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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: news@victorybaptistpress.com

Web: www.victorybaptistpress.com



“NOW THAT YOU CAN SEE, WILL YOU MARRY ME?”

There was a blind girl who hated herself just because she was blind. She hated everyone, except her loving boyfriend who was always there for her.

She said that if she could only see the world, she would marry him.

One day, someone donated a pair of eyes to her. Then she could see everything, including her boyfriend.

Her boyfriend then asked, “Now that you can see the world, will you marry me?” The girl was shocked when she saw that her boyfriend was blind too, and she refused to marry him.

Her boyfriend walked away in tears and later wrote a letter to her saying, “Just take care of my eyes, dear.”

“For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” (1Corinthians 6:20)

Editor's Notes



Jim & Mary Fellure

We "older" folks have a tendency to remind others that time is swiftly passing by, but for me it seems that this winter will never come to an end. All of the problems the weather has been to me started with a snowstorm in Joplin, Missouri. Just as I was coming into town on Saturday night, the preacher that I was to preach for the following day called saying that because the snow was so deep they could not even get to the church, so the services had to be canceled.

In the middle of January, I was supposed to preach Sunday through Wednesday for Pastor Hank Thompson in Austin, Texas. When I went to the airport on Saturday to catch my flight, they had rerouted me because of snow and ice in Dallas. The different flight got me to Austin, and I then drove eighty miles through a torrential downpour of freezing rain to San Antonio for a fiftieth wedding anniversary party for Jim and Mary Taylor. Early the next morning, I made the drive back to Austin (through more freezing rain) to begin the meeting there. Another ice storm hit the area and nearly shut the city down for two days. Services had to be canceled on Monday and Tuesday.

By Thursday midday, the ice had melted and my flight to the "beautiful, warm winter weather" in Tucson, Arizona, was on time. Surprise, surprise, surprise! Southern Arizona had the coldest weather in twenty-nine years, with ice and snow every day for a week.

The highlight of the trip to Arizona is always the trip to the prison in Coborca, Sonora, Mexico, with Missionary Ray Bowie. This year, Brother Bowie had missionary aviation pilot, Tim Reid, fly us from Nogales, into Mexico, in his little single en-

gine airplane. It took two hours to deice the plane before taking off. When we landed in Coborca, we found more cold weather. In fact, the night before the temperature had been 20°, and I rode across town from the airport in the back of a pickup truck. That particular prison has absolutely no heat; not even windows, just steel bars. The inmates seemed glad to get packed into the room where the services were held, and the body heat raised the temperature some.

My last night in Arizona, I stayed at a cheap motel about fifty miles west of Tuc-



The 1959 Cessna 172 safely took us, and the Gospel, to Coborca, Sonora, Mexico .

son. This motel was like the one Mary and I once stayed in in southern Virginia. There were only two motels in town, and when I asked a man on the street which one of the two was best, he said, "Whichever one you stay in, tomorrow morning you will wish you had of stayed in the other one." I took the desk clerk's recommendation and ate at a Mexican restaurant next to the motel. It, no doubt, could qualify as having the world's toughest steak and hottest picante sauce, but just to prove to myself that I am not a wimp, I ate both of them.

Now, for the positive side of the story:

When the services had to be cancelled in Missouri, it put me in a position to visit Pastor Hylton Lawrence, a long time pastor friend that I had not seen for at least twenty years. God is sure using Brother Hylton to do a great work in Independence.

Though the flight from Pensacola to Austin was changed, it was a better flight. I arrived in Austin about two hours earlier than planned.

The drive to San Antonio and back was in a 2007 Infiniti luxury car that Brother Ben Thompson put me in when he met me at the

STATEMENT OF FAITH

WE 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.

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

WE 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.

WE BELIEVE all men are sinners and are guilty before God; in need of a Saviour.

WE 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.

WE 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.

Austin airport.

At San Antonio the wedding party for the Taylors was furnished with a delicious meal, and that night I stayed in the very spa-

...continued next page



Al & Heidi Berg

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you to every one who has prayed for us and financially helped this ministry. God only knows how many times we have been spared some disaster. Recently, my wife was rear-ended by a car driven by a man looking for his cell phone on the floor of his car.

Fortunately, no one was injured, and we are still waiting on the insurance company to see what will happen with the car. There was not that much damage to the car, but since it is older, the repairs may be more than the car is worth.

