

*"The Lord gave the
word: great was the
company of those
that published it."*

(Psalm 68:11)

Victory Baptist Press
P.O. Box 766
Milton, FL 32572-0766

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Milton, FL
Permit No. 118



The NEWSLETTER

November - December, 2011

EMERALD COAST

17TH
ANNUAL



VICTORY
BAPTIST CHURCH

Jubilee

JANUARY 2-6
7:00 EACH EVENING

For the last seventeen years Victory Baptist Church has opened the new year with a week of inspiring, Spirit-anointed singing and great Bible preaching. This jubilee has become the most exciting week of the year for our church—something we look forward to all year long.

Make your plans now to come join us for five nights of the best preaching and singing in the country.

GUEST SPEAKERS



PASTOR
TONY SHIRLEY



DR. LARRY
BROWN



EVANGELIST
BRIAN MCBRIDE



PASTOR
JOE ARTHUR

SPECIAL
MUSIC
THE HENSON
FAMILY

850-623-0086 4000 AVALON BLVD., MILTON, FL VBCMILTON.ORG

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: 850-623-0086 Fax: 850-623-3502 • e-mail: news@victorybaptistpress.com

Editor's Notes

*Jim & Mary Fellure*

It is Wednesday, November 2, and I am writing from my office at home in Florida.

Good health

In our last Newsletter, I mentioned I would be having some surgeries on my nose. They are over, the cancer is gone, and my nose has been reconstructed. The last stitches were taken out one week ago, and as of this writing, I have a clean bill of health.

At sixty-nine years of age, I take no medications and have no future doctors' appointments, and with good health insurance, all the medical bills are paid! Thank you for your prayers and praise the Lord for His blessings.

2011, a successful year

2011 has been a good year for VBP. With the financial struggles within the economy, there were times that we wondered if we would be able to keep the print shop open, only to see the Lord bless in ways that we never imagined, and do more than ever before. For more than twenty-five years VBP has been shipping Scriptures to mission fields all over the world without charge, and we have learned by experience that God will supply all that is needed to do His bidding.

Print shop addition

Now, rather than cutting back on production there are signs of significant growth in the days to come. The added printing equipment that Brother Jerry McDonald and the Calvary Boys Ranch have donated to VBP will give us some capabilities that we have never had before. However, the print shop was already crowded, so we plan to build an addition to the existing shop. The final estimates are not in yet, but, just as soon

as we know the cost, we will launch a fund raising campaign to come up with the money rather than borrowing from the bank and making high interest, monthly payments. Please pray that God will give us wisdom in raising the needed money.

ebooks

We have now started marketing ebooks on Amazon. My wife recently bought me a Kindle e-Reader, and I have enjoyed it immensely. I have downloaded ebooks from Amazon for much less than the price of a hard copy, and I have been able to read in places while traveling that I would not have been able to otherwise. VBP has also begun publishing several of our books in a Kindle format. To view our books, go to <http://www.amazon.com> and type in the publisher (Victory Baptist Press) and it will show what we have available. Also, Amazon offers a Kindle application for any PC as a free download, so you don't have to have an expensive Kindle e-Reader to download a book. Plus, if you want to copy and paste something from a book, it would be much easier if it was on a PC.

Family News

A couple of weeks ago our son-in-law, Robert Cravatt, and our daughter, Kathy, came with their four children from Virginia and were at our house for a week. (The rest of our family already live here in Florida.) On Saturday afternoon I took all six of my grandsons, ranging in age from eight years old to eighteen years old, to a local catfish pond. While I relaxed in a lawn chair with my Kindle e-Reader, the boys caught seventy-one catfish. The youngest, eight-year-old Parker, caught the two biggest fish of the day. The boys cleaned and filleted the fish, and by that time, Grandmother Mary had come home from a shopping trip with our two teenage granddaughters, Megan and Charity. Mary and the girls fried the fish and fixed all the trimmings necessary for a feast from the catch of the day.

The best way to express my feelings for our grandchildren is in the words of Proverbs 17:6 "Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers."

Please continue to pray for us,
Jim Fellure

MEMORIALS

VBP recently received memorial gifts
From.....in memory of
Mrs. H. C. Gore.....*Frances Burress*
Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Gore.....*Mrs. Gladys Gore*
Danny Webb.....*Joshua Ryan Brann*
Ken & Robin Shaver.....*Marjie Rice*
Stephanie Jarnagin.....*William & Anna Rauhuff*
Stephanie Jarnagin... ..*Bradley & Lena Lester*
Jason Jarnagin.....*Elmer R. Reneau*
Jason Jarnagin.....*Carrie & Lorend Jarnagin*
Susan Ayers.....*Cristian Mundy*
Daniel & Michelle Ledford.....*Johnny B. Choate*
Ashley Ledford.....*Johnny Choate*
Amelia Ledford.....*Johnny Choate*
Cody Gentry.....*Tom Gentry*
Laurie Graves.....*Matthew Ellenwood*
Chuck, Barbie & Kimberly Barnes...

Herbert A. N. Trask

Jeremy Wilson.....*Joyce Spears*
Jeremy Wilson.....*Wayne Almiana*
Barbara Rorrer.....*Nola Good*
Lisa Brooks.....*William Whitby, Jr.*
Effie Block.....*Ersel McPeek*
Effie Block.....*Earl Ray McPeek*
Effie Block.....*Rosa McPeek*
Alloy & Cassandra George.....*Larry Petrie*
Thomas Potter.....*Tressie & Viola Potter*
Warren & Renee Wayland.....*Stephanie Lane*
Warren & Renee Wayland.....*Amy Longfellow*
Warren & Renee Wayland.....*John Wayland*
Enoch Wilson.....*Ann Rousey*
Tonia Beck.....*Ann Rousey*
Carolyn Wright.....*Monteen Massey*
Bill & Vicki Richburg.....*Dorothy M. Martin*
Marion Baptist Church.....*Don Stone*
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Forde.....

Susie Monteen Lynn Massey

Julie Barton.....*Mary Andrews*
Hope Baptist Church.....*Lorraine Polk*
Joshua Wickes.....
Debbie Kestner.....
Don & Vanessa Berry.....
Haden Ledford.....
Kevein M. & Elissa K. Samartin.....
Timothy Bailey.....

VBP recently received gifts of Recognition
From.....in recognition of
Lauries Graves.....*Matthew Ellenwood*
Norman & Terry Barker.....

Mary, Jacob & Aaron Barker

Freda Wise.....*Clifton W. Kimble*
Freda Wise.....*Peggy L. Kimble*
Warren & Renee Wayland.....*Bill Norton*
Sarah Kearns.....*Marion Andrew Kearns*
John Vorhees, Jr.....

The Print Shop



Al & Heidi Berg

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The old saying that lightning never strikes the same place twice is not true. Over the years, Victory Baptist Church had been struck several times; this last summer we were affected by lightning strikes three times. One of those strikes knocked out the control board of our web press, and another took out the controller for our digital color printer. The big press was down for several weeks while we figured out how to get it going again. A big thanks goes to Bro. Lloyd Sellier, a member of West Florida Baptist Church, another good church in our area, for helping us get it up and running again. There were parts that had to be shipped back and forth to California for repair, and a lot of phone calls and emails, but by the grace of God we are up and running again and have finally finished printing a truckload of Bibles heading to Peru. There is still a lot of collating, binding, and trimming to do, but it is good to be on the way again.

Our color printer took a while to get fixed due to wrangling back and forth between the insurance company and the copier company that services our machine. I will not bore you with all those details, but thank God the issue was resolved, and it is also back up and running again. The biggest burden of this ordeal was on Bro. Yorey, since that machine is used primarily for the book division that he works in. There was a lot of scrambling and help from others to keep things going during that time. A special thanks should go to the

Children's Bible Club, a ministry of Grace Bible Church in Milton. They allowed us to use their color printer to help keep our head above water, and would not charge us for any of the several hundred copies we made there.

During this down time, our time was not wasted. I made use of some of the time by completing the layout of a whole English Bible. We look forward to printing some of these next year. We are also looking forward to helping Bro. Keith Stensaas in Uganda with some Luganda John/Romans. You may recall we did the Gospel of John for him a year or more ago, but now he also has the book of Romans translated and is working on more of the New Testament. In addition to that, we also plan to print 80,000 English John/Romans for missionary Richard Badget in South Africa and a truckload of Scriptures in Cebuano for the Philippines.

