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JANUARY & FEBRUARY, 2002

Victory Baptist Press  
 is a ministry of the  
 Victory Baptist Church  
**Founder**

*Dr. Thomas F. Woodward*  
 (1935 - 1994)

**Pastor**

*Tim Fellure*

**Editor & General Director**

*Jim Fellure*

**Field Representatives**

*Jim Fellure - Mike Pickens*

*Rick Reed - Bill Richburg*

*Mike Schultz - Martin Fuller*

**Secretary**

*Mary Fellure*

**Printers**

*Al Berg - Bill Roberts*

The Newsletter is the official publication of **VBP** and is sent free of charge to those who request it.

The main purpose of the Newsletter is to promote missions with an emphasis on the printing and distribution of the Word of God.

While we may not agree with every statement printed from outside sources, we will make every effort to keep the paper as free from error as possible.

To receive the Newsletter send your complete mailing address to:

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Milton, FL 32572-0766

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Web: [WWW.victorybaptistpress.org](http://WWW.victorybaptistpress.org)

## \$80,000 worth of printed scriptures will soon go to Uganda

Uganda, East Africa with a population of twenty two million people has a few good missionaries, but the most basic tool they need to evangelize that country with, the printed Word of God, is very hard to come by. Victory Baptist Press has 300,000 John/Romans booklets and more than 12,000 New Testaments printed and ready to ship to Missionary Keith Stensaas in Masaka.

Read how you can be a part of this wonderful opportunity in the editor's notes on page two.



## Editor's Notes

*Jim & Mary Fellure*

When I first came with Victory Baptist Press back in 1991 I had no idea how much God was going to bless this ministry. If you were to visit these facilities you might not be impressed with the outward appearance. Our buildings are not elaborate and we certainly don't have an over abundance of space and unless you saw the record of the scripture booklets that is actually being printed and shipped to the mission field, the mission money that is being given through Victory Baptist Church, the mission trips to Mexico several times each year and the works that are being helped in that country you might not think God is doing much with us, but may I humbly report with the hymn writer that *Little Is Much When God Is In It*.

### Mexico Churches

It was my privilege to take seven different trips into Mexico in 2001. On the last trip we took the bus up to Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia and picked up Pastor Chuck Starr and several of his people from the Tri-County Baptist Temple. We arrived on the border at Pharr, Texas on Monday evening, October 29 and for the next three days we saw God bless in a marvelous way. We had services all three nights in the new Iglesia Bautista Victoria (Victory Baptist Church) of Anahuac. That's the new church that our home church helped start back in March of 2001. The church had been meeting on the vacant lot all summer long but just two weeks before we arrived Pastor Jerry Hooper hand delivered \$10,000 to Brother Jose Gomez that our home church had raised to help put up a building. By the time we arrived, in that short two weeks time, they had already put down the foundation and built the walls for the new church. The building was full all three

nights, four people were saved on Tuesday, five young men surrendered to preach on Wednesday and on Thursday there were fifteen converts baptized in the Rio Grande river. At the close of the Thursday night service a visiting, middle age lady came by and told Brother Gomez that this was the first time she had been in a church in her entire life. She is thrilled that there is now a church in her community. Our wonderful Lord has certainly been good and gracious to us in letting us be involved in such a wonderful ministry.

### Brother Bill Richburg In Charge Of Bus Trips

Brother Richburg is very mechanically minded, is a good safe driver and has a burden for the Mexican people. Since he knows his way around in more Mexico towns than I do and already goes on as many of the trips as possible he is the ideal person to coordinate the bus trips. Any pastors interested in taking a group on one of these life changing, Mexico mission trips on the big bus should call Brother Richburg at his home at (864)868-9988.

### Scriptures Ready or Uganda

We presently have about 300,000 John/Romans booklets and over 12,000 New Testaments printed and ready to ship to Missionary Keith Stensaas of Masaka, Uganda, East Africa. I recently went to a Christian book store and priced some booklets the size of our 64 page John/Romans. The first booklet I picked up was 62 pages and just a little smaller than our booklets. It was priced at \$2.99. The second one I looked at was 64 pages and was priced at \$2.98. The third one was less than 50 pages and was priced at \$3.98. If we took the low end, \$3.00 per booklet and charged that for our booklets, this one shipment going to Uganda would be worth \$936,000.00. Can you imagine almost a million dollars worth of scriptures going to the missionary free of charge. VBP will actually have about \$80,000 in this shipment and the missionary will get to keep the container they are shipped in for storage.