Meanwhile, here in the shop, I have been holding the fort by myself for the last several weeks because my helper, Steve Starling, had to have surgery on his right shoulder. When the doctor cut in to him, the damage was worse than originally expected, so he will have a longer recovery. Please pray for his complete recovery. He was able to help Bro. Miza Olivira get some additional printing equipment for his print shop in Brazil. They drove up into the snow of northern Indiana, then over to eastern Maryland to load it into his container that will be leaving shortly. Please pray for Bro. Miza. It will take nothing short of a miracle to get everything down there, and then set up and running, but I believe that is what he is counting on.

Fortunately, Bro. Bill Roberts has come out of retirement a day or two a week to help

me get some much needed colating done. We are currently putting together 40,000 Spanish John/Romans for Pachuka, Mexico, a city north of Mexico City. Adam Thompson's church, along with anyone else who wants to go, will be doing some evangelistic work using the John/Romans during the Mexican Independence Day celebrations in September of this year. We trust that many souls will be able to be won to the Lord at that time.

In our spare time here at the shop, we have been working on printing and putting together some little Proverbs booklets. These fit nicely in a man's shirt pocket, or a ladies' purse. They are great little items to keep with you to glean some wisdom while waiting in traffic, at the doctor's office, or wherever you are. If you would like to have some of these, please let us know, and we will send them out as long as the supplies last. All of our scripture portions are free as the Lord provides them to us, but we would appreciate some help with the postage if we are to mail them to you.

May God bless you,
Bro. Albert Berg

When you include Victory Baptist Press in your mission giving you are helping send the Gospel in it's purest form around the world.

editors notes...

cious and comfortable Clarion Suites Hotel.

Even though the services in Austin had to be cancelled on Monday and Tuesday, the Lord gave us great services on Sunday and Wednesday, and Brother Thompson put me in a very comfortable motel and took me to some of the finest restaurants that I have ever eaten in. Though I only preached three times, the church gave me a love offering that far exceeds what I deserve or feel worthy of.

The flight to Tucson was without incident, and the ice and snow was only during the night while I was sound asleep in a good, comfortable, warm bed. During the day the weather was beautiful. The flight to Coborca for the prison service took us over the beautiful, majestic Sierra Madre Mountains. A more beautiful sight few people will ever see, and at the prison, Brother Bowie preached the Gospel, and as usual several inmates were saved. Praise the Lord!

As far as the "cheap motel" in Arizona, it was far better than the log cabin I grew up in in the mountains of West Virginia. The

tough steak at the Mexican restaurant had an absolutely delicious flavor, and the hot sauce was just what I needed at the time. I will probably eat there the next time I am in that area.

While in Arizona, I preached for Pastor Rick Bloxton at Amada, and Pastor Gary Schwer at Mesa. The Lord gave us excellent services, and both pastors booked me for meetings in 2008.

Pastor Schwer gave me the book *God Is So Good, Especially When You Are Hurt-ing*, by Dr. John Bishop. It tells the story of his bout with "aseptic meningitis," and how since his sickness, he has seen more of God's goodness than ever before. On the flight back to Florida, I read the book and once again was reminded that regardless of how difficult we might think our circumstances are, someone, somewhere, has it far worse than we do. And, as if I needed another reminder, I recently read on the table plaque in a Cracker Barrel restaurant that the largest snowman ever built was 113' tall, built in 1999 by the residents of Bethel, Maine, and

the largest snowflake ever to fall was 15" wide and 8" thick. Thank God, I have never met that snowman and I have never seen a snowflake that big!

Yes, this winter has felt long and cold to me, but the good attendance in the meetings, the altars filled, the scriptures printed and distributed, and the souls saved have been worth every little, insignificant discomfort I might have felt.

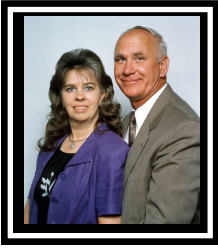
I have now enjoyed being back in Florida for two weeks catching up on all the office work and getting this issue of the Newsletter ready to print, but it is time to go again. I will leave tomorrow to preach in the mission conference for Brother Charlie Andrews in Birmingham, Alabama.

Please continue to pray that the hand of God will be on the meetings where I preach.

Thank you for your support and may God continue to show you His goodness.

Jim Fellure

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



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/ (864)506.2380.



