

Grace-Oriented Churches

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As a mission, East West Ministries often speaks of establishing “grace-oriented” churches. By this we do not intend to communicate that we want to work with churches that we feel have arrived at some super-spiritual level. On the contrary, we desire to assist national pastors and church planters who recognize that they have not “arrived,” but who humbly desire to carry on ministry that more and more reflects an understanding of what it means to be recipients of God’s grace and exhibits the communication of grace in a gracious manner to others.

Our understanding of Scripture is that churches are to be committed to teaching and living out the New Covenant principles of grace (2 Corinthians 3). We seek to encourage church leaders, therefore, to try to lead their churches to live out the biblical principles of grace. We believe that the more churches become grace-oriented the more effective they can be in evangelism and follow up of new believers, and the more likely they will be able to foster a church planting movement. Here are a few characteristics we pray God will develop in churches we plant and assist:

- Preaching salvation by grace alone through faith in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8, 9)
- Teaching assurance of salvation based on the promises of Scripture (1 John 5:10-13).
- Exhibiting a warm acceptance toward seekers (Revelation 22:17).
- Developing a loving atmosphere in which new believers are warmly accepted (Philippians 2:1-4).
- Developing evangelistic strategies and church services that honor biblical principles, but do not allow traditional forms and rules to limit effective ministry (Matthew 23).
- Teaching and encouraging members of the church to live under grace. (See “Grace Living” document.)