



# GRACE FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

## TRIBUTE TO SUE SOLOMON

Cathy Solomon

Our beloved wife and mother, Sue Solomon, arrived in her Eternal Home on Monday, March 14, 2016. She was reunited with her dad and mom, Dan and Eula Mae Ragan, her brother, Bobby Ragan, and many, many other family members and friends. While she is sorely missed here, we know that, shortly, we will be reunited with her rejoicing and worshiping for all eternity! Hallelujah!

During our early years, Mom was a stay-at-home mom taking care of Dad, her three children, Ron, Cathy, and Susan, and our home. She was a great teacher and role model! She loved having fun and taught us that chores, cooking, and entertaining were fun. She encouraged our creativity and talents, to the detriment of her quilts made by her mother and grandmothers that we used for forts and plays! Her patience and love were unending! Our door was always open to whomever needed a home; she loved everyone, and everyone loved her!

When we were pre-schoolers, she'd take us to our Sunday School class; we'd cry when she left us, so she decided to teach pre-school and stayed in the pre-school department for almost 20 years! Teaching and training children was a passion and gift of hers, which later developed into a children's counseling ministry of GFI.

In 1969, she helped Dad with a new start-up ministry called Grace Fellowship International. Dad counseled, and she did all the office work. She typed all his books on a manual typewriter until they were gifted an IBM Executive Typewriter by Ruth Kochis, a friend in Boulder, CO. This typewriter was Mom's pride and joy! Our first board member, John Stevens, was a bank president; and he taught her bookkeeping. The stories of those first years are amazing! Living by faith and trusting God for income after Dad left a prosperous career in the aerospace industry was a challenge. Mom made cooking a creative

game—what can you make out of a pound of hamburger? Our church secretary called one day and invited our family to the Sunday School breakfast; knowing they had limited funds, she asked Mom to bring a dozen eggs and orange juice. Mom didn't have the heart to tell Dolores



that they didn't have the money to buy either of them. Dad came out between appointments and found Mom crying. He asked what was wrong. She told him, and he said to call Dolores back and tell her we'd be there. Mom asked him how much money he had and he brought out 37 cents from his pocket and said that we'd have enough for the eggs and juice by Sunday. They

prayed and Dad went back to his office. A little later that day, a man came to the office; he told Mom, tearfully, that they had helped his family so much, and he was never able to pay them for their counseling. Since he was a chicken farmer, he asked if he could pay them with eggs, and he handed her a flat of eggs which he had hidden behind his back! Mom was in tears, again! They had enough money to buy a jar of Tang to take to the Sunday School breakfast!

When we kids graduated from high school, she started traveling with Dad. Her dream in high school was to see the world. Her dad said that after two years of college, if she still wanted to see the world, she could join the Air Force. However, in college, she met Dad; they married in 1950 and she had babies in 1952, 1954, and 1956. She told her dad she'd never see the world. But God gave her the desire of her heart—she saw the world ministering with Dad in Europe, southeast Asia, Africa, Australia, South America, Mexico, and all over North America.

When I started working at GFI in 1999, she trained me how to do her work. I have kept these procedures, but now do the work on computer instead of ledgers, and using scissors and glue! Thank you, Mom, for everything you've taught me! If I could emulate anyone in the world—it would be you!

## TRIBUTE TO SUE SOLOMON (Continued)

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Mom loved every minute of life, and she shared this love with everyone she met. She'd take forever grocery shopping—people were drawn to her and would just start talking to her! Even at the end of her life, the hospice nurses fell in love with her and Dad. What a legacy she left!

*Here are a few comments from family members:*

My Mom was the best mom anyone could have. She was not only my mom, but my best friend and my anchor! I loved her and miss her so much. She could always resolve today's problems or, at least, have a good answer to help make things better. I know without Dad's and her prayers, I wouldn't have made it through some of the crises in my life. I just hope that I have been at least half the Mom that she was to my own children and grandchildren! —Susan

