

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG111 – Friends And Fellow Workers

Hello, and welcome to this podcast. I am titling this *Friends And Fellow Workers*. I was in a time of just reevaluating the ministry and what we are doing here at Hargrave Ministries, as it has been two years now since we established our website, which was done in September of 2020. So I have been thinking about what we have done and the progress we have made over these last couple of years, and I wanted to share some of those things with you. But first, I want to talk about some Scriptures that deal with Paul and his ministry, because it is a foundation for a desire that I have to see people feel more involved with Hargrave Ministries; not only just to understand what we are doing and the progress we have made, but also to understand, really, how much we need those who are going to be with us and assisting us in moving forward in the things of God. And that is why I want to call this *Friends And Fellow Workers*, because my prayer is that we are going to find more of those who are going to be friends and fellow workers with the ministry.

First of all, I would like to thank all of those who have participated so much, both in your prayers, as well as in your financial giving, and others who have worked in different aspects of the ministry over these last two years. I am very grateful to the Lord for you, and dependent upon all of this assistance. This is something as a ministry that cannot be done single-handedly. It is not my ministry, it is a vision that I am believing to participate with in the fulfillment of what God has shown; but it takes more than just myself or my family to accomplish these things. It is going to take those that God would burden and really give a revelation to about Hargrave Ministries, and what we are believing for. And so, I do want to talk about that a little bit today, and have the vision out there for people to receive the burden of. I am believing for God to speak to people. Know that we need you, whether it is for prayer and spiritual support, or financial support; all of these things are really necessary in order to continue to progress in what God is showing us to do. I was so struck as I was reading the Scriptures about Paul, because we think of Paul in the strength of his ministry; he was a tremendous apostle of God, and he moved in so much and accomplished so much. He wrote much of the New Testament, and we really are, I think, taken by the anointing that was on him and the experiences that he had, and what God commissioned him to do. When we read the New Testament, much of it is about him and what he was doing in the churches; it is a picture of who he was and how he moved. And yet, at the same time, I think sometimes we forget the assistance that he had, and how necessary it was that many really helped him. And so, I want to look at some of the Scriptures that point this out.

One of them is Romans the sixteenth chapter. It starts in verse 1 and goes through verse 24. There is a lot of feeling that we get here for not only how many people really helped him, but the relationship that existed. And we began to see that the relationship that God brings among those who are burdened for the moving of the ministry was a great reality at that time surrounding Paul. And that is part of the sense that I am believing for, that God is going to bring, not just those who have a burden to see things move, but that there be a depth of real relationship among them. And that, again, is why they were called friends, and fellow workers. Many times they were called fellow prisoners, and maybe they were physically prisoners with Paul at times that he was in jail. But I think, also, there is a spiritual aspect of

just being bound together in the burden of the ministry. So I want to start with verse 1 of Roman 16. "I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea; that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well. Greet Prisca and Aquila" – now we know Prisca is also referred to as Priscilla in other Scriptures, but here she is called Prisca – "Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus." So here we see Paul using this terminology about fellow workers. "Who for my life risked their own necks, to whom not only do I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles." Somehow these people literally had put their life on the line in their helping of Paul. So these relationships were very deep, they were very committed. It is something that we see as the strength of the New Testament, of how the churches were built. They were built on these relationships one with another, born out of the revelation of the Word that was being brought, the messages being brought, the ministry, and the people themselves in a relationship. I believe we are going to find that kind of depth as we go forward into the Kingdom, of relationships that God brings together in order to fulfill the ministry that He has given.

Going on to verses 5-7, it says, "Also greet the church that is in their house. Greet Epaphroditus, my beloved, who is the first convert to Christ from Asia. Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you. Greet Andronicus and Junias, my kinsman and my fellow prisoners, who are outstanding among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me." So we again see these ones that were given. Paul goes on down through so many more in these verses. I encourage you to read them on your own to get the feeling and the sense of who these people were, and the relationships that they had together and that they had with Paul, as they worked together in bringing about the ministry that we think of as Paul, but we realize was greater than just Paul himself.