In our spare time, we need to set up some equipment that we recently received from the Calvary Baptist Church in Eufala, Oklahoma. Bro. Bill Richburg and I went up there a month or so ago to look at the equipment, and then went back a few weeks later to disassemble and put all the equipment on pallets and load it all onto two flatbed trucks. It took us nearly two weeks to get that done, and some of it had to be put in storage once it got back here to Florida. The centerpiece of the equipment is a four color press, something we have wanted for a long time. There were also several other small presses and other miscellaneous equipment. It is unfortunate that it was not able to be used at the Calvary ministries, but it is our prayer that it will continue to be used in the Lord's work. We would like to thank Bro. Jerry McDonald (who is not doing at all well due to several health issues) and all the staff at the Calvary ministries for their hospitality while we were there. We ate most of our meals with them, and it was a wonder I did not gain twenty pounds.

As a final note, I would like to make a plea for our daughter Sarah. (Some of what I am about to say can be taken with a grain of salt, since it is written by her dad.) Sarah is a senior at Crown College in

Powell, Tennessee. The college has a satellite campus in England whose primary purpose is for students to go there and help with the mission work they have in England. Sarah feels it is the Lord's will that she go there for her final semester in January, but she needs a little help to get there. By the grace of God, she has gone through school up to this point with no debt. She works on campus now in the library, and she has worked in the print shop while she was at home on breaks, as well as with her mother cleaning houses. She suffers from Crohn's disease which caused her to have a major surgery and



extend school another year. She is doing much better for now. She has been involved in international ministries while at Crown, and has a burden for Muslim people. Please join with us in praying that the Lord will meet the need for her to participate in that ministry. If you would like to help her financially, you can send a check in her name to: Sarah Berg, Crown College United Kingdom, P.O. Box 159, Powell, TN 37849. At the time of this writing she still needs \$3700. If you would like to see what God is doing through the ministries of the Temple Baptist Church in England, there is a youtube video you can view from their recent mission conference. youtube.com/watch?v=7e1srgbgfNE&

Your prayers and help in all of these matters will be greatly appreciated.

God bless you,
Bro. Albert Berg

"He that serves God for money will serve the Devil for better wages"

VBP Field Reps



BILL and VICKI RICHBURG

P.O. Box 508
Six Mile, SC 29682
864.506.2380
billrichburg@victorybaptistpress.com

The Richburg's left a full-time ministry in South Carolina and became field representatives for Victory Baptist Press in 1999. Brother Richburg now serves as our general field director.



SHAWN and EMMA DUNN

109A E. High Street
Liberty, IN 47353.
765.580.2196
preacherswdunn@gmail.com

The Dunns became field representatives for Victory Baptist Press in September of 2010.

After pastoring two churches for a total of twenty-four years, and being heavily involved with printing and distributing the Scriptures, the burden for scripture printing became so real to Bro. Dunn and his wife Emma, that he resigned as a pastor to become a full-time representative for VBP.

Are you in need of extra income?

Are you an honest, born-again Christian with a good, clean testimony looking for an opportunity to earn extra income without leaving or changing your current ministry? Be an associate for VBP. There is no cost, very little time involved, and the program is very rewarding. For a free information packet, email: crystal@victorybaptistpress.com, or write to Crystal Perrine at: Victory Baptist Press, P.O. Box 766, Milton, FL 32572, and request the Associate Program Information.



Robert & Leonor Schmidt
Willing to help ministries
with Low-Rate Air Fares
850.983.3954 / 850.529.4761 / 850.418.3108
bobleonor3@bellsouth.net

BRO. BOB SCHMIDT AND HIS WIFE, LEONOR, ARE TRAVEL AGENTS AND DO THEIR BEST TO GET THE BEST FLIGHT RATES AVAILABLE FOR THE BRETHREN. BROTHER BOB SAYS THEY CAN DO ESPECIALLY WELL WITH OVERSEAS FLIGHTS.

GRACE

by James Meikle

Heavenly grace implanted in the soul is the magic stone—which turns everything in our possession into a more excellent nature and greater value. Grace turns iron into silver, and silver into gold.

Shedding divine contentment through the soul, divine grace turns our water into wine, our pennies into pounds, our poor cottages into splendid palaces, bare supply into abundant plenty, and everything into sufficiency—because our satisfaction is the same in this, as if possessed of that.

Grace diminishes distress, magnifies mercies, lessens grief, enlarges love, despises vanities, breathes after future bliss, rectifies our desires, subdues our corruptions, regulates our desires, restrains our ambition, raises and refines our affections, removes the present world, and presents the world to come. By grace we are refined in affliction, triumph in our troubles, in all our conflicts we are more than conquerors, and win the battle. By grace we listen to rebuke, are instructed by the rod, submissive under crosses, silent under losses, patient in tribulation, meek under reproaches, humble, though exalted, forgetful of injuries, mindful of benefits, faithful to our duty, merciful to our enemies, and are friends with the whole world.

