

# Words of Victory

MINISTRIES

*Using every godly means available to cast God's Word like seed as far and as fast as possible. (Matthew 13)*



groveave.com/stephen-ministry

**HELP  
HOPE  
HEALING**

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## GOD WILL DELIVER US | BY DR. BEN GUTIERREZ



I have grown in my appreciation for one of my many predecessors, the 9th pastor of our church, Dr. W.C. James. He pastored from 1908–1919 when our church was just 52 years young. In 1918, the

Spanish flu ripped across our nation and around the world, fatally afflicting up to an estimated 50 million people. He had to pastor our flock simultaneously through deep fear and the uncertainty of the Spanish flu, and World War I. Churches were banned from congregating; school-age students were sent home, unable to be educated while away from school. Pastors lived in frustration that they couldn't meet with their precious people. Some pastors protested, while other pastors maintained the letter of the law while meeting en masse outside. Many people remained suspicious of both sides of the political aisle, wondering if these restrictions were a morbid form of religious oppression.

Pastors utilized every means of communications to get the good news out to a lost and literally dying world. Pastors printed their sermons in full-page ads in newspapers. Churches secured boy scouts who volunteered to deliver Sunday school lessons to their parishioners. The demand upon the telephone system was so high that the government restricted telephone use at intermittent times so as to distribute the demand evenly across the re-gions.

Long-distance telephone use was reserved for governmental business and emergencies. People felt cut off from meaningful communication to anyone except those within their own home.

It is interesting to hear what they went through during the last major pandemic. But if you replace the word "newspapers" with "Internet", "boy scouts" with "emails", "Sunday school lessons" with "Zoom meetings", and "restricted phone usage" with "spotty internet bandwidth", you have principally what we are experiencing to-day. And just like how God brought us through that horrific pandemic 102 years ago, I have the privilege of testi-fying that the SAME God will deliver us though this pandemic today!

I am also privileged to say that God has given us an incredible platform and voice to the church and the community through The Victory Hour broadcasts and webcasts. When other churches were facing severe challenges with conducting their services, we were able to gather the faithful around the state and our nation for a time of worship and to share a message of hope. We have also had the honor of ministering to pastors from many denominations. We have received calls, letters, and emails from many who have been blessed by our efforts. Even governmental representatives have contacted us to express their appreciation.

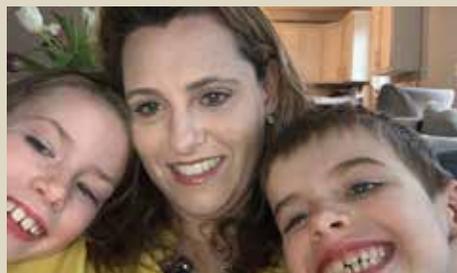
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## LIFE DURING PANDEMIC



People placed homemade signs in their yards, promoting the LIVE broadcast of *The Victory Hour*. Others handed out flyers for Palm Sunday and Easter.



Families worship together from their homes, including the Cobb family (Victoria and sons, Timothy & Daniel, pictured).



*The Victory Hour* worship service is for all ages (Little Josiah Brooks praying with Pastor Ben).

### DO YOU NEED HELP WITH A PROBLEM THAT FEELS TOO BIG TO HANDLE ALONE?

The Christian Counseling & Training Center (CCTC) is a non-profit ministry designed to serve people who have problems they cannot handle alone. The range of problems it deals with includes broken and dysfunctional marriages, parent-child relationships, depression, alcohol and drug abuse, and any number of other problems that result in personal and interpersonal turmoil and distress.

Email: [counseling@cctcinc.org](mailto:counseling@cctcinc.org)  
Call: (804) 358-1343



## THANK YOU | BY REV. MARK JENKINS



I'm wearing a mask made for me by my daughter-in-law Sarah. She fashioned the mask from the Psalm 91 bandanas that we hand out in Israel.

The psalm is written in Hebrew and reminds us that God is our refuge and our strength and that we are not to fear *"the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday."*

This has been an incredible season, unlike anything the world has seen for more than a hundred years. No one alive today has ever had to contend with something like this. In this season of plague, I am thankful that the Lord has preserved for us a platform to proclaim His Truth and provide hope to the people of Virginia and to those who watch across our nation and overseas. *The Victory Hour* has been a vital link for the church for its membership, but also a vital connection to the community of faith at large. I thank the Lord for allowing us this opportunity, and I believe it comes to us because of our faithfulness to stay true to the Word of God. I also believe it is because of the divine

partnership of our TV crew, volunteers, our caring listeners (including church staff that joined that effort), and those in our community who continue to contribute to the ministry to cover our airtime expenses and webcast. Let me say thank you to the Lord. Thanks to the TV crew for your courage and dedication. Thanks to the Words of Victory staff for stepping up communications and to the church staff for their support. Thanks to those who answered the phones as our calls increased, and thanks to all who pray for and support this television ministry. No other ministry was literally at the standby, ready and able to go with live worship the way we did in the days of COVID-19. To God be the glory, great things He hath done!