The following letter comes from Brother Stensaas.

*Bro. Fellure,*

*What a joy to hear from you and to hear of your desire for raising the money for the project. Our people here and I will be indebted to you for your service to the Lord. Scripture here is*

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

**W**E ACCEPT the Holy Scriptures as contained in the Old and New Testaments as being the verbally inspired Word of God and being perfectly preserved in the King James 1611 Bible. We do not believe it can be corrected or improved upon in any way. It is the final rule of faith and practice.

**W**E BELIEVE in the triune God, who is eternally in three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

**W**E BELIEVE in the deity of Christ - His virgin birth, His sinless life, His death for the sins of the world, His bodily resurrection, His exaltation at God's right hand, His personal, imminent, and premillennial return.

**W**E BELIEVE all men are sinners and are guilty before God: in need of a Saviour.

**W**E BELIEVE that men are born again through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ; that they become the children of God, eternally saved; that the Holy Spirit dwells within every believer to guide and help him in his testimony and service.

**W**E BELIEVE in the bodily resurrection of the just and unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved in Glory, and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost in hell. We believe that all believers have a responsibility to get the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ into all the world.

*very hard to come by as it is very expensive. Our people's average monthly income is about 80,000/= Ugandan Shillings per month. (about \$47) A Bible in Lugandan, the local tribe dialect,*

...continued on page 5



***Al & Heidi Berg***

Dear Friends and Supporters,

What a privilege it is to be able to serve the Lord another year! The News media made a lot of hype about Y2K, and nothing happened, and in 2001 it seemed like the world was turned upside down by a few terrorists. As we see events continue to unfold as a result from those attacks, we are reminded of the importance of our job here in the print shop. The word of God has all the answers, if only people would read and obey it. I understand that not everybody who reads it will obey it, but the vast majority of the people do not even have the opportunity to choose to obey because they have never had the opportunity to read the precious words of God. Last year we were able to allow a few more people to obey by providing at least a portion of the word of God to them. To be exact as I know how, we shipped out a total of 218,292 portions of scripture. There were 93,561 English John/Romans, 2,674 English New Testaments, 13,910 Spanish John/Romans, 7,147 English Proverbs, and 101,000 French/Creol John/Romans. The numbers would have been considerably higher last year, except we had a few setbacks. In our last News Letter I mentioned that, among other things, we were having the rollers recovered for our big web press, well, they were about a month late getting back to us, and when we got them we discovered that the company did not do everything they were supposed to and had to send the rollers back. Had they arrived on schedule, we would have had at least another 350,000 Spanish John/Romans out the door with the help of some men from Seedline International in Clayton, Indiana. Also, we have over 350,000 English John/Romans finished and in the barn waiting to be shipped to Uganda. See page 2 for more details on that.

As far as 2002 is concerned, we look

forward to staying busy for the Lord. We have two truckloads of paper in the shop right now. One whole load will be printed in Spanish, Bro. Davidson will take them to Seedline International in Indiana, put them together and ship them to Bro. Ray Bowie in Arizona who will then pass them out and distribute them to other missionaries from all over Central America. I am not sure yet if we will print the other load all in English or not, but we have an urgent need that needs to be met in Zambia for scriptures. Some missionaries there requested some back in the Spring of 2001, but we have not been able to meet their need yet.

Then we plan to print at least one truckload of New Testaments in several languages. We have had Portuguese ready to go for some time now, but have not had the time to print it. We also want to print more English and Spanish New Testaments as well. If all goes well, we should also be printing some Tagalog New Testaments.

Another job that we have had in the works for some time now is a whole Spanish Bible. As we have said before, it is quite lengthy, 45 signatures, and will be quite a thick book, unless we are able to run some thinner paper than we have up to this point. There are some technical difficulties involved that I will not bore you with at this time. Just pray that if it is the Lord's will, that He will show us the way.

It seems that every January I have a to do list for the year that never gets all the way done, I know it did not get done last year, but I am happy in the service of the Lord, what ever He has for me to do. I trust that you have found His will for your life, and are doing it to the best of your ability. There is no better way to live!

