

## **Forty Years and Counting!**

A 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pledge to Faithfulness

By Philip Pinto @ Village Bible Church on 9/24/17

We the people of Village Bible Church (formerly Grace Evangelical Free Church) of Cherokee Village, AR, honoring the 40 year heritage of this church and her consistent commitment to being evangelical in her efforts to make disciples of all nations both locally and abroad, do hereby rededicate ourselves to this commitment.

We pledge our intent to engage in the Great Commission given by Jesus to “Go... and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever [Jesus] commanded” (Matt. 28:19-20) and to “be witnesses unto [Jesus] both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Ac. 1:8). This includes not only a passion for reaching those who do not yet recognize Jesus as their Lord and Savior, but also a personal desire to “grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.” (1 Pet. 3:18)

We do, therefore, further pledge to “hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering,” to hold one another accountable, to spur each other on to love and good works, and to do so with a

goal of love and unity in the body of Christ without forsaking the assembling of ourselves together (Heb. 10:24-25).

Remaining a church where “the whole Bible is taught as the Word of God” regardless of pressure to compromise this value, we acknowledge the authority and authenticity of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, and declare our commitment to proclaim its unchanging truth. These are able to make us “wise unto salvation” (2 Tim. 3:15), and the bold proclamation of their truth is necessary to develop disciples who are not “tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive” (Ep. 4:14). Our aim in the pursuit of the truth of Scripture is that we always speak “the truth in love,” and that we would “grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ” (Ep. 4:15). This requires sound teaching at all levels, which can only be recognized to the extent that each of us maintain a personal commitment to studying the Word at home and with our families.

Affirming our reliance on the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit as believers in the shed blood of Jesus Christ for our salvation from sin that puts us in a right relationship with God the Father, we do with our signatures below commit to the aforementioned pledge.