



DOVE INTERNATIONAL

# GREAT GRACE

2025





# DOVE INTERNATIONAL FAMILY of CHURCHES



## WALKING in the GREAT GRACE of GOD

*"And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all." Acts 4:33*

**G**race is one of the most profound gifts of God. Grace is often defined as unmerited favor, or as saving grace. Yet, there is even more available to us through God's grace! In Acts 4:33 we see that the early church was walking in great grace. The Greek word for "great" here is *megas*, meaning vast, abundant, overflowing. This wasn't just a little help from God, it was an overwhelming measure of His presence and power at





work in their lives. The apostle Paul speaks of grace as being the super abundant resource and supply by the Holy Spirit, enabling us to fulfill God's call on our lives.

My prayer for the DOVE International family is that we would all overcome and walk in the mighty supply that is available for us through God's great grace!

### Grace in the Early Church

In Acts 4, Luke highlights that a unique and abundant measure of grace was poured out over the early church. The result? A praying,

persevering and bold early church formed. This is a picture of a supernatural community, where every joint supplies its portion. God's abundant supply of grace flowed through them all. In short, great grace is abundant supply to walk in the calling of God despite pressure, intimidation and opposition.

**A**nd this great grace was not only on the apostles, or the leaders, or a select few. It was upon them all! The same grace that was upon them, is available to us today as we walk in humility and faith with obedience to the call of God. As the DOVE International family across the nations of the earth, we have faith to see God's great grace be poured out over our churches, homes and nations, wherever we gather in the name of Jesus! We are praying for an outpouring of God's abundant supply, so that we overcome by the power of His Spirit.

In this day we believe that God's heart is to pour out increasing measures of His power, enabling us to do what we could never do in our own strength. This is the kind of grace that sustained the apostles in the face of persecution. It was this grace that caused their testimonies of Jesus to shake cities, heal the sick, and bring thousands into the kingdom. It was this same grace that allowed them to endure suffering with joy, knowing that they were walking in God's purpose. This same great grace is available to you and me, every church, every leader and every believer today.

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*Walking together building God's kingdom as a spiritual family. CUBA & USA*



*Teens learn from God's Word in ZAMBIA*

### Grace to Build

As we look forward, we may be tempted to restrict our vision to what may be accomplished through own limited strength, experience, and resources. But my challenge to all of us is to connect our faith to God's vast supply of grace. God is not calling us to accomplish His work in our own strength and resources alone, but through the strength that the Holy Spirit supplies.

*"from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."*

*Ephesians 4:16*



In Ephesians 4:16, Paul mentions how each part has a role to fill that supplies the whole of the church. *"from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."*

**G**od supplies each person with a unique gift to strengthen the whole body. Every generation and every nation is needed. Together, we contribute to the growth of God's family, building one another up in love.

As we serve one another with the grace that God supplies, there is a compounding effect of God's work in our midst. A divine synergy of His work starts to be experienced. It is greater than merely the sum of all its parts. It is more comprehensive than the expression of only a few gifted individuals. This type of activity was also evident in the churches in Jerusalem, Antioch, and Ephesus as the kingdom of God

expanded greatly! In one instance it was reported that within two years the entire region of Asia (Asia Minor) had heard the Gospel. This spread primarily through the word of mouth and personal testimonies of those trained in the School of Tyrannus.

*And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks. Acts 19:10*

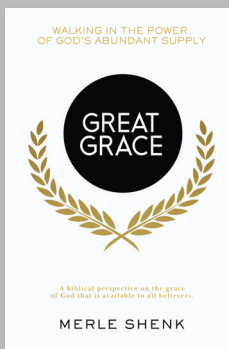
With today's modern communication, how much more can we share the message of God's work and grace! Each of us has a sphere of influence that we are called to reach. Our personal testimonies and word-of-mouth stories of God's power can spread farther today than we ever imagined.

Just as in Acts, where both Jews and Greeks heard the gospel. God's work today breaks down the walls of prejudice and division as members from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation surrender their lives to Him as their Lord and Savior.

