

EDITOR'S LETTER



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Grace UPON Grace

There is a little plaque in a coworker's office that has caught my eye from time to time. It simply states, "Grace Upon Grace." There is no picture or cute graphic—just beautiful, flowing, hand-painted text that subtly but poignantly states this incredible biblical truth. It comes directly from John 1:16 (CSB), which reads, "Indeed,

we have all received grace upon grace from his fullness." The NLT reads, "From His abundance, we have all received one gracious blessing after another."

It's ironic to think that after a year like we've all had, we can say these words and truly mean them. And we need these words even now more than ever!

Some commentators write that when John mentions in verse 14 that "we have



seen His glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son," the very privilege of knowing Jesus and His glory is only because of grace.

And then we have another privilege of not just knowing His glory but reflecting this glory to a lost and dying world—that is more grace. He gives us the grace to know Him, the grace to make Him known, and then, if that's not enough, grace to praise Him through each and every day. Grace upon grace (upon grace)!

This issue is full of stories of how God has shown Himself more powerful than any pandemic. He has shown himself present despite the pain. And He is opening doors that no one thought could be opened.

Grace is shown as a congregation, Pillar Church of Woodlawn, releases upwards of 40% of its congregation in military turnover so they can be true missionaries and spread the Gospel. (*New Assignment=New Mission Field*, page 5)

Grace is shown as churches leave the comforts of home to go and minister to the hurting in Puerto Rico through Send Relief. (*On the Front Lines*, page 7)

Grace is shown as Northstar Church receives a new place to call home after renting for almost 20 years. (*There's No Place Like Home*, page 10)

Grace is shown so authentically when those who have grown up with grief come to Christ and are healed...and then turn around and, through foster care and adoption, show love and acceptance to others who are hurting. (*Fathers to the Fatherless*, page 12)

These are just a few examples from this issue of God's amazing grace on display. There are many more as you turn from page to page. It's wonderful to give thanks to God for His grace, which is so evident in other areas and ministries. But it is also so sweet to be able to thank Him for the grace He has given each one of us personally. That's my prayer right now. I hope it is yours as well. ■