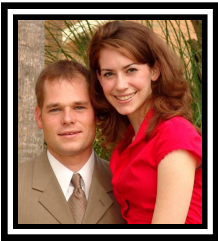
RICK & MELINDA REED have been field representatives for Victory Baptist Press since October of 1996. Brother Reed gave up a very comfortable and secure employment position in order to help send the glorious Gospel of Christ around the world through this ministry.

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



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

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



Paul and Rachael Edes: Paul has been in Victory Baptist Church for the past fifteen years. While attending Oklahoma Baptist College in Oklahoma City, he met Rachael, and 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 young couple as field representatives. Contact the Edes at P. O. Box 766, Milton, FL 32577. Phone (850)384.1564.

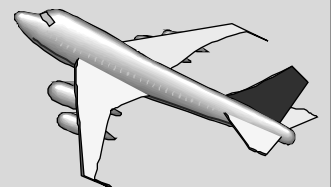
NEWSLETTERS AVAILABLE IN BUNDLES

Bundles of each issue of this newsletter will be sent without charge to those requesting it. Pastors could make it available to their members, especially our supporting churches. Just let us know how many of each issue you would like to have.

***Things I've Learned
From My Children***

1. A king-size waterbed holds enough water to fill a 2000 sq. ft. house 4 inches deep.
2. If you spray hairspray on dust bunnies and run over them with roller blades, they can ignite.
3. A three-year-old's voice is louder than 200 adults in a crowded restaurant.
4. You should not throw baseballs up when a ceiling fan is on. When using a ceiling fan as a bat, you have to throw the ball up a few times before you get a hit. A ceiling fan can hit a baseball a long way.
5. The glass in a window (even double-paned) doesn't stop a baseball hit by a ceiling fan.
6. When you hear the toilet flush and the words, "Uh-oh," it's already too late.
7. Playdough and microwave should not be used in the same sentence.
8. Superglue is forever.
9. No matter how much Jell-O you put in a swimming pool, you still can't walk on water.
10. Pool filters do not like Jell-O.
11. VCRs do not eject PB&J sandwiches.
12. Garbage bags do not make good parachutes.
13. Marbles in gas tanks make a lot of noise when you're driving.
14. You probably do not want to know what that odor is.
15. Always look in the oven before you turn it on. Plastic toys do not like ovens.
16. The Fire Department in Austin, TX, has a 5-min. response time.
17. The spin cycle on the washing machine does not make earthworms dizzy.
18. It will, however, make cats dizzy.
19. Cats throw up twice their body weight when dizzy.
20. The mind of a 6-year-old is wonderful.

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



Brother Bob Schmidt and his wife, Leonor, are faithful members of Victory Baptist Church. They 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: 702-437-9999 - email: bobleonor3@bellsouth.net



Blessings & Benefits

by Mrs. Pam Leake

*Blessed be the Lord, who daily
loadeth us with benefits, even the
God of our salvation. Selah.
(Ps. 68:19)*

Joy, loneliness, agony, happiness, disappointment, success, despair, elation.

All these things are part of the human experience, and all were known by God before He created man. I personally believe these experiences played a part in God's work when He said in Genesis 2:18, "It is not good that the man should be alone." He knew the need of the human heart in facing these issues of life and what part another person could play in these experiences.

The Lord gave me my best friend on earth in my husband. I hope I am the same to him. A friend is such a needed thing in one's life, but a true friend is so hard to come by. Sometimes one's profession or position prohibits the developing of many close friends, but that doesn't negate the need. Everyone needs someone to relate to when life's events and experiences are more than you can bear.

I am blessed to have a few people to call "friend," and I know I can count on them to listen and pray with me and for me. But most are long distance, and we don't have frequent personal contact. So when I need to vent, or share, or pour out emotionally, I go to my husband. I thank God for him. But sometimes there is a need for more – and that is when I can go to the Lord, my friend that sticks closer than a brother. He personally knows every pain, heartache, or frustration that I could ever go through. He created me the way that I am, and He can meet the deepest need of my heart. What would I do without Him? In the chaos and uncertainty of this present world, I am so thankful that I have a Friend on whom I can depend. What a Friend we have in Jesus!-PL

email: pamleake@colonialbaptist-cville.org.

MEMORIALS

Victory Baptist Press recently received memorial gifts from:

**Mr. & Mrs. Thomas House, Betty Spence,
Ronald & Dorothy Pitts, Dorothy Sima,
Dorothy & Marty Rule, Dan & Sherry Biggerstaff,
Travis & Lisa Pitts**
in memory of
Elaine Rule

Paul & Brenda Nawlin, Francis Nawlin
in memory of
David Lavon Pickron

*"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."*

SEND US BOOKS!