May God bless you,  
*Bro. Albert Berg*

**MEMORIALS**

Victory Baptist Press recently received memorial gifts from:

***Anonymous Donor***

in honor of

***Elwood Woolman***

"Blessed are the dead in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do

follow them."

**Ever Have One of Those Days?**

*Did you hear about the teacher who was helping one of her kindergarten students put his boots on?*

*He asked for help and she could see why. With her pulling and him pushing, the boots still didn't want to go on, she had worked up a sweat. She almost whimpered when the little boy said, "Teacher they're on the wrong feet."*

*She looked and sure enough, they were. It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool as together they worked to get the boots back on -- this time on the right feet.*

*He then announced, "These aren't my boots." She bit her tongue rather than get right in his face and scream, "Why didn't you say so?" like she wanted to.*

*Once again she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off. He then said, "They're my brother's boots. My Mom made me wear them." She didn't know if she should laugh or cry. She mustered up the grace to wrestle the boots on his feet again.*

*She said, "Now, where are your mittens?"*

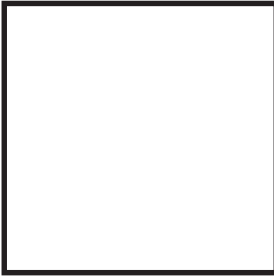
*He said, "I stuffed them in the toes of my boots..."*

**Words  
and Deeds**

A word you say  
may bring the sun  
Into a lonely person's heart;  
A kindly deed may help to give  
A beaten man a brand new start.  
The words you say,  
the deeds you do  
Help others rise, or help  
them fall;  
Build up- don't wreck- for  
littlethings  
Can make or break  
beyond recall.

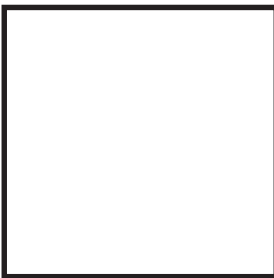
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**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THE VICTORY  
BAPTIST PRESS FIELD REPRESENTATIVES**



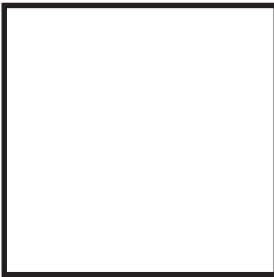
**MIKE & DEE PICKENS** began with Victory Baptist Press in December of 1994. Brother Pickens is a 1965 graduate of Baptist Bible College of Springfield, Missouri. He has pastored churches in Indiana, Alabama, North Carolina and Texas, and was in evangelism for 7 years.

Mike and Dee have four married children and nine grandchildren. When they are not on the road in meetings they make their home in Milton, Florida, and can be contacted at the home office.



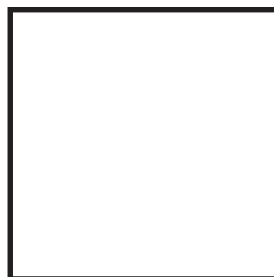
**RICK & MELINDA REED** have been field representatives for Victory Baptist Press since October of 1996. Brother Reed gave up a very comfortable and secure employment position in order to help send the gospel of Christ around the world through this ministry.

Rick and Melinda have four children, all at home. You can contact the Reeds at 12207 Buckhorn Cemetary Rd., Moody, Texas 76557. Phone (254)853-9353.



**BILL AND VICKI RICHBURG** left a full-time ministry in South Carolina and became field representatives for Victory Baptist Press in January of 1999. Brother Richburg has pastored churches in West Virginia, Virginia and South Carolina.

Bill and Vicki have one married son and a daughter at home. You can contact the Richburgs at P. O. Box 508, Six Mile, South Carolina 29682. Phone (864)868-9988.



**MIKE AND CATHY SCHULTZ** started with Victory Baptist Press in the summer of 2001. Mike left a pastoral ministry in 1998 and began traveling for a Creation Science Evangelism group speaking to churches and youth groups on the Biblical account of creation.

Mike came with VBP because he not only wanted to prove the Bible, he wanted to help provide Bibles for the

millions that have no scriptures.

Mike and Cathy have four children, all at home. You may contact the Schultz at 9564 American Farms Road, Milton, FL 32583. Ph: (850)623-5034. E-mail: catnmike@bellsouth.net. www.provingthebible.com

Editor's note: All financial support for a field representative should be sent to Victory Baptist Press, marked clearly for the individual it is intended for.



