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THE NEWSLETTER

"The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it" (Psalm 68:11).

ETERNITY IS A LONG TIME TO THINK ABOUT WHERE YOU WENT WRONG

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (2 Corinthians 13:5)



Victory Baptist School of Ministry

**Spring
Semester**
Starts Jan. 20

► **Pure Salt**—A biblical study in character and testimony

Jim Fellure

► **Personal Evangelism**

Lee Cadenhead

► **Homiletics**

Tim Fellure

Victory Baptist Church

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850.623.0086

Editor's Notes

*Jim & Mary Fellure*

Greetings in the name of
Christ our wonderful Lord,

Jeremiah Burroughs hit the nail on the head when he wrote *The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment*. Judging by the actions of our generation, not many people know absolute contentment in Christ and Him alone.

Black Friday is the busiest shopping day of the year, and the consumer reports say that retail sales in the US in 2013 for that one day were \$57.4 billion. One news report says, "If you're wondering what people were pushing, punching, trampling, and shooting each other for on Black Friday, we now have your answer—

It was towels. [Walmart] was offering one bath towel or a pack of six washcloths for \$1.74 and sold 2.8 million across the country. They also sold 2 million TVs, 1.9 million dolls, 1.4 million tablets, and 300,000 bicycles." Most of what was purchased was junk imported from foreign countries that will soon be outdated, broken, used up, or discarded, but some are already making plans to get more "stuff" on Black Friday in 2014. Greed is never satisfied.

The Prayer by Our Kitchen Sink

Thank God for dirty dishes,
They have a tale to tell.
While others are going
hungry,
We're eating very well.
With home and health and
happiness.
I shouldn't want to fuss;
For by this stack of
evidence,
God's very good to us.

The Prayer by Our Kitchen Sink is framed and sitting in the kitchen window at our house. We ate a delicious home-cooked meal on Thanksgiving day and never left home on Black Friday. I stayed in my office and worked, and Mary just enjoyed some leisure time in our favorite place to be: home sweet home.

Yes, God has been good to us, and we have complete confidence in His blessing and using us in His service in 2014. Among many other things, good and bad, that will come our way in the future, will be new opportunities of service. An opportunity for me to teach in the Monday night Victory Baptist School of Ministry at our home church has opened up, and I plan to do my very best to teach the course *Pure Salt* in such a way that the students will be blessed and Christ will be glorified.

We also have at least two major printing projects already in the works: another container load of Scriptures for Uganda, East Africa and one for Peru, South America. These two projects alone will cost a minimum of \$120,000, and we are far short of the needed funds. The special inserted letter will give you the information on our current needs for these projects. Please pay special attention to the letter and, above all else, pray for God to have His perfect will with the printing of the Scriptures.

A grateful servant,
Jim Fellure

MEMORIALS

All memorial and recognition gifts given to Victory Baptist Press are used to print and distribute Bibles without charge. Each contributor listed below, through their individual contribution, has helped provide 380 Bibles for the mission field.

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Print Shop News



Al & Heidi Berg

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The year 2014 is upon us, and I trust that last year was a good one for you. It was for Victory Baptist Press. The Lord saw fit to keep us busy all year printing Scripture. We are now in the final stages of collating and binding nearly 18,000 whole Bibles in the Cebuano language for the Islands of the Philippines. It has taken us over six months to complete this project, so we are looking forward to getting it shipped

to the people that need it before the last of January. Please pray that God will supply the funds for the next project in a timely fashion.

In previous issues, I have bragged on my daughter a little bit, but we have another worker in the shop who also deserves some praise. Jacob Fellure, our pastor's son, has been working with me and doing a good job for the last few months. He is busy working right now, putting Cebuano Bibles together as I

We are now in the final stages of collating and binding nearly 18,000 whole Bibles in the Cebuano language for the Islands of the Philippines.

write these notes. There are often other office tasks that I must do before getting started out in the shop. Jacob is a big help in getting things ready so that when I am ready we can get things going much quicker. He does a lot of the dirty work from cleaning the toilets to cleaning the press and is learning more all the time about the various equipment. His help in the shop should help the next project, whatever it is, go much faster.

