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March - April 2014

THE NEWSLETTER

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

The men in this picture just recently walked three days through the jungle and across rivers to get to a Bible conference in Peru, South America.



This note and picture came from Missionary Don Rich on Friday, February 7, 2014.

We just delivered the last of the Bibles (1,750 of them) yesterday (February 6) to fifty-three pastors in the jungle. Some of these men had walked as many as three days to get to the conference, including one young man who had lost a leg due to a snake bite. He walked through the jungle and crossed rivers on one leg and crutches. After the conference he went home with the Word of God and some Bible training. The picture shows him with the others who had walked for three days.

I also had the privilege to of leading six of the pastors in this conference to the Lord. They were just doing works and did not even understand salvation. The majority of these men did not own a Bible; only a New Testament. These men need much training and they are only the tip of the iceberg. Please pray for us to have wisdom in how to proceed.

God is good.

Don Rich

Missionary to Peru

A great DVD to show your church or friends about the mission work of Victory Baptist Press and missionaries Don and Carla Rich.



For a free copy of the nine-minute DVD showing much of the Spanish Bible distribution work being done in South America by missionaries Don and Carla Rich, send your request to Victory Baptist Press, P. O. Box 766, Milton, FL 32572.

You may also view the video online at <http://rich2peru.com/>.

Editor's Notes

Jim & Mary Fellure

Greetings in Jesus' name,

A few years ago, I wrote the little book entitled *Are You Supporting a Missionary or a Moochionary?* Just as soon as the book was published, I got an overwhelming response from pastors and missionaries commending the book, but a few (who obviously didn't read the book because the title was convicting enough), began to criticize everything from the very "corny" title to the assumption I was against missionaries and mission work in general. Though "moochionary" is not a word, not one person ever asked what it meant. They already knew! However, just for clarity,

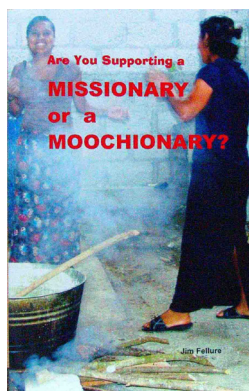
the proper word for "moochionary" would be "moocher," which means *a person who is supported by or seeks support from another without making an adequate return*. A few synonyms would be bloodsucker, freeloader, free rider, parasite, sponge, a dependent deadbeat, idler, flunky, henchman, cheapskate, and miser. I do admit the title is a little "corny," but the message is clear. Our Lord Jesus Christ has invested His very life in you and me. He has saved us at His own expense and then met every need we have ever had. Christ, through His people, has poured literally billions of dollars into the expense accounts of Christian workers all over the world, and it seems to me He ought to get something in return for His investment. It has always amazed me that the man in Luke 19, who buried his Lord's money, was called "a wicked servant" because he was not productive with what the Lord had given him. If we fail to obey our Lord's command to occupy until He comes, we will suffer great loss and no doubt be very embarrassed and sorrowful at His judgment seat because He didn't get anything out of what He invested in us.

Any professing Christian who is not busy trying to reach the world with the glorious Gospel of Christ is either ignorant (that is, they don't really know how great the need is), they are lazy (and the Bible says that if they don't work they shouldn't even have the privilege of eating), or they just don't care if the whole world dies without

one time hearing a clear presentation of the Gospel. I am glad none of the staff at VBP fits any of those categories.

There is much work to be done and very little time in which to do it. Let's make every minute and every dollar we can come up with count for Christ. Let's support good missionaries and invest our money into ministries like VBP and others that are doing their best to get the printed Word into the hands of missionaries who will in turn get it into the hands of those on their field of service. Not one of us will ever give too much time, talent, or money for the service of Christ our Lord.

Let's keep on keeping on,
Jim Fellure



163 pages—\$9.50.
Order on page 7.

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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 270 Bibles for the mission field.

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Print Shop News



Al & Heidi Berg

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It has taken us eight months, but we have finally finished printing, collating, binding, and trimming the Cebuano Bible project. At this time, we are only waiting for the ones we sent off to be hard-bound to come back to us so we can make the shipping arrangements to the Philippines. We ended up with about 16,500 Bibles. This is significantly lower than the amount we usually get for a truckload of Spanish Bibles

because there are 48 signatures in the Cebuano Bible versus 34 in the Spanish Bible. It was a lot of hard work, and a special thanks goes to all the volunteers who kept coming back to help us get it done, as well as those who give financially to make it possible.

Coming to the end of a project always brings both a little excitement and a little fear. Our faith is probably not as strong as it should be. It is always a good feeling to finish any project, but as we get near the end, we wonder how God is going to supply the need for the next project. This time, it was through a combination of generous giving and coming across a great deal on paper. Our next project is a truckload of John/Romans in the Luganda language for the country of Uganda. Bro. Dennis Deneua, the director of another Bible printing ministry in Michigan, had bought

four truckloads of paper in order to get a discount price, but did not really need that many, so he graciously offered to sell us one of them at the same cost, plus the shipping. That was a significant savings that allowed us to get the paper even before we really needed it. We are hoping this project will go a little quicker, simply because there are only two signatures in a John/Romans booklet, meaning there are not nearly as many plate changes on the press, and also the collating should not be nearly as difficult.

Just as bravery does not always mean the absence of fear, faith does not always mean the absence of doubt. A brave man will do something, even though he is afraid. I think the actions of many soldiers on the battlefield can attest to that. A man of faith will obey God, even if he is doubtful of the outcome. Many brave soldiers have lost life or limb in battle. Many faithful Christians have suffered loss in this world for obeying Christ, even to the point of death. Those who have suffered or died on the battlefield for their country may or may not have suffered in vain, but those who have suffered for the name of Christ have not suffered in vain. Not only will they receive a worthy reward at the Judgment seat of Christ, but Christ Himself is glorified when we obey Him, and that should be the ultimate goal of any Christian. Whatever stage you are at in your Christian life, I hope you will obey God no matter what the next step may be for you.