Ray Bowie

Psalm 92 : 1 "It is good to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most high:"

Praise the Lord for the many saved this past month. I still get excited when I see people call on the Lord and then see God changing their lives. Mexico is still wide open to the gospel. We have many missionaries bringing clothes, food, and medical supplies, etc. But the Great Commission is to bring the gospel.

One man in prison in Mexico has been hiding there since 1981. He told me he has been in drugs for many years. He is a cocaine addict. He has been in prisons in the United States of America several times. He said that he has several false passports. I thought that this man might be on the America's ten most wanted list. So I contacted the Drug Enforcement Administration. They, in turn,

checked with the F.B.I. They, in turn, said that the man was no longer wanted and has not been wanted for several years. So now, Alberto Lopez is a free man and the books are closed on him as a dead man. His family has not known of any whereabouts of him for twenty years. He hopes his wife got a divorce and he is sure his parents have died. He has remarried and now has another wife

up north. He has a son whom he would now love to see. He is hoping his son will talk to him. After I have him the information that he was no longer wanted by the F.B.I.

He was so excited and happy. He said that the past twenty years have been awful hiding in Mexico. I witnessed to him and God is dealing with him. Please pray that I will be able to lead him to Christ. He said that all of his friends are dead.

Please pray; our literature distribution is moving very slowly since September 11th. Some of the missionaries have slowed down taking John/Romans across the border because of trouble. At some borders our van is checked-looking for terrorists coming to the United States. Please pray that we soon will be receiving bright covers on our literature. Please continue to pray for our safety in traveling in Mexico and for souls to be saved.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

*"We have many missionaries bringing clothes, food, and medical supplies, etc. But the Great Commission is to bring the gospel."*

Yours in Christ,  
*Ray Bowie*

editors notes from page 2...  
 (which is a very poorly translated Bible from the Revised Standard Version) cost 12,000/=Shillings (about \$7) That works out to be about 15% of their monthly income to buy a Bible with thousands of mistakes in it. That would be the equivalent of a person in America making let's say \$3,000 per month having to pay \$450 for a Bible. When I went to the Ugandan Bible Society to inquire about why they continue to sell a Bible with so many errors, they replied, "We know it has many errors, but if we stop selling it then we will not have enough money to continue our business." The English KJV Bibles here are even more costly because they have to be imported from England. In recent years we have been able to raise some money for these English Bibles but because of their cost we are only able to give them to our Bible Institute students or those that have proven that they are serious about serving the Lord. To be able to give a New Testament to someone in the church who

has just gotten saved would be such a blessing to us and to them. The John/Romans we use for evangelism and for giving to all of our first time visitors in the church in order that they may have the gospel clearly presented. I remind our people that they are living in a country where they are truly blessed to have English as their official language in order that they might have the opportunity to have and read the pure, unadulterated Word of God. So many countries only have their translated versions that are sadly lacking. The need is not only where we are but all over Uganda, where we hope to share your blessing to us with them. Any help given to us in this project will be greatly appreciated not only by the missionaries who give them out but more importantly by the Ugandans who receive them.  
 Because of Christ,  
 Keith Stensaas  
 Masaka, Uganda

Brother Stensaas is a worthy missionary, Uganda is a needy field and the Lord has blessed Victory Baptist Press with what it will take to meet their need. The precious and powerful Word of God, The scriptures are printed,

packed and setting on palets just waiting to be loaded into a container and sent on their way. The shipping cost for this project is \$9,000 which we don't have, so, we make the need known to the friends and supporters of this ministry. In fact, without the prayers and faithful financial support of the friends of VBP there would not be any scriptures to send to the mission field. This would be a good project for some church to take on in addition to their regular mission giving. VBP will eventually come up with the shipping expense, but it sure would be a blessing to brother Stensaas and the people of Uganda if we could get this seed out of the barn and into the field. If any of our readers would like to help with the \$9,000 needed to put 300,000 John/Romans and 12,000 New Testaments in Uganda send your offering to VBP marked for the Uganda project. If more than enough money comes in we will use the excess to print and ship more scriptures to some other good missionary.

Please keep us in your prayers as we attempt to distribute more of the printed word in 2002 than in any previous year.

