



VICTORY BAPTIST PRESS
4000 Avalon Blvd.
P. O. Box 766
Milton, FL 32572-0766

Return Service Requested

NON PROFIT
ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
MILTON, FL
PERMIT NO 118

JULY & AUGUST, 2007

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

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH

4TH ANNUAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

2007

BRANDED FOR CHRIST

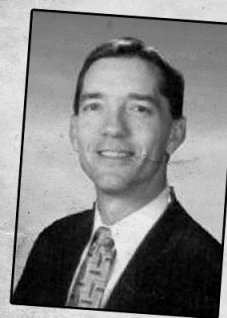
AUGUST 9 & 10

6:30 PM

4000 AVALON BLVD. MILTON FL 32583

850.623.0086

SPEAKERS



"WILD"
EDDIE WYATT



"TOUGH"
TONY SHIRLEY

ETERNAL REWARD

CONTACT VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH
COME ENJOY
SKITS • SINGING • PREACHING
GOOD GRUB

Editor's Notes



Jim & Mary Fellure

It has been good to be close to home for much of the month of June. The old saying "out of sight, out of mind" is very true. When I am on the road in meetings, I seem to forget just how much work goes into producing a book. Brother Al Berg and Brother Mark Yorey take care of typesetting, layout, film-making, plate-making, printing, binding, trimming, boxing, shipping, and the maintenance of all the equipment and the building. They also put up with constant interruptions from me, going in and out of the shop, and asking questions to see if we can do a better job on any of the printing. The men do an excellent job at printing a quality product, but we are always looking for places for improvement. The Lord gave us a perfect Book, and we believe we should try to reproduce it just as perfect as possible. Our Lord is worthy of the very best we can possibly do.

I have also enjoyed several of Mary's home-cooked meals of fresh vegetables. Tim and my two eleven-year-old grandsons, Jacob and Nathan, have a garden in our back- yard, and it has produced potatoes, green beans, squash, cucumbers, collards, broccoli, tomatoes, watermelon, corn, eggplant, radishes, carrots, cabbage, canteloupe, and three kinds of peppers. There are more coming on, but I will soon be back on the road in meetings and miss some of the organically, homegrown vegetables, but that's okay, because as Brother Jack Wood once said, "I would rather preach than eat."

While I was preaching for Pastor Jim Taylor in May in San Antonio, Texas, at their

annual meeting, he gave me a copy of an old, out-of-print book, *Plain Papers On The Doctrine Of The Holy Spirit*, written in 1899, by C. I. Scofield. I immediately read the book and knew that it must be reprinted. After checking to make sure the copyright had expired, I set the type and format and had it ready for Sister Heidi Berg to proofread when I got home. The book is now being printed. To order a copy of this excellent book, look on page seven of this Newsletter.

Missionary Keith Stensas, serving in Uganda, East Africa, tells us that the only Bible in Luganda (the native language) is copyrighted by the Uganda Bible Society and was translated from the English Revised Standard Version; and it was poorly translated at that. Even if it was a reliable translation, the average Ugandan could not own one. The cost is two and a half days' pay for the average Uganda worker. Because of the translation and the cost, there has never been a mass distribution of Scriptures in that country. Brother Stensas and some other good, fundamental, Baptist missionaries, have finished translating the Gospel of John, and Victory Baptist Press has it ready to print. Our only hold up is the \$50,000 it will take to complete the project. The truckload of paper will cost between \$18,000 and \$20,000

you could have the privilege of making an investment for eternity by telling thousands, and maybe even millions of people about our wonderful Lord for the first time in their life.

dollars. The cover stock will be about another \$18,000. The shipping fee alone will be about \$10,000, plus all the other supplies and the time it will take to complete the project, so a \$50,000 total is a conservative figure.