I miss Mom a lot. It is she who nurtured my creativity from the time I could hold a crayon in my hand. When I started working with puppets, Dad built the stages and Mom sewed the curtains. When I graduated to putting on plays and building carnivals and circuses in the back yard, mom loaned me her extra sheets, blankets, and quilts. Neighbor kids were at the house frequently—either to be in the shows or to watch. She didn't seem to mind. We were all working together and stayed out of trouble! When I first attended a children's theatre play as part of a birthday party, I vowed to be up on that stage someday. Mom took me to downtown Denver to a drama class. The teacher was the children's theatre director! The next season, I was in 3 out of the 4 plays. The Lord knew that someday I would use children's theatre and puppetry in ministry. I did puppet shows using Bible characters for Mom's pre-school Sunday School classes. Caraway St. was born in 1974 at our home church in Lakewood, CO. Mom promoted this children's church program everywhere she went. I 'caught' her love of children and her desire to minister to them. Our Christian youth theatre, Kids' Backporch Productions, was started in 2005. Mom always modeled a Christ-like walk for us. She was instrumental in developing my God-given talents and

directing them toward ministry. Who knows how many kids have been reached by her loving efforts...God certainly does! What an impact she had on my life, the lives of my family, and all the lives of kids around the world who have been touched by Caraway St. and the Castle Tract. Mom's ministry continues in her absence. I feel her presence in all that she gave me over our years together. Keep watching, Mom!! The best is yet to come! —Ron

If ever there were an angel who walked this earth, it was Sue. When I first met her in 1974, the warmth and sparkle and light of Christ was so evident. Little did I know that I would be receiving that outpouring for the next 40 years!! The perfect hostess, the terrific cook, always opening her home and heart to others was a tremendous example to me. As Ron and I married and began our own adventure, I received love from Sue in a different way than anyone else. All the TLC, encouragement, inspiration to pursue his giftedness and always pointing him to God as his source came pouring through her only son to me—his surprised and delighted wife. Our 'adventure' has been just that! Because of the man Ron became under your (and Chuck's) special tutelage! Thank you, Sue, for being the awesome mom to your kids, grandkids, great-grandkids, and hundreds of others our gracious Lord brought your way to 'love on' and point to Christ. I've often thought: "When I grow up I want to be just like you!" I miss you so much and can't wait to see you again! —Chris Solomon

My best memories growing up were with my Grandmother Sue. I loved to sleep over, eat her yummy food, play in the "fort" under the stairs, and sleep in the special grand-daughter room. When she and Grandpa moved to Tennessee, I loved everything about our mountain visits: picking veggies from the garden, driving the winding roads with her, eating yummy food (again), going to a 'sing' and singing hymns or Christmas songs. She loved to read; I remember her smell, her steady, kind voice, and her squeezes

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## MY VIRTUOUS WIFE (Prov. 31:10)

**Chuck Solomon**

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From day one, Sue was vested  
In the ministry of the Cross;  
Without her faithful ministrations,  
It would have been but loss.

Not my ministry, but ours,  
As she shouldered the load;  
She was yielded to our Lord,  
Whether at home or on the road.

One day, she welcomed guests;  
The next it was an office task.  
Whether home or ministry duties,  
In her prayer life she did bask!

Much was behind the scenes,  
As she did the necessary;  
Always conscious of the need,  
Of commendation she was wary!

She was, indeed, a virtuous woman (Prov. 31:10)  
In whom I could safely trust.  
Too oft, I took her for granted;  
So, confessing my lack, I must!

Her stalwart help is missing,  
As she is with our Lord;  
Faithful as wife, mother, and witness,  
She is reveling in her reward!

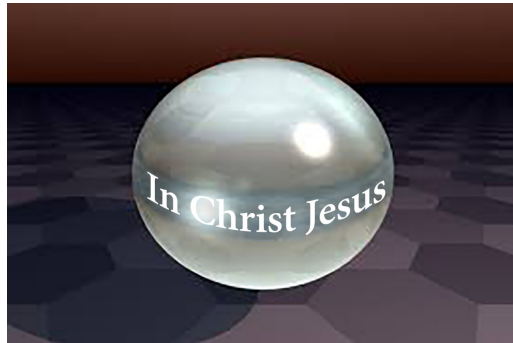
*But of Him [God] you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord” (1 Cor. 1:30,31; Jer. 9:24).*

We seek to show, by a few examples, the boundless range and scope of one brief phrase of two or three short words: *in Christ*, or, *in Christ Jesus*. A very small key may open a very complex lock and a very large door, and that door may itself lead into a vast building with priceless stores of wealth and beauty. This brief phrase—a preposition followed by a proper name—is the key to the whole New Testament.

Those three short words, *in Christ Jesus*, are, without doubt, the most important ever written, even by an inspired pen, to express the mutual relation of the believer and Christ. They occur, with their equivalents, over one hundred and thirty times. Sometimes we meet the expression, *in Christ* or *in Christ Jesus*, and...sometimes this sacred name, or its equivalent pronoun, is found associated with other prepositions—*through, with, by*; but the thought is essentially the same. Such repetition and variety must have some intense meaning. When, in the Word of God, a phrase like this occurs so often, and with such manifold applications, it can not be a matter of accident; there is a deep design. God’s Spirit is bringing a truth of the highest importance before us, repeating for the sake of emphasis, compelling even the careless reader to give heed as to some vital teaching...

