

exploits and accomplishments when he sees himself not as serving the law but responding to grace. So it was with the Apostle Paul who said, "By the grace of God I am what I am" (1 Cor. 15:10).

God wants us to believe these glorious things. Our life is one step of faith after another. How challenging is the word from the Apostle Paul, "Fight the good fight of faith." We naturally think we have the resources; whereas God tells us in ourselves "there is no good thing."

Lance was well aware of the work of the Holy Spirit in all of these things. Those who listened to his teaching came to an early biblical understanding of the precious working of this heavenly guest in their personal lives and the life of His Church.

Again and again Lance would extend a call to personal holiness on the part of those who heard him. He was convinced that a testimony for Christ must be backed up with a godly life, and he illustrated this in every one of his actions. Every person who knew him during his long and fruitful ministry would testify that he was one of the most godly men whom they had ever met. He was instant in prayer, moved with compassion for others, and careful to maintain a life that was rich in good works. He continued to

insist that the gospel of the grace of God results in a godly life. Again and again he emphasized the way of forgiveness and cleansing to Christians.

Lance always brought out the fact that victory in one's life was obtained in much the same manner as salvation.

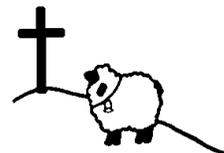
1. Believe, receive, accept—regarding salvation. 2. Reckon yourself dead to sin, but alive unto God—by appropriating, receiving, believing—not by works."

On and on the story goes. The gospel of the grace of God firmly implanted in young lives and motivating them to serve Christ produces results.

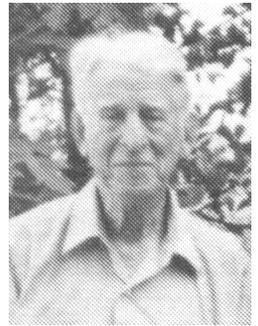
Selected Excerpts from: *Lance: A Testament of Grace* by Dave Breese.

Lance Latham, 1894-1985, was the founding pastor of the North Side Gospel Center, Chicago, 1933. He was also co-founder of Awana Clubs and was instrumental in the founding of other ministries, including the White Shirt Brigade, Camp Awana, and New Tribes Mission. Doc's unique ministry reached thousands of people around the globe, through those who shared his emphasis on the gospel of the grace of God.

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GRACE IS THE ANSWER.

This deepest of all convictions settled upon the heart of Lance "Doc" Latham within a year after his conversion to Christ. He knew with unshakeable faith that he had now discovered the message that could answer EVERY NEED OF A THIRSTY AND LOST WORLD. THE MESSAGE WAS GRACE—GRACE FOR SALVATION, AND GRACE FOR LIVING.

The proper understanding of Scripture was the message of the gospel of the grace of God. The book was Romans, and it was taught with the conviction that no work for Christ could be effective unless it was built on "the message," the Pauline revelation of the grace of God.

"The message is the method," was Doc's conviction. All of his life he was unimpressed with methodology as it was taught in Christian educational institutions. His lifelong experience had produced the conviction that while methods were necessary, the message was the essential issue. For him, the person who believed the message of

the gospel of the grace of God would produce results even if his methods were poor. Conversely, a person who was well-versed in methodology would nevertheless ultimately fail unless he had truth to believe. Methodology is like the pipeline, but the message of the gospel is the fresh water that is carried to its destination.

When we lose the gospel, all is lost. The message must be first and foremost—the gospel of the grace of God.

Believing in Christ is beholding Him in faith on the cross of Calvary. Again, salvation is not our work, it is HIS WORK FOR US. [Sanctification is not our work, it is HIS WORK IN US!]

This affair with God and His Son is a love affair. People need to know about God's great love for them. Persuade Christians that God loves them.

Living in these glorious truths is to recognize that they are not under law but under grace; **DESERVING NOTHING, BUT POSSESSING ALL THINGS.**

We shall see that these convictions which came from the Word of God to the heart of Lance Latham were not merely abstract doctrines that had no relevance to life. We shall see that these convictions made his a life that influenced thousands and then, through them, millions of others

across the world. The marvelous ministry that was to follow grew out of the great joy that came to the heart of this young seeker after truth because of the two discoveries he made from the Word of God—grace for salvation and grace for living.

His life became a testimony of grace.

The testimony is clear that the preaching of the gospel of grace produces godly living, faithful service, and becomes a tremendous motivation for personal spiritual development.

**THE MESSAGE WAS GRACE—
GRACE FOR SALVATION, AND
GRACE FOR LIVING.**

That vital second discovery for Lance was the realization that grace is not only the way of salvation, but it is also the key to the sustaining and successful Christian life. All things that come into the life of a Christian are his by the grace of God.

The program [re: AWANA] was grounded on the bedrock conviction that the gospel of the grace of God was life's greatest responsibility. This was of course the responsibility to become a custodian of that grace, bearing it as a precious substance out into the lives of others.

Who can deny that the message of grace is the need of our lost

generation? The Church in the world of [today] awaits the realization of its greatest potential when it discovers not new methods, but when it rediscovers the message it professes to believe. People will become capable for Christ in their own right, beyond what unctuous admonition will ever produce, when they see themselves as children of God, set free from the bondage of corruption and brought into the glorious liberty of the sons of God, this by understanding His grace.

Lance's conviction as to the truth of the gospel has been translated into the lives of many others. His preaching through the years was characterized by a repeated emphasis on "the truth of the gospel." The result has been that those who committed their lives to Christian service under Lance's teaching brought with them the same convictions to their ministry and were instantly and easily able to detect error in pulpits and periodicals.

Lance Latham saw that the Christian life is not earning new credits and blessings from the Lord. Instead, the Christian life is the grateful response to what the Lord has already done for us in that He has given us everything in Christ. No Christian will therefore be effective who sees his life as slavish servitude to legal rules. Rather, he will be motivated to