In verses 16-19, he says, "Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you. Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting. For the report of your obedience has reached to all; therefore, I am rejoicing over you, but I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil." So we see even at this time, which I know the church is still going through today, where there were conflicts, there were those who were working against the ministry; there were those who were being a negative force and influence trying to bring destruction to the churches, trying to take away from what Paul was doing, take away from the teaching. And we experience those same things today. But he is using that, again, to draw into a closer relationship and oneness those who were with him; and he is urging them to be together. He says, "Look, you guys greet one another with a holy kiss. You guys stay in a depth of oneness and relationship. But keep an eye on these other things, so that you are not deceived and you are not drawn away, and you are not allowing them to bring damage to what the ministry is, or to the churches. And by the way, the report of your obedience has reached to all." Paul was always in a process of informing the churches of those who were helping him, and those who were one with him. So, again, we see this as a great relationship. We also see the fruit of it. In verses 20-21, it says, "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. Timothy my fellow worker greets you." So he goes on; and again, I encourage you to read these verses, because they express something so important about the early Church and how they functioned, worked together, and worked with the apostolic ministries.

In First Corinthians 3, starting at verses 5-6, he says, “What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.” Here Paul is talking about how the ministry was accomplished through the service of the anointing that they had, but God was causing the growth; and they were just all working together in the process of the ministry as God was leading. Verses 7-9 go on to say, “So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers.” They saw themselves as working together, as fellow workers under this anointing and in the ministry; that God was going to bring forth the fruit, each one was going to receive their reward in their own hearts and spirits for their participation in what God was doing, but they were seeing themselves as fellow workers. And I want that sense in us that we really are laboring together in something that is a vision and a revelation to us.

Obviously, each of the apostles had situations like this. We have referred to it as “apostolic companies,” because it was not just the apostle or the prophets; it was those who surrounded them, who continued to work together with them to see each of the ministries accomplish. Peter had this same thing. We know that John found himself surrounded by those who were fellow workers with himself. So, God raised up around the apostolic ministries during that early Church those who were really a help and a force behind what they were trying to accomplish. And it is going to take that in this day and age. There is no single ministry. And I know sometimes we have that idea that we watch ministries, that it is kind of a one-man show; but I do not think that is what Paul or the other apostles were. They were companies of people moving together to accomplish the anointing and the commission that God had given them.

In Philippians 4:1, Paul talks about this. He says, “Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.” See, the depth of relationship and heart that they had for one another. Verse 3 goes on, “Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.” So Paul recognized that those who were working with him were receiving a reward from the Lord, but they were fellow workers together. And I love that terminology, the friends and the fellow workers. That is what I am longing to see God raise up within and around Hargrave Ministries, that there are those who are friends and fellow workers together, and that we all feel as though what it is God is doing is the fruit and the accomplishment of each and every one of us – not just of myself, or one or two, but it is something that God is raising up a company of friends and fellow workers. That is what I am believing for as we go on from this time period. As I said, we have been two years now in the development of this ministry, but I feel like it is time to expand into more that are participating in it. And I, again, am so thankful, and I want to thank again here those who work so diligently in the aspects of administration, or the editing of the messages, all of these things – everything that you find on the website that is put out, somebody outside of myself is very involved in making these things happen. And I so appreciate that, and there is no way that this ministry will go on without the coming forth of a team of friends and fellow workers together to see this all happen.

Philippians 2, verses 23 and 25, are other good examples of this idea of fellow workers, and greeting one another. But I also want to go down and point out Third John, starting at verses 1 through 15. Read these verses, because here we have somebody besides just Paul relating to this concept of those who are working with him and helping him. He says in verses 1-5, “The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth. Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul

prospers. For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to your truth, that is, how you are walking in truth. I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth. Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, and especially when they are strangers.” So it just continues through these verses; and again, please take the time to read these, to get the sense yourself of the depth of these relationships. John here starts out saying, “My beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth.” You see the love and the depth of emotion and relationship that these people had because they were fellow soldiers, fellow workers in the things of God. I will jump down to verses 13-15; he said, “I had many things to write to you, but I am not willing to write them to you with pen and ink; but I hope to see you shortly, and we will speak face to face. Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.” Once again, he talks about this relationship and this friendship that they had together as they moved in the things of God.

I just believe, Lord, that You are going to provide those who are going to be friends and fellow workers with Hargrave Ministries. Touch their heart, open their spirit to the revelation of what it is we are doing, and Your calling on them, because it needs to be as much of a calling on them as it is on myself to be doing this. So I believe, Lord, You are going to draw those who are called to be a part and anointed to be a part. And I believe for that in a very deep way.

