

## How do we meet?

Written by Administrator  
Monday, 01 February 2010 15:34

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We meet formally and informally. We meet formally in a structured context in Euston and we meet informally in homes. In addition to our actual communities we have an active virtual community on line.

The Grace Project began its life as a church. It was a good church as churches go. But over the years we have had cause to reflect on the nature of what we call the 'wineskin' (see discussions elsewhere on the site).

Today I avoid the word church. Somehow that word with all its connotations seems to be mired in the old paradigm of separation from God and from one another. Instead we have a teaching space and a series of communities that meet in homes. These groups are organic. They have no leaders. They have hosts and facilitators. In addition we host weekend get-aways for the various groups to come together and bi-annual conferences in London and Atlanta GA which are run jointly with Steve McVey's Grace Walk USA.

In the last few years our emphasis has shifted from restoring the church per-se to restoring the image of God amongst those with whom we meet. The Grace Project also has a radio ministry on Premier Christian Radio called 'Grace on Air' designed to promote the Good News of the New Covenant.

Pierre Lacout's words resonate with me: "The most simple reality, God is the one which humanity has striven hardest to complicate. It has become the battleground of terrible conflicts, the cause of fratricidal wars. God, through the fault of the people, has ceased to be a bond which unites and become a flag to be raised on fields of battle. "God is dead" we hear today. If He is really dead in the hearts and minds of people, it is because He has been crushed under the weight of indigestible abstractions and interminable discussions".

Reframing the image of God in the psyche of the world, and that includes the Christian world is the heart of our mission. The Grace Project's historical emphasis has been to help people discover who they really are. We have spent a decade teaching people about who they are in

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Christ. Today we believe that that discovery begins by discovering who God really is. That this is the great need in the Church today. We simply do not know who God is and worse still, in the absence of any true knowing, we have substituted the God who is for a god who is made in our own image and likeness. We have allowed the evangelical Aarons to fashion God into a molten calf and this god we have come to worship is not the God of the Bible but a warped caricature, a perversion of God and, dare I say it, even an anti-Christ in many circles. I understand that that is emotive language and I hesitated before saying it; yet, it is important for me to speak plainly. The “God” of much of modern “Christianity” is depicted as being angry or, at best, withholding His anger. He is a god obsessed with sin, apparently.

In spite of all we know about the cross, God is presented as a god we need to fear and since this god is holy and unapproachable, we must live lives that please Him. Such is the malaise in modern evangelical Christianity that I am bold enough to say that what we have been raised on is Christianity without Christ. My desire is to restore the Church to her true pure state, i.e., Christ without Christianity. If we were to remove the “ianity” (the “insanity”) from “Christianity”, what we are left with is Christ and Christ is but one thing and one thing only – Love!

At the Grace Project we share what I call The G.R.A.C.E. Co-Mission. For us ‘grace’ is an acronym that means ‘God’s Ridiculous Agapé Captivating Everyone.