

THE Encourager™

Vol. 7, No. 1 Winter 2001

DAVE DRAVECKY'S OUTREACH OF HOPE

The Gift of Grace

by Jan Dravecky



Tiffany, Jan, Dave and Jonathan Dravecky

And God is able to make all grace abound to you.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:8

One of the most enlightening times in my personal spiritual journey was when I began discovering the gift of God's grace. Of course I knew that God had extended grace to the whole human race by sending His Son, Jesus, to die as payment for our sins and to rise again so that we could have eternal life with God. But deep inside I still operated in the belief that God's love for me had something to do with who I was and how well I performed. So God's name was at the top of a long list of people I had to please, people whose love I had to earn.

God didn't allow me to operate in that belief for very long, however. While Dave and I lived in Puerto Rico, where Dave played winter ball, we participated in a Bible study on the book of Ephesians. Through that study I came to realize that God's love for me had nothing to do with how well I performed or what I did for Him. In fact, I couldn't do anything to lessen or change to any degree how much God loved me. My

eyes were opened to the truth that God loved me *in spite of my faults!*

God also knew I needed more than a revelation about His grace. If the truth about God's grace was to sink in, I needed an object lesson. That lesson came in the form of our daughter Tiffany, who was born with a strong will. No matter how many times her will and my will collided, or how unlovely she acted, my love for Tiffany was totally unaffected by her actions. My love for her amazed me, and for the first time I began to understand God's grace—how God could extend His love, care, and blessing to us despite our weakness, failures, and sin. Because I had such great love and grace for my child, I finally was able to understand and receive God's grace for me.

Years later, when Dave and I went through our times of personal suffering, grace once again played a key role in my spiritual journey. Like many people who

Grace has been called "the glue that mends our brokenness," and in suffering, our brokenness is fully exposed. Grace, then, is indispensable in times of affliction. Grace says, "I love you, warts and all. I understand that pain has stripped away the veneer that covers your raw, unlovely humanity. But you also are made in God's image. You are, therefore, the most precious and priceless thing in all of His creation. So I will extend unwarranted love and kindness toward you because God has extended it to me."

endure the varied trials that come with a cancer diagnosis, we lost control of our lives. We were hurting. We weren't fun to be around. We didn't look like model Christians any longer. The ugliness of pain and suffering was clearly visible in our lives. *We needed grace!*

Although many people deserted us during that time of need, a few people extended grace to us. They forgave, accepted, and loved us as we were—with all of our pain, ugliness, anger, and doubt. Instead of condemning us, they listened. Instead of telling us what we should or shouldn't do, they let us vent. Instead of saying they were disappointed in us, they were sorrowful with us over what we were going through. Instead of abandoning us when we didn't meet their standards, they stood by us and helped see us safely through to the other side. Healing came as grace was given to us.



*Grace lifts us up
and gives us hope.*

We learned firsthand that if ever there is a time for extending grace to one another, it is during a time of suffering because that is when we reach the end of our ability to cope. When we suffer, we often become angry, fearful, irritable, and frustrated. We need someone to reach out to us with God's gift of grace. Grace lifts us up and gives us hope. That is one of the reasons Dave and I believe God prompted us to start the Outreach of Hope after we had endured our time of suffering.

The Outreach of Hope is a ministry of grace. We know that not one of us is perfect. We know that there is no "right" way to suffer. We know how very much we need love and acceptance—God's gift of grace—when we suffer. So our hope and prayer is that this issue of *The Encourager* will encourage you to unwrap and embrace this most wonderful gift of grace and inspire you to pass it on so that others who suffer may be encouraged.

Grace is . . .

Grace is God's love applied to our human condition. It is seen in a helping hand for the weary, in compassion for the broken, understanding for the confused, tenderness for the wounded, acceptance for the fallen, and a loving embrace for the returning prodigal.