If there be one truth of the Gospel that is fundamental, and underlies all else, it is this: a new life *in Christ Jesus*. He, Himself, clearly and forcibly expressed it in John 15:4: *Abide in me and I in you*. By a matchless parable, our Lord there taught us that all believers are branches of the Living Vine, and that, apart from Him, we are nothing and can do nothing because we have in us no life. This truth finds expression in many ways in the Holy Scripture, but most frequently in that short and simple phrase we are now considering—*in Christ Jesus*.

Such a phrase suggests that He is to the believer the *sphere* of this new life or being. Let us observe—a



sphere rather than a circle. A circle surrounds us, but only on one plane; but a sphere encompasses, envelopes us, surrounding us in every direction and on every plane. If you draw a circle on the floor, and step within its circumference, you are within it only on the level of the floor. But, if that circle could become a sphere, and you be within it, it would on every side surround you—above and below, before and behind, on the right hand and on the left. Moreover, the sphere that surrounds you also separates you from whatever is outside of it. Again, in proportion as such a sphere is strong, it also protects whatever is within it from all that is without—from all external foes or perils. And yet again, it supplies, to whomsoever is within it, whatever it contains. This may help us to understand the great truth taught with such clearness, especially in the New Testament. Christ is there presented throughout as the sphere of the believer’s whole life and being, and in this

truth are included these conditions:

1. Christ Jesus surrounds or embraces the believer, in His own life;
2. He separates the believer in Himself from all hostile influences;
3. He protects him in Himself from all perils and foes of his life;
4. He provides and supplies in Himself all that is needful.

...The more we study the phrase [*in Christ Jesus*] and the various instances and peculiar varieties of such recurrence, the more shall we be convinced of its vital importance to all practical holy living.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new (2 Cor. 5:17).*

*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them (Eph. 2:10).*

[May everyone who repents and receives Christ as personal Lord and Savior take great consolation in being *in Christ Jesus!*] —Published in 1898.



## TRIBUTE TO SUE SOLOMON (Continued)

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as she held me. As I grew into adulthood, our face-to-face time together was much less; but I appreciated our weekly phone calls, loved her heartfelt gifts she faithfully sent to my girls, and knowing she was thinking of us and praying for us. Her steady, faithful walk with Grandpa and her Jesus, though, are the greatest gifts she left for me; I hope to grow old, like she did, hand in hand with my beloved husband and my Good Father. —Shauna

It is extremely hard for me to put what my grandmother meant to me in a few words. She was an amazing woman who taught me never to give up no matter how hard things got. My grandmother also taught me that it was OK to be angry but to always forgive. It is a hard lesson to stick to but once done, I am always reminded that she will always be right.

Haleigh and I miss you so much Grandma. Sometimes while riding in the car Haleigh will look at the empty seat next to her and just smile so big and start talking. I know you are sitting there holding her hand and smiling right back at her. Please don't stop. The joy I see in Haleigh's eyes let's me know you are with her.

—Janea

My Grandma Sue was the essence of beauty, grace, and unconditional love. Any time I spent with her in person or on the phone left me feeling important, wholly accepted, and deeply loved. She gave me so many gifts, specifically my love for kids and serving others through hospitality. I find myself smiling through tears as I remember her day by day. Wishing she could spend time in our new home and

see all these firsts for our three children; knowing she is here in my heart and treasured memories. Thankful, beyond measure, for her legacy and friendship. —Aubry

Sue Solomon treated me like I was her third daughter. She was a compassionate listener, caring heart, empathetic, and wise counselor. There were many times she prayed for me, though we were miles apart. Her famous words to me were "Oh, Pat". She and I went on many trips together; on one trip to Calgary, she had a blood clot in her leg and we were miles from a hospital. She was calm and kept me focused on driving, arriving in Calgary at 11:00 p.m.; she was checked into the hospital so late because she didn't want to keep our host from having dinner with us. She was always thinking of other people. She made each of my birthdays special—even throwing a surprise 40th birthday party with 36 people when the temperature was 10 below zero! What a lady of God who knew that God was her supplier. I miss her so much. The love and care she gave me made me a better person. She never gave up on me. I thank the Lord for giving her to me as a very, very special friend and gift. Love and prayers, Pat

*We will not hide [God's Words] from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done... which He commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children; that the generation to come might know them, the children who would be born, that they may arise and declare them to their children. That they may set their hope in God" (Psalm 78:4-7).*

## ASSOCIATES

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**Joe & Cherri Freeman:** "We had a wonderful weekend of ministry with our friends Pastor Mark and Joyce Musser at New Village Church, Lake Grove, NY, May 14,15, 2016. Joe was able to share his testimony at a men's breakfast and during the Sunday morning service. There was a dessert fellowship Saturday night for family and friends of those in addiction. We had the opportunity to share our ministry and then have a time for questions/answers."