In Christ,  
*Jim Fellure*

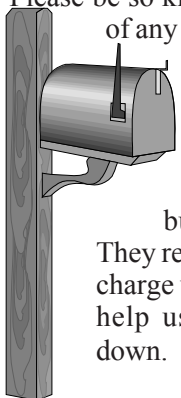
## JUBILEE TAPES

**Craig Edwards, Harold Clayton,  
 Mark Wesley, and Joe Arthur**

Get all 12 messages  
 for only \$25.00

Send payment to:  
 Victory Baptist Church  
 P.O. Box 766  
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Please be so kind as to notify us of any change of address or duplicate Newsletters you receive. The Post Office will not forward bulk rate material. They return it to VBP and charge us to do so. Please help us keep our costs down.



## FOR JUST \$684.96 YOU CAN SPONSOR A COMPLETE DAY OF OPERATION OF THE VICTORY BAPTIST PRESS PRINT SHOP.

It cost \$684.96 per day to operate the shop and that amount includes all expenses including shipping. If you would like to be a part of the Sponsor A Day Program send your offering of at least \$684.96 and we will send you A personalized certificate on beautiful parchment paper, suitable for framing, recognizing your gift.

Since the last Newsletter the following Churches or Individuals have participated in the Sponsor a Day program by paying for at least one day of operation of the print shop.

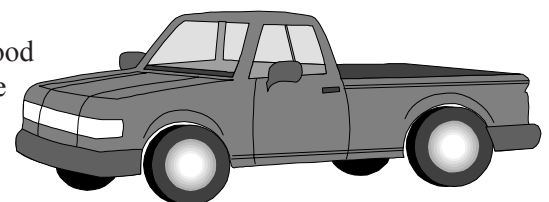
Thank you for your help and may God get the glory.

- East River Baptist Church, New Caney, Texas, Pastor Roger Hootz = 2 days \$1,380.00**
- Shady Acres Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, Pastor Danny Farley = 5 days \$3,424.80**
- Fundamental Baptist Church, Livingston, Louisiana, Pastor Steve Lindsey = 1 day \$888.00**
- Victory Baptist Church, Ocoee, Florida, Pastor Brad Phillips = 2 days \$1,380.00**
- Laura Baptist Church, Starke, Florida, Pastor Lester Austin = 1&1/2 days \$1,000.00**
- Old Paths Baptist Church, Gloversville, New York, Pastor Mike Keenan= 2 days \$1,369.92**

## PICK-UP-TRUCKS NEEDED IN MEXICO

Victory Baptist Press has been privileged to take several vehicles that our supporters have donated into Mexico each year. Brother Sonny Fritz, missionary in Monterrey says that Cars and Vans are now hard to get legalized but they can still get 1993 or older pick-up-trucks in. The trucks are badly needed and put to good use by the missionaries.

If anyone has a truck in good mechanical condition they would like to put on the mission field contact VBP and we will make arrangements to get it into the country.





### The Martin Fuller Family Has Joined The Victory Baptist Press Ministry

Brother Martin Fuller is originally from the Martinez, Georgia area. After being saved and called to preach he attended Tabernacle Baptist Bible College in Greenville, South Carolina and served on the staff of Tabernacle Baptist Church under Dr. Harold Sightler. While attending college he met his wife Anne. After marriage he joined the United States Army and while stationed in

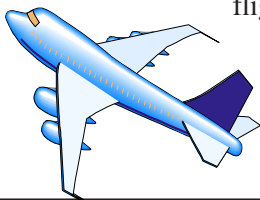
California he served as assistant to a pastor there. He was then transferred to Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas and served as youth director under another pastor while he was at Killeen. After being discharged from the army Brother Fuller stayed in Texas and pastored the Bible Baptist Church of Conroe for the next twelve years.

Martin and Anne now have four children. Sarah 16, Katie 14, Joshua 11 and Jedi 7, and I can say in all sincerity that I don't know of a better family any where in the world. The Fullers do an excellent job with music. They play the piano, banjo, bass guitar, guitar, violin, mandolin and the flute and sing as a family. Brother Fuller is also an excellent preacher. They will be a blessing to any church that will have them for a service

The Fuller family now lives in Georgia and will work out of that area as field reps for VBP. If you can use them for a service contact them at 1020 Carlene Dr, Harlem, Georgia 30814. Phone (706) 556-8369.