- ❖ Grace takes the high road in human relationships. It chooses to reach out rather than to retaliate. It chooses to forgive, accept, and embrace rather than to turn away in contempt or indifference.
- ❖ Grace doesn't judge or condemn. It knows that all people are broken and in need of mending, so it doesn't presume to be better than others.
- ❖ Grace embraces us right where we are. It doesn't sit on the sidelines awaiting our arrival at an acceptable position before it is given.
- ❖ Grace places no expectations on its recipients. It is given freely—no strings attached.
- ❖ Grace is like an umbrella, sheltering us from the full impact of living in a broken, fallen world.
- ❖ Grace has thick skin. It isn't easily wounded, offended, or put off. It knows that we all have rough edges that can wound others. When wounded, grace refuses to wound others in reaction to the pain.
- ❖ Grace doesn't excuse wrongdoing. It doesn't excuse sin. Instead, it chooses to love the sinner.
- ❖ Grace is water for the thirsty, food for the starving, a helping hand for the weak, tender compassion for the sick, and shelter for the homeless. The gift of God's grace is the single greatest gift we can offer a pain-wracked world.
- ❖ Grace is powerful beyond our imagination. It can renew the broken, refresh the weary, and in the most amazing act of grace in all of history, it compelled the King of Heaven to become a man and die a terrible death on behalf of the human race.
- ❖ Grace is gentle and unassuming. It creates a safe place for the wounded and downtrodden to uncover their wounds so that they can be healed.
- ❖ Grace isn't shocked by the depths of human brokenness or sinfulness. It doesn't turn away in disgust or judgment from the sinner or the soul in pain. Instead, it embraces the one made in the image of God no matter how marred the image may be.
- ❖ Grace is God's love in action. The expression of God's grace is the most precious commodity in all of creation. It makes God's love real to even the hardest, most wretched, wounded, and hopeless heart.
- ❖ Grace has no limits. We need only ask God to provide it. He never tires of our requests because He knows our need.



Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15

We Are God's Gift of Grace To One Another

by Kim Jones

God knows we need His grace. He also knows we often aren't in a place to ask for it or even recognize it when it comes, but He sends it nonetheless.

I could hear the exhaustion and frustration in her voice. It had been another long, eventful day at the doctor's office. Her husband, fast asleep from the pain medication he'd received during chemotherapy, couldn't hear the whining of their children. They didn't understand why daddy was missing dinner—again. They didn't understand why dinner was late—again. And my phone call was just one of several calls she had fielded since the family arrived home less than an hour before.

The appointment with the doctor hadn't gone well. Her husband had lost weight for the third week in a row. She was running out of sick leave at work. Several family members and close friends hadn't called in days. As I listened to her list of concerns and hurts, I kept thinking of Scotty and that transporter on *Star Trek*. If only God would "beam me up" and over to her house! I'd fix dinner, bathe the kids, and babysit her relentless phone. More than anything, I wanted to be with her. Yet I knew that was next to impossible. We were separated by four states and a checking account with insufficient funds for a plane ticket.

When I called, my friend was in the middle of an emotional meltdown. In light of the trials of the day and previous few weeks, it was no wonder. How it hurt to hear her pain! What I wanted to do was to pray with her and ask God to fill her with His strength so she could face the evening ahead. I wanted to ask God to fill her with His grace so she could handle her disappointment with family and friends. But my friend was too upset for me to say a word. For a while I simply listened. Although my friend desperately needed God's grace, I knew better than to suggest a spiritual

solution at that moment. I knew better than to short circuit the venting process.

As I listened and considered her needs, it suddenly hit me: *God knew she wasn't in a place where she could cry out to Him for help. She was too angry, too hurt. That's why He had burdened me to call her. I was to be His expression of grace, His love in action that night!*

Long before I had an inkling of what was happening, God knew that what my friend needed most that evening was a listening ear. She didn't need a maid, a secretary, or a babysitter. The energy generated by her anger would be most safely discharged as she fulfilled those responsibilities. God knew that what she needed most was simply to vent.

So as she cooked, she talked and I listened. Soon macaroni and cheese quieted her children. As soon as the plates hit the table, she collapsed into a chair. Spent from the emotional strain, she spoke in a subdued tone. She began to express some of the deeper issues that were troubling her. Now it was time for us to talk.

One of the things that had hurt her was the silence of some friends and family. "Why didn't they call?" she asked. Of course I couldn't answer her question, but because I have worked with families in crisis I knew some of the reasons people keep their distance when adversity strikes a family. I knew my friend wanted to respond in grace to those who had hurt her, so I tried to help her understand why some people respond to suffering as they do.

