

**25** Years of  
**Church Planting,**  
**2007** Mission  
**Fund**

Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory

Psalm 115:1



Dear Friends,

Each year, our Mission Presentation allows us to *look back* and thank God for his faithfulness to Sovereign Grace Ministries over the past twelve months. It also inspires us to *look forward*—to anticipate the grace to come, and to consider the opportunity we have to contribute to the advance of the gospel.

This brochure briefly highlights our principal efforts. As you can see on the following pages, half of every dollar given to this year's Fund will support our work internationally to train leaders and support local churches. Twenty-five percent will finance church planting in the United States. And another twenty-five percent will help fund the Pastors College. The mission of each is essentially the same: to plant and build gospel-centered churches for the glory of God.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your involvement in the local church, your support in prayer, and your generous financial giving. It is my great privilege and joy to serve the Savior with you.

As you read these pages, may you be primarily aware of the Savior, whose sacrifice on the cross for our sins makes all this possible, and may all your praise be directed exclusively to him.

**C.J. Mahaney**  
President, Sovereign Grace Ministries

# 2007 Mission Fund

Sovereign Grace Ministries exists to plant and build local churches with the gospel, for the glory of God. Your participation in your local church, your prayer, and your financial investment make this possible.

Every dollar given to the 2007 Mission Fund goes to the work of planting and strengthening local churches with the gospel. The Fund is split into three categories. Fifty percent of each dollar supports international churches and leaders. Twenty-five percent finances church planting and support in the United States. And another twenty-five percent helps fund the Pastors College.

**50%** International,  
**25%** United States,  
**25%** Pastors  
College

# Our International Mission

Christ's death on the cross for our sins bought salvation for people from every nation. We are deeply grateful that he has allowed us to help spread this gospel message in 24 countries. On the following pages are just a few snapshots of the international ministry that you have made possible.

- 1 Canada
- 2 United States
- 3 Mexico
- 4 El Salvador
- 5 The Bahamas
- 6 Haiti
- 7 Bolivia
- 8 Brazil

- 9 United Kingdom
- 10 Germany
- 11 Italy
- 12 Ghana
- 13 Ethiopia
- 14 Uganda
- 15 Zambia
- 16 South Africa

- 17 India
- 18 Sri Lanka
- 19 Myanmar
- 20 South Korea
- 21 Philippines
- 22 Australia
- + 2 countries we cannot disclose



# 24 Countries on 6 Continents



Ciudad Juárez

# Mexico



## Last Year: New Church in Aguascalientes

In the fall of 2006, Elías Reyes led a church-planting team from Iglesia Gracia Soberana de Cd. Juárez (Sovereign Grace Church of Juárez) to Aguascalientes, a city in central Mexico. The team joined with other Christians in the city to preach the gospel. That November, Iglesia Gracia Soberana de Aguascalientes (Sovereign Grace Church of Aguascalientes) was launched.

Since then, the church has hosted four introductory courses on Christianity, held two new-members classes, and hosted evangelism teams from two other Sovereign Grace churches.



## Next Year: The Latin American Pastors College

It's our goal to train many more men like Elías Reyes, men who can lead churches in Mexico and elsewhere in Latin America. To that end, development of the Latin American Pastors College has begun, funded by Sovereign Grace Ministries.

The Latin American Pastors College will be based at Iglesia Gracia Soberana de Cd. Juárez, where Carlos Contreras is senior pastor.

Because student housing is not readily available in Juárez, rotating teams from Sovereign Grace churches are constructing an apartment building to house up to six student families. This building will be completed, Lord willing, in 2008 at a cost of \$100,000.

# Philippines

For several years, Steve Shank (a member of the Sovereign Grace leadership team), Tony Walsh, and Lynn Baird (Sovereign Grace pastors in British Columbia and California, respectively) have been working alongside a pastor in the Philippines named Fernando Impang. Fernando leads a young but growing group of churches in that country.

In early 2007, Tony and Lynn were privileged to lead pastors' conferences on two Philippine islands. Recently a construction team from Sovereign Grace churches served (among others) a small church growing among the Badjao, a predominantly Muslim ethnic group. Next year, Tony and Lynn plan to hold marriage seminars on two islands.

A team of leaders is emerging in that country—leaders with a passion for gospel-centered church planting. Your giving is helping to advance the gospel in the Philippines.



# Haiti

Lying less than 700 miles from Florida, Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world. Yet amid widespread hopelessness there, pastor Daniel Alix is bringing the hope of the gospel.

Daniel has planted four churches in Haiti, and leads four schools and two orphanages. His friendship with a member of Grace Community Church (Souderton, PA) has led to growing friendships with Sovereign Grace pastors, including Aron Osborne (Grace Community) and Danny Jones (Metro Life Church, Orlando, FL).

Daniel attended our Small Group Leaders Conference in 2005, and since then Sovereign Grace pastors have led two conferences in Haiti. Recently two service teams from Sovereign Grace churches visited to provide practical help to the ministry that Daniel leads.

We're grateful to serve these brothers and sisters in Christ, who exemplify biblical hope and passionate love for the Savior in spite of severe trials.



Photo by Scott VanLue

# United States

Our Savior has promised to build his church. We are amazed that he allows us to join in this work, and we hope these snapshots provide a glimpse of the eternal fruit of your generosity. Because of your faithful participation in our mission, there are more stories to tell than there is space to tell them.