By grace we tremble at judgments, rejoice in mercies, observe providences, wrestle against our unbelief, are grieved at our ingratitude, and struggle against our daily failings.

By grace our souls taste divine joys and loathe the light food of worldly vanities. Grace sweetens our sorrows, mitigates our misfortunes, pierces the shadows, and seeks after unseen realities. Where grace is implanted in the bosom, everything turns out to the advantage of the soul. The way of life, to others thorny—is flowery to us—and our path to our latter end is peace.

What to the carnal world is a curse, is to the possessors of this precious gem a blessing. By grace our pains are banished, our pleasures are purified, expectation honeyed, burdens lightened, weakness strengthened, storms scattered, and harmony diffused within. What a noble thing is grace—or Christ by His spirit dwelling in the soul! No wonder, then, that such a glorious change is made, and all to the better, so that we can look towards eternity undismayed, expect the solemn judgment with unshaken faith, meet the king of terrors with undaunted courage, and have hope in the expiring pang.

Let gold be a portion to the misers; honor to the ambitious; pleasures to the voluptuous—but let grace be mine! For thus my afflictions are sweeter than the prosperity of the wicked; my reproaches preferable to the applauses of a giddy world; and my very death more desirable than the life of the most splendid, if impious, monarch!

Copied from *Solitude Sweetened*
See page six to order your copy of this great book



Blessings & Benefits Mrs. Pam Leake

Recently, while doing some cleaning and rearranging in our basement, I came across some photo albums from the early days of our married life and the many childhood photos of our daughter.

Slowly I turned through the pages, my memory activated by the pictures of her in the various stages of her life – a newborn, a toddler, an elementary school student. Wow, it seemed like such a short time ago! Then, there were the photos from her high school years and the day her father and I left her at college and the beginning of the end of her time with us at home. With just the turn of a page, I was reliving her wedding day (What a day of mixed emotions!) and, in moments, twenty-plus years passed before my eyes. The reminiscing turned into the renewed realization of the brevity of life. I wanted to say, "Wait! Slow down!"

Now, after thirty-nine years, I am a Nana and have eight year-old twin grandsons, and the days are flying by much faster than I like. But the Word of God in James 4:14 reminds me, "For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away," which leaves me wondering how many days I have taken for granted or wasted in useless activity so that I accomplished nothing of use to me or of profit to the Lord.

As my husband often mentions from the pulpit, the Lord has given each of us the same 24 hours a day, 168 hours a week. It's what we do with them that makes the difference. Will we fill those hours with activities and habits that spring forth from our love for the Saviour, or waste them in fruitless, self-serving routines? There is no going back to re-do the past, but we can make the most of each day we have until the Lord returns.

Today I thank the Lord again for His great mercy on me – the matchless gift of eternal life provided through His shed blood, and the opportunity to make a difference while yet in this body. The psalmist said in Ps. 39:4,5: "LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days...Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age *is* as nothing before thee..." My time is in His hands, but what I do with that time is in my hands. Lord, help me to make the most of my brief days, even as I look forward to eternity in heaven with You!

Note: Pam is the wife of Ed Leake, pastor of Colonial Baptist Church and director of Colonial Press of Charlottesville, Virginia. You may email her at: pamleake@colonialbc.org

A young woman was waiting for a bus in a slum area one evening when a rookie policeman approached her. "Want me to wait with you?" he asked. She replied, "Thank you, but that's not necessary. I'm not afraid." "Well, then," he said, grinning, "would you mind waiting with me?"

Borrowed Illustrations

Missionary John Patton

John G. Paton, a missionary to the South Sea Islands, often lived in danger as he worked among the hostile aborigines who had never heard the Gospel. At one time three witch doctors, claiming to have the power to cause death, publicly declared their intentions to kill Paton with their sorcery before the next Sunday. To carry out their threat, they said they needed some food he had partially eaten. Paton asked for three plums. He took a bite out of each and then gave them to the men who were plotting his death.

On Sunday, the missionary entered the village with a smile on his face and a spring in his step. The people looked at each other in amazement, thinking it couldn't possibly be Paton. Their "sacred men" admitted that they had tried by all their incantations to kill him. When asked why they had failed, they replied that the missionary was a sacred man like themselves, but that his God was stronger than theirs. From then on Paton's influence grew, and soon he had the joy of leading some of the villagers to the Lord.