The glory and honor go to the Lord whom we also thank for the many volunteers that make up the ministry. Over a hundred volunteers make up the TV crew, Caring Listeners, and Stephen Ministers. We also thank our pastors and ministry leaders for their help during this unprecedented period. And we thank those in the community who pray for and support these ministry efforts—our Agape fellowship and members of our television family.

## HOLY WEEK ON THE AIR

Right from the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, Words of Victory has worked to facilitate a live worship experience to the people of Virginia and beyond. We engaged NBC12 to effectively partner with them to promote our ministry as a service to the community and as a "community service". That is a bit of a play on words, but it means that we worked to make sure that our principal broadcast partner understood the value of providing a message of hope, and to address the community of faith in a season when most churches were closed. This was especially important, given that all of this occurred during the Passover and Holy Week of Easter. *The*



Pastor Ben Gutierrez interviewed by local NBC12

*Victory Hour* would become the largest live gathering of the faithful throughout the Commonwealth for Holy Week. Perhaps the station responded by promoting *The Victory Hour* in their news programs, including interviewing Pastor Ben on three separate occasions (one taped interview and two live shots). We appreciate our relationship with NBC12 that has endured for over three decades!



## KEEPING COMMUNICATIONS UP AS THE WORLD CLOSES DOWN

Words of Victory and corresponding Media Ministry operations have not slowed down during this extraordinary period of church closings. In fact, we have been busier than before. To keep *The Victory Hour* on the air, we have developed an ongoing “Snow Team” or in this case a “COVID Crew”. The TV crew is contacted by phone or text during the week. All the TV volunteers are essentially on standby for duty. A smaller subset has been selected to work each week, based on their exposure. We are trying to assess week to week the health and exposure risk of the active crew in order to protect the production of the program. Extra measures are taken each week to clean surfaces before and after use. The volunteers are to be commended for their willingness to come in and work under these circumstances. It should also be emphasized that even while some crew had to remain at home, the ministry is



The Victory Hour - COVID Crew

based on the efforts of the entire crew. Each and every one is valued for their service which has kept *The Victory Hour* on the air. During this season of closings, the Media Ministry has further worked hard to keep up with church communications with changes and updates to the church websites and social media. Videos have been made and posted with information about church activities and as encouragement. The ministry has proven itself in these days to be a vital lifeline for the church and an effective ministry to the community.

## EMILY PETTIT LEADS WORSHIP ON THE VICTORY HOUR



Emily Pettit has stepped in to help lead the worship for *The Victory Hour* in this season of transition. She is joined by Chad Damon, Grove’s new youth

pastor and her fiancé. In accepting this new role, Emily said, “It is our goal in this season to point you to Christ and to Christ alone.” Emily is a graduate of Liberty University. She will serve in the Worship Ministry until a new worship pastor is appointed later this year.

## “I WILL TRUST GOD NO MATTER WHAT”

In his series, “Mission Possible: Trust”, Pastor Ben encouraged the church and television family to trust God no matter what. It was a timely message, given the uncertainty of the days we live in with the great challenge of dealing with a pandemic and its effects on the nation’s physical, mental, and economic well-being. Members of the viewing audience were encouraged to take the pledge, write it on a Post-it Note, and share a picture! People of all ages joined in the pledge.



Allie and Faith Hobbs share their pledge

## LETTERS FROM VIEWERS



Dear Pastor Ben,

Your repetition of the phrases of “God’s got this” and “He is a big God” is good to hear during these days. Thanks for it all and bless you in your ministry at Grove Avenue.

~ A Viewer in N. Chesterfield, VA

Dear WOV Media Team,

Thank you all so much for the Jesus-honoring job you do each Sunday! So many people—now even more so—are depending on WOV’s “Victory Hour” program! God is well-pleased at your selflessness and faithfulness. May God bless and protect each of you and your loved ones.

~ A viewer in North Chesterfield, VA

Dear Grove Family,

I am so thankful for our TV Ministry—always—but especially now!

~ A viewer in Glen Allen, VA

Dear Pastor Ben,

I love the way your kindness and love come across in what you say. You are always positive and hopeful and openminded. I can see why people are tuning in and getting help. God is giving you the strength and passion you have. I like your delivery. I think you are meeting the needs of the younger generation during this crisis. We will keep watching your service online—even when we start back up at our church.