I explained that people are sometimes so afraid they'll do or say the wrong thing and create more pain by their ineptness that they choose to do nothing. They want to help, but they are so afraid of doing it

wrong, that they do nothing. Other people can't bear to watch others suffer. They are so overcome by their own emotions that they fear they may make the situation worse. Others fear they would be interfering and presume (often wrongly) that those who are suffering want to be left alone. I told my friend that many people stay away because of feelings of inadequacy. I assured her that a lack of response doesn't necessarily mean that friends and family don't love you. It's often a sign that they don't know what to do or that they are afraid they'll do the wrong things.

Things changed when my friend was able to view her family and friends' actions from a different perspective. Soon we were talking about the ways she could make it easier for them to be involved by letting them know *how* to help her family. We talked about her need to communicate that their presence, not their answers, was what she needed most. Her tone changed completely, and her anger was gone.

I am amazed by the way God sent grace to my friend through a simple phone call. That grace provided an emotional break and a new perspective that enabled her to respond in grace to her family and friends. As I think back on our conversation, I marvel at God's love for my friend and at the power of His grace. I am reminded of something I often forget—a little grace goes a long way.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:16

Experiencing the Gift of Grace in the Midst of Suffering

God appoints our graces to be nurses to other men's weaknesses.

HENRY WARD BEECHER

Angela didn't know if she could bear to hear the irritable and often angry tone of her husband's complaints one more time. In their 20 years of marriage, she had *never* been so upset with him. What was worse, she felt as much guilt and anger at herself as she did frustration with him. Of course she knew her husband was in great physical pain. She understood that his emotions were raw and that the pain medication made him moody and depressed. But she didn't expect him to take it all out on her. After all, she was his soul mate. She was the one who selflessly cared for him day and night. Why was she the brunt of his pain? It didn't seem fair.

And of course, it wasn't fair. Angela's husband was doing what most of us do when pain camps at our doorstep: we take out our anger and frustration on those who are closest to us, those whom we know will love us no matter what. Is it fair? No. Is it normal? Yes.

So how do we respond when we are in Angela's position? Do we try to hold it in until we explode? Do we become critical of ourselves? Do we blame God for not making things fair? Although many of us opt for one or more of these alternatives, there is another option: we can ask God to give us His grace. God's grace enables us to love like He does. It isn't offended or exhausted by the human condition, regardless of how unlovely that condition may be. Grace is what Angela needed; it's what we all need. And there is rarely a better time to seek grace than when we are overwhelmed by suffering.

St. Rose of Lima has said that "without the burden of affliction it is impossible to reach the height of grace. The gifts of grace increase as the struggles increase."

These observations are far more than nice-sounding platitudes. They reveal a powerful truth, but they offer little comfort if we do not know how to access God's grace when suffering has knocked our feet out from under us.

Is it truly possible to walk in grace when we can barely stand? Is it even possible to extend grace when extending the most common courtesy is a struggle? The answer, of course, is yes. But we cannot do these things on our own. Grace is a commodity of heaven, not earth. We can't muster up grace by our own means or strength. Walking in grace, especially when our soul is weary, our patience is spent, and our strength is depleted, is humanly impossible. Angela needed an unending supply of grace so that she could have compassion for her husband and continue to care for him daily. The way to possess such grace is to continually go to the source of grace—God Himself.

Like thirst, our need for grace is continual. D. L. Moody said that "a man can no more take in a supply of grace for the future than he can eat enough for the next six months, or take sufficient air into his lungs at one time to sustain life for a week. We must draw upon God's boundless store of grace from day to day as we need it."



Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

HEBREWS 4:16

We draw upon God's grace by confessing our failures and weaknesses and asking God to give us His grace so that we can face our most difficult challenges with the strength, love, compassion, wisdom, courage, and kindness of God Himself. We can, and need to, ask God for grace whenever . . .

- ❖ the needs before us are too great for us to meet.
- ❖ we find ourselves responding to others in inappropriate ways.
- ❖ we feel overwhelmed by our situation.
- ❖ we've been mistreated.
- ❖ we're facing a difficult conversation or confrontation.
- ❖ God is nudging us to do something that seems beyond our ability.
- ❖ we need to respond in love but our feelings are quite the contrary.
- ❖ we feel that we have failed ourselves or others.

When we ask God for the grace to face whatever lies before us, we receive not only His grace but His love. God is far more than a source of grace we can tap into when we're running low. He is our Father, our Creator, the God from whom comfort, encouragement, love, and peace originate. Just as a loving father delights in giving gifts to his children, God delights in fulfilling our every need with the unfailing comfort and peace of His presence.

