potato” to describe people who turn to media for relaxation all the while feeling worthless due to their time-wasting. One stunning stat says that retired seniors spend about 50 hours a week watching television. Many profess to be miserable that they aren’t doing some form of worthwhile work.

The Right Kind of Rest

Did you know that not only does God work, but He made man to work as well? After God created the world, we are told that **“He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made”** (Genesis 2:2). Later in the chapter we read, **“The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and**



there He put the man whom He had formed" (Genesis 2:8).

But God did not put Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden to live a life of idleness and slothfulness. We are told that He put **"him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it"**

(Genesis 2:15). Work adds meaning and purpose to our lives; it also brings in income and produces goods for use and sale. Scripture speaks very strongly against idleness and laziness. Second Thessalonians 3:10 states **"that if any would not work, neither should he eat."** God in His wisdom knew from the beginning that work was for man's physical, psychological and social well-being.

Where can man find true rest, happiness and peace? The Lord's loving invitation is, **"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"** (Matthew 11:28). But how do we come unto Him? Romans 10:9 promises, **"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."** Those who repent of their sins, putting their trust in Jesus' finished work on Calvary's cross, can be confident that **"in Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore"** (Psalm 16:11).

Discover God's simple way to give us true rest in *A Call From Afar*. ◀



A Call From Afar

“Tele” is a prefix which comes from the Greek language and means “from afar.” Telephones enable messages to be sent from far away. But to receive the call that comes from the greatest distance away, no device is necessary.

This call comes from heaven all the way down to earth and tells us of the need to change our

ways—to repent and turn to God.

It comes from the infinite God down to our finite minds, and an immeasurable distance exists between the two.

The great God, who made us, wants each one of us to respond to His call in a positive way. Where we spend eternity depends on our answer to it. Those who ignore it will end up separated from God for all eternity, while those who hear it and turn to God with all their hearts will spend eternity with Him in heaven. **“These shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal”** (Matthew 25:46).

To make us understand how much God values us, He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, into this world. **“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that**

whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). By His death on the cross, He procured the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life for all those who believe. "He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24).

Although God is infinitely great, He personally loves us, and He wants us to come to Him and be saved. Be wise and answer God's call to repent and believe on His Son! His call comes from afar, and those who answer it will be with Him forever. ◀

My Heart Is Heavy

*Oh, my heart is heavy laden,
Weary and oppressed!
"Come to Me," says One,
"And coming, be at rest!"
Has He marks to lead me to Him,
If He be my Guide?
In His feet and hands are wound prints,
And His side;
If I ask Him to receive me,
Will He turn away?
Not if earth and not if heaven
Pass away!*

ECHOES OF GRACE

59 Industrial Road, P. O. Box 649
Addison, Illinois 60101, U.S.A.

Periodical Postage
Paid at
Addison, Illinois

*"He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not
the Son of God hath not life" (1 John 5:12).*

GRAYCIE