Just think that for less than the price of one new car that will rust or wear out, and have to be replaced in a few short years, you could have the privilege of making an investment for eternity, by telling thousands and maybe even millions of people about our

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.

wonderful Lord for the first time in their life. A full truckload of paper will print between 700,000 and 800,000 Gospels of John. Can you imagine how many people could come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour, when three quarters of a million copies of the Gospel of John in the peoples' native language, are prayerfully distributed in that
...continued next page



Al & Heidi Berg

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The past few months have had us busy tying up some loose ends in the shop and getting ready for some big things to happen in the not too distant future. There are three big projects coming up, and I am not sure which will come first: 1) **The whole Spanish Bible**. We have talked about this for a long time, and have made several attempts at it, but now we are closer than ever to making it happen. 2) **A truckload of Lugandan Gospels of John**. See the

editor's notes...

country. By the grace of God we are going to do it, but we must have help. We have set up an account just for the Uganda project, and as the money comes in, we will work toward the day when the 22,000,000 souls in Uganda can have the Gospel in its purest form.

Some good church or individual reading these notes could, no doubt, buy the truck load of paper or the cover stock. Some could pay the shipping fee, or someone might want to underwrite the entire project. Please pray about what the Lord would have you do, and keep in mind that regardless of how large or small the gift, for every eight cents given, there will be one Gospel of John go to some soul in Uganda for whom Christ died.

Pastors, we would be honored if you

editor's notes for more info on that project.

3) **Building and moving into a new print shop**. Please pray about all of these projects.

In Genesis 2:8 the Bible says, "And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed." It was God's original intent for man to be a gardener. If you have never tried to coax a plant out of the ground, you will probably not understand some of the things I am about to write about, but the other day I was pulling weeds from my garden and meditating about some of the things of God. These are some of my "garden gleanings."

1. The field is the world and *something* is going to grow in that field. I am told even the dry desert sand of the Sahara has viable seed in it that will sprout and grow when the rare rainfall does occur in that region. Genesis 2:15 says that man's job in the garden was to dress and keep it. While something will grow just about anywhere, it is man's job to make grow what is profitable and desirable.

2. Homegrown fruits and vegetables are always better than store-bought ones.

3. Imperfect fruit is often more acceptable when grown in your own garden, than perfect fruit bought from the market.

4. If given a choice, and money is no

would keep Victory Baptist Press in mind when you schedule special meetings, especially your mission conferences. I can usually fit new meetings in line with other meetings I already have booked. I make absolutely no financial demands in the meetings where I preach and will go to any size, fundamental, Bible-believing church in the continental United States.

If you would allow me (or the field rep. of your choice) to come to your church and share our burden with your people, contact me at (850) 384-4402.

P. O. Box 766, Milton, FL 32572.
email: jfellure@victorybaptistpress.com.

By the grace of God, together, we can make a difference in a perishing world.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Jim Fellure

object, organic or naturally grown fruit is always preferred over fruit grown with chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides.

5. Some weeds are more harmful than others.

6. One man's weeds are another man's treasure. A lot of people spend a lot of money and time ridding their yard of dandelions while others order those seeds from seed catalogues.

7. Some weeds, if allowed to remain, attract beneficial insects that eat the bad ones.

8. Crop failure is rarely due to bad seed.

9. In the parable of the four types of soil in Luke 8, the sower did not throw 75% of his seed on the bad ground.

I believe all of these have some application to the ministry in general. Victory Baptist Press is interested in getting the good seed of the Word of God to sowers (missionaries) who will do their best to put it into good soil.

If you have never had part in growing a garden, most of these points will not be understood. I would encourage everyone to grow some kind of garden, no matter how large or small, in order to know God just a little bit better.

May God bless you,
Bro. Albert Berg

NEWSLETTERS AVAILABLE IN BUNDLES

Bundles of each issue of this bimonthly 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.

**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.



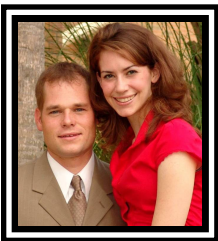
RICK & MELINDA REED have been field representatives for Victory Baptist Press since October of 1996. Brother Reed gave up a very comfortable and secure employment position in order to help send the glorious Gospel of Christ around the world through this ministry.

