

SONDRA PETERS

Grace Fellowship
Clarksville, Tennessee

Background:

How do you serve in GCI? What is your role in your local congregation or the denomination as a whole? I serve on a pastoral team of three. My co-pastors are Doug Tomes and my husband, Ed Peters.

How did you connect with GCI? I have been involved with Grace Communion International from the very beginning as we transitioned from legalism to grace.

What are some of your reasons for choosing to participate with GCI in ministry? There are several reasons I became involved in the ministry. First of all, my predecessor moved to another state leaving an opening on the pastoral team. Remaining pastors, Ed Peters and Doug Tomes, as bi-vocational pastors, were already pretty busy wearing many hats. I knew first hand how busy Ed already was since I live with him, and didn't want his load to become heavier!

Secondly, at the time I was sharing the gospel with kids in an after-school program as well as writing for a Christian publication. I currently write for the Malaysian Plain Truth Magazine (not to be confused with The Plain Truth Magazine published in the U.S.). When it occurred to me that I could combine my gifts of stringing words together and speaking in front of groups with my love for sharing the gospel, I volunteered to help the existing pastoral team and was accepted! I love preaching the gospel because for each sermon I prepare or each article I write, I learn something new and/or my understanding of the Word grows deeper. I also love knowing that I might be helping others in their walk with God!

Who has invested in you to support you in your ministry? My husband has been my biggest cheerleader and sounding board. Thank you, Ed! Also, I couldn't ask for a better editor/proofreader than our son, Will. I'm also grateful to Mrs. Tammy Tkach for giving me a chance to write for Connections and Dr. P. Sellappan and Mr. David Low for the opportunity to write for The Plain Truth (Malaysia).

Who are you teaching and equipping to help with this ministry? I hope that I am teaching and equipping everyone who hears the message because all believers are in Jesus' ministry.

Where do you go to have fun where you live? I'm a homebody, but I love having company. Fun for me is inviting friends over for a night of card games!



Get to Know Sondra

FAVORITE SCRIPTURE? 2 PETER 3:9 - THE LORD IS NOT SLOW ABOUT HIS PROMISE, AS SOME THINK OF SLOWNESS, BUT IS PATIENT WITH YOU, NOT WANTING ANY TO PERISH, BUT ALL TO COME TO REPENTANCE.

1.

Struggle or life lesson you would like to share: Years ago, a friend hurt me, and although I wanted desperately to forgive her, I would only have moments of forgiveness and then I would revert back to the resentment and hurt. I cried out to God time and time again to help me forgive her—as though I could do 98% of the forgiving with God assisting me with the remaining 2%. People will tell you that you must forgive, but they don't tell you how to forgive! It was a profound moment when God opened my eyes to see that I didn't just need help, I needed Him to do it for me—that I needed him to put the forgiveness in me for her. I've since read an interview with David Torrance on Grace and Prayer in Pastoral Ministry and he compares it to taking your car to a mechanic. You don't ask the mechanic to help you fix your car—you turn it completely over to the mechanic.

2.

What does hope look like for you in your life right now? My hope looks like my favorite scripture: 2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance." When it comes to eternal life, I reject the old adage, "Don't put all your eggs in one basket."—I'm putting ALL of my hope in this one scripture. I know that my salvation is assured, but this passage gives me the assurance that God will do all that He is able to save my loved ones . . . and your loved ones.

3.

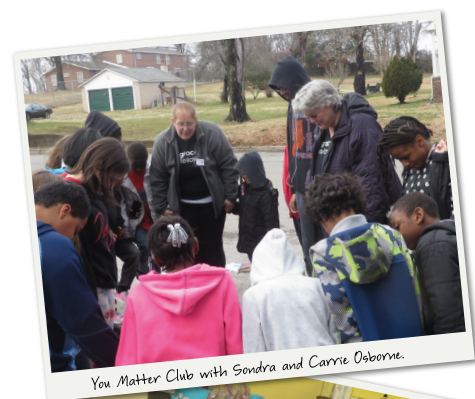
What energizes you? Being involved with children energizes me. When a child shows interest in learning about God, that is the ultimate boost that gives me a charge for a long time!

4.

For what are you most grateful? That I know God now.

5.

How do you experience/feel close to God? I feel closest to God when I call Him Abba when I talk to Him.



Youth Matter Club with Sondra and Carrie Osborne.



Youth activities with Sondra's husband Ed!



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