

## Victory Baptist Press

a ministry of

Victory Baptist Church

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

Pastor *Tim Fellure*

Editor & VBP Director *Jim Fellure*

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### MARCH & APRIL, 2002

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 us your complete mailing address.

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### Summer Emerald Coast Jubilee will soon be here

Mark your calendar for our Summer Emerald Coast Jubilee to be held at Victory Baptist Church.

The dates are Sunday, June 9 through Wednesday, June 12. The preachers will be Bro. Dennis Petty from Tocoa, Georgia, Bro. Dan Meaders from Houston, Texas, Bro. Jack Tripp from Kinston, North Carolina, and Bro. Earl Hughes from McCaysville, Georgia.

Motels will be provided for all pastors and their wives.

## Editor's Notes



*Jim & Mary Fellure*

When Brother Tom Woodward started this printing ministry back in 1984 he had goals that he never reached. Brother Woodward passed away in May of 1994 and at his funeral one of the preachers said, "He had a vision that was too big for one man to fulfill in a lifetime." I have heard a lot of speculative preaching about how much the saints that have gone on before know about what is going on down here. If Brother Woodward knows what is going on with Victory Baptist Press, then he must be awfully happy. If he doesn't know, he will get a full report and no doubt a big reward at the judgment seat of Christ.

As general director of the ministry, I feel a need for the prayers of our friends and supporters more than ever before. In the corporate world, a good business man will hire someone to cover his weak points, and he will gather people around him with abilities to perform in the most needed areas. It's much different with the ministry. Sometimes people come our way with nothing more than a heavy burden for the masses of people that have never owned even a small portion of God's word. God takes those burdened people and uses them for His glory in spite of any weaknesses they may have. Our only hope is for God to give the wisdom needed for the task.

If we waited for skilled, qualified or already trained people to come our way, we would have to shut the shop down and let the world go to hell without hearing the gospel one time. I am thinking of a man right now with enough talent in several areas to put me to shame, but he really isn't doing anything except walking around with his ego hanging out. As far as I can tell, all he

is doing is helping wear out the furniture of the church he attends, and there are many, many more just like him. I have no idea how we got all this riffraff in our Baptist churches, but the places where I preach have sure attracted a lot of spiritual misfits. I better put a disclaimer in right about here, so my brethren won't take me to task over my critical words of the "good brethren" and accuse me of driving people away. The old chaplain of Bourbon Street used to say, "Where you going to drive them to, hell #2?" I am not talking about any new Christian or any sincere Christian who lacked opportunities. I am talking about this bunch of deadbeat professors who claim to love Jesus Christ, believe the Bible and try to live by it, and yet do nothing of any significance to reach a perishing world with the glorious gospel of our wonderful Lord. If these notes are convicting to you and you feel like I am

**REPENT,  
and get to  
work for Him  
who is worthy  
of  
all we are or  
ever hope  
to be.**

then these words have found the right target. What's the answer to this dilemma of slothfulness? That's easy; REPENT, and get to work for Him who is worthy of all we are or ever hope to be. In sharp contrast to the dead beats, there is a band of dedicated Christians in this world that are making a difference. Very frankly, VBP is operated with the financial support of some of God's choice servants, many of whom you will never know. Through their faithfulness and love for the Savior, they give to this ministry and we print and ship scriptures around the world. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Without your help this ministry would not be possible.

It seems that each issue of this Newsletter gives a bigger and better report than the one before, and this one is no different. We have probably printed and shipped more scriptures in the past couple of months than in any full year in the past. Brother Berg might have more to say about that in his notes on page three. The requests keep coming in faster than we can fill them. In fact, the office is not a good place to study or write because the phone is constantly ringing. This is Saturday, February 23. I came to the office a couple of hours ago to finish

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

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

**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 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.

these notes and already a brother has called needing English scriptures for the Philippine Islands. I am so glad that we already have what he needs printed and ready to go.

We are starting to make final plans

....continued on page 5



*Al & Heidi Berg*

Dear Friends and Supporters,

God has certainly been good to Victory Baptist Press with a good start to this year. With the help of some men from Seedline International in Greencastle, Indiana, we were able to print an entire truckload of paper in just a little over a month's time. Seedline bought the paper, came and helped print it, and hauled it back to Indiana, where they will print their own covers, collate them, and ship them to the mission field. As a matter of fact, missionary Ray Bowie, whose letters are also included in this Newsletter, has already received a few pallets of scripture from them and used one of the John/Romans to lead a man to the Lord who was helping unload them. The total number in that truckload came out to be around 420,000 Spanish John/Romans.

For a good portion of last year, we were working on a load of scripture to go to Uganda, Africa, to missionary Keith Stensaas. We completed them around the first part of December of last year, and have been waiting on the Lord to supply the money for shipping them. On Friday, February 8, we loaded 260,910 English John/Romans and 13,392 English New Testaments into a 20 foot container. They are scheduled to be in Uganda around March 26. Please pray for their safe voyage over there. As I understand it, Bro. Stensaas will distribute them among several churches, and use the New Testaments to give to new converts, while the John/Romans will be sent out with Bible study courses that they advertise on their new radio station, which they started in February of this year.

We have one more truckload of paper in the shop that will be printed in three different languages. Most of these books are already spoken for. That will put us over 800,000 books printed so far this year! Af-

ter this, we expect the pace to slow down just a bit because we have a long list of New Testament orders we need to fill and hopefully, a whole Spanish Bible.

God certainly has been good to supply the need for all these projects, and I appreciate all you have done to help. We know that it is all God's work, and He will get all the glory for what is done in His name, but it is a real honor and privilege to be part of that work. I trust you are in the part of God's work that He has for you. There is no better life.

May God bless you,  
*Bro. Albert Berg*

**PERFECT PEACE**

*O Lord, how happy we could be,  
If we would put full trust in thee-  
If we from foolish fears would rest  
And be assured that Thou above,  
In perfect wisdom, grace, and love,  
Art working for our best.*

*Lord, make these faithless hearts of ours  
Good lessons learn from fields of flowers;  
First, let our many worries cease;  
Then, like the flowers, keep us still  
And leave all things to Thy gracious will  
And so find perfect peace.*

**Marion Schoeberlein**

**MEMORIALS**

Victory Baptist Press recently received memorial gifts from:

*Barbara Cooper  
&  
Dave and Shirley Grant*  
in honor of  
*Riles Hill*

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*Annetta C. Williams*  
in honor of  
*Bruce and Ruth Cooper*

-----  
*Anonymous Donor*  
in honor of  
*Bob Woods*

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*Ed and Shirley Harrell*  
in honor of  
*Florine Mills*

*"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."*

**Dwight L. Moody**

(1837 - 1899)

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

D. L. Moody was born on a small New England farm on February 5, 1837. When he was only four, his father died, an alcoholic at forty-one years of age, leaving his mother of thirty-six to raise nine children.

He attended grade school for seven years in a one room schoolhouse and then went to work on a farm. He never attended college.

D.L. Moody received Christ as his saviour on April 21, 1855, while working in a shoe store in Boston. He immediately became faithful in church work with a growing interest in the ministry.

He moved to Chicago in 1856 and worked with churches until starting his own Sunday school in the fall of 1858. The Sunday school, which began in a boxcar, grew to over 1500 in less than two years.

Moody married Emma Charlotte Revel in 1862, and he fathered three children by 1879.

He started the Illinois Street Church with twelve members in 1864. He preached Sunday services at this church until another pastor was called in 1869. From 1866 until 1869, Moody also served as president of the YMCA, and in 1867 he held his first big revival campaign in Philadelphia. **-contined on page 5**

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



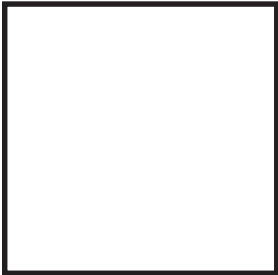
**MIKE & DEE PICKENS** began with Victory Baptist Press in December of 1994. Brother Pickens is a 1965 graduate of Baptist Bible College of Springfield, Missouri. He has pastored churches in Indiana, Alabama, North Carolina and Texas, and was in evangelism for 7 years.

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



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

Rick and Melinda have four children, all at home. You can contact the Reeds at 12207 Buckhorn 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.

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



**MARTIN AND ANNE FULLER** left a full-time ministry in Georgia and became field representatives for Victory Baptist Press in January, 2002. Martin attended Tabernacle Baptist College of Greenville, SC, and was on staff under Dr. Harold Sightler. He also served as assistant pastor and youth director in another church and pastored for twelve years

in Texas.

The Fullers have four children, all at home. They are outstanding musicians and Martin is an excellent preacher. If you would like to have them for a service, contact them at 1020 Carlene Dr, Harlem, Georgia 30814. Phone (706) 556-8369.

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.



**“O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvelous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.”**

**Psalm 98:1**

Praise the Lord for the many saved by the blood of our Saviour, Jesus Christ this past month. We have had many saved every month this past year.

We received 572,700 John/Romans this past year. Everything was going very well. We supply a lot of missionaries and national pastors all over Mexico and along the border with scriptures. We also received thousands of tracts, New Testaments and Bibles in Spanish. Everything was fine until September 11, 2001, when the World Trade Center and our country was under attack. Everything in our work went bad. Our borders became very tight. Many missionaries quit using our literature and everything slowed down. We had a lot of trouble getting back from Mexico many times. We expected to give out at least 600,000 John/Romans in Mexico. Our inventory shows that we have 78,500 John/Romans on hand. So, 494,200 have been placed into the hands of people. Our missionary van has traveled 27,311 miles this past year in Mexico. We have hauled about 600 boxes of John/Romans into Mexico.

Ruby Hopkins of Sierra Vista, Arizona, supplied 200 sacks of Christmas candy for our prisoners in our church services and candy for the prisoners' children.

Last year we had 402,000 John/Romans. So, this year all of our workers gave out 92,200 more John/Romans than last year.

I am amazed what God has done through all of our suppliers and those who work with us making it all possible. I wonder how much longer God will allow us all to labor before He comes to catch us up. Some sow, some water, but God giveth the increase. Thanks to everyone who has made this work possible for another year.

Enclosed is a note given to me in the prison in Caborca, Sonora, Mexico. One hundred and forty-four miles southwest of our home. Please pray for God to call someone to work on a regular basis with women in prison in Caborca. They have asked me several times to come to their area. I always tell them to listen, with two fences between us.

Ray

*Were writing to ask if its possible that ladys could come and preach to us there four americas here a we would apriciate it alot. Were ten in total and we all what to praise the Lord right now we all sit outside to hear you but its not the same to have someone work with us we would apriciate it alot*

*Thank you*

*The Women in the Cereso*

Yours For Souls In Mexico,

*Ray Bowie*

*Thank you for your prayerful and financial support!*



### JACK TRIPP IS BACK IN FULL TIME EVANGELISM

Dear Praying Friends,

I have resigned as pastor of Pine Grove Baptist Church in Archdale, North Carolina, and I will be returning to the ministry of evangelism beginning the 25th of February, 2002. Your prayers for Linette and me during this time of transition would be greatly appreciated.

My oldest son Tim pastors Bible Missionary Baptist Church in Kinston, North Carolina. Our plans are to join his church and go out from there.

If God should place us upon your heart for a service or series of meetings, you can reach me through my son Tim at (252)566-8394/(252)522-5338 or write P. O. Box 304, LaGrange, North Carolina 28551-0304.

Because He's Faithful,  
Bro. Jack L. Tripp, Jr.

Note: I personally recommend Bro. Tripp to any church. There is no better preacher in the country. -Jim Fellure.

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#### editors notes from page 2....

for the Summer Emerald Coast Jubilee to be held in June. The church lets VBP put the Summer Jubilee on and we try during that time to emphasize the printing ministry. This year we plan to have morning services on Tuesday and Wednesday, serve lunch at the church then spend about an hour in the afternoon in the print shop. We will provide lodging for any pastor and his wife that will spend those days with us. It would be worth the trip just to see the big press printing all those scriptures. Watch the next issue of the Newsletter for further details.

In Christ,  
*Jim Fellure*

(from *D.L. Moody*, page 3)

Dwight met Ira Sanky, the man who became his famous song leader, in July of 1870, and he convinced him to come help in the ministry in Chicago.

A major turning point in Moody's ministry was the great Chicago fire of 1871. He dismissed services one night, asking his congregation to examine their hearts and return the next Sunday to make a decision for Christ. They never regathered again. Many died in the fire, the church building burned, and Moody was devastated.

During this time Moody grew closer to God than ever. He began preaching in England and in the British Isles in 1872 and continued until 1875. Thousands came to Christ through the preaching and singing of Moody and Sanky.

He returned to America in 1875 and began crusades in the states with an occasional trip back to England. He started the *Northfield Seminary* in 1879, the *Mount Hermon Massachusetts School for Boys* in 1881, and the *Chicago Evangelization Society* (now Moody Bible Institute) in 1889. Some estimates show that Moody was instrumental in bringing over 1,000,000 souls to Christ.

D.L. Moody went home to be with the Lord on December 22, 1899, and C.I. Scofield preached his funeral.

-Copied from *The Great Soldiers of the Cross Series*.

For a listing of other titles in this series, please contact:

**Bible Baptist Church, 125 E. Maple, Sharon, TN 38255**

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

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

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

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

**Kennett Square Missionary Baptist Church, Toughkenamon, PA = 1 day, \$684.00**

**Landmark Independent Baptist Church, Louisville, KY = 1 day, \$685.80**

**Cornerstone Baptist Church, Deatsville, AL = 1 day, \$684.96**

**Faith Baptist Church, Temple, TX = 1 day, \$700.00**

**Gethsemane Baptist Church, Anderson, SC = 1 day,, \$685.00**

**Anonymous = 1 day, \$684.96**

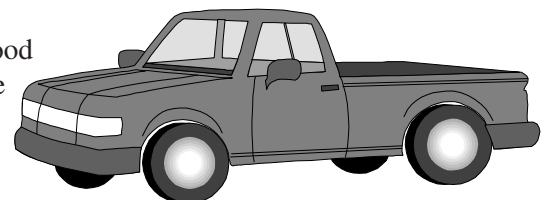
**Bob and Leonor Schmidt, Milton, FL = 1 day, \$700. 00**

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### PICK-UP TRUCKS NEEDED IN MEXICO

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

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



## WHY A PRINTING MINISTRY?

Since the invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg in 1450, the printed page has become an extremely powerful instrument for communication. The printed message is read by an innumerable host of unseen readers as it goes to the reaches where no man can or will go. The business world employs this method for the promotion and subsequent sale of their wares. The communists extensively used the printed message for the furtherance of their propaganda, and their advancement stands as a grim testimony of their strategy.

The cults, of which the Jehovah (false) Witnesses are one among many own and operate a large printing facility in Brooklyn, New York, From their official web site as of August 2000 we read:

The history of Jehovah's Witnesses in modern times has been filled with dramatic events. From the one small Bible study in Pennsylvania back in 1870, the Witnesses by the year 1989 have grown to more than 57,000 congregations worldwide. All literature was, at first, printed by commercial firms; then, in 1920, some literature by the Witnesses was produced in rented factory buildings.

But from 1927 on, much more literature began to be turned out in the eight-story factory building in Brooklyn, New York, owned by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc. This has now expanded into seven factory buildings and a large office complex. There are other buildings nearby in Brooklyn to house the some 3,000 workers needed to operate the publishing facilities. In addition to this, a combination farm and factory with some one

thousand workers is operated near Wallkill in upstate New York. It handles printing of the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines and produces food for all 4,000 volunteer workers. Each volunteer worker receives a small monthly reimbursement to cover incidental expenses.

### **Worldwide Publishing and Translating**

Jehovah's Witnesses have developed an unparalleled worldwide organization capable of providing free Bible education to all who wish to understand the Bible better. Since the 1870's, the publishing agencies of Jehovah's Witnesses have produced a truly immense quantity of Bible literature, as can be seen from the details below.