Receiving the Gift of Grace

*My grace is sufficient for you, for my power
is made perfect in weakness.*

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

Like so many others in the midst of the cancer battle, Frank was struggling. Of course the big issues bothered him. He felt like such a failure. Some days it was all he could do to get out of bed in the morning. He wondered if he would ever be well enough to provide for his family again. The little things bothered him, too. He was often rude to the medical personnel who cared for him. He was impatient with his wife and emotionally distant from his children. Nothing seemed to please him. More than anything, Frank was disappointed in himself.

Frank readily admitted that he needed more grace for his family so he could deal with them in a healthier way. He admitted that he could at least be cordial with his nurses and technicians—they were trying to help him. But he stopped short of admitting that he might need to extend that same grace to himself. Unfortunately, Frank has lots of company. It is not uncommon for us to withhold grace from the one person whose needs and shortcomings we know best.

One reason many of us are hard on ourselves and demand that we meet standards we don't expect from others is because we feel bad when our shortcomings cause others to suffer. But there's often more to our lack of self-grace than regret. We also loathe weakness. We dislike it in others and can't stand to see it looking back at us in the mirror. We associate weakness with failure. If we admit we're weak, we concede that we can't overcome every obstacle we face. We find ourselves agreeing with God that apart from Him we can do nothing—and that's pretty humbling. No wonder we don't cut ourselves much slack. We don't want to admit that we need it!

The Apostle Paul was one of the most gifted and influential Christians in recorded history. God used him to firmly establish and expand the early church. Under the influence of the Holy Spirit, he penned most of the New Testament Epistles. He is regarded by most scholars as one of the strongest examples of a true Christian. Yet Paul had a major weakness.

Paul experienced great pain, pain so great that the Bible says he was "tormented." He pleaded (catch the word *pleaded*) three times for the "Lord to take it away from me."

What was God's response? "No." God allowed Paul's torment, his weakness, to remain. God knew that Paul's weakness kept him dependent upon God for strength and grace. God knew that Paul's pain spared him the disastrous effects of conceit or pride. (See 2 Corinthians 12:7.) God knew that Paul's weakness was the gateway for His grace.

It is no different for us. No matter how disappointed we may be in our failures and weaknesses, God is gracious and generous in dispensing His grace to us. Our human frailty is not an affront to Him. The more we lack, the more His grace will fill us. When we admit our weaknesses and limitations to God, we take the first step toward receiving His all-sufficient grace. No wonder Paul found delight in his weaknesses and difficulties. He knew that when he was weak, God's grace would make him even stronger.

*Thank God he does not
measure out grace in teaspoons!*

AMY CARMICHAEL

The Giver of Grace

by Charles H. Spurgeon

*The LORD gives
grace and glory.*

PSALM 84:11 (NASB)

To give is God's delight. His gifts are beyond measure precious, and are as freely given as the light of the sun.

He gives grace to His elect because He wills it, to His redeemed because of His covenant, to the called because of His promise, to believers because they seek it, to sinners because they need it. He gives grace abundantly, seasonably, constantly, readily, sovereignly; doubly enhancing the value of the boon by the manner of its bestowal.

Grace in all its forms He freely renders to His people: comforting, preserving, sanctifying, directing, instructing, assisting grace, He generously pours into their souls without ceasing, and He always will do so, whatever may occur. Sickness may befall, but the Lord will give grace; poverty may happen to us, but grace will surely be afforded; death must come but grace will light a candle at the darkest hour. How blessed it is as years roll round, and the leaves begin again to fall, to enjoy such an unfading promise as this, "The Lord gives grace."

Reprinted from *Morning & Evening*
by Charles H. Spurgeon, used by
permission of Hendrickson Publishers.

Sharing the Gift of Grace

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

1 PETER 4:10

Day in and day out, the encouragers at the Outreach of Hope extend grace to those who are suffering. They share the gift of grace through phone calls, notes of encouragement, gifts of carefully selected books, and daily prayer. The encouragers make no claim to be “experts” in sharing grace. In fact, they would be the first to say that grace is a “God thing.” Yet their lives have been deeply touched by God’s grace, and they feel privileged to be able to extend His grace to others.

On these pages, the encouragers at the Outreach of Hope give us a glimpse of what enables a person to share God’s grace with those who are suffering. We hope these images will encourage you to recognize God’s grace in your life and see examples of ways that you, too, may extend His grace to those who need it.