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



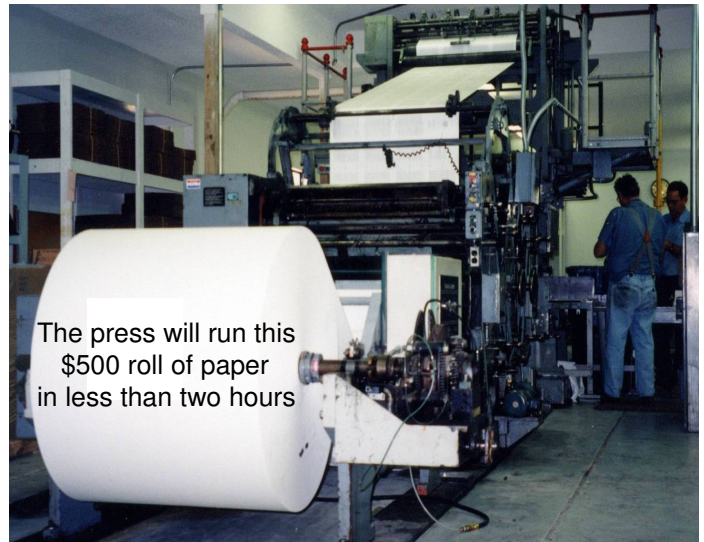
MARTIN AND ANNE FULLER left a full-time ministry and became field representatives for Victory Baptist Press in January, 2002. Brother Fuller attended Tabernacle Baptist College of Greenville, South Carolina, and was on staff there under Dr. Harold Sightler. He also served as an assistant pastor and youth 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 since 1991. 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.



The press will run this \$500 roll of paper in less than two hours

It's an exciting thing to watch the big press take the individual rolls of paper and print the precious and powerful Word of God.



It gets even more exciting when we see pallet-loads of Scriptures being loaded on a truck and shipped to a mission field somewhere around the world, without charge to the missionary.

The picture of the two ladies in one of the Mexican mission churches, on their knees at the altar with an open Bible, is a common occurrence and speaks for itself. The picture could not have been



taken without someone providing the Bible. **I wonder who sent the Bible: Was it you?**

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)*

ONE LITTLE COFFEE PLANT THAT DIDN'T QUIT

Gardening: Picking up stones, tilling the soil, marking off rows, and sowing seed, even the dirty, sweat-streaked faces and breaking backs - yes, my husband and I enjoy all of that! We know that, in a few weeks, according to the laws of nature that God set in motion and if conditions are favorable, we will soon be enjoying the well-loved "tomato sandwich" and crunching on a cool cucumber. As a gardener, I know that other than eating the produce, nothing is more satisfying than to watch the process of a single seed or plant being placed into the ground, nourished by sun and rain, only to bring forth a harvest of many fold.

In 1723, in the history of Jamaica Blue Mountain coffee, three coffee plants were sent from France to the French colony of Martinique where the plants proliferated and produced a good crop. Five years later, the governor of Jamaica received a single one of those plants as a gift. This one plant took root in the fertile soil where it was placed, and with the favorable growing conditions, a miracle took place. In only nine years, Jamaica began exporting that Blue Mountain coffee with an initial shipment of 83,000 pounds! From a single, living plant a thriving and vital coffee industry was born in Jamaica.

We see this principle of sowing and reaping clearly in the parable of the sower in Luke 8. He faithfully sowed the seed and, though some fell on hard soil or was snatched away by fowls or choked out by thorns, still some fell on good ground and with the proper growing conditions brought forth fruit an hundredfold. As the governor of Jamaica was given the single coffee plant, we have been given just such a gift in the living, viable seed of the Word of God. All over the world lie fields that are waiting to be sown, many having just the right soil and conditions to bring forth a harvest of an hundredfold! We are entrusted with a precious Seed that can only produce a harvest if it is planted. Within that Seed is the miraculous power to transform a life, to give hope to the hopeless, to assure that longing soul that there is One who loves him and wants to give him eternal life with God in heaven.

There are many printing ministries faithfully laboring to produce quantities of this life-giving Seed. Barren fields are waiting, ready to receive the Seed, where it can be tilled and worked so the sun and rain of the Holy Spirit's working can bring it to fruition. The one part of the equation still in short supply is the sowers, those who will take that precious Seed and plant it in those fields. As the planting process takes place, surely the Husbandman of glory will be satisfied to see the harvest that will be gathered in.

