

# NORTHWEST GRACE CONFERENCES

Bringing Grace Believers Together

## True Eternal Value

by Corey Richardson

*the*

**SEATTLE BIBLE  
CONFERENCE  
IS  
COMING!!!**

**THE NEXT  
GENERATION  
OF GRACE**

*Paul's Companions  
and Co-Laborers in  
the Faith*

**MAY 27-29, 2007**

**Speakers will be:**

**John Verstegen**

*and*

**Alex Kurz**

**FOR MORE**

**DETAILS**

**CONTACT**

**JENNIFER**

**GIBSON AT**

**206.719.7047 OR**

**jensays@msn.com**



My name is Corey Richardson and this is how I came to be pastor and teacher of Columbia River Bible Fellowship in Vancouver, Washington.

I had been asked to speak at my parent's church in North Bend, Oregon one summer when I was home from college. This was where I grew up, and I was glad to have the opportunity. With my Calvary Chapel background, I was passionate about God's grace, but I had a difficult time reconciling a book like Matthew with a book like Romans. I would feel a sense of heaviness and fear as I read through Matthew, and then the fear would turn to joy as I read through Romans. I couldn't explain it, but I accepted that there must be a way to reconcile the differences in these two books. When I asked mentors and teachers whom I had sat under, they could not supply adequate answers.

I preached that Sunday, at my parent's church, on God's grace, proclaiming that we are saved by grace through faith plus nothing. A dear brother in Christ, Dwayne Sumner, approached me after the sermon and asked me if I was part of "the grace movement". I told him that I believed in grace, but was not familiar with a specific "movement". He later called me and invited me to the Oregon Coast Bible Conference. I reluctantly said yes.

A month later I went to the conference and the first person I met standing over by the book table was brother Richard Jordan. I had no idea who he was and I remember the only thing I said to him was, "Do you think the rapture is pre-trib?" He simply replied, "Absolutely." For the next two days I heard messages taught by brother John Verstegen and brother Jordan that absolutely revolutionized my Christian life. For the first time, the answers to the apparent contradictions in the bible were answered through "rightly dividing the word of truth".

I went home after the conference and straight over to my wife's (girlfriend at the time) dormitory at Western Oregon University and told her all the things I had learned. She listened, out of love at first, but after a while she also came to understand the word rightly divided and we got married a year later. All the while I was reading books like Satan and His Plan of Evil by Keith Blades, Things that Differ by C.R.Stam and I was listening to sermons by Richard Jordan among others.

My wife and I moved to Portland, Oregon, where I attended Oregon Health and Science University and received my Master's degree as a Physician Assistant. Via the internet, we found other grace believers in the area and enjoyed fellowshiping with like-minded believers.

But after graduating I had a job offer from a dermatology clinic in Bend, Oregon, which in the world's eyes was a great opportunity. So with our first son on the way we took the job and moved to central Oregon. We thought we might start up a grace fellowship in the area. The time in Bend was not without profit. We had two boys, Brody and Chase (who currently are 3 ½ and 1 year old) and my boss, owner of the clinic

## “We chose as a family to redeem the time...”

where I worked, was a believer who came to see the dispensation of grace. He understood the mystery program, and came to believe in the preservation of the God’s word so we started a men’s bible study, unfortunately with time it faded away and we came to greatly miss the brothers and sisters in the Portland/Vancouver Area.

I had a desire to teach God’s word and enrolled in Grace School of the Bible. Our family tried attending different churches in the area but that just led to frustration and a longing for like minded believers to raise our family around.

May 7, 2006 our son, Chase (2 months old at the time), was hospitalized with aspiration pneumonia and a couple other complications. He is alive and healthy now, but that time was life-altering for my wife and me. It brought to our attention how short life is and made us ask ourselves, “How much of our life here has true eternal value???” Later that May, my wife went to the Seattle NW Grace Conference. Though it was hard to leave our son even for the 24 hours she was gone, the sessions she heard from John Versteegen, Ron Sorg, and Rick Jordan impacted her greatly. The topic was prayer and what God accomplished through the mature prayer life of the Philippian saints. She came home ready to support me in something that I had been prayerfully considering for awhile...move our family back to the Portland/Vancouver area. It was difficult to leave Bend but we desired to help the like-minded saints in Portland and Vancouver bring their fellowship into a public venue.

I was able to join The Vancouver Clinic’s Dermatology Department and we became official Washingtonians in August 2006. It has now been 5 months since we’ve been meeting on a weekly basis at a local elementary school under the name of Columbia River Bible Fellowship.

*Continued on page 3*

## CHANGES BREWING OUT WEST

The Montana Bible Conference is on the move!