In 1814 the Methodists in Australia sent an urgent appeal to the Methodist Missionary Society in London:

"Send us a preacher. Send a faithful servant of the Lord to us. Disappoint us not! Deny us not! Leave us not forsaken in this benighted land. We call upon you on behalf of our children: let them not be left to perish.

"We call upon you on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves: perishing, dying sinners, outcasts of society; leave them not in their blood. Send us one of yourselves, with a good supply of wearing apparel, house furniture, and, **particularly, books.**"

--James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited

BASED ON ONE MILLION BOOKS PER YEAR, \$684.96 WILL SPONSOR A COMPLETE DAY OF OPERATION OF THE VICTORY BAPTIST PRESS PRINT SHOP.

Since the last Newsletter the following friends of this ministry have participated in the Sponsor-A-Day program by paying for at least one day of operation of the print shop.

Jon & Jamie Vandeburg of Prudenville, Michigan

Veteran Missionary Bill Allen of New Iberia, Louisiana

Jim Porter, Broker/Owner of Old South Properties, Inc. of Pensacola, Florida.

NOTE: In addition to being a very reputable realtor, Brother Porter has a very unique ministry called "**Men's Barn Meeting.**"

View their website at <http://www.mensbarnmeeting.com>.

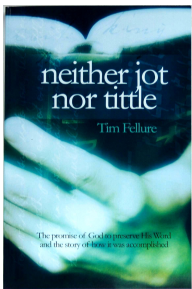
Thank you for your help and may God get the glory.

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.

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY AGAINST INTERNET PORNOGRAPHY

The internet can be a great tool but it can also pose a grave danger to your family. Everyday, over 45 million children between the ages of 10-17 are online, and out of these, 1 in 33 receive a sexual solicitation and nearly 60% receive some type of online communication with a stranger. Every pastor probably knows firsthand of men addicted to internet pornography, teenagers seeing trash on sites like "myspace", and others spending late nights on chat rooms and instant messaging with strangers. If you have a computer with access to the internet you cannot afford to be without online protection. Victory Baptist Press uses and recommends a very powerful internet protection program. To view the program go to our website, www.victorybaptistpress.com and click on the Bsafe banner.

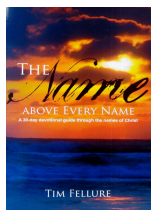


Now more than ever, there is a need for fundamentalists to arise and defend the authority and integrity of the Scriptures. *Neither Jot Nor Tittle*, by Tim Felleure, declares the promise of God to preserve His Word and tells the story of how it was accomplished.

188 pages. Price: \$12.00

Order in sets of ten for \$7.20 each. A 40% discount.

OUR BEST OFFER: Order by the case (26 books) for \$6.00 each. A 50% discount.

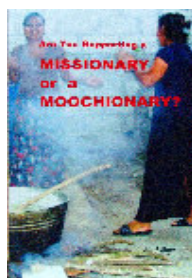


The Name Above Every Name, by Tim Felleure. No man ever lived who was called by so many names as Christ. The Muslim has exhausted his knowledge of Allah when he learns the 99 names of his god in the Koran, but the more than 700 titles given to Christ in the Scriptures are only a portion of the names worthy of our Savior. It is impossible to know every name or to comprehend the full treasure of truth contained in each. It is the aim of this 30-day devotional guide to expound on

some of the great titles that can belong to none other than Jesus Christ.

4 1/4" X 6 1/2". 60 pages. Price: \$3.95

Order in sets of ten for \$2.37 each. A 40% discount.

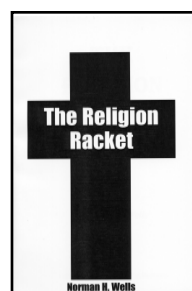


Are You Supporting A Missionary or a Moochionary by Jim Felleure, is a straight forward shot at sham missionaries that are bleeding off mission money that should go for more productive causes. The problem and the cure are both dealt with in a very convicting and instructive manner.

163 pages. Price \$9.50

Order in sets of ten for \$5.70 each. A 40% discount.

OUR BEST OFFER: Order by the case (32 books) for \$4.75 each. A 50% discount.



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

Order in sets of ten for \$4.20 each. A 40% discount.



