

# Traveling Martin Luther

## Here I Stand

On October 31, 1517, a man named Martin Luther stood by a church door in Wittenberg, Germany, with a large sheet of paper, a pocketful of nails and a hammer.

Martin wanted to share the Good News he'd read in Ephesians 2:8. "You have been saved by grace through faith," Martin read. He wanted everyone to know that God's love and forgiveness are not things we need to pay for in order to receive. God paid the price when he sent Jesus to die on the cross. Martin knew this Good News was true because he'd read it in the Bible. "I stand by it. God help me. Amen," said Martin.

Martin wrote a list of sentences about God's grace and free forgiveness. This list is called the 95 Theses. Martin posted his list on that church door.

People read Martin's list on their way to church. They had never heard the Good News of God's grace and forgiveness explained this way. They told their friends and neighbors about the list. It was passed around and shared. People used the newly invented printing press to make many copies.

The Good News was spreading more quickly than ever before imagined. Soon Martin's list was given to the leaders of the church in Rome. It was being shared in churches and homes throughout Europe. And now, 500 years later, that Good News continues to spread to all corners of the world.

When Martin hammered the 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenberg church, great changes rang out through churches around the world. All Christians now celebrate the free gift of God's grace. People all over the world worship and read the Bible in their own languages. Music fills churches everywhere.

Throughout this year, remember the Good News that Martin learned. You are saved by God's good gift of grace! Through faith in Jesus, that gift, that saving grace, is yours!

Share the Good News of God's grace like Martin did. Say it gladly! Stand by it! It goes with you wherever you go.

**"I have been saved by grace through faith!"**

## Celebrating 500 Years of Faith



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