### **Languages**

The Watch Tower Society publishes in 354 languages and calls on the volunteer services of more than 1,000 translators worldwide.

In the early 1980's, a team of volunteers developed the world's first multilanguage electronic phototypesetting system, which currently processes material in 227 languages, using 28 alphabets and charactersets.

Braille literature has been produced since 1960 and for the deaf, various publications have been translated into "video books" in American Sign Language and Japanese Sign Language.

### **Bibles**

Since 1926, the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania has published more than 100 million copies of the Bible in 34 languages.

### **Magazines, Books, and Research Aids**

*The Watchtower*, the primary Bible study aid for members of the faith, has an average printing of 22 million, giving it the largest circulation of any religious magazine in the world. It is published in 126 languages. Of these editions, 114 are translated and printed for simultaneous release.

*Awake!*, published in 81 languages, is a general-interest newsmagazine with a religious slant and has an average printing of 19 million.

*Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* is the introductory textbook used extensively in the home Bible study program of Jehovah's Witnesses. More than 62 million copies have been printed in 126 languages since the book was released in 1995.

The communists and cults have wisely used the printing press, but in mainstream Christianity, primarily independent, fundamental Baptists, we have done very little with the printed page as pertains to the propagation of the Gospel message. In our King James Bible (Authorized Version) we have the Word of God that is forever settled in Heaven, and it is here alone that the populace of the world will learn of God's plan of salvation. Sadly though, we have failed to take full advantage of this means. It is indeed a sad commentary on fundamentalism that we have allowed this to happen. Pastors, churches, and individuals are not taking full advantage of the Gospel in print. Missionaries go to that part of the vineyard as directed by the Holy Spirit, and in so going have as their goal the salvation of lost souls and the establishing of indigenous churches. Next to the Word of God itself, the Gospel in print is the chief weapon in the missionary's arsenal.

Most missionaries are already under-supported and cannot afford to go to a commercial print shop for these services. Gospel literature is vital to their ministry in their part of the vineyard and must also be financed with their personal funds unless someone somewhere will underwrite this expense for him. For the evangelization of the lost and the establishment of a church, Gospel literature is absolutely essential, and without it the ministry of Brother Missionary would be extremely difficult, if not impossible. It would be classified as unreasonable, perhaps even insane, to send forth a soldier to combat without a rifle or ammunition and then to question why the battle is not being won, and yet, this is the mentality of churches when it comes to a printing ministry.

In our independent, fundamental Baptist circles a dichotomy has been created in world missions, and the mindset of many pastors is that of supporting only "church planting missionaries." They are woefully lacking in recognizing the validity of a missionary printing ministry. Some missionary printing ministries offer their literature "at cost," while others operate on the basis of "free as the Lord provides." For some missionary printing ministries, the missionary printer receives no salary from the ministry but raises his own support just like any other missionary. Therefore, when the printing ministry is presented in churches it has the two-fold purpose of raising support for the missionary printer as well as the print shop proper. The ministry operates by faith and all that is asked of the respective church is that prayerful consideration be given in asking the Lord what He would have the church

to do. Brother Missionary needs the literature for his evangelization/church planting ministry, and churches/individuals wherever they are need the literature also for their respective ministries, but where are they going to get it if no one wants to support a printing ministry? Is the "church planter" missionary able to pay for the literature from his personal funds? And what about the small, struggling church? An independent, fundamental Baptist national pastor in Honduras reports that 15,000 Spanish tracts would have cost \$25,000 there and that just one Gospel tract would cost \$2.50. To buy this one tract, a person would have to work one week earning .50 a day in the sugar cane fields. (Report given by the national pastor at the Gospel Light Baptist Church, Pennsauken, NJ, Oct.2000) There is no such thing as a free lunch - some-

body somewhere must cover the cost and the only question to be answered is, who it will be. In our independent, fundamental Baptist circles we can continue to sit back and be comfortable with the dichotomy in world missions and allow the Lord's work to be hindered while the cults run circles around us, or we can get with God's program while there is yet time to do so. Think on this the next time you pick up a Gospel tract, a Scripture portion, or some other piece of Gospel literature. When it comes to missionary service may I ask you, "Why should so few be expected to do so much when so many are willing to do so little?"