I want to go on and talk a little about what has been happening. Again, we started the website in September of 2020, so we are right into two years now of the website in existence. I encourage you, go read through the website and see what Hargrave Ministries is all about and what we are doing. Check out the blogs, the podcasts; look at what we have called the resources up to this time. We are now calling those study guides instead of resources, because I think it is a clearer explanation of the material that is there. But the point is, we want to get this teaching, this Word, out to people. We need your prayers to see that it is anointed of God, that God leads us in the timing and the revelation of the teaching. I want the Word that comes to be timely; I want the teaching and the messages to be very timely. And I am looking to see that we can try to keep this material going out for free. The podcasts are free. The blogs are free. The study guides are free. So much of the material is free. I know we will probably be selling some of the books. At this point, most of the books have been distributed for a gift of a dollar or more, and so it is not really bringing in a lot of cash, to say the least. And, again, it is part of the burden that I have to see these things of the teaching go out without a cost, but that people be able to get their hands on it for free. Well, in order to do that, of course, it takes the financial support from others who have the same vision and revelation and desire to see that material go out and people be able to obtain that material without cost. Somebody is going to bear the cost, and therefore all of us who donate to Hargrave Ministries are donating for that purpose, to see all of these things go forward. Every podcast costs money to produce, and yet we put it out there for free. All of the blogs are the same way. All of the materials, everything we do, the website itself has a cost associated with it. And, up to this point, I have not really asked for offerings or help or assistance in this way. But I really feel like now is the time. You can look at what we are doing. There are enough materials, there is enough forward motion in the direction that we have been that you can see what it is all about, and you can get the sense of being able to pray over it and find out, does the Lord want you to be part of it?

There are so many ways that you can help, not just financially, although that is very necessary; but your prayers, honestly, your faith – your faith for the flow of the teaching, the messages that come, the timeliness of those messages. Also, there is much you can do in just sharing the Word. You can share the podcast with others. You can take things and post it on your Facebook page, or within your social media, to get the Word out. There are things you can do within your podcast provider. If you are listening

through iTunes or other podcast providers, go leave a comment and say what you think about the teaching, the blessing that it has been to you, what you have received from it. If that is too much time, just give a thumbs up; give a five-star rating to the podcast. Share the blogs, share the materials with others, send it out to people. If you have an email list of your friends and family, share it with them. Explain to them what we are doing here, and what the ministry is all about, what it has been to you, the burden that you have for it. There are many, many ways you can help with this ministry, and there are other ways to get involved with it also.

One thing I am looking to open up as we move forward is to really create this function of the friends and fellow workers to the point where we have a different ability to communicate with one another. I am very much praying about opening up Zoom calls with the friends and fellow workers that sign up to be part of the ministry. So, that will be coming hopefully very shortly in the future. Look for there being a membership page, where those who are friends and fellow workers of the ministry can go and find other materials that are not just on the regular website, and we can have other aspects of communication and methods of communication with each other.

I am excited about this. I am looking forward to moving forward and things to come out of it. We have seen a lot of progress. We have over forty thousand people who are following the ministry. I would like to see that increase, because then every time we put something out, we know that it gets into their hands. We have many on our emailing list, but I would like to see the email list grow. If you have ways of helping us get others onto the email list, then do it. They can go onto the website and sign up to follow us, and to be a part of getting the emails and the communication from the website. Encourage others to go to the website; that would be a big help. Share it with people. Again, we started the podcast in September of 2020, and up to this point, we have over one hundred fifteen different podcasts; and they are all available still in the archive section of the podcast page on the website for Hargrave Ministries. So you can go there, or encourage ones to go there. Find messages that will be a blessing to somebody and send them that podcast number, and say, "Hey, go listen to this." Download it to your computer and share it with them; say, "This message I think will bless you." We have had over thirty-five thousand downloads of our podcast up to this point – I would like to see that grow and increase.

There is so much that has happened. There is so much you can do to see more happen. I do hope that you will get involved. We have over ninety blogs that we have done. There is a lot of information in those blogs; I encourage you to read them, to study them, use them in a Bible study. There are people who are taking those and having Zoom calls with their friends, and studying them like Bible studies. The same with the study guides, or what we have called the resources. They are great for really studying the material that is being presented there. Sometimes it is about the Jewish feasts, or other specific aspects of teaching in the Scriptures. But I encourage you to get into those. There are over twenty-six of the study guides that are available. So again, get into the material yourself, and share it with others, if you would. I really would appreciate it. It would really help us to grow in the ministry and find those who want to be a part of it.

The other aspect beyond the teaching and the Word that is coming through Hargrave Ministries are those that we are friends and fellow workers with. We have eight organizations that we do work with, all with a burden for and involved with Israel. These are all nonprofit organizations that are very proven over time, and I will just give you a short synopsis of them. One thing to recognize that we do in Hargrave Ministries faithfully is that we give to each and every one of these individually on a monthly basis. Many have participated with us in this and given so that we can give. One thing I have been

feeling from the Lord now, during this time, is to just ask people, "Help us to help." Each of these organizations does a wonderful job of working within Israel, and Israel needs a lot of assistance at this point. They are taking so many people in, so many people from Ukraine; so many other people from around the globe, because of the increase of antisemitism. There is a real need for Jewish people to make Aliyah, or to move back to Israel, for their own protection; and all of these organizations assist, in one way or another, those who are returning, as well as those who have returned. They are transitioning out of their homes and out of their nations, and many times they do not speak the language or they do not have the ability to work within Israel yet, even though they may be professionals. It takes them time to acclimate after they have moved. Many do not know Hebrew. They do not have the language, and therefore it is a struggle when these Jewish people return and make Aliyah to Israel. It is a step of faith on their part, and it takes a great deal of work on their part to immerse themselves into the culture and immerse themselves into the country. A lot of assistance is needed, and it is our heart and drive to help these people to, number one, make Aliyah and to be able to move back, especially when they are coming out of areas of persecution. When they are coming out of areas of danger that are threatening to their lives, the lives of their family, they need all of the help they can get. And so we do work not only to help them make the move or the Aliyah to Israel, but also, these other organizations help them once they have made that transition.

So I am going to just talk very quickly about each of these, so you know who they are and what they are doing. First is the AMI-Jerusalem Center. We have worked with the AMI Center for many years, going back to the end of 1990. This organization works with Christian and Jewish relationships to fight antisemitism, to also help Christians understand the Jewish culture, the Jewish practices of Judaism, and to see the revelation and the need for helping and assisting with Israel. When you think about the Scriptures, one of the Scriptures that touches my heart is it says that God, with all of His heart, is bringing the people, the children of Israel, back to the land of Israel. And if that is something that God is doing with all of His heart, I want to be a part of it, and I want Hargrave Ministries to be a part of it. And so, AMI-Jerusalem Center helps Christian organizations get the revelation of Israel and the Jewish people, to fight the antisemitism that is taking place, and to see the needs that are there and get involved with it.

Another organization is Shiloh Israel Children's Fund. This is in Shiloh, or Shilo, in Israel, located there; and they work with children who are traumatized through the experiences they have gone through in Israel with the terrorism, the wars, the bombings that have happened. This is a very important organization. It was created by David Rubin, who is a wonderful man; he was once the mayor of the city of Shiloh, or Shilo, in Israel, and his revelation was to help the children to recover from the trauma of their experiences under terrorism. He got this burden because he himself and his son were victims of terrorism. Rather than becoming bitter, he said, "I am going to become an answer and a blessing." And he has done a tremendous job with that.

Another organization we work with is the IDF Widows and Orphans Organization. IDF is the Israeli Defense Forces. As you probably know, all the young people, when they reach a certain age, men and women, are obligated to serve time within the military in Israel. And so, when we talk about the needs of widows and orphans, we are talking about both families who have lost a mother, a sister, but also fathers, brothers; it happens with both men and women in Israel. It is very traumatic when a family loses a breadwinner, or loses a member of the family. It is definitely difficult on the children. And so, the IDF Widows and Orphans Organization does a tremendous job of helping families when they have lost one of the family members, and they support in many, many ways with both education and events, life

events, graduations, bar mitzvahs, bat mitzvahs, all kinds of things to supplement the family and to assist because of the loss.

Another tremendous organization is Yad Eliezer, which gives food and clothing, and other needs. This is a huge help. Again, people moving, making Aliyah to Israel, they do not have anything. Many times these people end up having to come under duress, with just what is on their back or in one suitcase that they can carry. They arrive in Israel and they do not have clothes or blankets, or places to stay. They do not have food, they do not have jobs. Yad Eliezer does a tremendous job in getting food and necessities to those who are in desperate need of help in Israel. And so, this is one of the organizations that we support on a monthly basis.

As I said before, each one of these we give financial aid to on a monthly basis. We do not choose one of them a month; we give to each of them a set amount every month. No matter what comes in to us, we find a way to give to them what we have committed to them on a monthly basis. And, believe me, it is the greatest thing that we do. Once again, remember: God with all of His heart is bringing His people back to Israel at this time; and it should be the Christian burden, the burden of church, the burden of every Christian believer, to assist them in this process.

Another organization is the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem. We work with them on two programs. One is the Aliyah, or bringing people back into Israel, the Jewish people back. And in some cases they are bringing others, like during the crisis in Ukraine, they are bringing children that are special needs children. They are bringing them to Israel to get them help. So they do a tremendous job. They are bringing people from Ethiopia, from all over the world, all through Europe where there is persecution. They are bringing the Jewish people back to Israel. This is a great fulfillment of prophecy and promise that God gave to Israel, that this would happen. And I love it when Christians are a source of seeing this prophecy fulfilled. There is no greater feeling than being one who is working with the Lord to fulfill the Word of God that we see in the Scriptures.

Another aspect of International Christian Embassy Jerusalem is the Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors that they have created in Haifa. This takes care of Holocaust survivors. There are many Holocaust survivors at this time that are living below the poverty level. Obviously, most of them have lost all their family in the Holocaust, so they do not have family support. They do not have means to take care of themselves. Many were injured. Their life at this time should be a blessing – they have suffered enough. And what the Haifa Home attempts to do is to take care of them in their later life, and to help them, to assist them, to bring joy; to help them celebrate the feasts, to help them feel a sense of family, surrounded by love and care. They bring not only those who need to live in the home environment, but also, any Holocaust survivors are welcome to come and participate in their activities.

I know I am taking time with this, but these things are so deep on my heart. I love each one of these organizations and what they do, and I am thankful that Hargrave Ministries has an opportunity to be part of it. I am really glad for what we have been able to do up to this point; it would probably shock you how much money we have been able to raise and give to these organizations.

Another one is the City of David Foundation. The City of David Foundation is part of restoring the Old City of David, and they are doing much in archeology and preservation. I think unearthing the history of the City of David does more for confirming the Scriptures than anyone can believe. We are finding seals with the names of people in the Scriptures right there in the archeological digs. The Word of God is being confirmed to us through the physical means of archeology and preserving this place, so that people visiting Israel and those returning to Israel can walk through and see the Scriptures unfold before

their very eyes, as what took place through the kings and the prophets during the time of the Scriptures. It is a tremendous, tremendous vision and burden.

The last one I will mention is the Jerusalem National Fund. The Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael Fund, which we support specifically within the Jewish National Fund, is building what is called the Gospel Trail. It is a trail from Nazareth to Capernaum, and it is available for people to hike, to bike, to spend time. If people are there for a longer period of time, it gives them a sense of the land. It gives them an ability to walk where Yeshua probably walked, going from Nazareth to Capernaum. It is something that is a part of what is happening in Israel with the replanting, the reforestation of Israel. When the Jewish people began to return, Israel was a desolate wilderness. But now, it is, in the twentieth century, the only nation in the world that is greener in the twentieth century than before that. What they are doing in planting trees, reestablishing waterways, preserving lakes and streams, is really an amazing process. And once again, you are participating in the fulfillment of the prophecy of Scripture that said these things would happen when the Jewish people returned to the land, when God brought them home. So we are participating, at Hargrave Ministries, in the fulfillment of prophecy. We are not only watching it; we are not only reading about it; but we are part of doing it and making it happen, helping to make it happen. And I love that, because I think it is really what we should be doing as believers, participating in the things that God is doing. And that is what we are a part of.

So, I know this has been a little longer than normal, but I wanted to give you a perspective of what Hargrave Ministries is doing, of what we are believing for, what we are participating in. I want you to feel an open door. I ask for your prayers. I ask for your support. I ask for your help. And if you want to communicate, go to the website and communicate to us through Info@HargraveMinistries.org. We will get that communication and try to communicate back to you as quickly as possible. But know that we appreciate you. And believe with me, if you will, please, that God will bring those who will be friends and fellow workers with us at Hargrave Ministries. I thank you. Amen.