### Robert & Leonor Schmidt Willing To Help Ministries With Low-Rate Air Fares

Brother Bob Schmidt and his family are faithful members of Victory Baptist Church. He and his wife, Leonor, are travel agents and do their best to get the best flight rates available for the brethren.



Bother Bob says he can do especially well with overseas flights

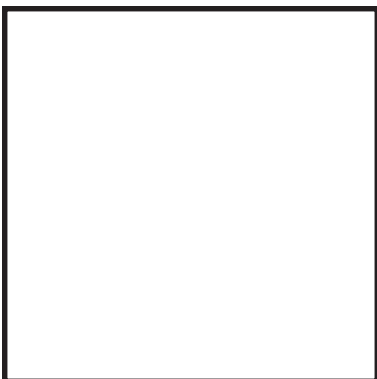
Call them at 850-983-3954 - Fax: 850-983-1358  
e-mail:bobleonor3@msn.com

## God Bless America

May angels gaurd America  
Her land and sky and seas.  
May God renew the hearts of men  
And cause them to believe.

May men and women rise above  
This worldly disarray  
And look towards God in heaven  
To illuminate their way.

Rosemary Nelson



“What a Happy Day” the new release from The Fellure Trio is now available on Cassette (\$8.00) and CD (\$12.00)

Make checks payable to:

**Victory Baptist Church**

P.O. Box 766

Milton, Fl. 32572.

\*Allow 2 weeks for delivery

## The Religion Racket

*One cannot read the Gospels without being aware of the conflict between Christ and religion. He deliberately exposed the sham and hypocrisy of the established religion and warned against its deadly, smothering effect. He knew it had to be swept away before the reality of the truth that He brought could be felt.*

*In our generation, religion again finds itself encrusted with the same kind of accumulation and the desperate need is to again expose this condition and destroy it so that the truth might again shine forth. Religion today bears the same characteristics that Jesus so vigorously condemned. Practically every place where religion is supposed to exert an influence it is being defeated.*

*However, most religion goes right on making the colossal pretense that all is well and that religion is marching victoriously onward and upward. This refusal to admit failure and the insistence upon keeping up the pretense of success has produced a religion that is a deliberate deception.*

*The tragedy is that real religion is buried under the maze of contradicting claims, tired traditions, and deliberate deceits of this racket in religion. It has cloaked itself in superficial sanctity and hides from honest appraisal. It is time to bring today's religion out into a full investigation of its reality . . . not its pretense.*

*Contrast real religion with the current crop of counterfeits and we will find nothing more than shallow substitutes. Are we willing to refuse the substitute and to demand the real thing? Are we ready to discard our sacred shams and pompous pretenses? Are we ready to be honest about religion?*

*The sham condition of religion in Jesus' day had to be exposed and destroyed before Christianity could be born. It will again have to be exposed and destroyed if Christianity is to be reborn in our generation.*

This article is an excerpt from *The Religion Racket* by Dr. Norman Wells. Dr. Wells wrote these words nearly twenty-five years ago, but it is as relevant today as when it was first published. This book has been out of print for many years, but has just been reprinted by Lamplighter Christian Publications. To order, send \$7 to Victory Baptist Church and request *The Religion Racket*. Paperback, 119 pages.

## Hudson Taylor

1832 - 1905

### A biographical sketch of the man and his ministry

The great missionary to China, James Hudson Taylor, was born in Barnsley, England, in the year 1832. He came from a Christian home, his father being a Methodist preacher, but Hudson chose to live for the world until a praying mother and a gospel tract brought him to Christ at the age of seventeen.

In 1849, he became very unhappy with his spiritual state and decided to start preparing to go China as a missionary. He moved to a low income area and forced upon himself numerous hardships in order to better acquaint himself with the kind of life he would have in China. He saw first hand that God is able to care for and bless those who put Him first.

After some medical training in London, Taylor left for China under the Chinese Evangelization Society in September of 1853. He arrived at Shanghai, after a very rough voyage, on March 1, 1854. At first he settled in Shanghai, but civil war soon forced him to move to the International Settlement where other foreigners lived.