The future is bright and we have a great calling to respond to. The great grace of God is not just for one moment—it is for the continuous expansion of His kingdom through the years to come. No matter what challenges we face, the grace of God is more than enough.

Let us walk in His grace. Let us build in His grace. And let us testify, with great power, to the resurrection of Jesus in our generation—so that those who hear us will encounter God's grace for their own lives and carry the torch beyond where we could ever imagine.

**Merle Shenk** serves as the International director of DOVE International.



**NEW!**  
Learn more  
about grace from  
**Merle Shenk**

Packed with practical wisdom, this book reveals that grace is walking in divine empowerment every day. 180 pages, \$14.99

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## New DOVE Core Teaching YouTube Channels

**SPANISH language is the first to launch this year!**

DOVE has a new project to help growth and expansion in the non-English speaking parts of our international family. We believe this initiative will further empower leaders and significantly lower the barrier to understanding key DOVE principles and be a resource to the body of Christ.

Our first core video translation is Spanish. We recorded videos of the twenty-five most important DOVE core teachings taught by native Spanish speakers. Notes for each teaching are available in Spanish.



Teaching on husband and wife ministry  
Juan Pablo Muñoz & Adriana Londoño  
from COLOMBIA



Video recording Justo Lleclish from PERU

These videos serve as a tool for pastors teachers and apostolic leaders. Other strategic languages such as Portuguese, Telugu, etc. will follow. Our goal is that principles that are core to DOVE International understanding of church and leadership would easily be accessible in additional languages. This will empower existing DOVE leaders and the planting of new churches, new regions and nations.

**More about DOVE family resources in Spanish**

visit [dcfi.org/español](http://dcfi.org/español)





## Fivefold Gifts Assessment

**FREE!**

### Discover your ministry gifts!

You will be more fulfilled as you grow and function in the areas where God has gifted you. This assessment measures how you are designed by finding how your heart aligns with the fivefold ministry gifts found in Ephesians 4:11-13. Apostles extend. Prophets guide. Evangelists gather. Pastors guard. Teachers grow.

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*A new church plant in CUBA*

## TO HELP YOU GROW DOVE LEADERS PODCASTS & BLOGS

**NEW!** Merle Shenk Podcast & blog

The Lisa & Cheree Podcast

Hosted by Lisa Hurst & Cheree Shenk

Larry Kreider Podcast & blog

Ron Myer's blog

Ibrahim & Diane Omondi's blog

Steve Prokopchak's blog

Brian Sauder's blog

DOVE USA church-planting blog

Hosted by Jeff Hoglen



## THE MERLE SHENK PODCAST



## We are a church-planting movement!

We believe planting new churches is the most effective way to reach our world for Christ. Church planting needs be a long-term goal of every DOVE International congregation and house church. We support others who are working to see new churches planted throughout the world.

We are called to plant three types of churches: community churches, microchurches, and larger megachurches.

## DOVE USA CHURCH PLANTING TOOLS

- **FREE** Church planting resources
- Church Planting Blog hosted by Jeff Hoglen
- Church Planting Boot Camp Module
- *Church Planting Made Practical* manual compiled by Ron Myer & Jeff Hoglen