Tim Felleure's newest book, *Authority, Who's in Charge* is a must read.

Our world desperately needs to rediscover a respect for and sub-mission to duly-appointed, God-ordained

authority. If we are to have unity in our churches, peace in our homes, security in our communities, progress in our schools, and productivity in our places of employment then someone must be in charge.

4 1/4" X 6 1/2". 42 pages. Price \$2.95

Order in sets of ten for \$1.77 each. A 40% discount.

The Scofield Bible Study Leaflets

contains 101 outlines, by Dr. C. I. Scofield. The leaflets from which these outlines were produced were found in the library of Dr. W. O. H. Garman (1899-1983)....Dr. Garman

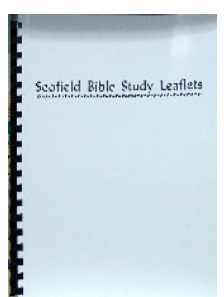
was a minister in western Pennsylvania for sixty years, and used his own copyright 1915 set of Scofield outlines in combination with "Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth" (also by C. I. Scofield) in teaching the fundamentals of the faith to believers.

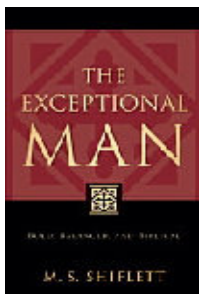
There is also a dispensational chart and a seven-page article supporting baptism by immersion. Also a twelve-page history of the Scofield Bible.

Comb-bound, 8 1/2" X 11" page size.

Price: \$20.00

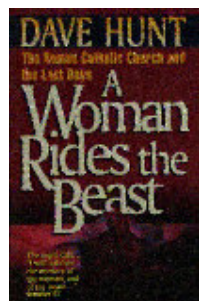
Order in sets of ten for \$12.00 each. A 40% discount.





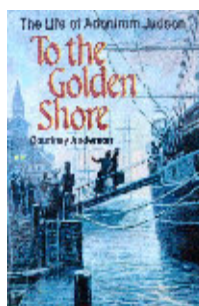
The Exceptional Man by M. S. Shiflet.
A bold man is a strong man. A balanced man
is a sensible man. A Biblical man is a Spirit-
filled man. A man that is all three is *The*
Exceptional Man. Every man in America
should read this book!

159 pages. Price \$13.50



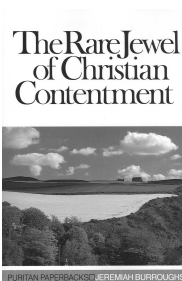
A Woman Rides the Beast by Dave Hunt.
In this book, prophecy expert Dave Hunt sifts through biblical truth and global events to present a well-defined portrait of the woman and her powerful place in the Antichrist's future empire.

549 pages Price \$15.50



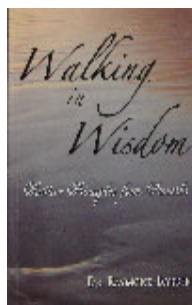
To The Golden Shore. The life of Adoniram Judson by Courtney Anderson. This special edition recognizes the 175th anniversary of the Judsons' sailing on their historic voyage and celebrates the early years of Baptist missions overseas.

530 pages. Price \$17.00



The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment by Jeremiah Burroughs . This book is marked by sanity, clarity, aptness of illustration, and warmth of appeal to the heart. Burroughs says “There is an ark you can come into, and no men in the world may live such comfortable, cheerful and contented lives as the saints of God”.

228 pages. Price \$8.75



*Walking in Wisdom, Positive Principles
From Proverbs* by Dr. Raymond Barber.

Every page of this great book beams with thought provoking and heart searching truths gleaned from the Proverbs. This great book of more than two-hundred pages is being offered for considerably less than the retail value.

203 pages. Price \$8.50

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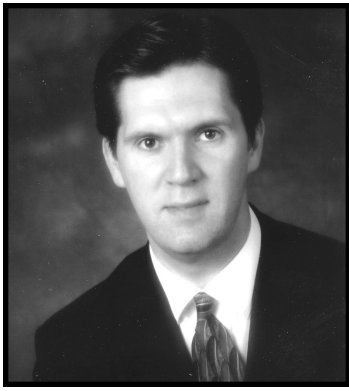
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Pastor Tim Fellure

Blind Bartimaeus

Mark 10:46-52

This is the miracle that almost didn't happen! Bartimaeus may not have fully appreciated the urgency of his opportunity, but the day Jesus passed by his way was his final chance for a miracle. Jesus had passed through Jericho many times before and, for reasons unknown, Bartimaeus had never cried out for healing before – but this time he did cry. And good thing that he did, for this was the last time Jesus would ever come this way. In fact, Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem to face His eternal appointment with Calvary. In just a few days, Jesus would be crucified and Bartimaeus' hopes for a healing would have been in vain. There would be no other miracle workers to come his way and this One he had heard so much about, would not pass this way again. So Bartimaeus cried and would not be silenced. And Jesus heard this poor beggar cry.