While in Tennessee in July, Joe and Cherri recorded three video presentations. Joe spoke on *From Wreckage to Redemption* and *From Redemption to Ministry*. The former is his personal testimony of deliverance from addiction through appropriating Christ as Lord, Life, and Liberator. The second gives a brief summary of the counsel he gives when ministering at Americas Keswick's Colony of Mercy. Cherri's video testifies of her journey to the Cross and an introduction to her support group ministry for moms: *Love Them to Life*. One of their primary resources is Cherri's book, *Beside Still Waters: Discovering Peace in the Midst of Your Child's Addiction*. Their videos and prayer letters are available online at [XLproject.org](http://XLproject.org) and [LoveThemToLife.com](http://LoveThemToLife.com)

We need to continue to remember Joe in prayer as he deals with chronic pain and other serious health problems.

**Cross to Life Discipleship Ministires** continues to help hurting women who come to them for their twelve week Exchanged Life personal ministry process. Some of these ladies continue in training to become ministry team members. Recent examples are Olivia and Shirley who are in the process of completing their certification.

"Our team coach, John Woodward, came for ministry visits to Minnesota in April and September. The first visit included a chapel service and brief seminar on New Covenant Recovery Ministry at Teen Challenge in Minneapolis. We also had our first half day seminar for men. This was followed by a six session men's ID Ministry class last summer that was hosted by Grace Church in Eden Prairie. John taught an overview of our notebook by WebEx internet webinar from his office at GFI. This culminated in a wrap up meeting when John was back in September where the men testified of the benefit of the fellowship and teaching. Opportunities for the men include a six week personalization process, potential ministry training, and coaching on various resources and avenues to share the fuller message of the cross on a personal or small group basis." You can learn more about their ministry at [Crosstolife.org](http://Crosstolife.org).

# MISSIONS

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**Grace Counseling India** presented an Exchanged Life Seminar for STECI North Kerala Diocesan Workers Conference of Pastors, Evangelists and Women Workers from September 26-28. John Zachariah and Dr. Alex Mathew presented the event with over 50 attending. "His grace was sufficient for me to take 8 sessions going straight from the hospital bed where I was admitted for five days. It was a new experience for many. Pray for the continuing effect of the ministry to the workers by the Holy Spirit. Pray also for the recovery of our health [there is continuing medical treatment]..." October meetings included teaching events for MUST Workers, Interserve Fellowship, EGF, and a Community Leaders event. See [GraceCounselor.org](http://GraceCounselor.org) for photos and reports.

Peter Mihent writes about his ministry in **Romania**. "This summer we just had a celebration of three years discipleship counseling graduation. One month ago we started a new three year program for Christian leaders, in order to equip them for being able to do counseling in their churches. This program is implemented in north part of Romania, Suceava, where there is a large group of evangelicals. Because the request is high, we are going to implement a new program in Brasov also (right in the middle of Romania), and this time we are open for traditional religious groups if they want to get involved. Another branch of ministry is that I organize conferences in different parts of the country, the last one was in the beginning of October in Felix, where we had 200 participants. In November, I plan to organize a conference in Great Britain for the Romanian evangelical community."

Charles Ambaka writes, "Judy and I just got back from Eastern **Kenya** where we had an awesome ministry that experienced the blessing of God. Many decisions were made, many testifying of the transformation they had experienced as a result of the two days. Later I had a session with the men while Judy spoke to the ladies. We are planning for an Exchanged Life Training early next year for Pastors in the region...I have taught the Believers Class at our home Church. We have had great responses and testimonies of transformed lives. The truths of the Exchanged Life have been wonderfully received, and many are looking forward

to the next classes that will be coming up the last quarter of next year."

In October and November, Charles returned to **Nepal** for another mission of teaching and mentoring with Timothy Aryal. Following that trip, Charles joins the TransWorld Radio staff in Mombasa, Kenya for their retreat where he will be their main speaker.