Grace is a “God thing.”

The fact that we can do this at all is evidence of God’s grace in our lives. Many people couldn’t listen to what we listen to day after day. The reason we are able to continue to do this is because of God. That’s all I can say; it’s a “God thing.” There’s nothing I can put my finger on that specifically enables me to do this, other than the fact that I’m where God wants me to be and He gives me the grace to do it. —Nancee

We can share grace because we have been given grace.

When everything fell apart in my life, I really felt abandoned by God. Yet at the same time, I still knew that He was with me. Even though I didn’t understand why things in my life were the way they were, I felt His grace. I felt His presence and knew that no matter what I went through, and even when I made mistakes, His grace would sustain me.

God’s grace was almost something I could feel physically. I could almost reach out and touch it. I knew His constant presence was all around me, watching over me. Even though my situation was extremely difficult, He was allowing it, He was there.

As a result of my experience with God’s grace, I can extend grace to others. Even though we don’t understand why this time on earth is sometimes so hard to endure, we know that God never leaves us. Our hope is that while we are going through hard things, we can also experience His grace. His grace will bring us through. —Penny

I tell people that the only reason I’m here is because of God’s grace. I had disconnected from Him and from everyone just to survive the tragedy in my life. People who know my story say they don’t know how I survived. I have only one answer: “I would not have survived if it hadn’t been for Jesus Christ carrying me through. It was all God’s grace.”

I continue to be amazed by God’s grace that is allowing something bad to turn into something good. When I call a mother who has lost her child to cancer, I pray so much before I dial that phone. I ask God to give me the right words to say because so many times people say the wrong words. And He does. He ministers through me. Although making the call is still painful for me because it brings back painful memories, it helps others, some of whom have never talked with someone who has lost a child. So many times they say, “You are the first person who has accepted my feelings, who doesn’t feel like I’m crazy.”

That to me is why I’m here. I feel honored that God is allowing me to walk alongside those who are enduring the most horrible time of their lives. —LezLee

God gives us His grace to share with others.

We extend grace to people every day and I believe it is God’s grace, what He extends to us, that we in turn can extend to others. Without God’s grace, I don’t know that I’d really be able to hear all that people go through because it’s depressing and it’s really hard to hear some of the pain people have to endure. Yet when you’re working within your gifts, when you’re where God wants you, He continually fills you so you don’t run dry. That’s why I don’t run out of fuel. Through my personal devotions, through our staff devotions, and through prayer, I feel that God is constantly filling me back up. That’s what enables me to do this.

Sometimes I just weep after I talk to someone because my heart breaks for these people. It’s hard for me to see people hurting and suffering. But I think, *God, somehow, can I be a little bright spot in their life that they look forward to? Somehow, can I make that pain a little easier to bear? They still have to go through it, there’s nothing that can prevent that, but can I help in some way?* That’s how I always pray before I call somebody.

I remember a particularly difficult call I had to make. I was terrified to make that call. I thought, *What if I say something that sets her off? What if she hangs up on me? What if she won’t answer the phone? I’ll never know.* So I prayed, *God, help me. I don’t know what to do. I am incapable of this. I am no expert. I can’t do it.* And all I kept hearing from God was, “Go by your heart. I am working through you. I am here. You’re not alone in this.” That’s the grace God gives us to do this work every day.

—Nancee



LezLee selects an encouraging card.

We extend grace by our consistent presence.

Consistency is so important in extending grace to a person who is hurting. Sometimes I have sensed that a person is testing me to see if I'll really be there. Consistency means that no matter what the person says or does, I cannot be pushed away. I'm always going to be there. I'm always going to come back.

Consistency isn't easy. There have been times when it's been hard to make a call because I don't know what kind of a response I'm going to get. At those times I've had to practice grace because on my own, I would shy away from it. Honestly, I would be tempted to put it off because I know it will be hard, I know it will require a lot of me. Yet there's always the sense of needing to come back and realize that I need to be faithful in extending God's grace to those who are hurting. —*Rosa*

We extend grace by accepting people where they are rather than by judging them for their weaknesses.

God gives us the tools—His thoughts, desires, law—in His Word to help us through hard times. And He gives us His grace. Grace allows us to be human people who make mistakes. By His grace, God is always perfecting us. He is forgiving and loving and walks us through the failures of our humanity.

