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SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER, 2005

**Victory Baptist Press is a ministry of the Victory Baptist Church of Milton, Florida**

**Founder** *Dr. Thomas F. Woodward (1935 - 1994)* - **Pastor** *Tim Fellure* - **Editor & VBP Director** *Jim Fellure*

The Newsletter is the official publication of *Victory Baptist Press* 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: P. O. Box 766, Milton, FL 32572-0766. Phone: 850-623-2505. Fax: 850-623-3502 e-mail: [VictoryBaptistPress@msn.com](mailto:VictoryBaptistPress@msn.com)

**Web: [www.victorybaptistpress.com](http://www.victorybaptistpress.com)**

missions conference 2005

set my  
soul

a fire  
Lord

**October 26-30, 7:00pm**

(Sunday 11:00am - 6:00pm)

**Victory Baptist Church  
Milton, Florida**

Join our church family for our annual Faith Promise Missions Conference. Veteran missionaries Wendall Runion and Adam Thompson will be preaching with testimonies from other missionaries each service. Come praying for God to stir all our hearts with a fresh brokenness for the untold millions. For more information call the church office at (850)623.0086.

## Editor's Notes



*Jim & Mary Fellure*

This is Tuesday, August 23, and I am in the Comfort Inn in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. I flew to Philadelphia on Saturday to be in meetings for the next ten days in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland.

Mary has an office directly across the hall from my office (or what used to be my office), where she does all the bookkeeping for the ministry, and she does a perfect job. Every penny is accounted for, every bill is paid on, or before time, and the books are balanced and closed the last working day of each month. All the shop workers' salaries are paid, and all the field representatives support checks are mailed the following day. She takes care of the finances just as efficiently as the bank would! I am glad I don't have to worry about that job being done well.

We have now added an extra secretary to take care of all the other various duties which are too many to mention. I have recently given up my office so Mrs. Karen Jernigan can use it to do the much needed office work for the ministry. Most of Sister Karen's work for the next three months will be making sure all the emails are answered and all the printed material for the Million Signature Campaign for Joshua and Caleb Thompson is taken care of. We are in the planning stage of putting my office in our home, but until then I will work wherever I can find a place to turn the computer on.

I suppose I could word this in such a way so that our readers would think Sister Karen has kicked me out of the office, and they'd feel sorry for me or think that I was really sacrificing to make room for another worker, but since I am on the road in meetings a lot of the time anyway it works out

best for me to have all of my work inside the laptop.

A few weeks back I was in Salt Lake City, Utah, a dry and thirsty land, not only physically but spiritually. I had not sensed or "felt" the presence of God for days, then I figured out how to get the Fundamental Broadcasting Network on my laptop connected to the internet. From the motel room that night, less than five minutes from the big Mormon Temple, I listened to some of the best Christian music you would ever want to hear, then I heard a message by Dr. Ron Comfort on the horrors of hell. All of a sudden the spirit of things changed and I felt like I had just gotten notice that the devil had died. I felt like running up the wall backwards singing, *Glory to His Name*. Before I went to sleep I turned the volume down, prayed and thanked God for Brother Clyde Eborn and FBN. Since then Brother Gene Sharp has added WHVT of Clyde, Ohio - KPBC of Pleasantville, Pennsylvania - WBLW of Gaylord, Michigan and WKJV of Asheville, North Carolina in a favorites folder. I have listened to Lester Roloff, Oliver Greene, Clarence Sexton, Rudy Smith, Keith Gomez, Harold Sightler, Ben Carper, Shelton Smith and Unshackled from a motel room. I have learned how to get weather reports and all the major news reports, plus I have Bible programs, word processors and a road atlas, all at the tip of my fingers. Who needs an office? Now this might not sound very exciting to some of our younger readers proficient in computer skills (computer geeks), but you must realize that I didn't come up in a very high tech. generation. I was like the little boy whose mother said, "Boy, leave that wheelbarrow alone. You don't know how to run machinery." I know how to butcher a hog, plow a mule or train a red bone hound how to tree a coon (raccoon). I went barefoot in the summer, took a bath in the creek (crick), shot squirrels or rabbits for meat for breakfast and got the living daylight beaten out of me for showing disrespect to a school teacher (by both the teacher and my dad). I even learned to drive the old-fashioned way, in a 1937 Ford pick-up truck helping my uncle haul hay on the farm when I was about ten or eleven years old. (Speaking of driving, I have been driving almost every day of my life for the last fifty years, but a couple of years back I hit a speed trap, got a ticket, then went to drivers safety school for four

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

**W**E ACCEPT the Holy Scriptures 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 the 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.

hours to keep my insurance policy from going up. I felt rather stupid sitting in that class having a young, inexperienced guy who probably never drove a car until he took drivers education classes in high school, tell me how to drive.)

I am from the old school! I am an old-fashioned, red-blooded, Christian American.

...continued on page 5



*Al & Heidi Berg*

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The last few months have found us busy as usual in the print shop. Our most recent project to be completed was a set of six thousand Russian New Testament signatures to be put together by East European Harvest in Mobile, Alabama. This is the organization, that through a series of unfortunate events was not able to use the Mueller Martini bindery system they had purchased several years ago, and they ended up giving it to us. They still have volunteers putting books together by hand and using a much smaller glue binder, so it was our privilege to print a few thousand New Testaments for them. They also get them out on the mission field at no cost to the missionaries they send them to.

Our next project on the big press will be to print about 24,000 Spanish New Testaments. This project has been in the making for a long time, and it will be a blessing to finally get it going. Please pray that we get them done soon and that there will be many more to follow.

Also, in between other duties that we have in the shop, we have been helping Bro. Miza Oliveira learn how to print. He is a native Brazilian who moved to the Baltimore, Maryland, area to marry his bride, who he originally met in Brazil. (She had gone there on a church mission trip.) While living there, he got involved in a printing ministry and saw some requests for literature to go to Brazil. Because of the shipping expenses it is very difficult to get any large quantities of material into Brazil. So, God laid it on his heart to go back to Brazil and print there. His pastor in Maryland recommended that he spend some time with us to learn how to print, and he moved his wife and three children here in March of this year. Already, God has given him an electrostatic plate maker, an AB Dick 360 press in good condition, and a 30 pocket booklet maker with saddle stitcher and folder. The only other piece of equipment he needs now to make a complete print shop is a paper cutter. Bro. Miza has

dreams of needing much larger equipment some day, but this will be a good start for a new print shop. Bro. Miza is a very humble brother who is willing to do anything he is able. When he says he will clean the toilets if that is what is needed, he means it. Please pray that God will honor Bro. Miza's burden and establish a printing ministry in the country of Brazil.

Please continue to pray for all of us in the shop, but especially for Bro. Bill Roberts at this time. He recently had surgery on his colon to remove a cancerous polyp. During the surgery, the surgeon removed several lymph nodes and a few of them tested positive for cancer as well. So, now he has begun six months of chemotherapy and will have about a month of radiation treatments after that. Please pray that the treatments will be successful and that he will be able to return to the shop. In the mean time, Bro Starling and myself will try to hold down the fort. When he first came on board a little over a year ago, he told people it was his calling to give me a hard time. He found out I was a little harder nut to crack than he thought and is starting to wonder if he missed God's calling for his life! Please pray for both of us.

May God bless you,  
*Bro. Albert Berg*

## \$684.96 WILL SPONSOR A COMPLETE DAY OF OPERATION OF THE VICTORY BAPTIST PRESS PRINT SHOP.

WHEN YOU SUPPORT THIS LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRY YOU ARE HELPING SEND THE GOSPEL IN ITS PUREST FORM AROUND THE WORLD WITHOUT CHARGE.

“Give the Bible to the people, unadulterated, pure, unaltered, unexplained, un-cheapened, and then see it work through the whole nature. It is very difficult indeed for a man or for a boy who knows the Scriptures ever to get away from it. It follows him like the memory of his mother. It haunts him like an old song. It reminds him like the word of an old and revered teacher. It forms a part of the warp and woof of his life.”

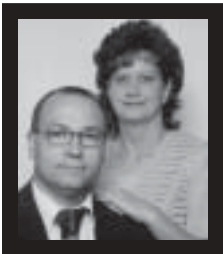
*Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924)*

**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.

When they are not on the road in meetings, they make their home in Candler, North Carolina, and can be contacted at the home office. Phone (828)230.5463.



**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.

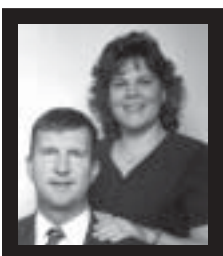
Contact the Reeds at 12207 Buckhorn Cemetery Rd., Moody, Texas 76557. Phone (254)853.9353.



**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.

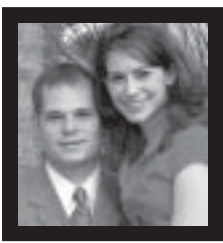
Contact the Richburgs at P. O. Box 508, Six Mile, South Carolina 29682. Phone

(864)868.9988.



**MARTIN AND ANNE FULLER** became field representatives for Victory Baptist Press in January, 2002. Brother Fuller attended Tabernacle Baptist College of Greenville, South Carolina, and was on staff under Dr. Harold Sightler. He also served as assistant pastor and youth director and pastored for twelve years in Texas.

Contact them at P.O. Box 474, Grovetown, Georgia 30813. Phone (706)556.8369.



**Paul and Rachael Edes** met While attending Oklahoma Baptist College in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. After graduation in May of 2005, they were married and started their service for the Lord together. We are glad to have this fine dedicated couple as field representatives.

Contact them at P. O. Box 766, Milton, Florida 32572. Phone (850)384.1564.

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 & Juanita Bowie

***“O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.”***

***Psalm 34: 3***

Praise the Lord for those who have been saved by the blood of our Saviour, Jesus Christ my Lord, since our last letter.

Our daily temperatures in Tucson, have been over 100 degrees for about 40 days. One day recently, it was 120 degrees in Caborca, Sonora, Mexico. At the time of the invitation, before I asked for those wanting to repent of sin and receive Christ as Saviour to come forward, one man about thirty-five years old jumped up and came forward wanting to be saved “NOW.”

The temperature was very hot, the humidity was very high and we rolled in sweat. I was feeling very sick. Juanita and the pilot, Mark McCurdy, were doing just fine. The pilot flew the airplane at 7,500 feet, and with the cooler air I started feeling better. When the plane landed in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, to get clearance papers to leave Mexico, the inspector, a man about twenty-eight years old, came out to check us out as he always does. He stayed and talked with me. After a few minutes, I took a John and Romans in Spanish and showed him how to be saved. Right in the middle of showing the inspector how to be saved, the pilot returned to the airplane. While we were sitting there showing the scriptures to the inspector the pilot excused himself and started checking any and everything on the plane. He kept looking very busy until the inspector prayed and asked God to save him and forgive him of all his sins. After the inspector prayed and got his life right he looked different. Myself, I no longer felt sick.

Praise the Lord for Juanita helping and U.I.M. Aviation for having good pilots and mechanics to help us in our prison services.

Praise the Lord, some sow, some water, but God giveth the increase.

Yours for Souls in Mexico,  
*Ray & Juanita Bowie*

***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.



Brother Bob says they can do especially well with overseas flights.

Ph: 850-983-3954 Fax: 850-983-1358

email: bobleonor3@msn.com

**editor notes from page 2...**

I was taught to tell the truth every time I opened my mouth - to use plain speech that cannot be condemned. Today, people even talk funny. Somebody sent me an email the other day telling about Kudmar getting legalized into the US. The examiner said, "Kudmar, you have done well. There is only one more part to the test." Kudmar said, "I ready." The examiner said, "I want you to make a sentence using the words green, pink and yellow." Kudmar said, "I ready. The telephone go 'green, green, green, green, green.' I pink it up and say 'yellow'." I believe Kudmar now works for HP Tech support.

I was raised to believe that a trip to town nineteen miles from home once a month was a lot of traveling. When I was a kid (back in another dispensation) the military recruiters would come to the community and enlist the boys for the service. They would then come with a bus and pick up all those who had joined and transport them to their basic training camps. The Guyan river was only about six miles from our home. It has been told that when the recruit bus crossed the river that one of the boys from our community looked out the back of the bus, choked up, and with a tear in his voice said, "Good-bye America."

Every now and then I get flashbacks from the old days and for a few seconds I

think that all I can do is pull weeds out of the garden, or milk a cow or slop (feed) the hogs. I almost have to pinch myself to see if this is really me sitting in front of this little box that literally has the potential of connecting me to the rest of the entire world. What a tool to use for the glory of God.

**DVD Almost Ready**

Brother Gene Sharp from Clyde, Ohio, came in for a week and took a lot of live footage of the print shop in operation plus several hundred still pictures. Tim and I did the narration and Brother Sharp is putting it all together in a ten or twelve minute video presentation. Our plans are to provide all the field reps. with a video projector so they can show the churches exactly what the VBP print shop looks like and what it takes to take clean white paper and turn it into the printed Word of God. We can also mail the DVD to potential supporters without us actually going to their church. The DVD will, no doubt, be a great asset to the ministry. Thank you Brother Gene for your help with this much needed project.

**New Field Representative**

Brother Paul Edes, with his new bride, Rachael, is now on the road as our sixth field representative. Brother Paul graduated from Oklahoma Baptist College in Oklahoma

City, Oklahoma, in May. Paul and Rachael are just getting started, so please pray that the Lord will open doors for them and use Brother Paul as he presents VBP and preaches in the churches.

**Bill Roberts has Colon Cancer**

On July 29, Brother Bill Roberts had surgery for colon cancer. Brother Al Berg says more about it in his notes on pages three, but I also wanted to ask our readers to please pray for Brother Roberts' complete recovery.

**One Million Signature Campaign**

We plan to mail this edition of the Newsletter in a sealed envelope so we can include a packet of information about Joshua and Caleb Thompson. In addition to working at what God has called us to, printing and distributing the printed Word of God, I have dedicated myself to making the truth about the Thompson brothers known to as many people as possible. Please take time to read the enclosed information and help get the One Million Signatures on the petitions before December 1st. It can be done if enough of God's people will get on board and do what they can.

Thank you for your friendship,  
*Jim Fellure*

By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. (John 13:35)

But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. (Galatians 5:15)



Blessings & Benefits  
by Mrs. Pam Leake  
*Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah. (Psalm 68:19)*

As we sat on the bench on the church porch, she related several stories to me from Uganda that both excited and blessed my soul. Sister Phyllis Hall, one of our missionaries home on a brief furlough, had dropped by for the evening service and, after everyone else had left, stayed a while to share the great things the Lord is doing in Uganda.

Sister Hall, in her breathless and exciting way, can tell stories and events that will keep you on the edge of your seat. Her love for the Lord and for the souls of lost people comes through loud and clear. She is a single lady, widowed some years ago when her husband died in Alaska where they had served as missionaries for several terms. The desire to serve the Lord wherever He led never waned, and she eagerly went to Uganda when the door opened for her to serve with some veteran missionaries there.

Because she works with children who have so little and have been through the tortures and agonies of a country beset with re-

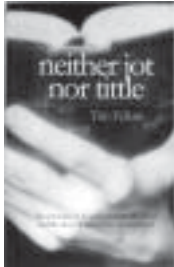
bellion, fighting and atrocities too awful to tell, Sister Phyllis is always seeking ways to share the Lord with them. She related to me that one of her greatest needs was printed material...stories of the Bible and of missionaries and great people of God, to use in teaching children. It reminded me again of the great necessity for the printed page among God's workers and that printing ministries are such a vital link to those in need of the "ammunition" to wage the battle for men's souls around the world. What a blessing to be a part of God's work; what a benefit we can be to His sowers and reapers!

*Pam Leake*

# Victory Baptist Press Bookstore Sales

Victory Baptist Press Bookstore is a ministry of Victory Baptist Press. Any profit made from the sale of our competitively priced books, goes toward the printing of more scripture portions. These scripture portions are free at our door as the Lord provides. This is just one more way we get the word of God to a lost world.

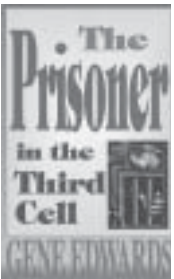
## NEW



Now more than ever, there is a need for fundamentalists to arise and defend the authority and integrity of the Scriptures. ***Neither Jot Nor Tittle***, by Tim Fellure, declares the promise of God to preserve His Word and tells the story of how it was accomplished. 188 pages. Price: \$12.00



***How Satan Turned America Against God***, by Dr. William P. Grady, reveals America's main purpose for her existence, the tragic repudiation of that role and how Satan orchestrated the process. It will afford the reader with an "understanding of the times...for such a time as this" (I Chronicles 12:32; Esther 4:14). 972 pages. Price: \$36.00



***The Prisoner In The Third Cell***, by Gene Edwards. In this dramatic story John the Baptist, imprisoned by Herod and awaiting death, struggles to understand a Lord who did not live up to his expectations. If you are a suffering Christian or know of one, this book will bring enormous comfort - and insight into the ways of God. 80 pages, paperback. Price: \$6.00



***Stay In The Castle***, by Jerry Ross, is one young lady's true story of her decision to stay in the castle and wait for her prince. This is a booklet that every teenage girl should read. 22 pages, Price: \$2.55



***Seven Royal Laws of Courtship*** by Jerry Ross is practical advice for both the Knight in Training and the Princess in Waiting. This is by the same author of "Stay in the Castle" and where "Stay in the Castle" offers inspiration, this booklet humbly offers instruction. 45 pages, paperback booklet. Price: \$2.55

These two great books, by *Vision Forum's Profiles in Fatherhood*, inspire busy men to not allow their public responsibilities to detract from their fatherly obli-



**#1. *The Biblical Lessons of John Quincy Adams For His Son***  
90 pages. Price: \$8.50



**#2. *Letters & Lessons Of Theodore Roosevelt For His Sons***  
297 pages. Price \$9.00



***Why Didn't Somebody Tell Me?***, by Rosalyn Kendall, offers some very practical insights and encouragement that can transform the life of a young woman seeking to fulfill her God-given role as wife, mother and homemaker. 264 pages. Price: \$14.00

## The Scripture Sleuth Series

***The Scripture Sleuth Series***, By Matt Halverson: Are you ready to catch villains, solve puzzles, and crack cases that stump normal detectives? Grab your Bible and get ready to Scripture Sleuth with Concord Cunningham! Concord investigates an exciting new mystery in each chapter. But instead of revealing the solution at the end of the case, Concord gives readers a Bible verse to find. Concord has never met a mystery that the Bible can't solve.

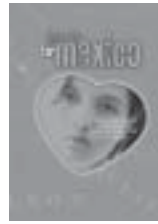
Vol. 1,2,3,4

Approx. 100 pages each.

Price: \$7.00 each



Try a new dish from our cookbook published by Victory Baptist Press Bookstore. **The Heavenly Cookbook**, by Mary Fellure, will be a great asset to your kitchen or as a gift for a friend. It contains 469 recipes compiled from across America. There are over 180 pages of delicious recipes and helps. Price: \$12.00



**Hearts for Mexico**, by Pam Leake, describes the forty-year ministry of Missionaries Sonny and Beverly Fritz in Old Mexico. 117 pages. Price: \$8.00



**The Religion Racket**, by Norman H. Wells, a student of Dr. J. Frank Norris. This book reveals religion in its true light; as a failure that uses deception to lead people away from the truth. 119 pages. Price: \$7.00



**The Fuller Family**  
Blessed Peace  
*Blessed Peace/Lean On Me/Through It All/No One Else/One Of These Days/My Mother/Value Of One/God Given Eye Ball/More Than enough/ King's Apparel*  
CD \$10.00



Jonathan Goforth, pioneer missionary to China, at age 77 and blind gave his final message, **When The Spirit's Fire Swept Korea**, in 1936. The message is a stirring account of the revival he experienced in Korea in 1907. One of the clearest accounts of real revival ever recorded. 21 page pamphlet. Price: \$3.00



**Voices of VICTORY** This CD contains the beautifully, talented voices of the various singing groups of the Victory Baptist Church of Milton, Florida  
*Go Ask/Nothing As Sweet As Walking With Jesus/To Rescue A Sinner Like Me/Happy Am I/God Walks The Dark Hills/His Life For Mine/You Can't Beat A Visit With The King/The Value Of One/What Love/If There's No God*  
CD \$12.00



**How to be Saved Forever and Know It** by Jim Fellure is a 21 page, pocket-size tract that is an excellent witnessing tool. It gives a clear-cut presentation of salvation using scripture and illustrations in an easy-to-understand manner. Minimum order-twenty five. We will imprint your church information on the back page with orders of 100 or more. Price: 1-99/\$0.25 each - 100 or more/\$0.15 each

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*Pastor Tim Fellure*

## The Love of God

### *I John 4:19*

The apostle Paul speaks of the “breadth, and length, and depth, and height” of the love of God – it is such an immeasurable and incomprehensible subject that the preacher struggles with knowing how to approach it. A similar problem is in knowing that when you have said all you can say about the love of God, there will be more left unsaid than what you were able to give. The best of sermons can only touch the hem of God’s love to men.

When I state that God loves me it is a truth of which I am fully convinced. I have doubted God’s will and ways, I have questioned His wisdom in the circumstances of life, I have wondered about His willingness to answer my prayer, but I have never doubted God’s love for me. There has never been a time in my life, whether in good times or bad, that it could be suggested that I was not loved. You could never convince of anything less. The devil has whispered in my ear that God didn’t care for me, but his words have always fallen on deaf ears.

The reason I know this so assuredly is because God has told me He loves me. The love of God is something that can be inferred by the many things God has done for us, but He does not leave it to an inference. Rather, He has declared His love and recorded it in His eternal Word. I do not surmise that God loves me from the works of creation; I read it where He declared emphatically that His love was toward me. I know He loves me because He told me He loved me.

Another reason I know God loves me is because He has not just said it, but He has shown it. The demonstrations of His love toward me are too numerous to count:

I have infallible and irrefutable proof that God loves me because of the way He has dealt with me. Only a God of love would bestow so many blessings on one’s life. Only a God of love would forgive so many sins. Only a God of love would receive the prodigal again after so many times of wandering away. It may not be evident that I love Him, but look at my life, and you will have to say that somebody loves me.

### 1.) The Love of God is First!

*“We love him, because he first loved us.”* It is such a simple statement, but it is the essence of the love of God. The love of God to us precedes our love to God. God loved me before there was anything in me to love. I should have been seeking the love of God, trying to compel Him to love me. But instead He sought my love, compelling me to love Him.

Before I ever repented of my sin, God loved me. Before I ever exercised faith in Christ, God loved me. Before I opened my heart to the gospel, before I believed the witness of the Holy Spirit, before I accepted the sacrifice of Calvary for my pardon – God loved me. There are many things about you now that God could love, but they were not there at the first. You may be very devoted to Christ, but you were not so before God loved you. You may have a high degree of holiness in your life, but you were loved when you were unholy. You may be conformed in many ways to the image of Christ, but God loved you when that image was not there. No matter how early in life you began to love the Lord, His love was first.

There was no reason in me for God to exercise His love for me. When He looked at me He found no grounds for love, but the reason was in His own nature. But what does that mean? It means that the love of God is uncreated; therefore, it is unchangeable. If the love of God is seated in His character and not mine, then His character would have to change for Him not to love me. If God loved me because of what I had done or because of some good He saw in me, then I would have to keep that good thing to keep the love of God. But God loved me because it was His nature to love the unlovable. If God loved me because I was good, then when the goodness diminished the love would diminish, as well. But God loved me because He was good, and His goodness will never diminish.

### 2.) The Love of God is Firm!

Since I have known the love of God I have given Him ten thousand excuses not to love me any longer. Yet, in spite of all my ill manners, shortcomings and transgressions, coldness of heart and backsliding, He still loves me. He loved me when I was unlovable so that He could make me into something lovable. But so many times I have done like Gomer and spurned the love of God. I have been everything but lovely and holy, yet even then God still loves me.

I did not earn His love in the beginning, and I do not keep His love by my own righteousness. He may not be pleased with me, but He will always love me. He may not bless me more abundantly if I stray from His will, but He will always love me. There have been times I have been out of His will, but I have never been out of His care.

The love of God is without beginning and it is without pause. There is never a moment when God does not love me. It is without break from beginning to end; a single chain without a weak link to risk it breaking. It knows no seasons, it has no intermission, there is no hint of failure or an end to the love of God.

### 3.) The Love of God is Full!

I am happy to say that I love the Lord now more than I ever have before, but I cannot say that He now loves me more than ever before. My love for Him is so much deeper – the more I learn of Him the more I love Him. But God loved me as fully as He could love me from the very beginning. He knew all there was to know about me yet He loved me from the very beginning with all the love of His heart. He cannot love me more, and He will not love me less. Nor is there any of you that God loves more than He loves me. You may love the Lord more than I love Him, but He does not love you more than He loves me.

There have been times when I did not love Him like I should, but there has never been a time when He did not love me with all His heart. There has never been a time when God did not love you as much as He loves you right now. You may at this day be at the your very lowest – it may be that you have strayed farther away from God now than ever before – but God loves you as much as when you were the closest to Him. It may seem like your life is ruined, that everyone is loved but you, and that you are a miserable wretch that no one could possibly love, but God loves you.