He began making preaching trips, sometimes alone, and sometimes with other missionaries. In 1855, he traveled to many villages preaching, distributing books and providing medical care. He also did some work on the island of Tsungming, but was forbidden to return there because his medical service was causing a loss of business for local physicians. Taylor and Scottish evangelist William Burns traveled about 1,000 miles south of Shanghai and ministered at Swatow for a few months in 1856, but the door there was soon closed.

He was robbed the same year as he traveled to settle in Ningpo, losing his travel bed, some clothes, two watches, a Bible his mother had given him, and some surgical instruments. To make matters worse, his mission board stopped sending him funds. He resigned the mission board in late 1856 and kept preaching the word.

In January of 1859, Hudson Taylor married Maria Dyer, a twenty-one year old helper to Mary Ann Aldersey, an English missionary. They had a very happy marriage together, and God gave them several children.

With Hudson having health problems, the family took a furlough back to England in

1860. While on furlough, Hudson translated the Ningpo New Testament, and wrote the book, *China: It's Spiritual Needs and Claims* (1865).

He established the China Inland Mission in 1865 and began praying for God to give him twenty-four missionaries to take back to China. Within a year God gave him his twenty-four volunteers and \$13,000. In December of 1865, the Taylors lost a child in a premature birth and Maria's lungs were permanently damaged.

The Taylors and sixteen of the volunteers set out for China in May of 1866. After enduring a typhoon in the South China Sea, they were towed on in by a steam tug in September. Due to overcrowding at the Ningpo Mission site, they decided to move on to Yangchow in December. An eight year old daughter (Gracie) died in 1867. By the end of July, 1868, they had reached Yangchow and set up their own compound. However, they were beaten and robbed a few weeks later, and their compound was burned to the ground. Some of the missionaries were severely injured, including Maria, who could not walk without help. This turned out to be a spiritual turning point for Hudson, where he vowed to trust God and abide in Christ rather than labor in his own strength. They settled in Chinkiang for several weeks and then returned to Yangchow in November.

In February of 1870, the Taylors made the tough decision to send four of their five children back to England, keeping only baby Charles with them. Five year old Samuel then died on February 4th. Finally, on March 22nd, three children (Bertie, Freddie, and Maria) were sent back to England in tears with Emily Blatchley who would care for them.

Another child was born in July (Noel), but he died after only thirteen days. Only three days later (July 23rd), Maria herself died of tuberculosis. She was thirty-three, and had given birth to eight living children and one stillborn.

Health problems and ministry needs back home caused Hudson to return to England in 1871. He met and married a Miss Faulding the same year. The following year (1872) he formed the London Council of the China Inland Mission and then returned to China with his new bride.

In 1874, Hudson's faith in God brought

in \$4000 for work in new provinces, and he also opened up a western branch of the mission in Wuchang with another missionary.

Miss Blatchley then died back in England, so Hudson and his wife had to hurry home to the children. During this trip he seriously injured himself and spent the next few months paralyzed in bed. God then restored his health, and he left for China again. This time, he went alone, leaving his wife in England to care for six children (three from the previous marriage, two from the current marriage and one adopted daughter).

Political changes opened new doors in China, so Hudson spent the next two years (1876-1878) traveling 30,000 miles opening new mission stations. His wife rejoined him in 1878. By 1887, fifty-nine churches had been established with over 1,600 members. In 1887 alone, God gave him over \$100,000 for the work and 102 new missionaries.

Health problems forced him to return home soon. He and his wife ended up semi-retired in Switzerland. Then the Boxer Rebellion broke out in China which led to the murder or expulsion of hundreds of missionaries and native Christians. His wife then died in 1904.

In 1905, Hudson Taylor returned to China one last time. After making several visits and inspecting a site for a new hospital in Changsha, he died on June 3rd and was buried next to Maria near the Yangtze River.

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**Only one life**  
**Twill soon be past**  
**Only what's done**  
**For Christ will last**

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*Pastor & Mrs. Tim Fellure*

### Job And His Mediator

#### Job 9:1-2; 25:4-6

There are two great questions asked in the book of Job: “*Why do the righteous suffer?*” and “*How can a man be justified?*” The second question does not receive as much notice as the first, but it is a major concern in this book. I believe that the first question has always haunted man – there is a natural desire in man to be in fellowship with his Creator.

However, there are two great facts that keep man from being just with God: the sinfulness of man and the holiness of God. Man’s condition and God’s character are the two stumbling blocks to a right relationship with God.