Only God knows how many people it takes to make this or any ministry operate, but I am thankful for them all. You may feel that your part is insignificant, but it is not. Do you realize that we are part of the miracle of the preservation of the Word of God? Our methods have certainly changed from the early centuries of the church and the Old Testament, but the responsibility still lies with the church to get the Word of God to the world. If you have ever helped in a printing ministry, you may know how easy it is to mess something up. A scribe writing by hand might make a mistake on one manuscript in a day, but when we make one now, that mistake could be repeated thousands of times an hour if we are not careful. I wish I could tell you that no mistakes ever make it out the door here at VBP, but that would not be true. The preservation of God's Word is still a miracle, and you can be part of it.

God bless,
Bro. Albert Berg

THOSE WHO GAVE A GIFT IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE IN 2013 FOR BIBLE PRINTING THROUGH THE MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION PROGRAM PROVIDED THE FUNDS FOR 2,897 WHOLE BIBLES TO BE SENT TO THE MISSION FIELD.



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VBP Field Reps



BILL and VICKI RICHBURG

P.O. Box 508

Six Mile, SC 29682

864.506.2380

billrichburg@victorybaptistpress.com

The Richburgs 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 2010. After pastoring two churches for a total of 24 years, and being heavily involved with printing and distributing the Scriptures, the burden for printing became so real to Brother

Dunn and his wife Emma that he resigned as a pastor to become a full-time representative for VBP.

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Borrowed Illustrations

ABSENT-MINDED

Dr. Harold C. Urey, Nobel prize winner in chemistry, was walking along a sidewalk one day when he ran into another professor. They chatted for a few minutes, then, as they parted, Dr. Urey asked the other, "John, which way was I going when I met you?" "That way," said the other, pointing. "Oh, good. That means I've already had my lunch," muttered the professor as he walked away.

— copied

A COMMA SAVED A LIFE

Maria Fedorovna, the empress of Russia and wife of Czar Alexander III, was known for her philanthropy. She once saved a prisoner from exile in Siberia by transposing a single comma in a warrant signed by Alexander. The czar had written: "Pardon impossible, to be sent to Siberia." After Maria's intervention, the note read: "Pardon, impossible to be sent to Siberia." The prisoner was eventually released.

— copied

Try this one:

"Let's eat Grandma!" or "Let's eat, Grandma!"

HIGH STANDARD OF LIVING

What is called a high standard of living consists, in considerable measure, in arrangements for avoiding muscular energy, for increasing sensual pleasure and enhancing caloric intake above any conceivable nutritional requirement.

— copied

Victory Baptist Press's prayerful and financial supporters are helping send the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in its purest form, around the world.

Jesus Christ at the Center

There is a room in my house, perhaps like yours, that serves as the center of activity for family and friends. Though not always in an orderly state, it is a place that is usually warm and inviting with tempting aromas that beckon family and friends to come in and sit awhile. Of course that room is the kitchen, and it serves as the hub of activity even for just my husband and me. We seem to spend most of our time at home in the kitchen, preparing and eating meals, or just sitting at the table doing devotions together or discussing some topic. I especially love it when my daughter, son-in-law, and twin grandsons come for a visit, for then there is LOTS of activity going on in the kitchen!

Benefits & Blessings



Mrs. Pam Leake

Having a central gathering place in the home is natural and essential as it serves as a place to which one's focus is directed. There family and friends can have close fellowship and enjoy one another's presence. Likewise, in each of our lives, it is essential to have a CENTER to focus on—the Lord Jesus Christ. For the child of God, Jesus must be the hub from which the spokes (His children) extend and accomplish His purpose. Every activity, every facet of our lives, needs to revolve around the Savior. He is our

standard, the One to whom we look for direction, for wisdom, for provision, yes, for everything we need. We benefit greatly when we have Jesus Christ as the center of our lives because, just as the spokes on a wheel get closer to the hub, we get closer to Him and also to each other. We can move forward more surely and safely by looking to Christ.

As we begin a new year, we tend to think of starting over in some areas, making decisions to do things differently, or to go in a different direction. Because uncertainty abounds all around us, the most important thing we need to do, if we're not already, is allow Jesus Christ to be the center of our lives. He is the One we need to draw near to; to spend time with: enjoying His presence, feasting on the riches of His Word, and enjoying the blessings He bestows. He invites us to come to Him and partake of the rest He supplies to the weary (Matt. 11:28). With Him at the center, we can live with confidence and joy in the world (1 John 4:4), and we can count on His power and provision for what lies ahead (Phil. 4:13). I plan on spending a lot of time in my kitchen in the days ahead, enjoying the fellowship with my husband and family and those who drop in for a visit, but I definitely plan on spending more time with Jesus Christ, the One who deserves center place in my life. I want to keep my eyes on Him and, ultimately, my eternal destination!

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

A GOOD AMBASSADOR

Paul considered himself Christ's ambassador. What is an ambassador? He is an authorized representative of a sovereign. He speaks not in his own name but on behalf of the ruler whose deputy he is, and his whole duty and responsibility is to interpret that ruler's mind faithfully to those to whom he is sent.

Paul used this "ambassador" image twice—both in connection with his evangelistic work. Pray for me, he wrote from prison, "that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak" (Eph. 6:18-20).

He wrote also that God "hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God" (2 Cor. 5:19-20).

Paul called himself an ambassador because he knew that, when he proclaimed the gospel's facts and promises and urged sinners to receive the reconciliation effected at Calvary, he was declaring Christ's message to the world. The figure of ambassadorship highlights the authority Paul had, as representing his Lord, as long as he remained faithful to the terms of his commission and said neither less nor more than he had been given to say.

— James Packer,
Your Father Loves You,
Harold Shaw Publishers, 1986.

The fallen adamic nature, that never works for one's spiritual good or for God's glory, is bent on causing offences. If the ambassador doesn't have diplomacy and tact, regardless of what other qualities he may have, he will be more of a troublemaker than a peacemaker and may be called home early.

"Peace is such a precious jewel, that I would give anything for it but truth."

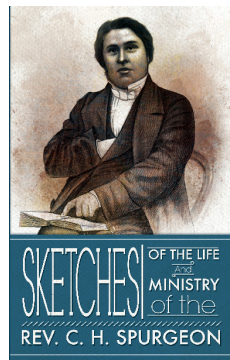
— Matthew Henry.

Sketches of the Life and Ministry of the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon

includes anecdotes and incidents of travel; biographical notices of former pastors; historical sketch of Park-Street Chapel; and an outline of Mr. Spurgeon's Articles of Faith.

Though *Sketches of the Life and Ministry of the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon* only covers the first few years of his ministry, it gives ample evidence that Mr. Spurgeon was a man raised up and specially trained by Divine Providence to accomplish a great moral and spiritual work by promoting the well-being of both the bodies and the souls of the multitudes who almost daily thronged to hear him.

130 pages. **\$10.00**



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These books may also be ordered through the VBP Online Bookstore at www.victorybaptistpress.com or through Amazon in both soft cover and in the Kindle eBook format.



fire
in the
church

T.S. RENDALL

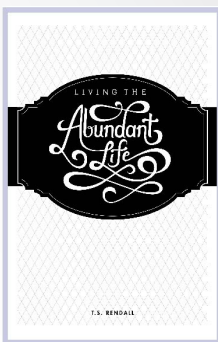
Fire In the Church by Dr. T.S. Rendall

"Concerning the lack of revival today, Mr. Rendall narrows it down to the crucial reason when he says, 'Let's face the fact in honesty and humiliation—the reason for the shut heaven is the sin of God's people. Obedience to the Word of God is emphasized throughout this volume as being necessary if we are to have revival today. Although Mr. Rendall points out some of the common characteristics of past revivals, he stresses that we are not to be geared to the past but are to be concerned primarily with what God is able to do today.'"

— Theodore H. Epp, (1907 - 1985)

163 pages. Suggested retail **\$12.95** — VBP price only **\$9.00**

Only **\$5.40** each in sets of ten.



Living the Abundant Life by Dr. T.S. Rendall

Expository Studies In the Life and Ministry of Elisha the Prophet

We have sought in these studies to show how a man who enjoyed abundant life expressed it in crisis after crisis, and it is our prayer that our readers may be helped to appropriate that abundant life and to apply it to their own particular and personal problems.

308 pages. Suggested retail **\$14.95** — VBP price only **\$12.00**

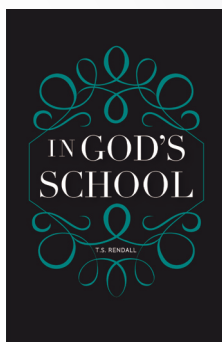
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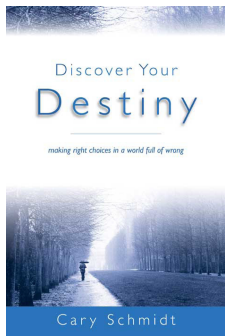
In God's School by Dr. T.S. Rendall

When this great book was first published in 1971, Dr. Alan Redpath wrote: "Such a book cannot ... fail to be of enormous help to all of us because, in some measure, we are all put through the same school in order that one day we may be presented before the Father faultless. I would earnestly hope that this volume has the circulation which it deserves and the lessons taught in it become reproduced in the lives of many."

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Discover Your Destiny

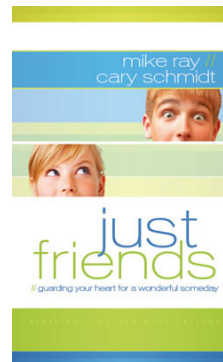
by Cary Schmidt

Life—you get one chance! No u-turns, no mulligans, no re-tries. Is there a way to know for sure that you are experiencing God's best? Is there a way to be positive that you are on the sure path of His perfect will?

The ten years between ages 17 and 27 are when most people make their worst decisions. Often these decisions are irre-

versible! They impact generations to come and they require divine wisdom and insight.

— 280 pages **\$14.95**



Just Friends

by Mike Ray and Cary Schmidt

What is this thing between guys and girls? Do we call it Dating? Attraction? Interest? We all know it's there, but no one really knows what to call it, and for some strange reason everyone is afraid to talk about it! So what do you call it? You've probably said it. "We're just friends!" Sometimes you mean it; sometimes you mean something a little stronger, but a bit harder to define. Whatever you call it, it's

time to understand a reasonable and biblical approach to guy/girl relationships. — 234 pages **\$12.50**

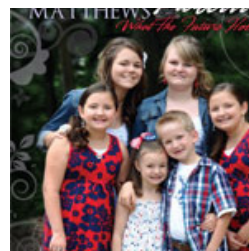


Marvelous Grace Girls Academy God's Marvelous Grace

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The Pastor's Page

Tim Fellure

There Is a Lad Here

John 6:1-13

The Feeding of the Five Thousand and is the only miracle recorded by all four gospels. Of the eight miracles told by John, seven are unique to his gospel, meaning this miracle was the only one he repeated from the other gospel writers. But John included one detail the other three writers neglected. They all tell us about the five loaves and two fishes, but John was the only one to say where they

came from. Without John's account, we would not know about the little lad. Every Sunday School teacher who ever told this story has made this lad an integral part of the story. But without five little words—**"there is a lad here"**—we would not know his part in the miracle. It is a passing detail, not a vital part of the narrative, not mentioned by three gospel writers, and memorialized in only five words—yet, most people reading this probably already know about him.

Those five words have stuck in my mind lately as I have been thinking about the youth in our churches. I know we lose too many of our young people, and many will depart from the faith once they get on their own, but thank God for those who don't go astray. Sometimes we preachers can spend all our preaching energy chastising the ones who are not as spiritual as we want them to be, but we'd probably do as much good encouraging the teenagers who are doing right and have a heart for God. We castigate the ones sitting on the back pew, overlooking the ones sitting on the front pew. At Victory we have a good group of teenagers who have surrendered their lives to God's will and sincerely desire to be used of Him in any capacity. I know some show little interest in the things of God, but what about those who are singing in the choir, teaching junior church, visiting the nursing home on Sunday afternoon, coming to visitation, reading their Bible, keeping themselves pure, etc.? I thank God for the lads (and lasses) like Josh Young, Abby Dare, Jonathan Jones, Kari Ebert, Trinity Lorimer, Amber Sweet, Rachel Tomczak, Gretel Hutcheon, Katrina Jefferson, Tyler Ebert, Jaden Booth, Isaiah Carr, and so many more in our church.

**There Is a Lad Here ...
Who Has Nothing but a Small Lunch**

The disciples began scrambling to find food for the multitude, and a little lad was the only one with food available. But when he looked at it, it was barely enough for himself. He would gladly give it to Jesus, but it seemed foolish to suggest Jesus take his fish sandwiches. Obviously, Jesus needed more to work with than what he had to offer, and what could he do that twelve disciples couldn't?

There is a lad here who would surrender his life to Jesus, but there seems to be so little to offer. He would love to be a great preacher or missionary, be a soul-winner, or teach Sunday School, but he only has a pitiful little lunch. He doesn't have the talent, personality, charisma, or anything else we think he needs to serve Christ.

**There Is a Lad Here ...
Who Would Give It All to Jesus**

I don't know if he volunteered or if the disciples asked, but there was no hesitation on his part. It would be hard to imagine him being held up as example of sacrifice for 2,000 years if he really wasn't willing to give what he had. The strong implication is that he **GAVE** his lunch to Jesus. And I am impressed he gave it all because little boys aren't usually prone to do that. And he had to know if Jesus couldn't make this work, then his lunch would be gone. It was all or nothing.

There is a lad here who has come to the altar a hundred times telling Jesus his life is in His hands. He may have an idea of what he'd like to do, but he's okay if Jesus has other plans. He thinks his life is about as valuable as barley loaves and small fishes, but if Jesus would take it he'd gladly give it.

**There Is a Lad Here ...
Who Refuses to Let the Critics Stop Him**

The two disciples who played the most active role in this story, Philip and Andrew, had already surveyed the scene and determined that it would be impossible to feed the multitude with what they had. They had counted the five thousand, the funds, and the food and had given up before they even started. When Andrew told Jesus about the lad's lunch he just had to add, *"but what are they among so many?"* I'm sure that wasn't encouraging to the lad.

There is a lad here who perhaps doesn't get a lot of encouragement from home or his peers. He heard the snickers when he announced the call to preach, and everybody seems to be too busy to take him under their arm and mentor him. It would help if he had some encouragement along the way, but all he has are some Andrews and Philips telling him his lunch is too little. I want to be the man who tells him his lunch is all Christ needs. I want to encourage him to just give it all to Jesus—and don't let Philip and Andrew talk him out of it.

**There Is a Lad Here ...
Whom God Will Use to Feed Multitudes**

This little lad never dreamed God would use him in the biggest miracle in the gospels. Never in his wildest imagination did he ever think he would have a part in feeding so many people. I don't know what else this boy did as he grew into adulthood, but I seriously doubt he ever did anything to beat that. His greatest moment in life was when he gave everything to Christ.

There is a lad here, sitting in our church, who will become a great missionary, pastor, evangelist, author, musician, teacher, businessman, or mother and will do more for Christ than most of us will ever accomplish. I don't know which one it will be, but God could put His touch upon one of the teenagers in my church and use him as mightily as He has any other man or woman. Though his soul yearns to be used of God, he thinks he can never be what others can be. He tries to ignore the critics and has fully surrendered his life to Christ, and God will fill him with power and use him to reach a multitude.