By God's example of grace to us, we can learn to have grace for others. We can learn to let people be who they are, recognizing that their failures are part of being human, too. So God's grace sets us free from judging others because we recognize we are capable of responding and behaving in the same way.

God allows us to make mistakes. Some of us learn by making many mistakes, and others learn by making a mistake just once. In all of that, God's grace is sufficient. He knows what it will take for us to understand and grow through our trials, and He will extend His grace to us throughout the growing period. —*Penny*



Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

COLOSSIANS 4:6

We extend grace by listening and loving people where they are.

When people are sick and hurting, they sometimes aren't very nice. That's the pain coming out. We extend grace by loving them right where they are. Grace starts to flow as soon as you pick up the phone. The person on the other end may be upset, angry, or frustrated, and we feel all those emotions coming through. We extend God's grace simply by listening and letting them talk about their relative, parent, or child, or friend who has cancer.

At times we really get hit with a verbal barrage—a lot of anger directed toward God. We really have to set our humanness aside when we're listening because when people curse God it upsets us because we know that we are doing God's work. Yet when we put our own needs and feelings aside, we can see people who are hurting so badly. They've been let down, and they're just striking out because they hurt and there's a lot of emotional and physical pain. By listening and loving them and offering to pray for them, we give a gift of grace that allows them to openly express their pain so they can work through it. —*Nancee*

We extend grace by setting aside our expectations.

In order to extend grace to someone who is hurting, I have to make sure that I'm in a place of freedom. There can be no expectations on my end. Sometimes I'll call and the person is not having a good day. Their response may be, "I can't really talk now. This is not a good time." If I had expectations or needs of my own to fill through that call, I couldn't extend grace. Extending grace means meeting people right where they are every time. If they're not having a good day, grace accepts it without any strings attached. —*Rosa*

God's grace accompanies us every step of the way.

Every day I see God showering the Outreach of Hope with His grace. We pray and ask God to guide us through each day. We ask Him to lead us to the people we need to talk to. So whatever we feel led to do is an expression of God's grace. And it is amazing! So many times people will say, "You sent this book or card when I was having a really down day. It came just at the right time." I consider that to be God's grace expressed through this ministry. —*LezLee*



*The encouragement team at the Outreach of Hope.
Rosa, LezLee, Penny, Nancee (seated).*

*The treasury of grace,
 although always emptying,
 is always full;
 the key of prayer which opens it
 is always close at hand;
 and the almighty Giver of the
 blessings of grace is always
 waiting to be gracious.*

D. L. MOODY*

*From *How Great Thou Art* by Steve Halliday and William Travis,
 published by Multnomah Publishers.

NON PROFIT ORG
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT NO. 17



Dave Dravecky's
OUTREACH
 OF
Hope

13840 Gleneagle Drive
 Colorado Springs, CO 80921

Phone: 719 481-3528

Fax: 719 481-4689

E-mail: info@OutreachOfHope.org

Internet: www.OutreachOfHope.org

The Encourager is free, a gift from us to you. Now that you've read it, become an encourager yourself and share this gift with someone you know who needs uplifting. Don't throw the gift away . . . pass it along!

President	Dave Dravecky
Vice President	Jan Dravecky
Editorial Director	Kim Jones
Editor	Amanda Sorenson
Designer	Beverly Seefeldt

©2001 Dave Dravecky's Outreach of Hope
 All rights reserved.
 International copyright secured.
 All scripture quotations are New International
 Version unless otherwise noted.

Our mission is to offer comfort, encouragement, and hope through Jesus Christ to those who suffer from cancer or amputation. We accomplish this mission by offering prayer support and non-medical referral services and resources for cancer patients, amputees, and their families. We also provide support materials for churches, healthcare professionals, and individuals who work with those who are battling cancer.

We grant permission to photocopy any original article in *The Encourager* for use in a local church, hospital, support group, or classroom, provided no more than 500 copies are made and are distributed at no charge. Please note that reprinted articles, quotes, poems, or lyrics require advance permission from the original source.

Outreach of Hope must pay return postage on all forwarded and non-forwardable mail. To keep postage costs down, please notify us when your address changes or if you no longer wish to receive *The Encourager*. Address changes may be noted on the enclosed envelope, or you may call the office. Outreach of Hope is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.



Dave Dravecky's
OUTREACH
 OF
Hope

13840 Gleneagle Drive
 Colorado Springs, CO 80921

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED