



VICTORY BAPTIST PRESS
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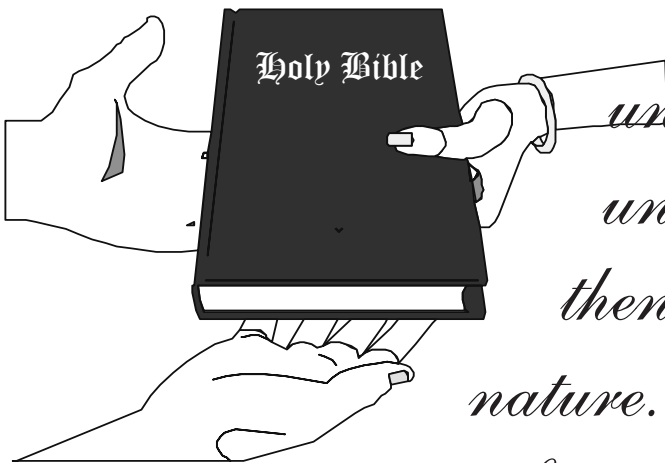
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PERMIT NO 118

MARCH & APRIL, 2003

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

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

The Newsletter is the official publication of **Victory Baptist Press** and is sent free of charge to those who request it. The main purpose of the Newsletter is to promote missions with an emphasis on the printing and distribution of the Word of God. While we may not agree with every statement printed from outside sources, we will make every effort to keep the paper as free from error as possible. To receive the Newsletter send your complete mailing address to: P. O. Box 766, Milton, FL 32572-0766. Phone: 850-623-2505. Fax: 850-623-3502 e-mail: VictoryBaptistPress@msn.com



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

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.
(Isaiah 55:11)

Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924)

Editor's Notes



Jim & Mary Fellure

I am writing these notes on Saturday, February 1, from the missions apartment at Smith Chapel Baptist Church in Durham, North Carolina. I arrived here today in time for Pastor Jerry Hooper and me to have lunch together and enjoy a good time of fellowship. Brother Hooper is letting me stay here while I visit churches in this eastern North Carolina area for the next week. I am glad for a good, comfortable place to stay with room to set up the computer and work during the day. Brother Hooper has been a dear friend and supporter of Victory Baptist Press for several years. We deeply appreciate his support and hospitality toward us.

Last week I was in a mission conference in Maryland. The Lord gave us a good meeting, but I got very, very cold when I went outside during the day. The temperature dropped to -8° a couple of nights and stayed in the freezing range during the day. I was in Death Valley, California, last summer and the temperature was 127° . What a difference! I would far rather have the heat than the cold, but I haven't gotten wimpy enough yet to try to do all my preaching in the south in the winter and go north in the summer. I am willing to go wherever the Lord opens the door.

I will be in meetings for two more weeks, then be home for one week before catching a flight to Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, for a one week meeting with our long time friend, Pastor Ronald Cunningham. I will finish the meeting with Brother Cunningham on Friday, February 28, then drive a rental car 150 miles to Barton, Maryland and preach both morning and evening, Sunday, March 2, for Pastor Dallas Bunch, a friend that I haven't seen for several years. I will turn the rental car in at the Pittsburgh airport and fly back

to Florida on March 3, spend one night at home, then start the long drive out West for a month of meetings in Arizona and California. During the trip out West I hope to go with Brother Ray Bowie to the Mexico prisons a couple of times. Brother Bowie has had a very fruitful ministry with the convicts and I always enjoy being with him and seeing people saved in the prison services.

Last year I cut back on the meetings away from home and spent more time in the office. After trying it both ways I am convinced that the best thing for the ministry is for me to stay out in the field and cover as many churches as possible. Already this year the Lord has allowed me to preach for Pastor Paul Nowlin, of Perry, Florida, Pastor Steve Crane, of Gulfport, Mississippi, Pastor Chuck Starr, of Rossville, Georgia, Pastor Sam Cravatt, of Ooltewah, Tennessee, Pastor Gaylon Dawson, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Pastor Wayne Holder, of Beckley, West Virginia, Pastor Doug Sehome, of Oakland, Maryland, and Pastor Ed Leake, of Charlottesville, Virginia. Thank you pastors for letting me fill your pulpit. If any of our pastor friends would like me to come for a special meeting I will be glad to do it. I will go to any fundamental Baptist church regardless of its size and make no financial demands. The only thing I ask is the opportunity to present the Victory Baptist Press printing ministry as a mission work. The best way to contact me is on my cell phone at (850)384-4402.

It is only a few weeks until time for our annual trip to Monterrey, Mexico, to be with Missionary Sonny Fritz. If you are a fundamental Baptist pastor and have never been on a mission trip to Mexico, Victory Baptist Press will pay the expenses from Milton, Florida, and back for you and your wife or for you and one key man from your church. The dates are Sunday, March 30 - Friday, April 4. If you are interested call Brother Bill Richburg at (864)868-9988 or (864)506-2380.

We have a lot of plans for 2003. Please remember us in prayer as we seek to please Him who called us into this ministry.

In Christ,

Jim Fellure

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.

**God promises a safe landing,
not a calm passage.**



Al & Heidi Berg

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Due to the goodness of God and your faithful prayers and support, Victory Baptist Press has started out the new year on a good note. We recently shipped out of our warehouse over 100,000 French/Creole John Romans headed for the island nation of Haiti. They are scheduled to get there sometime in March. Please pray that all goes well with this shipment. Haiti is the witchcraft capital of the world I am told, and it is little wonder that they are one of the poorest nations on earth. Haiti is a testimony of how the Devil treats his most loyal followers. We have heard some wonderful testimonies of people getting saved from scriptures we have sent there in the past. Please pray that somehow these scriptures will break the stronghold

the Devil has on this region of the world. I believe with all my heart that this is this nation's only real hope. We have also been privileged to send 19 boxes of scripture to Brazil. We hope to be sending many more there later this year. Pray that God opens a door to get them over there cheaper than mailing them through the Post Office. There will also be 18,000 Spanish John/Romans going to Mexico in the middle of March.

One of the things we decided we would try to do this year was to improve the appearance of some of our covers. Until recently, we have not had anyone in the church who was a graphics arts designer. Consequently all of our material has had a very plain look to it. God has blessed Victory Baptist Church with several people with some artistic abilities, and we are starting to put them to use. Our first new cover will be a full-color New Testament in Portuguese. Our society is so used to seeing everything in color nowadays, that it seems as if it ought to be easy to do; but the fact is that it is not, especially with the equipment on which we have to do it. For those of you who do not know, color printing involves printing four colors of ink: cyan, yellow, magenta and black. This means making four separate plates and, in our case, having to print each sheet four times and have the image hit the exact same spot all four times. As I said, we

see so much color around us that most people think it must be easy, and with the digital machines on the market today, it is, but it is not cost effective for thousands of copies. Please pray for us as we go into this new venture. Speaking of covers, that is just the first thing people see, and we hope it grabs their attention enough to want to see what is on the inside. We just finished our last roll of paper at the end of January and need a load of paper to begin printing New Testaments so the people will have more than just a pretty cover to look at.

On a personal note, I wish you would pray for my wife, Heidi. The last few months she has suffered with some terrible pain in her feet. The doctor said it is probably arthritis, and we think she may have a bone spur on top of that. Medication only seems to dull the pain for a little while, and we have been searching for something that will make it better, not just mask the pain. We are well aware of the long term health risks of taking some of these medications, but little else has helped so far. Please pray for her, and the rest of the family as we try to help her through this time.

May God bless you,
Albert Berg

The task ahead of us is never greater than the Power behind us.

MEMORIALS

Victory Baptist Press recently received memorial gifts from

Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Harrell
of Climax, Georgia
in memory of
Otis Brock Sr.
Callie Mae Halstead

"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."

**YOU ARE INVITED TO THE 12TH ANNUAL
South Texas
1611 AV
King James Bible
Preachers Fellowship**

Friday, May 9 - 10:00 am until?
(Preachers will be called from the floor)
The church will provide the noon and evening meals

**Harvest Hill Baptist Church
7619 Crestway
San Antonio, Texas 78239**

For more information call
Pastor Jim Taylor
210-653-1091 or 210-599-3132

Note: Brother Jim Fellure will be preaching each night
Wednesday through Friday and all day Sunday of that week.

**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 Candler, North Carolina, 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 do an outstanding job with music as a family and Martin is an excellent preacher. If you can use them for a service contact them at P.O. Box 474, Grovetown, Georgia 30813. 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.



Ray Bowie

***“Praise ye the Lord,
Praise ye the name
of the Lord; praise
him, O ye servants
of the Lord.”***

Psalm 135:1

Praise the Lord for the many saved in the prisons in Mexico by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ this past month and each month in the year.

Praise the Lord for bringing into my life a wonderful helpmate after being a widower for over two years. Juanita has become a wonderful missionary in and out of the prisons and is a very good servant of the Lord.

Praise the Lord we have exceeded our goal of passing out one million John/Romans in Spanish, plus New Testaments and tracts in Spanish also.

Praise the Lord for all of our suppliers. Praise the Lord for our home church, Victory Baptist Church.

Praise the Lord for Seedline International, Greencastle, Indiana, getting all of the scriptures hauled in to us.

Praise the Lord for Pro Trans International, Indianapolis, Indiana, for hauling all of the scriptures to us free. I went in to their local office here and asked what the cost would have been for hauling all of the scriptures. If we were paying as a preferred customer with their lowest rate, it would have been \$28,594.00.

Thanks to Bearing Precious Seed, Indianapolis, Indiana, for helping us.

Thanks to Rick Bloxton, a local pastor, who has hauled most of the scriptures from the truck terminal and helped us deliver a lot of scriptures in Mexico.

So we finished the year of 2002 with only 15,000 John/Romans on hand. At present, Mexico is wide open and in need of workers. Our borders here in Arizona are being run over with illegals every day by the hundreds. Everyone is open to the gospel and searching.

I am amazed that God has blessed us in such a wonderful way. With suppliers furnishing us with scriptures and missionaries coming to us all the time and having a part in scriptures going all over Mexico.

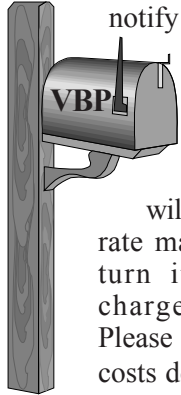
Prayer Needs:

1. Protection in traveling
2. Missionaries to the wide open fields ripe unto harvest in Mexico.
3. Our suppliers to help us reach our goal next year of one million, two hundred thousand John/Romans in Spanish, plus New Testaments and Bibles .

Yours for Souls in Mexico,

Ray & Juanita Bowie

***The Will of God will never take you to where
the Grace of God will not protect you.***



Please be so kind as to notify us of any change of address or duplicate Newsletters you receive. The Post Office will not forward bulk rate material. They return it to VBP and charge us to do so. Please help us keep our costs down.

The US Postal Service now remembers and honors a Muslim holiday season with a commemorative first class holiday postage stamp called EID.

Eid means recurring happiness or festivity and is celebrated by Muslims two times per year.

Check the information out at <http://www.islam.org/Eid/Eid-1.htm>.

Check the stamp out at www.usp.com

Christians should make sure they never buy one of these stamps.



Books For Sale *The Preacher's*

Homiletic Commentary

A thirty-one volume set with critical and explanatory notes, indexes, etc., by various authors.

Used, but not used. Hard back. Like new condition.

\$550.00 retail, your price **\$200.00** and we pay the shipping.

Make check payable to:
Victory Baptist Press

The Anvil

Last eve I paused beside the blacksmith's door
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chimes;
Then looking in, I saw upon the floor
Old hammers worn with beating years of time.

"How many anvils have you had," said I,
"To wear and batter all those hammers so?"
"Just one," said he, and then with a twinkling eye,
"The anvil wears the hammer out you know."

And so I thought, the anvil of God's Word
For ages skeptics' blows have beat upon,
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,
The anvil is unharmed, the hammers gone.

Voltaire predicted that within one hundred years of his death (1778), the Bible would no longer exist. The printing press used to print his books was eventually used to print Bibles, and the house he lived in was bought and used by the Geneva Bible Society to store Bibles.

Thomas Paine, who wrote *The Age of Reason* (known as the Atheist's Bible), boasted, "In five years from now there will not be a Bible in America. I have gone through the Bible with an axe and cut down all its trees." Paine died a lonely and bitter man and yet, there are still Bibles in America.

Time for the **SUMMER EMERALD COAST JUBILEE**

is just around the corner.

Mark your calendar for

Sunday, June 8, through Wednesday, June 11,

for four days of excellent preaching and music at

Victory Baptist Church.

This year's main preachers will be

**BROTHER EARL HUGHES; BROTHER JACK TRIPP;
BROTHER DENNIS PETTY AND BROTHER DAN MEADERS.**

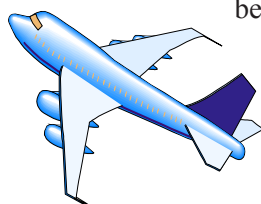
Special music will be by the Ledbetters.

Note: Lodging will be provided for all out-of-town pastors and their wives.

Two meals will be served each day.

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

...WAR, continued from page 8

We were told last week by the Department of Homeland Security that North Korea has one or two nuclear warheads and has the missile range to strike the West Coast.

Tommy Thompson told a Senate committee that the Health and Human Services is trying to develop enough smallpox antidote for tens of millions of Americans because they don't know what is going to happen next.

Iraq has made a fool out of the United Nations for the past twelve years and is yanking them around even now. The Bush administration says they have the proof that Saddam Hussein has produced biological and chemical weapons, and we all know that he is willing to use them on innocent victims.

3) The Rules of War.

War is not desirable, nor is it always justifiable. The attacks against our land have not been justified, and we do not desire to attack other lands, except for the preservation of peace and security.

1) There must be a just cause for the war. War to expand territory, to exploit the wealth of another nation, to build an empire, or to impose a way of life upon another people is not justifiable war.

2) War must be waged only in response to certain grave and lasting damage inflicted by an aggressor. The reason why I believe Iraq must be dealt with militarily is that Saddam Hussein's regime poses a clear and present danger to our citizens.

3) The ultimate objective of war must be to bring peace. I desire the same thing the peace activists desire – peace. Only I know that peace is a by-product of war. Every nation we have ever been at war with and have defeated, we are now at peace with.

4) Every possible means of peacefully settling the conflict must be exhausted first. Diplomacy can be a great tool, but there comes a time when it becomes evident that diplomacy and negotiations are not working and military action is the only solution.

5) There must be serious prospects of success; bloodshed without hope of victory cannot be justified.

6) The war must be declared by a legitimate authority. Private individuals or groups should seek redress of their rights through their governments, not by acts of war.

7) Noncombatants (civilians) must

not be intentionally harmed. One argument against war is that innocent people will die. I believe in the policy of limiting collateral damage as much as possible, but war is not pretty and innocent people will become casualties. I remind you that every American killed by the suicide bombers on 9/11 were innocent. When those wicked men committed those dastardly deeds, they invited destruction and retribution upon themselves and upon their supporters.

4) The Response To War.

The first response should be to stand up for America, for freedom, and for our military. I want everyone to know that I support the war. Let the liberals get on TV and run down America, but let God's people stand up and support our military and President in this critical time.

Our second response should be to trust God for our safety and victory. This past week we heard from an administration official that it would not be a bad idea to buy plastic sheeting and duct tape for your house in case of a chemical attack. We have been told that it would be a good thing to keep a supply of bottled water on hand in case our water supply is poisoned. Anti-missile weapons surround our capital and fighter jets are on constant stand by. The truth is that no one knows what is going to happen next. But my God is still on the throne and He is watching out for His own.

Tim Fellure

Did You Know???

...The world is increasing its population at the rate of 10,300 an hour...Every single second 3 souls die! Every minute 180 souls die, 19,400 per hour, and 249,600 per day...If we were to have a Pentecost every week, with 3,000 souls saved, it would still take 7,984 years just to reach China, at 1.3 billion large...There are thirty times more people to reach with the gospel today than in the Apostles' lifetime...In the past ten years there has been a 50% reduction in the number of men surrendering to preach and the number of families going to the mission field...By the year 2002, 20,000 missionaries will have retired. At the present time there are only 3,383 preparing to replace them. (This uses the term "missionary" in the broadest possible form)...Between 1984-1999, we lost 30% of the fundamental missionaries on the field...There are presently 138,000 missionaries sent out of the United States and only around 3,000 of those are said to be Independent Baptist...Half of the missionaries on the field are over 50 years old...America used to be #1 per capita in sending out missionaries. Today we are #16. Countries with far less means but a lot more vision send about 90% of the missionaries out...**Since the invention of the printing press, over 2 billion Bibles have been printed. 85% of those were printed in one language. The other 15% are left to cover the other 6,528 languages of the world. 274 languages have a complete Bible. 745 languages have only the New Testament, leaving 4,564 with no Bible, and over 2,000 languages without a single verse of scripture.**

-Copied from Preach Evangelistic Ministries

VBP Has The Opportunity To More Than Triple Our Out-Put Within The Next Year. Will You Help?

Brother Keith Davidson, director of Seedline International of Clayton, Indiana, says they can process five, eighteen wheeler loads of paper per year if they could somehow come up with that much. Our printers, Brother Al Berg and Brother Bill Roberts believe we could print what Seedline needs plus print another five loads to be put together in the VBP shop. The way it would work is we would print five loads of paper into signatures for John/Romans booklets in various languages for the Seedline ministries and Brother Davidson would pick them up at our door, take them up to Indiana, put the covers on them, and pack and ship them to some good missionary in some needy corner of the world. While the Indiana group was processing the booklets, we would be printing and putting together New Testaments and whole Bibles here in Florida. The team effort would allow us to more than triple our output.

One good spiritual song we often sing says,

*"There's a call comes ringing o'er the restless wave, 'Send the light...Send the light!'
There are souls to rescue, there are souls to save, Send the light!...Send the light!
The blessed gospel light; Let it shine from shore to shore! Let it shine for ever more."*

I especially like the second verse,

*"We have heard the Macedonian call today, 'Send the light!...Send the light!'
And a golden offering at the cross we lay, Send the light!...Send the light!
The blessed gospel light; Let it shine from shore to shore! Let it shine for ever more."*

I'm reminded of a story the late Dr. R. G. Lee used to tell. A music director led the great choir in singing "Rescue the perishing, care for the dying, snatch them in pity from sin and the grave." The pastor then preached on "Rescue The Perishing," and once again the choir sang, "Rescue The Perishing." After the service a young man that had only been saved about two weeks came to the pastor and said "When do we start?" The pastor asked, "Start what?" And the young Christian said "Start rescuing the perishing." The pastor replied, "Son, that was just a sermon and a song." To Victory Baptist Press the need of getting the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ to the entire world is more than a sermon and a song. It's our very life, therefore we cannot help but get excited over the possibility of increasing the printing ministry from three, eighteen wheeler truckloads of printed scriptures per year to ten truckloads.

Some critic might say it cannot be done. I say, "By the grace of God it can be done." There are enough of God's people that are already friends of this ministry to carry the load and never break a sweat. We already have one faithful supporter that gives enough each year to pay for two loads of paper. Just eight more loads and we are there.

The first natural question that our readers will probably ask is, "How much will it cost?" Ten loads of paper will cost about \$180,000 or \$18,000 per load or \$500 per roll. That sure doesn't sound like much money to give to a God as great as our God. He is worthy of far more than any of us, or all of us combined, will ever do for Him on this side of eternity. What can you do? What will you do? There is one thing all of us Christians can do. We can pray, and that's what we are asking each of you to do. We are not asking any of our readers to give any money unless the Lord definitely leads them to. We are simply asking you to pray. Please get under the burden with us and pray fervently, often, consistently, unselfishly, scripturally, and in Christ's name, for the will of God to be done in this matter. Children and young people, ask your parents to pray. Parents, tell your children to pray. Request prayer at prayer meeting at your church. Ask the pastor if he will have the request put in the Sunday bulletin. Call someone that has a reputation for praying and tell them of the need and ask them to pray. If you have a prayer list please put the need for ten loads of paper for scripture printing at the Victory Baptist Press shop on the list.

It has been said that if we could scale the world's population down to 100 people and keep the same percentage of people with a Bible that presently have one, that only four out of the one hundred would have a whole Bible. Twelve out of the one hundred would have a New Testament, and sixteen out of the one hundred would have some portion of scriptures. There would be sixty-eight people with no scriptures at all. My friend, do you think it pleases the Lord for you and I to be blessed to be in the top 4% of this world's six billion plus people and not care enough about the rest of them to even pray for some way to get at least a portion of the precious Word of God to them? I think not!