MEMORIALS

Victory Baptist Press recently received memorial gifts from:

Elaine M. Mach
in memory of
Georgette Mach

*"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."*

1 Peter 1:3-7

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,... To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,... Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.... Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:... That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:"

Christ made no promise that those who followed Him in His plan of reestablishing life on its proper basic principles would enjoy a special immunity from pain and sorrow - nor did He Himself experience such immunity. He did, however, promise enough joy and courage, enough love and confidence in God, to enable those who went His way to do far more than survive.

God could have kept Daniel out of the lions' den. . . He could have kept Paul and Silas out of jail. . . He could have kept the three Hebrew children out of the fiery furnace. . . but God has never promised to keep us out of hard places . . . what He has promised is to go with us through every hard place, and to bring us through victoriously.

"It is good for us that we sometimes have sorrows and adversities, for they often make a man lay to heart that he is only a stranger and sojourner, and may not put his trust in any worldly thing. It is good that we sometimes endure contradictions, and are hardly and unfairly judged, when we do and mean what is good. For these things help us to be humble and shield us from vainglory."

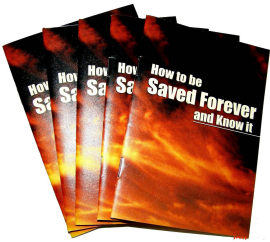
Thomas A Kempis (C. 1380-1471)

Robert Murray McCheyne once said "Every wise workman takes his tools away from the work from time to time that they may be ground and sharpened; so does the only-wise Jehovah take His ministers oftentimes away into darkness and loneliness and trouble, that He may sharpen and prepare them for harder work in His service."

-copied

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.



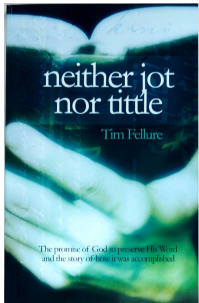
How to be Saved Forever and Know it

by Jim Felleure.

A twenty-one 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 print your church information (at no additional cost) on the back page with orders of 100 or more.

1-99/\$0.25 each - 100 or more/\$0.15 each



Neither Jot nor Tittle

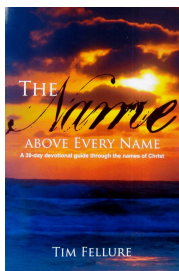
by Tim Felleure.

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* declares the promise of God to preserve His Word and tells the story of how it was accomplished.

188 pages. **\$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

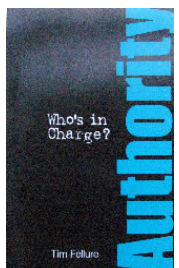
by Tim Felleure.

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 ninety-nine 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 Saviour. 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. **\$3.95**

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



Authority, Who's in Charge

by Tim Felleure.

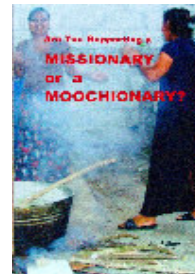
Our world desperately needs to rediscover a respect for and submission to duly-appointed, God-ordained authority. If we are to have unity in our churches, peace in our homes, security in our communities, progress in our schools, and productivity in our places of employment, then someone must be in charge.

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

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

Are You Supporting a Missionary or a Moochionary

by Jim Felleure.



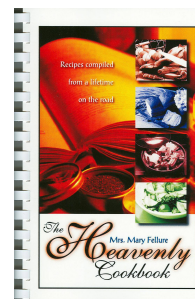
A straight-forward shot at sham missionaries that are bleeding off mission money that should go for more productive causes. The problem and the cure are both

dealt with in a very convicting and instructive manner.

163 pages. **\$9.50**

Sets of ten **\$5.70** each. A 40% discount.

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



The Heavenly Cookbook

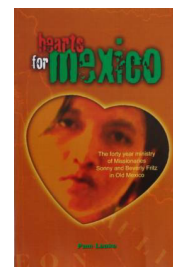
by Mary Felleure.

This will be a great asset to your kitchen or as a gift for a friend. It contains 469

recipes that Mrs.

Mary has gathered from many pastor's wives during her travels with her husband all across America.

180 pages of delicious recipes and helps. Spiral-bound. **\$12.00**



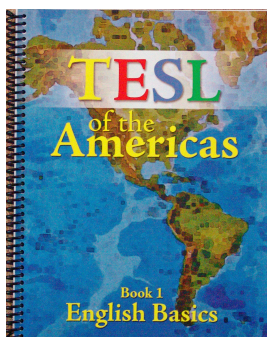
Hearts for Mexico

by Pam Leake.

A 117-page paperback book describing the forty-year ministry of missionaries Sonny and Beverly Fritz in Old Mexico.

117 pages. **\$8.00**

Order in sets of ten for **\$4.80** each. A 40% discount.



NEW!

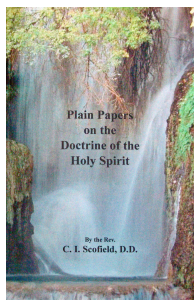
The purpose of *TESL of the Americas* is to aid missionaries, pastors, and laymen in teaching basic concepts of English to non-English speaking people anywhere through, a Bible-centered course. The lessons in this book are designed for those that have little or no knowledge of English. Teaching English can be the key that will open many stubborn hearts and locked doors to the Gospel.

This book is teacher-based and includes twenty lessons along with lesson handouts, vocabulary handouts, student worksheets, and Bible memory worksheets. All material is reproducible so one book is the only investment needed to teach 1 or 100 students. The material may be used in a classroom setting, informal small groups, or one on one.

Spiral bound. 169, 8 1/2" X 11" pages

Your price. **\$49.95**

Exclusively Available at the VBP Bookstore



by C. I. Scofield.

No doctrine has been talked about more and understood less than the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. Every page of this book is packed with Scriptures to prove the role of the Holy Spirit, especially in the life of

A must read for the serious student of the Bible.

50 pages. **\$6.50**



by Debi Pearl.

Regardless of how you began your marriage or how dark and lonely the path that has brought you to where you are now, I want you to know that it is possible today to have a marriage so good and so fulfilling that it can only be explained as a miracle.

NOTE: Victory Baptist Press recommends this book for married or engaged women only.

294 pages. **\$12.00**

Thank you for buying your books from VBP.

To purchase books online, go to
www.victorybaptistpress.com



Item Description	Price Each	Qty.	Total Price
------------------	------------	------	-------------

Shipping and handling charges:

Up to \$15.00	\$3.00
\$15.01-\$30.00	\$4.00
\$30.01-\$60.00	\$5.50
\$60.01 & up	10% of subtotal

Subtotal

Shipping and Handling

Total

Make checks payable to: Victory Baptist Press

Send orders to:

Victory Baptist Press Bookstore

P.O. Box 766

Milton, FL 32572-0766

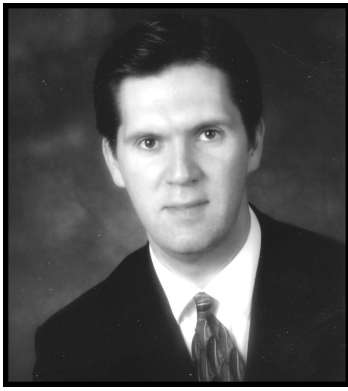
Ship to:

Name _____

Street

City_____State___Zip_____

email



Pastor Tim Fellure

Shamgar

Judges 3:31

The book of Judges records the history of one of the saddest eras in Israel's existence. It covers a period of some three hundred years, and tells one story that is repeated seven times. The story is, that after Joshua died, the nation fell into apostasy. They forsook God and followed after the idols of their Gentile neighbors. As punishment, God allowed them to go into bondage to one of those Gentile neighbors for a number of years. Eventually, the people of Israel would repent and God would raise up a deliverer in their midst. This happened not just once, but seven times. The progression was always the same: rebellion, retribution, repentance, and restoration.

This was the period of the judges: fifteen of them in all. Fourteen men and one woman. Do not think of the judges as someone wearing a black robe in a courtroom passing down judicial decisions. These judges were not legal experts as much as they were warriors. Though they did judge Israel in matters of the law, their main role was to lead the men to war against whatever nation was oppressing them at the time.