The Condition of the Beggar!

The Place Where He Lived! The healing of Bartimaeus is the only miracle associated with Jericho. Though Jesus had passed through before, nothing of significance had ever taken place there. On this particular visit Zaccheus and Bartimaeus would both have a life-changing encounter with Jesus, but we don't know that anyone else from Jericho had ever before been helped by the Lord. The reason perhaps is because Jericho existed under a curse. Jericho is mostly known for being the home of Rahab the harlot and for being one of the first cities destroyed during Israel's conquest of Canaan. What is not as widely known, is that when Jericho fell, Joshua pronounced a curse upon any man who would later come and rebuild Jericho (Josh. 6:26).

Jericho was cursed, and nowhere in the Bible do we find that the curse was ever lifted. No prophet ever came out of Jericho. No revival or move of any spiritual significance ever took place in Jericho. And though Jesus had been there before, we know of no miracle having ever taken place in Jericho. Is it not significant then that Bartimaeus lived in a city cursed by God? It speaks to us of the state of condemnation that all men without Christ live in.

The Problems He Lived With! The first problem was that he was **blind**. Some say that Timaeus was an Aramaic word for blindness and that his name, Bartimaeus, indicates that he was the blind son of a blind father. We don't know if there is any truth to that, but we do know that blindness was a common problem in Bible days. Jesus healed all kinds of diseases, but He probably healed blindness more than any other condition.

Not only was Bartimaeus blind, but he was also a **beggar**. Because he could not provide a living for himself, his life was reduced to sitting in the dust of the road and begging passing strangers for coins. He owned nothing of worth, and he barely survived on what a few compassionate souls tossed his way. So it is with those who know not Christ! You may be materially wealthy but spiritually bankrupt. Without Christ, the life of the lost is like a pocket turned inside out and emptied of everything of worth.

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Though you may own the wealth of the world, if you have not Christ, you are in the dust with Bartimaeus.

The Cry of the Beggar!

"And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, ..." Bartimaeus could not see, but he could hear. No doubt the fame of Jesus' miracles had reached even this beggar, and it had generated hope in his heart. Other blind men had been healed, and perhaps some friend

or relative had related this fact to Bartimaeus. He had never seen any of the miracles firsthand, and he had never had the opportunity to speak to anyone who had received one such miracle. But he listened to the women at the well and the men at the gate, and putting the information together, he knew there was hope if this Jesus ever came by his way. And now, from his usual spot on the side of the road, he senses a commotion and hears the name, Jesus. This is his opportunity! If Jesus could heal the sick, raise the dead, give sight to the blind, then just maybe there could be a miracle for him. And with this thought he begins to make noise. Accustomed to crying out for money, he now is crying out for mercy.

The request that Bartimaeus makes of this *"Jesus, Son of David"* is that He might have mercy on a poor, blind beggar. He does not ask for his rights, only mercy. He does not offer any reasons why Jesus should heal him, for he has none. He does not even bemoan that life has been unfair to him, and he, of all people, deserves a miracle. He just asks for mercy.

The Cure of the Beggar!

"And Jesus stood still." As Jesus passed through Jericho that day, a great throng was crowded around Him, and every one of them had something to say. When everyone is talking it is hard to hear anyone, but Jesus heard one voice above them all. The cry that stops God in His tracks is the cry for mercy. The plea of a poor beggar was enough to make the Son of God stand still.

Jesus Called Him! There were hundreds there but Jesus called one. As far as we know, only one person asked for mercy, and he is the one that Jesus turned to.

Jesus Cured Him! He who was blind saw, and the first thing he saw was the face of Jesus. Can you imagine living in a world of nothing but darkness? What would your life be if you had been born blind and had never seen the light of day? Can you also imagine how great an impact it was on the life of Bartimaeus to have this encounter with Jesus? May this familiar miracle remind us of the day Jesus passed by our way. TF