The poet said,

*I know not by what methods rare, But this I know: God answers prayer.
I know not if the blessing sought Will come in just the guise I thought.
I leave my prayer to him alone, Whose will is wiser than my own.*

For the time being we are going to pray and leave the results with the Lord. Will you please partner with us in praying for the Lord's will to be done? Also it would be a great encouragement if you would drop us a line to let us know that you are under the burden with us. JF



Pastor & Mrs. Tim Fellure

War

Ecclesiastes 3:8

Tonight, our nation is at war. Our military is preparing for conflict in the Persian Gulf, while our government deals with an impending crisis with North Korea. Our enemies have attacked our land, murdered thousands of our citizens, and made violent threats against our freedom and security. Our President and his cabinet have risen to the challenge and are doing what they were elected to do: protect this great land.

However, there is a growing movement of pacifists rising up in opposition against the war. The President is being criticized and second-guessed, the Congress and Senate are bickering, the Hollywood leftists are protesting for peace. Tens of thousands have marched and held anti-war rallies in Washington and other cities around the nation. Many have already forgotten that we were attacked first and are buying into the lie that you can negotiate peace without the threat of force.

If you listen long enough to these pacifists, you will hear them invoke religion and the Bible for justification against going to war. Someone is going to question how we can justify war when Jesus was a man of peace. Another is going to ask how we can support war when the Bible has so much to say about peace, love and forgiving one another. Someone who doesn't know a thimble full of Bible will quote the only verse they know – *"Thou shalt not kill."* But read the rest of the Bible and you will find God passing the death sentence upon certain wrongdoers - and men were expected to execute the sentence. Compare scripture with scripture and it will be quite

evident that the commandment is against murder. It is not a prohibition of the death penalty or war; it is a prohibition of the unjustified killing of an innocent person.

1) The Reason For War.

James 4:1-2 James tells us that wars and strife are the result of pride and selfishness. Whether it is between husband and wife, nation against nation, or between two little boys on the playground, the primary cause of war is pride.

Proverbs 13:10 – *"Only by pride cometh contention: ..."* Pride says I must have my way. Pride says I am important and you are not. Pride says I have to be first and you are to be second. Pride says that if I can't have my way then I will force my way on you.

The bottom line is that war is the result of sin. The whole world rested in utopian peace until sin invaded the heart of the first man. The Fall resulted in conflict between man and Satan, man and God, man against wife, and man against himself.

2) The Righteousness Of War.

Ecclesiastes 3:8 The Bible is realistic in recognizing that there are appropriate times for war. War is a necessary evil. There is a time to be at peace and there is a time to go to war.

The Old Testament is a book of war. A number of times God commanded his people, the Israelites, to go to war against their enemies. At times, God gave the strategy for the war and even became personally involved in the battle. The greatest leaders of the Old Testament were warriors: Moses, Joshua, Gideon, David, etc.

When you turn to the New Testament you find Jesus advocating righteous warfare. Some people have the idea that Jesus was an anti-violence pacifist, but nothing could be further from the truth. On two occasions, the Lord Himself took up a weapon and waded into battle with the moneychangers in the Temple. He did not negotiate with them; He went to war against them.

War Is Righteous When We Are Preserving Freedom.

Freedom is a most precious commodity. The writer of the Declaration of Independence was right when he wrote that we were *"endowed with certain inalienable rights: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."* God is the author of our freedom and has ordained that war be waged to preserve our freedom. Our forefathers all believed that war was the guardian of liberty. The French Revolution, the War with England, the Civil War were all over the same issue: liberty.

John Stewart Mills said, *"A man who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing that he cares about more than his personal safety is a miserable creature who has no chance to be free."*

War Is Righteous When We Defend Innocent People.

The principle of self-defense is taught in the Bible repeatedly, as well as the defense of helpless persons. The Law gave a man permission to use deadly force to protect his home and life.

Time and again our soldiers have been sent to some battlefield to defend the senseless slaughter of defenseless people. The last time our soldiers were in the Persian Gulf was to stop Saddam Hussein from murdering more Kuwaitis. That tiny nation had no way to stop the systematic plundering and massacre of that wicked man, and America rose to their defense.

War Is Righteous In Order To Stop The Spread Of Evil.

September 11, 2001, will always be remembered as the day that America woke up to the reality that we have enemies who will stop at nothing to destroy us. Terrorism that has plagued the Middle East came to rest on our doorsteps. We have dealt a blow to terrorism, but this invisible enemy is still alive and active. Tonight, terrorist organizations are planning their next attack.

Terrorism has to be stopped. I believe the next attack could make 9/11 look like a picnic. Our enemies would just as soon kill six million as six thousand.