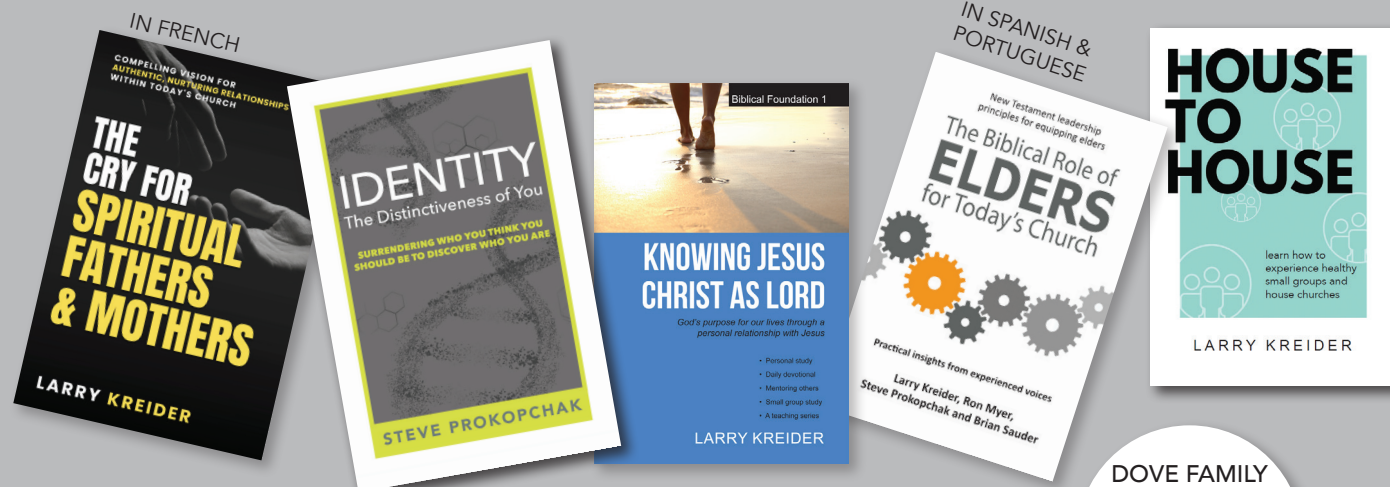
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# DOVE FAMILY VALUES

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## Evangelism and outreach are key foundations of the DOVE family

Each summer youth from DOVE USA gather for a week of evangelism, training and outreach. They impact communities with the love of Christ.

## DOVE FAMILY Regions with new seasons of leadership



New Apostolic Leader  
Democratic Republic of Congo  
**Gabriel Mbilizi**



New Apostolic Overseer  
Zambia  
**Hesbone Odindo**



New Caribbean Regional  
Apostolic Overseer of  
Barbados, Cuba, Haiti  
**Dave & Alissa Smith**

## CIRCLE OF RESOURCE

Larry and LaVerne Kreider

The Circle of Resource is a designation of special honor in the DOVE International family for long-term former members of the International Apostolic Council who have given apostolic oversight in international or regional teams. We want to recognize, appreciate, and showcase them and the gifts that God has given them to shape the movement. Their deep love, life messages, and sacrificial faithfulness have deeply impacted and shaped the DOVE International family.

**Circle of Resource** individuals are honored as foundation-layers and builders in the DOVE International family. **Learn more** at [dcfi.org](https://dcfi.org)



**Stay connected!**  
[LarryKreider.com](https://LarryKreider.com)



# DOVE GLOBAL PARTNERS

**MAKE** A DIFFERENCE  
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**OFFER** EMPOWERMENT

**Thank you to our DOVE Global Partners.**  
100% of gifts go to ministry!

## What is a DOVE Global Partner?

Our partners fund projects and initiatives worldwide through regular financial gifts. From leadership training to crisis relief, these funds offer DOVE family empowerment and make a real difference.

As you give regularly to partner with us, we commit to pray for your requests at our team's weekly prayer time. You'll receive monthly letters from Merle Sherk that include stories of how your generous giving is making a difference in the nations. We invite you to partner with us!

BECOME A  
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Find out more  
[doveglobalpartners.com](https://doveglobalpartners.com)



*A study group gathers in HAITI.*



*Small group work project USA*

**Building relationships with God, encouraging each other to be obedient disciples of Jesus. Encountering the fullness of His empowering grace.**

## DOVE FAMILY PRAYER

Pray with us for the DOVE family worldwide! Sign up for a monthly prayer update and urgent requests, joining prayer warriors around the globe.

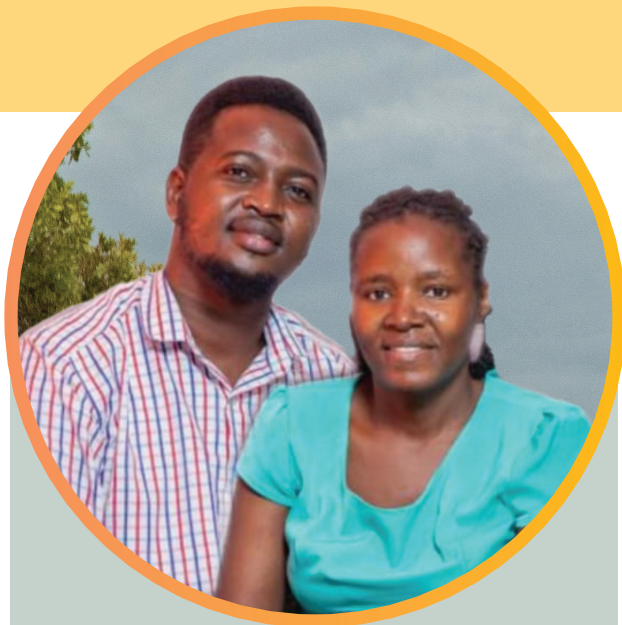
**PRAYER REQUESTS ONLINE**  
prayer requests from each DOVE church



LEARN MORE  
[dcfi.org/pray](https://dcfi.org/pray)







### Safety restored in a Kenyan village

In Kenya, two tribes were in conflict, and people were killed. DMA missionaries Nelson and Winnie learned that a prominent witch doctor would visit their village to carry out rituals believed to protect people so that they could return home. Nelson was invited to the meeting but did not go.

"That night, I heard a knock on our door," Nelson writes. "Was this the end for us? Outside stood a group, which included the man who had invited me to the witch doctor's meeting. They told me they were coming secretly to ask that I pray for the village. Although they were pretending to depend on the witch doctor's powers, they knew in their hearts who could really protect them. God in his mercy has restored peace!"

### Learning from Native American peoples of Turtle Island

Turtle Island is the name for North America preferred by its Indigenous peoples. Gene and Bethanie Stevenson are missionaries with DOVE Mission International, serving among others, Native American communities in the American southwest. With Joe, an Apache brother, Gene has begun The Good Neighbor Project to facilitate understanding and partnership ministry among Native peoples and North Americans of other heritages. In April and August 2025, this project plans two land-based learning experiences to help Christians of different backgrounds walk and serve together in unity. They are also praying into an opportunity to acquire land as a training and resource center. For more info, contact Gene at [gene.stevenson@evangelical.edu](mailto:gene.stevenson@evangelical.edu).



## MISSIONS IMPACT

### Guatemala/USA partnership delivers medical care and sees people accept Christ

At the end of 2024, a connection formed between DOVE Mission International USA and DOVE in Guatemala to produce the first DOVE medical outreach in that nation in five years. Pastors Julio and Jodi Rodriguez from Light and Life Ministries were thrilled to partner with DOVE Mission International to see this come about. The whole church got involved, advertising the clinics and handing out free clothes from the church's clothing bank. These church volunteers, along with the medical team members, prayed for individuals who came to the clinic. They saw over 100 people dedicate or rededicate their lives to the Lord!

Local doctors and dentists attended over 500 patients. The team sent by DMI assisted these local professionals, filled prescriptions, and led Bible crafts for the children at the clinics. The partnership led to fundraising in both the USA and from within Guatemala. God sup-



plied enough funds for medicines and other necessities to serve this community and tell many the good news of Christ.

We praise God for collaboration between DOVE family members in different nations.

### Get involved in missions!

- **PRAY** for missionaries
- **DONATE** to support mission works
- **CONSIDER** long-term missions service
- **PARTICIPATE** in a short-term team
- **BECOME** a missions intern

### Contact us!

**AFRICA Center** [doveafrica.com](http://doveafrica.com)  
[omondi2@doveafrica.com](mailto:omondi2@doveafrica.com)

**USA Center** [dovemission.org](http://dovemission.org)  
[DMI@dcfi.org](mailto:DMI@dcfi.org)

**CANADA Center** [dovecanada.org](http://dovecanada.org)  
[BrianS@dcfi.org](mailto:BrianS@dcfi.org)





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