~ A viewer in Richmond, VA

Dear Rev. Jenkins,

I watch “The Victory Hour” every Sunday and enjoy it very much. I like the new preacher. I have a lot of medical problems. Please pray for me. God bless.

~ A viewer in Midlothian, VA

Dear WOV Staff and Crew,

The Lord is using your lives to paint a beautiful picture of His love. For each one working, I am praying God’s protection. Please feel my thankfulness for your work and prayers in this time. God bless!

~ A viewer in Richmond, VA



## A PARADE FOR PASTOR WARNER



More than a hundred vehicles (including vintage cars and motorcycles) lined up for a parade in honor of Pastor Vander Warner, Jr. The parade was organized by the Rockville Community Church as a surprise for their beloved pastor and joined by members of Grove Avenue Baptist Church. "I've never seen anything like this," said Vander who was quite moved by the display of affection.



Cars lined up in the new subdivision of Goochland County and drove in with their horns sounding and hands waving. Footage was recorded by the Rockville music leader Michael Souter, a personal friend of Pastor Warner. Watch the parade at <https://bit.ly/2Xxoch1/> on Youtube. The event even made the NBC12 news!

## ISRAEL YOUTH TOUR

Words of Victory is excited to be in the planning stages of a summer youth program that would involve taking students to Israel!

We know the positive impact that a trip to Israel can have on our faith, and we are looking forward to sharing it with the next generation at Grove!

## REVIVING THE CHURCH IN AMERICA

BY REV. MARK JENKINS

Since the COVID-19 crisis began, pastors and Christian leaders from around the world have been gathering virtually, using the now familiar Zoom software to facilitate a time of prayer and worship. Hosted by the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem (ICEJ), prayers are offered each week for Israel and for the nations. The earnest desire of the participants is to seek the Lord's face in this extraordinary time in history. The hope is for the Lord to bring a great revival of the church out of a pandemic that has given pause to the entire world. "My dear family of God, let us pray that God will deal with us, that the church will rise up to be refined and purified and made ready for the work that Jesus has called us to at this time," said ICEJ co-founder Malcolm Heading.

Recently, prayers have turned to America as our nation faces a new crisis of civil unrest that is coming out of an already difficult season. American evangelicals are also very concerned, and prayers for peace and reconciliation are going up from congregations across the nation. "America is in serious trouble," said Dr. Ed Hindson, Dean Emeritus of the School of Divinity at Liberty University. In an open letter to the church, he stated, "The social, political, and spiritual divide in our society is greater than it has ever been... The chaos playing out on television and social media has exposed the deep divide in the empty soul of the nation. America has been deliberately and progressively turning its back on God for the past 50 years... In this environment, the basic instincts of those on every side of the divide call out for revenge, retaliation, and destruction."

Dr. Tony Evans, pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas and author of "Stronger Together, Weaker Apart", said, "First we have to understand the root of the problem. 2 Chronicles 15 says that because there was a spiritual departure, there is no peace in the land. And then it says in verse 6 that God troubles them with every kind of distress. We are starting in the wrong place.

*If God is your problem, then it does not matter what program you put in place or who you elected. All of that becomes secondary, for if God is your problem, only God is your solution."* Dr. Evans sees the church as essential in bringing about unity, and he is calling on a national solemn assembly to invite God back into the culture.

Speaking to the current civil unrest, Dr. Hindson said, "The truly prophetic voices in America have been warning for the past 50 years that unless there is genuine revival in our nation, this would be the inevitable result. Sincere believers have been praying for and calling for such a revival for an entire generation. That time has now come. Perhaps God has pulled back the curtain to reveal our deepest need for repentance, regeneration, and revival on every side."

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**"IF MY PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND PRAY AND SEEK MY FACE AND TURN AWAY FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS, THEN I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND I WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN AND WILL HEAL THEIR LAND." 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)**

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"This is a time when our hearts need to turn back to God. As it says in 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV), 'If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.'

Hindson continues, "America is strongest when we pull together, and weakest when we pull apart. More than ever, we all need to pray for God's intervention before it is too late. Believers—black, white, rich, poor and everybody in-between—need to come together to pray, talk, act, and support one another. America needs healing, and it must begin with the heart."



*Continued from Page 1*

So, while we did not welcome the pandemic and greatly miss the warmth of undistanced fellowship, we are grateful—very grateful—that the Lord has preserved this amazing ministry of

television to be able to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in this extraordinary season. Thank you for watching, thank you for praying for this ministry, and thank you to all who volunteer and support this ministry with your gifts.

## WORDS OF VICTORY: WHY WE NEED IT

If there was ever a season which proved the value of the Television Ministry, this is it!

