

# Grace Place Ministries, Inc.

Ordinary People Serving an Extraordinary God

January 2024

## "DO-OVERS"

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! I stopped making New Year's Resolutions years ago because I usually didn't keep them for long! What I started doing was to take "inventory" of the past year, and asked myself did I want to repeat some of the same mistakes and failures! I asked myself questions such as:

- Did I deny the Lord in any way?
- Did I disobey Him when He asked me to do something?
- Did I forgive or hold bitterness in my heart?
- Did I misrepresent Him to others? Was I unkind?
- Did I critically judge, gossip, or slander anyone?
- Did I take offense or did I offend?
- Did I act out of pride instead of humility?
- Did I stay "busy" instead of spending time with the Lord or be in His Word?
- Did I murmur & complain instead of being thankful?
- Did I have "pity parties"? And yes.....I did! And I provided refreshments for the party!!

HERE'S GREAT NEWS.....WE GET "A DO-OVER" FOR THIS NEW YEAR!!

I encourage you to read and be encouraged by the following scriptures concerning Jesus' Disciples and how they failed Him: Matthew 26:35-46 We know that Peter said he would never deny Jesus but he did three times in saying "**I do not know the Man**" as he swore and cursed. But in verse 35 the Word says "**And so said all the disciples.**" They ALL denied Him!

We read that when Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane He asked three of His disciples to watch and pray as He cried out in agony and three times He came to them and found them sleeping. When they came to arrest Jesus verse 56 says, "**Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.**"

John 21:1-17 is such a beautiful description of our Jesus and His unconditional love! When the disciples went back to fishing after Jesus' death, Jesus appeared on the beach cooking breakfast for the very ones who denied and forsook Him! He didn't condemn them or make them feel shamed and guilty. He didn't give them the cold shoulder but He lovingly prepared them breakfast and simply asked Peter and really all of them....and us...., "**Do you love me?**" The Lord knows that we are going to mess up and it is so important to repent for our mistakes and sins but He is really just wanting us to love Him! John 14:15, "**If you really love Me, you will keep (obey) My commandments.**" He is asking us a simple question, "**Will you love me more in 2024??**" We can look in the rear view mirror at the past, or we can look forward and ask the Father to help us love Him more than ever before. The Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 13:13-14, "**No, dear brothers, I am still not all I should be, but I am bringing all my energies to bear on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God is calling us up to heaven because of what Christ Jesus did for us.**" NLT

I pray we all will ask the Lord to give us more love for Him, others, & our own selves. I love You Lord, but I want to love You more!! I love you all and pray that his new year will find us all more in love with the Only One who is worthy of our praise and honor!!

Love, Rhonda





TOTAL SERVED in 2023

44,569

3 meals a week & groceries twice monthly

### Our Current Needs:

Finances

Mens Jeans

Tennis Shoes (for all)

Bleach

Triple Divided Plates

33 Gallon Trash Bags

### A Prayer for the New Year

Lord,  
Whether I leave behind  
a year of joy or of trials and difficulties,

I pause to *give thanks*.  
Thank you for being with me  
every day of every year.

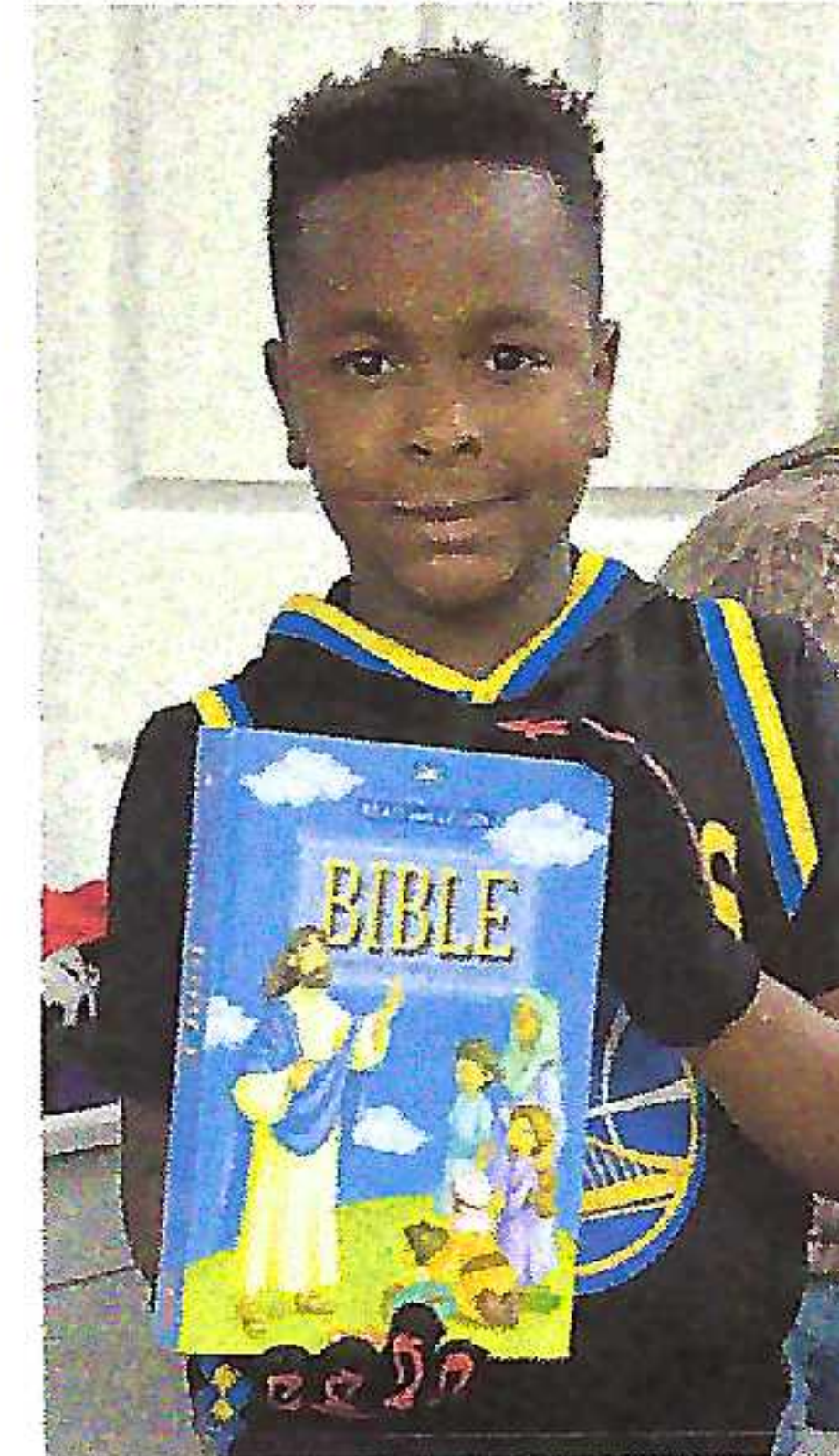
Thank you for making all things *new*  
and for giving me the grace of  
fresh starts

and *new beginnings*.  
Remind me of your presence in the days to  
come,  
even when I feel pushed and rushed by  
busyness.

Be glorified in my life this year.

*Amen*

*Thank you to all who generously  
donated !! We were able  
to bless **712** children through  
our Christmas Outreach Program !!*



Learn how you can help at  
[www.GracePlaceMinistries.org](http://www.GracePlaceMinistries.org)



1600 Jackson Street, Monroe, LA 71202  
PO Box 602, Monroe, LA 71210  
318.361.9702  
[graceplacela@gmail.com](mailto:graceplacela@gmail.com)