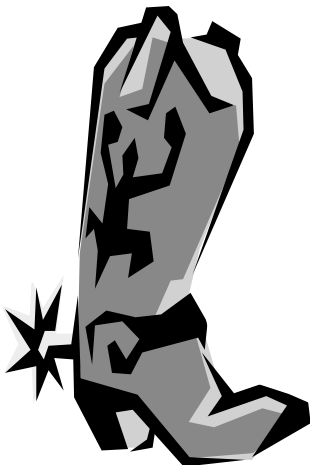
Camp Utmost, near Missoula, expanded their youth ministry and needed our weekend. So after scouring the countryside we have found a beautiful new facility. It is called **Camp Bighorn** in Plains, Montana which is about an hour west of Missoula. We had to change our weekend to the Labor Day Weekend, but that is their off-season so we can have the whole place to ourselves. We have our standard Thursday evening thru Sunday afternoon!

**The dates are August 30, 31, September 1, 2.**

John Versteegen and Alex Kurz will be there, so come break the place in with some sound doctrine. It is nestled in the mountains along a river, so in addition to great teaching, there is fishing, swimming, hiking, a great playing field for soccer, baseball, frisbee or other activities.

You are so very dear to us and we look forward to being together studying God’s word another year. Stay tuned for more details in the next newsletter.

If you have any questions, email me at [kcbsbq@msn.com](mailto:kcbsbq@msn.com) or call 406.728.2899... operators are on duty to take your calls (LOL).



Continued from page 2

I have learned a great deal in a short time. I have learned to rely on the brothers and sisters who faithfully do so much to ensure that the work moves forward. A fellowship, or assembly, is the local manifestation of the Body of Christ, and like our physical bodies, the Body cannot function properly without all the members doing their part. I have learned that a local assembly is not the pastor/teacher carrying the load by himself, but all the members, out of love for the true Head of the local assembly, our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, sharing the load and getting the work done. I have learned that my opinion isn't worth a cent, the power resides in God's word and that is where we need to go to comfort, exhort, encourage, and correct the saints.

Someone asked me where I see Columbia River Bible Fellowship in 5-10 years. Through many ups and downs, I see us continuing to study God's word rightly divided, being the "pillar and ground of the truth" in the community in which we live. I see believers in the fellowship growing in grace and engaging in the work of the ministry motivated by God's grace as His word effectually works within us. I see opportunities to share the gospel of God's grace with unbelievers, through gospel tract outreaches and other venues. I see brothers and sisters developing hearts for unbelievers, who are hell-bound sinners in need of someone to share the good news of Christ's redemptive work with them. I see God's word working in believers so that "each esteem others better than themselves" and we see each other "through the eyes of our understanding" as brothers and sisters in Christ, "knit together in love". I see young brethren who are apt to teach stepping up to the responsibility of teaching and pastoring a local assembly out of love for the Lord and His word and, as a result, new assemblies being started in the Pacific Northwest, where there has been such a lack of sound doctrine.

An understanding of how to "rightly divide the word of truth" has changed my life, my wife's life, our children's lives, our friends and relatives that we have shared with, and hopefully many others in the years to come. And to think... none of this would have happened for us and the people within our sphere of influence if that faithful brother in Christ, Dwayne Sumner, hadn't stepped out of his comfort zone and chosen to walk in the Spirit and extend an invitation to a complete stranger to hear a message that had changed HIS life. Praise be to God for His wisdom revealed in the mystery, and His grace and love shown in the cross work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



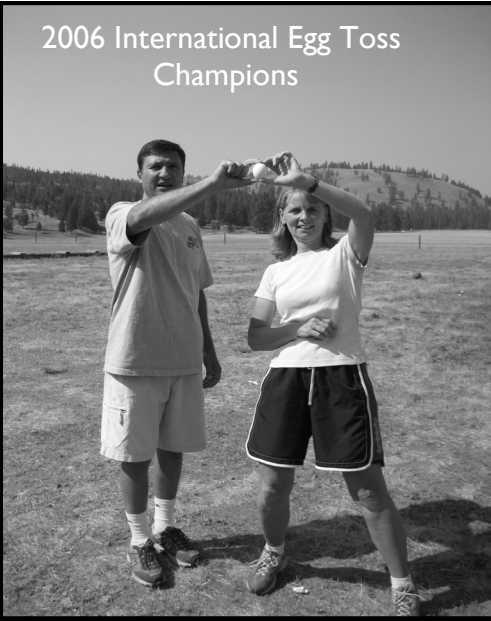
*Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the  
believers, in word, in conversation,  
in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*

*1 Timothy 4:12*

I was  
passionate  
about God's  
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had a difficult  
time  
reconciling a  
book like  
Matthew with  
a book like  
Romans.

Northwest Grace Conferences  
428 10th Street # E 302  
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