Words of Victory is primarily a volunteer organization of over a hundred wonderful people who give of their time and talent to answer the phones, answer the mail and email, help with pastoral care, and carry out technical operations. They do it because they all want to tell our world about Jesus, a statement of faith and purpose that is literally written on the side of our television cameras in the worship center. So when you give to the ministry, you are joining this dedicated group

of believers in this unique ministry for our time. We must have the regular financial support of people in the community to keep *The Victory Hour* on the air. Nearly all of our donations go toward airtime purchase which is, by far, our biggest expense. When you give, please make your donations to WORDS OF VICTORY MINISTRIES.

With your help and that of our volunteers and pastors, we can continue to bring a message of hope each and every week no matter the season! Join *The Victory Hour* LIVE on Sundays 11am EST local NBC12 or [groveave.tv/](http://groveave.tv/).

## COVID-19 COUNSELORS: PHONES RELOCATED

Calls in response to our live broadcasts of *The Victory Hour* have increased significantly during this time of social distancing and insolation. There have been calls for prayer from those suffering with anxiety, or those struggling with loved ones in the hospital or in nursing homes, or those wanting prayer for their children and grandchildren. To respond to these calls, phones in the Church Call Center have been relocated by the Words of Victory Ministry volunteers into the homes of our TV counselors known as “Caring Listeners”. These off-site phones supplement the limited number of Caring Listeners in the building, allowing the church to



*Dr. Meloy, Caring Listener, Working Remotely*

meet state guidelines for social distancing. In recent weeks, the church staff has joined the Caring Listeners in answering phones on Sunday. There are a great number of people needing a personal touch, a word of encouragement, and prayer. Our thanks to all who answer the calls from our community and to all who work to make the technology possible!

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 2020

Pastor Ben was the keynote speaker for the Virginia contingent of the National Day of Prayer. A message was delivered from Grove’s worship center, using Zoom software for a virtual gathering. Words of Victory produced the

Zoom event that was then recorded and posted to the National Day of Prayer site. Ben’s message was recorded separately and shared on Grove’s website and other social sites on the Day of Prayer, which was May 7th.

# stephen MINISTRY at GROVE



STEPHEN  
MINISTRY

HELP  
HOPE  
HEALING

**There are many hurting people around us.**

There is a real demand for trained Christian caregivers who can help hurting individuals walk through their difficulty. This is where Stephen Ministry comes in. Stephen Ministry trains Christian individuals to become a caregiver for hurting people.

[groveave.com/stephen-ministry](http://groveave.com/stephen-ministry)

## ONE-ON-ONE MINISTRY IN A SEASON OF COVID-19

Our Stephen Ministry is still thriving, in spite of COVID-19. When we had to begin using CDC protocols, our Stephen Ministers and their care receivers began communicating by telephone and Zoom. Even though we are grateful for the technologies available to us, both parties have felt like something is missing without hugs and up-close fellowship. For the past 3 weeks my care receiver and I, neither of which have at-risk diseases, have begun meeting in the parking lot of a closed store. We park a car distance between us and set out our lawn chairs at the back of our cars from 6-10 feet apart. The security guard waves to us and smiles as he drives by. Being able to talk face to face has really enhanced our communication once again. Many of our care receivers are at risk and must remain sheltered in place. Our prayer is that protocols will be relaxed enough that we can meet face to face in the near future. May God make His presence known to you in special ways during this difficult time.

Blessings, Linda Solomon



8701 Ridge Road, Richmond, Virginia 23229

[www.wordsofvictory.net](http://www.wordsofvictory.net)

Watch  
**The Victory Hour**  
 SUNDAY, 11AM  
 on **NBC12** or  
**[www.GroveAve.tv](http://www.GroveAve.tv)**



*The LORD is my strength and my shield;  
 my heart trust is in him, and he helps  
 me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my  
 song I praise him.*

~ Psalm 28:7

When we are not on the air due to special programming, we encourage our regular viewers to visit our website at **[www.groveave.tv](http://www.groveave.tv)** on those Sundays to watch the live webcast of our full service. You may also view past sermons and TV specials on your computer, tablet, or cell phone.

## You Make a Difference

This ministry is made possible by the generous gifts of our faithful viewers. We simply could not afford the airtime without your help. You can see that we are behind in our projected budget needs. Please pray that our budgetary needs will be met so that we may continue with our local broadcasts.

	CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED Year-To-Date	WOV BUDGET NEEDS Year-To-Date
Year-to-Date 2020	\$125,923.16	\$145,000



Grove Avenue Baptist Church, through its Media Ministry and Words of Victory Ministries, is a member of the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB). NRB is an association of Christian communicators that fosters electronic media access for the gospel; promotes standards of excellence, integrity, and accountability; and provides networking and fellowship opportunities for its members.