*The Depravity of Man.* Job describes man as abominable and filthy and one who drinks water like iniquity. Sinful and depraved describes the natural man better than any word in the dictionary – the human race is more depraved than it is anything else.

*The Holiness of God.* The very essence of God is holiness. All man wants to recognize is God’s love, but the bible emphasizes the holiness of God more than it does His love.

Now when you put these two facts together – that man is sinful and God is holy – it creates a problem. The question that is put forth in the book of Job is: “*How can man that is sinful be just with God?*” How can sinful man and holy God get together?

Now the devil knows this is a problem and so he endeavors to give man the wrong answer to the right question. The devil knows that, sooner or later, every man is going to ask this question and search for the answer – so he has devised some answers that prevent man from learning the

truth. As long as the devil can have you believe a lie – any lie – it will keep your blinded to the truth.

In the book of Job, three men step forward with their idea of what it takes to be right with God. As you consider their answers, you should recognize that all three are lies straight out of the devil’s mouth.

#### 1.) Satanic Revelations!

**Job 4:12-16.** The first man to step up is Eliphaz. He has received a revelation in the night and he wants to tell Job what it said. What he describes is an experience that took place while he was sleeping one night. He awoke to find a mysterious presence in his room. A spirit was in his room and it speaks to him (4:17-21).

Now what did Eliphaz see and who did he hear talking to him in the middle of the night? Maybe he just had a bad dream or is making the whole thing up – but I am going to take it at face value: Eliphaz received a visitor from another world one night and it told him how to be just with God.

Now it certainly was not God or an angel that he spoke to because later God would tell all three friends of Job that they had not spoken that which is right. I believe that Eliphaz had an experience with a demonic spirit that gave him advice to give to Job. Remember that it is Satan himself that is intimately concerned with making Job curse God and Satan does have demons that do his bidding (1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1). The devil is filling men’s minds with answers to their questions – but the answers are wrong answers.

#### 2.) Sophisticated Reasoning!

**Job 8:8-10.** The next man to step up is Bildad. He thinks he has the answer to the question but he is no closer to the truth than was Eliphaz. What Bildad tells Job to do is go to the library and blow the dust off of some of those books of history and philosophy and study the accumulated wisdom of the ages. See what the great philosophers and great thinkers have had to say.

That lie has worked so well for the devil that he is still using it. Mankind thinks he is smart enough to think his way out of his problems. He would rather listen to what some other man has said than what God has said. Society is in the sad shape it is in because of the philosophies of such men as Darwin, Marx, Freud, Dewey - their philoso-

phies have influenced our nation and we are worse off because of it. The accumulated wisdom of these men and others has sabotaged the bible, humanized God, deified man, minimized sin and glorified greed.

#### 3.) Sterile Ritualism!

**Job 11:13-15.** Zophar is the third man to step up with advice and he thinks he has the answer to Job’s problem. What Zophar recommends is reformation. It is the religion of self-effort – the doctrine of do a little more and try a little harder.

There are millions of America who are devoutly religious, but it is a religion of works. They are trudging to church Sunday after Sunday and going through a ritual, trying to turn over a new leaf and put away sin somehow, seeing what they can do to reform their lives. They have put their finger on the problem, but they have not found the answer. They have a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.

#### So What Is The Answer?

**9:1-2.** Job has received three answers but none of them has satisfied his seeking heart. Job was sincere in his desire and none of the answers given him rang true with him. His heart is still crying out.

**9:32-33.** Job recognizes the real problem. He knows there is a great gulf between him and God and how can it be bridged. How can a man get to God? The word, “*daysman*” is an old word for mediator. It is someone who stands between two parties and mediates. Someone who can represent the interests of both parties and be impartial to both. What is needed is someone who knows what it is like to be God and man.

But who could we send from our side that understands what it is like to be God and, yet sympathize with the demands of the Almighty? And who is there in the heavens that can also understand what it is like to be man and sympathize with the needs of humanity? There is no angel – not even the seraphims and cherubims that could bridge the gap for they are neither deity or humanity.

There is only One who knows what it is like to be God and One who knows what it is like to be man. There is One who can mediate between the king and the beggar – the Sovereign and the sinner – this world and the other world – the Creator and the creature. “*There is one mediator between God and men; the man, Christ Jesus.*”