***"If thou faint in the day of adversity,
thy strength is small."***

(Proverbs 24:10)

Cripple him, and you have a Sir Walter Scott. Lock him in a prison cell, and you have a John Bunyan. Bury him in the snows of Valley Forge, and you have a George Washington. Raise him in abject poverty, and you have an Abraham Lincoln. Strike him down in infantile paralysis, and he becomes Franklin Roosevelt. Deafen him, and you have a Ludwig van Beethoven. Have him or her born black in a society filled with racial discrimination, and you have a Booker T. Washington, a Marian Anderson, a George Washington Carver....Call him a slow learner; "retarded," and write him off an uneducable, and you have an Albert Einstein.

-Source unknown

***"But none saith, Where *is* God my maker,
who giveth songs in the night;"***

(Job 35:10)

What though my joys and comforts die?

The Lord my Savior liveth;

What though the darkness gather round?

Songs in the night he giveth;

No storm can shake my inmost calm,

while to that refuge clinging;

Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,

how can I keep from singing?

-Robert Lowry

Victory Baptist Press Bookstore Sales

Located on the Beautiful Gulf Coast of Northwest Florida

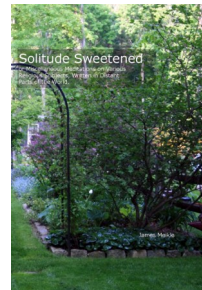


Preparing to be a Help Meet

by Debi Pearl.

What does a good guy really look for in a girl? Are you a dreamer, servant, or Go-to-Gal? Do you know what to pray for your man-to-be? Should you tell a guy you like him? Can you know God's will in choosing a husband?

302 pages. **\$15.95**

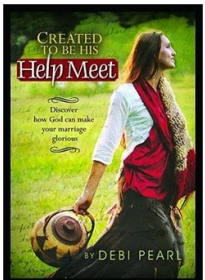


Solitude Sweetened

by James Meikle (1730 - 1799).

Solitude Sweetened will, with anticipation of reading the next page, draw your attention from this present evil world and fix your gaze on "...a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

270 pages. **\$15.00**

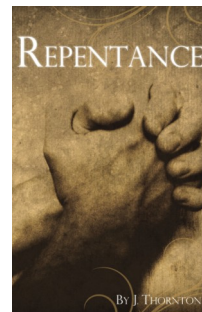


Created to be His Help Meet

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,...it is possible today to have a marriage so good and so fulfilling that it can only be explained as a miracle.

294 pages. **\$13.95**



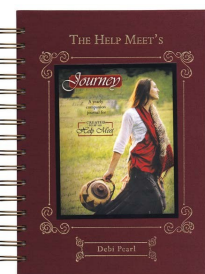
Repentance

by John Thornton.

Thornton's book on repentance is destined to upset the philosophy of the shallow, light-hearted form of preaching of our day that presents Heaven, but not Hell; conversion without conviction; and redemption without repentance.

An absolutely must-read book!

157 pages. **\$10.00**

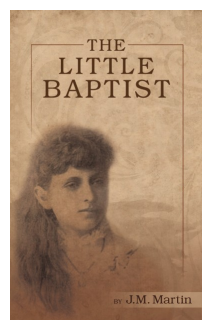


The Help Meet's Journey, A yearly companion journal for Created To Be His Help Meet,

by Debi Pearl.

Your stories, doodlings, studies, and pictures will become the camera of your soul recording a lasting memory of the miracle God is doing in you. Don't be afraid. God is good. He is looking for someone to bless. It is your turn.

Hardback. Spiral bound. 182 pages, **\$9.50**



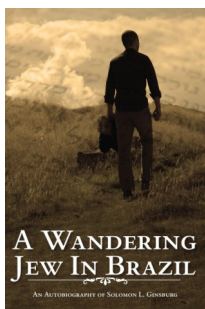
The Little Baptist

by J. M. Martin.

This is the fascinating and captivating story of little ten-year-old Mellie, who, through her personal study of the Bible given to her as a gift by her older brother, came to understand the Bible way of salvation, and baptism by emersion. Though raised as a Presbyterian, Mellie became a Little Baptist.

A must read book.

145 pages. **\$7.00**



A Wandering Jew in Brazil,

An Autobiography of Solomon L. Ginsburg.

Born into the home of a Jewish Rabbi, Ginsburg was confronted with the glorious Gospel of Christ by another converted Jew. Soon after his conversion, persecution and even attempts on his life began, but God overruled and used him for thirty-five fruitful years of service as a missionary in the country of Brazil. This is an absolutely must read book.

217 pages. **\$12.00**

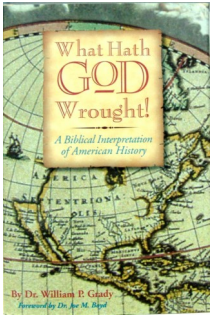


Be Thou Exalted, The Life Story of Fanny J. Crosby,

An Autobiography.

This book was written by Fanny Crosby at age 83. The most amazing aspect of Fanny's life was that she considered her blindness her greatest asset for it allowed her to "see" things in ways that a "seeing" person never could, and thus, it drew her close to her Lord.

171 pages. **\$10.00**

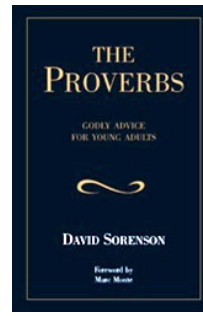


What Hath GOD Wrought!

by Dr. William P. Grady.

From the Pilgrim Fathers to the Promise Keepers, *What Hath God Wrought!* unfolds as the most fascinating, American history you will ever encounter. Dr. Lee Robertson said "*What Hath GOD Wrought!* is a tough book. It is plain, honest, and thought-provoking. It contains no compromise, no apologies, and no vagaries."

668 pages. Hdbk. **\$28.00**



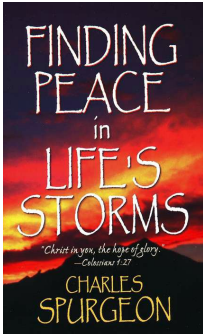
The Proverbs,

Godly advise for young adults

by David Sorenson.

The devil still uses the same basic traps to snare Christian young people that he did in Solomon's day. The principles have not changed. You will be blessed and informed by reading this helpful volume. There is depth of scholarship, yet ease of reading.

299 pages. **\$15.00**



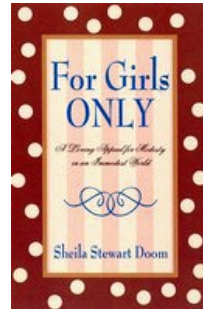
Finding Peace in Life's Storms

by Charles Spurgeon.

No case is too desperate for God. There is no problem He cannot overcome. Hope in God can see you through your greatest difficulties and meet every longing of your heart.

Charles Spurgeon unwraps God's gift of hope as he presents us with strong encouragement and a powerful tool for surviving daily struggles and temptations.

153 pages. **\$5.50**



For Girls Only

by Sheila Stewart Doom.

If you are a King's daughter...if you have been created to bring glory, not to yourself, but to Him...if you have been purchased by His precious blood at great cost and now are His and His alone...if your goal in life is to please Him with a desire to do what He says...THEN you are ready to look into the Word of God to see His will for you in the area of your clothing.

63 pages. **\$4.50**

For your convenience you may also purchase online at
www.victorybaptistpress.com

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 Bibles and Scripture portions. This is just one more way we get the Word of God to a lost world.

Victory Baptist Press Bookstore			
Item Description	Qty.	Price Each	Subtotal
Shipping & Handling charges:		Order total: _____	
Up to \$15.00.....	\$3.50	\$15.01—\$30.00.....	\$4.50
\$30.01—\$60.00...	\$5.50	\$60.01—\$100.....	\$10.00
\$100 and up.....	\$15.00	Shipping: _____	
		Total: _____	
Make checks payable to: Victory Baptist Press Bookstore Send orders to: Victory Baptist Press Bookstore P.O. Box 766 Milton, FL 32572 Email: books@victorybaptistpress.com		Ship to: Name _____ Street _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____ Email _____	

Pastor Tim Fellure

Doing The Lord's Work

I Corinthians 16:5-12

I have just finished preaching through I Corinthians, and the most difficult passage was probably the last one. If you will read this text, you won't find it the most exciting in the Bible. Basically, Paul is wrapping up this long letter with some personal notes about his future travels, but how does it help us in 2011 to know what Paul's travel plans were for A.D. 57? These verses can be summarized as: "I plan to come there, but I need to go somewhere else too. I will stay awhile, but not too long. Timothy was going to come, but I'm not sure if he'll make it. And I asked Apollos to visit, but he didn't want to, so he won't be coming either."

Now, that may not sound like good "preaching material," but there is a phrase in verse 10 that opened the text for me—"for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also *do*." Paul was simply explaining how he was doing the work of the Lord. His travel plans, going from place to place and preaching the Gospel, was how he did the work.

In the last verse of the previous chapter, Paul exhorted us to "...be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord..." And now he gives them an example of what that looks like. In the text, he mentions three men and it could be said that these three men were the example of the qualities he exhorted the church to have: Timothy was steadfast, Apollos was unmoveable, and Paul was always abounding. And from Paul's travel plans we find several qualifications a man must have if he is to do the work of the Lord.

1) You Must Have a Vision for the Future!

16:5—Paul wrote I Corinthians from Ephesus, at the end of his three-year stay there. His intent at that time was to leave Ephesus to visit Corinth, travel on to Macedonia, and then perhaps come back to Corinth on his way to Jerusalem. That was his plan but we know according to II Corinthians 2:15-16, that it didn't work out exactly like he planned. The point to see, however, is that he was planning ahead: things were going great in Ephesus, but he was looking to new territory in Macedonia, thinking about the work in Corinth, and trying to work it out to get back to Jerusalem.

You can see the same kind of strategizing in Romans 15:24—"Whensoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you." Paul wrote Romans from Corinth so he was busy in Corinth, writing to Rome, thinking about Spain. He had Spain on the brain because the Gospel had not yet reached there. Spain had been conquered by the Roman empire, and Paul was dreaming of conquering it with the Gospel.

To do the work of the Lord you must be a visionary. There has to be in your heart a vision and drive for a work to be done and how you are going to accomplish it. You have to be able to see worlds yet unreached with the Gospel; you have to have the forward look.

Vision is more than just having a good idea. Vision is seeing the need, strategizing how to meet that need, and marshaling the resources to get it done. And a man with a vision lives with that vision 24/7. He goes to bed with it, he gets up with it, he takes it to work with him—he cannot escape it. If you're just waiting on the Lord to tap you on the shoulder and ask if you'd like a ministry, it won't happen. Look around and see if you see anything that needs to be done. What do you see? What is your plan? Is there any vision burning in your heart?

2) You Must Have a Sense of Flexibility!

16:6-7—Paul added a little disclaimer to all his plans: "...if the Lord permits." He planned it out the best he could, but the Lord held right of veto over all his plans. You can see his flexibility in Acts 16:6-10

when the Holy Spirit vetoed Plan A (Asia Minor), Plan B (Bithynia), and gave them Plan C (Macedonia). Paul's attitude was that it didn't matter which direction the Spirit pointed. And in the work of the Lord it's good to have a plan, but don't be surprised or upset if God has a direction you hadn't planned on.

3) You Must Not be Seen as Flighty!

16:6-7—Paul's plans were to come to Corinth for the winter. He wanted to get to Macedonia, but he wasn't going to just wave on his way by. He knew the church needed him, and it would take some time to help them. His work was itinerant, but he also knew it took time to grow a church, disciple new converts, establish doctrine: he accepted that ministry was a long process. He had spent eighteen months in Corinth, three years in Ephesus, and now was going back to Corinth for 3-4 more months. He wanted to establish a work that would last longer than he would, and he was committed to the long goal.

The work of the Lord must not be done in a superficial way; it takes someone willing to stick with it. It is not my place to question how and when God moves any preacher from one place to the next, but longevity builds strong works.

4) You Must be Committed to Present Service!

16:8-9—Paul was looking ahead but he wasn't sitting still. He had plans for Corinth but, in the meantime, he was busy in Ephesus. He planned for the future while putting all his energy into the present. Paul was committed to the open door (I Cor. 16:8; Acts 14:27; 2 Cor. 2:12; Col. 4:3). He didn't try to use one place as a stepping stone to another place. Wherever he was, he gave his life to it until God moved him. And he never rejected one opportunity in hopes of a better one somewhere else.

Some folks have a head full of pipe dreams and can tell you all they're going to do one day, but they never get beyond the dreaming stage. The work of the Lord doesn't need just dreamers: it needs doers. Quit waiting for the right time or perfect opportunity; just get at it. And don't expect God to plop you down in some dream ministry if you're not busy where you are.