In the first three chapters we meet the first three of these judges: The king of Mesopotamia had oppressed Israel for eight years, and Othniel was the first judge God raised up to deliver them. For forty years Israel enjoyed peace under the good leadership of Othniel. But then the Moabites came and began to terrorize the people. For eighteen long years they imposed a heavy tax upon all Israel – a tax Israel had to pay to live in their own land. In the eighteenth year a man from Benjamin named Ehud was chosen to carry the annual tax to the capital of Moab. Ehud arranged a private meeting with the king of Moab and assassinated him

with a dagger. Ehud then escaped and fled back to the country of Ephraim where he rallied an army and attacked the Moabites, giving the land rest for eighty years.

And then we come to Shamgar! Shamgar was an unexceptional man who did an exceptional thing. You won't find him in Hebrew's hall of fame, and very few sermons ever mention his name. There has probably never been a song dedicated to his memory, and no monuments have been built to his honor. The Scriptures give us only one verse to cover his entire life, but that one little verse gives us great insight into the life of an ordinary man who did extraordinary things for his people.

1) An Unfamiliar Figure!

What do you know about Shamgar? Where did he live? What did he do for a living? Who did he marry and did he have any children? The only detail about his life we know is that he was the son of Anath, but who was Anath? Herbert Lockyer, in *All the Men of the Bible*, lists Shamgar as the son of Anath and Anath as the father of Shamgar. Doesn't help us much, does it?

Furthermore, we can't be really sure as to what kind of judging he did. He is listed in all the lists of the judges as the third judge, but it is disputed whether he was a national judge or not. The reason I say that is because Judges 3:15-30 speaks of the acts of Ehud. There is one verse for Shamgar. Then 4:1 takes you back to the death of Ehud and continues the history from his time.

Shamgar must have lived during the time of Ehud. Perhaps Ehud was the national judge, while Shamgar was a local judge. While Ehud was fighting the Moabites on the eastern border, Shamgar was fighting the Philistines on the western coast. And while slaying six hundred of the enemy is nothing to sneeze at, it certainly is not the 10,000 who fell by the army of Ehud.

There just isn't much to say about Shamgar, and you may feel like there isn't much to say about you. Many of God's children feel their one talent is not enough to invest, and that if they can't be great, then it's not worth being anything. But God uses nobodies like Shamgar; people that no one else thinks are usable.

2) An Uneven Fight!

The odds are staggering: six hundred Philistines to one Shamgar. Now it does not say that Shamgar fought them all at one time. He could have, but it seems more reasonable to me that over a course of time,

he fought back six hundred men. I visualize him in the fields working when he sees a band Philistines coming in to vandalize a house. He grabs his weapon and heads them off. A fight ensues and soon there are a couple of dead Philistines and Shamgar still standing. A few days later another band comes in and Shamgar runs out to meet them. But whether these six hundred represent one battle or a number of battles, 600-1 is an uneven fight. The odds are stacked against Shamgar. He could easily slink away, and nobody would blame him. This is a suicide mission!

And perhaps God has called you to some task that seems impossible. The difficulty is overwhelming, and the commitment God has called for is unthinkable. But when you feel like the odds are too great, just remember Shamgar and his six hundred excuses not to get involved. Perhaps you are facing insurmountable problems in your home. Maybe it is that you are dealing with pressures beyond bearing or feel a calling that is beyond your ability. The odds are great, but God is greater.

3) An Unthinkable Feat!

The weapon Shamgar uses is an ox-goad. An ox-goad was simply a long, stout stick with a sharp point on one end. When the oxen would go slowly or refuse to move, the ploughman would take the sharp point of the goad and jab it in the backside of the oxen to spur them on - a stick with a sharp point. I am sure Shamgar would have preferred a sword or a spear, but he didn't have one. All he had was an ox-goad. He could use only what he had, but he could use that. So Shamgar grabbed the only weapon he could find and fought the Philistines.

So we have an unfamiliar figure fighting an uneven fight with an unconventional weapon at an unsettling time. And he won! And do you know why he won? Because he started where he was, used what he had, and did what he could. He didn't have time for excuses; there were Philistines to fight. He didn't have time to talk about why it couldn't be done; he had Philistines to fight.

Now, could you let Shamgar be an example and encouragement to you? Many of God's saints have read the brief bio of this hero and have been inspired to take what was in their hand and do a work for God. If Shamgar with his ox-goad can do a mighty deed, then why can't you and I?