Piet & Sylvia du Toit write from **South Africa**: "October 28-30th is our last seminar for 2016. We will be ministering to a group of farmers in Merweville, Karoo Region. We are so thankful to Father God for His mercy and love, we experienced Him in a special way during the year. It was a full-loaded year with many open doors to share the Message of the Cross to lots of people in various denominations. Thousands of kilometres were safely travelled. We are amazed by His love and praise Him for His mercy upon us."

Rob and Dottie Clogg have completed their first year of ministry in **Canada**. Located in Vancouver, the ministry has focused on mentoring leaders and counseling by referral. A one day introduction to the exchanged life titled "The Greatest Life" has been held in homes in order for hosts to invite friends, neighbors, and family to attend. This informal, interactive format in smaller groups is preferred by many. In the upcoming months, regular "Grace Connect" evenings are planned to have fellowship around the themes of the cross and Christ as Life. The first event in April was attended by 17. The impact of a few has already been multiplied as friends and family have also been reached. Keep up with Rob's articles and activities at [roblogg.wordpress.com](http://roblogg.wordpress.com).

Our missionaries can be supported by designated contributions.



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## PREACHING THE CROSS

*And even in your old age, I am He; and even to hoar [gray] hairs will I carry you... (Isaiah 46:4a).* The vision has not dimmed nor has the calling (Isaiah 58:10,11) changed! However, the gait is slowing as the energy diminishes! The 'afflicted souls' are not decreasing, because the Church is yet lacking in her ministry to such.

Therefore, I appeal to you, to pray the Lord of the Harvest to continue ministering individual revival, as He has for half a century. The secularized America and the Church lacking in New Covenant teaching puts the burden squarely on the shoulders of individual believers who have been revived (Gal. 2:20).

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## Charles R. Solomon

With enough believers doing this, churches will begin to show New Covenant teaching with resultant revival. The use of the *Wheel & Line* diagrams is resulting in individual revival on all six continents which must proliferate! Applying the KISS principle is in order—Keep it Simple, Solomon! When a life is so transformed, revival just happens, with God getting the glory! Preaching the cross is still the power of God (1 Cor. 1:18)!

*Let's dare to prove it!*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Exchanged Life Conference** November 4-5, 2016  
Pigeon Forge, TN  
March 3-4, 2017  
Pigeon Forge, TN  
August 4-5, 2017  
Pigeon Forge, TN

**Spirituootherapy® Workshop** November 7-10, 2016  
Pigeon Forge, TN  
March 6-9, 2017  
Pigeon Forge, TN  
August 7-10, 2017  
Pigeon Forge, TN

## COUNSELING CHILDREN

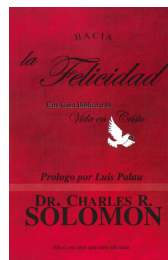
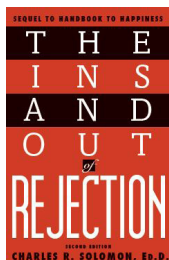
*"But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven'" (Matt. 19:14).* I had the privilege of hearing Sue and Ron Solomon teach on children's ministry at our Solomon School years ago. Although I usually counsel adults, it has been a joy to see God bring peace and freedom to children and adolescents as well. The same basic message and methodology of counseling adults applies to young people if we gear it down, and serve as caring friends of the family. In December, we are adding a new course to our distance education program: Christ-Centered Children's Counseling. I have sought to locate and gather resources and teaching to help equip parents, teachers, and counselors in using an Exchanged Life approach to help the many precious boys and girls who are in need of pastoral counsel. The course tuition is discounted from \$75.00 to \$49.00 through the end of this year. You can enroll in this online-based course via the GFI web site or by calling our office. —John Woodward



If you are one of the multitudes who order products through the Amazon.com family of online stores, there is now a creative way to invisibly donate to GFI. Just visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and select Grace Fellowship International as your charity. After signing up, shop by starting at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and Amazon will donate .5% of the transaction (from their profit) automatically! That does sound like something to smile about!

## NEW PRODUCTS SUPPORT

Speaking of Amazon! *The Ins and Out of Rejection* and *Hacia la Felicidad* (Spanish *Handbook to Happiness*) are now available as Kindle ebooks! Tyndale House has also published *Handbook to Happiness* as an ebook and is available on Amazon. We will be publishing all our books in the ebook format and selling them on Amazon.



GFI has a unique role in pioneering, developing, and defending a Cross-oriented model of Discipleship Counseling. Those who include GFI in their giving are, indirectly, also supporting ministries of the leaders whom we counsel, mentor, and coach year-by-year. Contributors can use our online Donate Page, monthly auto-withdrawal, or the enclosed offering envelope.

*But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work (2 Cor. 9:6-8).*