*Richard A. Ciarrocco*

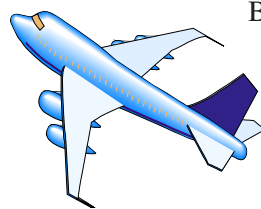
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**Maranatha Baptist Watchman  
Elkton, Maryland 21922  
December 2001**

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### ***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 he can do especially well with overseas flights

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

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*Pastor & Mrs. Tim Fellure*

### **Dealing With Difficult People**

#### **Romans 12:18**

Christianity is about new relationships: the believer has a new relationship with God and a new relationship with other believers. However, new relationships bring about new responsibilities. Becoming a **husband** brings a new responsibility not known before. Becoming a **father** brings new obligations. Likewise, becoming a **Christian** brings about a new responsibility to God: to worship and serve Him and a new responsibility to other believers: to treat them as family.

These new relationships affect each other. When your fellowship with the Father is distant, you will reveal it in your dealings with other believers. If you are not spending time with God, you will not want to be around God's people. If your heart is not right with God, you will not be right with those who are right with God (I John 4:20-21).

The problem is that not every believer is so easy to love. Some people are just more difficult to get along with than others: they have a sharp tongue, a sorry attitude and a strange personality. Some Christians are cantankerous – and we are supposed to love them. Thirteen times we are commanded to “*love one another*” – not just to be cordial and to get along at church. Not just to avoid those we do not like but to love them.

How do you love difficult people? What should be the Christian response to those who get on your nerves?

#### **1.) The Principle of Perspective!**

What makes some people so difficult to get along with? Why are some people seemingly of such a sour disposition? Is it because, “*that's just the way they are,*” or could there be something in their life that is irritating them? Could it be that they are carrying some burden or having to live through some experience which we know nothing of?

The first principle is one of understanding. It is learning to quit assuming that everyone that is in a bad mood is a bad person. It is trying to see what is going on in their life that is causing them to react the way they do. It could be that their attitude or disposition is merely their reaction to something much bigger in their life.

There are people around us that are just sour souls. But the majority of people are the way they are because of the experiences of their life. We should hold off judging people until we know the context of their life. The person you are having a hard time with may be carrying some grief and sorrow you know nothing of. There are some secrets behind the sadness.

#### **2.) The Principle of Patience!**

Once you realize what it is that causes certain people to react the way they do, then you will realize how important it is to be patient and forbearing with them. Paul said it best when he wrote, “*I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, ... With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; ... Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*”

#### **3.) The Principle of Persistence!**

We are so quick to write people off and so slow to forgive. We are experts at making snap judgments and are always making the first impression the lasting impression. If you are going to

influence the person you are having difficulty with, you will have to keep at it. You must devote time to the relationship and not expect an overnight miracle.

Larry Bird was recognized as one of the best free-throw shooters during the day that he played professional basketball. But he did not become good overnight; he developed the skill as a teenager by practicing 500 shots every morning before he went to school.

#### **4.) The Principle of Pleasantness!**

It is a law of humanity that people are reactive. Every one of us reacts to the way others act towards us. If they smile, we smile. If they wave, we wave. If they honk their horn, we honk ours in return. What this means then is that you have a certain degree of control over the way others react towards you. If you smile and they smile back, you have controlled their reaction. If you swear at them and they become angry and swear back, you again have determined their reaction. Now apply this law of reaction to the principle of kindness and you will discover more love in this world (Pro. 18:24).

It may be argued that not everyone has a pleasant personality, but I argue back that everyone can develop a pleasant personality. I recognize the different personality types but I refuse to believe in natural grumps. You were not born with a bad disposition; you developed it. So develop a good one!

#### **5.) The Principle of Praise!**

Everyone has a desire to be appreciated and recognized. You want someone to tell you it was a good solo or sermon, your hair looks nice; or you look like you are losing weight. If you want a poor preacher to become a good preacher, start “*amening*” him - he can get better in the middle of a sermon.

Praise is the greatest form of encouragement. Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain - and most fools do.