### 2007: Four New Churches

As this brochure goes to print, the year 2007 has brought four new churches to the Sovereign Grace family.

Two of these were previously established churches that joined Sovereign Grace. We are overjoyed to welcome Covenant Life Fellowship (Roseburg, OR) and Lifegate Church (Seguin, TX), and we are humbled by their desire to join us.

Two other new churches this year were planted by Pastors College graduates in Altoona, Pennsylvania, and Vancouver, Washington.

(To see a list of Sovereign Grace churches, visit [SovereignGraceMinistries.org](http://SovereignGraceMinistries.org).)

**1997, 30 Churches  
in 14 States**

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**2007, 63 Churches  
in 24 States**

# Altoona, PA



**Senior pastor: Tom Kurtz**  
**Planted: July 2007**

Sovereign Grace Church of Central Pennsylvania started public Sunday meetings on July 8.

Senior pastor Tom Kurtz, originally from Altoona, was a member of the Sovereign Grace church in Indiana, Pennsylvania, before attending our Pastors College. After his graduation, Sovereign Grace Ministries supported him during a church-planting internship.

As the Altoona church-planting team assembled, nearby churches sent worship teams, musicians, and outreach teams. As Tom says, "Other Sovereign Grace churches care; they want to be here; they want to help." The Altoona church plant is not a solo endeavor. We are partners in the gospel with Sovereign Grace Church of Central Pennsylvania.



# Vancouver, WA

**Senior pastor: Dan Morse**  
**Planted: August 2007**

In August of this year, Christ Our Redeemer Church held their first public Sunday meeting in Vancouver, Washington (a suburb of Portland, Oregon).

Senior pastor Dan Morse graduated from our Pastors College in 2006. He then spent a year in a church-planting internship at CrossWay Community Church in Surrey, British Columbia, before moving to Vancouver, Washington, to plant the church. (Vancouver, Washington, is about 300 miles south of the better-known Vancouver, British Columbia.)

Dan says, “We would not exist if it were not for the grace-filled generosity of so many people in other Sovereign Grace churches. Christ Our Redeemer Church is the fruit of faithful giving by others who see gospel proclamation and church planting as a kingdom priority.”



# Pastors College

It is our privilege to spread the gospel by equipping men for pastoral ministry in Sovereign Grace churches. We want to train pastors who “watch their lives and doctrine closely” (1Ti 4:16). To that end, the Pastors College provides intensive biblical, theological, pastoral, and personal training for our full-time students, as well as resources and instruction for Sovereign Grace pastors.

### God's Grace: Ten Years of the Pastors College

May 2007 marked the graduation of the tenth Pastors College class. This first decade has been filled with experiences of God's grace. Among them:

- The Pastors College has graduated 164 men. Of these, 131 are in full-time ministry and 29 are senior pastors.
- Forty percent of Sovereign Grace churches are led by Pastors College graduates.

— Pastors College graduates have planted 17 churches.

— Guest instructors have included Jerry Bridges, Dr. Wayne Grudem, Dr. Iain Duguid, and others.

— Sovereign Grace Ministries has purchased three townhouses for student housing.

— The Pastors College has hosted conferences for students and pastors on administration, evangelism, and biblical counseling.

**10** Years, **164** Grads,  
**29** Senior Pastors,  
**17** Church Plants by  
Graduates

# Joselo Mercado

Joselo and Kathy Mercado were part of the church-planting team for Grace Community Church (Ashburn, VA) in 2001. Joselo led a Spanish-speaking small group there and eventually became a pastoral intern. He entered the Pastors College in 2006.

A native of Puerto Rico, Joselo plans to start a Spanish-speaking church in Gaithersburg, Maryland. His training at the Pastors College helped equip him for this task in vital ways, from doctrinal instruction to biblical counseling and more. Joselo says, “The Pastors College helped me see that the church belongs to God—it’s his work.”

In 2008, Sovereign Grace Ministries will join with Covenant Life Church to fund the launch of this new church, our second Spanish-speaking church in the United States.



# Looking Forward

**\$120,000**

Average cost to plant a church in the United States

**23,000+**

Total current attendance in Sovereign Grace churches

**\$90,000**

Projected annual cost to operate the Latin American Pastors College

**20**

Sovereign Grace churches planted since the year 2000

**\$50,000**

Average cost to support an international student at the Pastors College

**10**

Bald senior pastors in Sovereign Grace Ministries

**1**

Total attempts by C.J. Mahaney to inflate his own car tires (he failed)

Thanks for reading this overview of our 2007 Mission Fund. International ministry, church development in the United States, and training leaders at the Pastors College—these form the core of our mission: to plant and build local churches with the gospel, for God's glory.

As you read this, 21 students from six countries are studying at the Pastors College. We are formulating a strategy to train more leaders and accelerate our church-planting efforts. And locations for new churches are already planned.

Sovereign Grace Ministries does other things too (such as publishing books and music and holding conferences), but these things are not financed by the Mission Fund. Mission Fund donations will go to the most important work we do—planting and supporting churches and developing church leaders.\*

Through your giving and your faithful participation in your local church, you are an integral part of what God is doing. Thank you.

\*For a copy of our most recent audited financial statements, visit us online at [www.SovereignGraceMinistries.org](http://www.SovereignGraceMinistries.org).

# Thank You



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