



TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH • HELP • HEALING • HOPE

Dear Ministry Partners:

Several years ago I had a seminarian intern helping me at Grace Mission. I asked him what his impressions were of Grace Mission after he had been here several months and he replied, "It's a place that's *wonderfully uncomfortable*." I thought his response was so poignant and I began thinking how '*wonderfully uncomfortable*' Jesus, through His parables and commands, can make us think and feel.

So what is it that God asks of us?

One of the things is to be more generous in our judgments of others, for we possibly can't know all there is to know about another. This generosity comes from a degree of humility, recognizing that while we work as partners with God, we are not God, and it's not for us ultimately to judge another.

But it's so easy to judge others isn't it? Again, the '*wonderfully uncomfortable*' part is not to judge others even though we've done it for years.

Like humility, generosity comes from seeing that everything we have and everything we accomplish comes for God's grace and God's love for us. It also comes from realizing that we could not be alive, nor could we accomplish anything, without the support, love and generosity of all the people who have helped us to become the people we are today.

Learning gratitude and to be generous to others is or can be a '*wonderfully uncomfortable*' experience. We hear about the suffering in the world but we become paralyzed to help or chose not to help. We all have a natural desire to help and to care, and we simply need to allow ourselves to give from our love and do what we can to help.

Page Two

Perhaps the ultimate expression of seeing with the eyes of the heart is when we are able to see each other as God sees us – not our earthly human bodies but the divine light that shines through each person. We would look at one another and see the beauty of God, and we would treat each other with appropriate reverence and awe. What can be ‘*wonderfully uncomfortable*’ is when we suddenly discover the divine shines through each person that was thoroughly unpromising, unlikely, and improbable. We begin to see **no one** is a totally hopeless case. God does not give up on any one of us! The uncomfortable part is when we acknowledge to ourselves that we haven’t seen people this way (or maybe haven’t seen that in yourself) but the wonderful part is beginning to see everyone (including yourself) as your brother and sister in Christ no matter how different they may be from you. As we begin to look for the light of God in people, an incredible thing happens. We find it more and more in people – **all people!**

Join us at Grace Mission and be ‘*wonderfully uncomfortable*’ – *love incarnated in the harsh reality that forms the ordinary life setting of so many of God’s children.* Allow God to draw you into the ‘wonderfully uncomfortable’ places – who knows – you may discover yourself.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support!

Faithfully,

Pastor Amanda+