May God bless you,
Bro. Albert Berg



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BILL and VICKI RICHBURG

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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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THE END OF POLITICS

by Pastor C. Coulson

Canadian Baptist Bible Church

Lacombe, Alberta, Canada

A just civilization is an ideal separated from reality. The history of sinful mankind is the lamentable saga of ruthless wars, waged by earthly kingdom builders. The strong oppress the weak. The lustful predators hunt and the wicked prosper. In *Faith's Checkbook*, June 12, Charles H. Spurgeon wrote, "A Christian world is such a monstrosity as the Scriptures never contemplate. A worldly Christian is spiritually diseased." Jesus Christ taught, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36), which means that Bible-believing Christians don't start wars; rather, it is organized religion. The Bible bids Christ's followers to await the King at His Second Coming, for then "the government shall be upon his shoulder" (Isaiah 9:6). At Christ's triumphant invasion of earth, the nations will be angry (Revelation 11:18) to no avail. For then, "The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever" (Revelation 11:15).

Why will the nations be angry? Politics will have been proven to be a compromising charade. All monarchs and totalitarians of this earth will be dethroned in humiliation: despicable dictators ousted by the King of Kings. All the world governments will be on trial. "For, lo, the kings were assembled, they passed by together. They saw *it*, and so they marvelled; they were troubled, and hasted away. Fear took hold upon them there, and pain, as of a woman in travail" (Psalm 48:4-6). Tyrannical political "Goliaths," dragged to trial, will be exposed like the Nazi thugs who were shamed at the Nuremberg court. Our Lord's holiness will vanquish hatred. Christ's judgment will be undeterred by man's alibis; Christ's piercing eyes shall reveal all bribes and secret sins. His Majesty will triumph over His foes, crushing all opposition and darkness. The Prince of Peace will rule with a rod of iron. The Lamb of God will triumph. The pierced One will prevail. The crucified One will be crowned with many crowns, "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow . . . And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:10-11).

This will be the last "changing of the guard." Ironically, the end of politics will be the beginning of peace.

Look up, dear servant of Christ, faithful missionary, forgotten prisoner, oppressed widow, and lonely orphan! The Lord Jesus Christ is coming! As it was with humble Ruth, so it is in this present time in history; ours is the "gleaning" after harvest. Look up! Thy Boaz bids thee be his bride, and soon to wed!

JESUS LOVES ME, THIS I KNOW

While talking with my daughter the other evening, I could hear one of my grandsons singing in the background, “Jesus loves me, this I know...” He’s almost eleven years old, but this is still a favorite song in his repertoire. And nearly once a month, our songleader will lead the congregation in singing, “Jesus loves me, this I know...” and someone will say, “That’s such a childish song!” But oh, what truth is found in those six words!

In hundreds of languages all over the world, this song has been sung. I have sung it countless times in my life and, no doubt, you have as well. In every children’s class that the Lord has allowed me to teach, it is the first song to be taught and the first that children will request to sing. It would do us all well to frequently meditate

on the love displayed by our Savior, the love that caused Him to leave the glory of Heaven and humble Himself as a man and submit to the death of the cross for sinful men. Only a divine love would go that distance; and may I say, what a love! How overwhelming it is to know that I am a recipient of that love poured out unreservedly upon one so undeserving and unworthy.

When speaking of the love of Christ, we often associate it with the blessings He bestows or the provisions He supplies or the needs that He meets. We equate His love with the giving of something tangible to us. Yet He has proved

time after time that even in the midst of difficulties and trials, His love may be experienced in less tangible ways. One may question how you can see the love of Jesus Christ in the tragic death of a loved one, but just ask that one that has sensed the loving arms of the Comforter holding them close and supplying the strength to survive the times of deep grief. Or, perhaps in the midst of a financial crisis, in the loss of a job, or the breakup of a marriage, doubt about the love of Jesus for His child creeps in. Does He still love you? Surely so, as through such an experience, Christ teaches His child to turn to Him as his sufficiency. The Lord, because of His great love, is doing a perfecting work in us to fulfill His purposes. In times of difficulty and despair, is it easy to sing “Jesus loves me, this I know”? Perhaps not, but the “Bible tells me so,” and we can trust His Word explicitly. It’s not just in the gifts He gives or the material blessings He pours out, but in the darkness, when the next step can’t be seen; He is there, guiding me by that unseen hand. That’s His love!

It is said that love is an action word. When I sing that I know Jesus loves me, it is because I can know it through His beneficent actions toward me. It matters not whether I think they are good or right, because everything He does is both good and right. And since God’s Word tells me He loves me, I will rest in that assurance!

SEEK YE FIRST

*Seek ye first, not earthly pleasure,
Fading joy and failing treasure;
But the love that knows no measure
Seek ye first.*

*Seek ye first, not earth’s aspirings,
Ceaseless longings, vain desirings;
But your precious soul’s requirings
Seek ye first.*

*Seek ye first God’s peace and blessing –
Ye have all if this possessing;
Come, your need and sin confessing:
Seek Him first.*

*Seek Him first; then, when forgiven,
Pardoned, made an heir of heaven,
Let your life to Him be given:
Seek this first.*

*Seek this first: be pure and holy;
Like the Master, meek and lowly;
Yielded to His service wholly:
Seek this first.*

*Seek the coming of His kingdom;
Seek the souls around to win them;
Seek to Jesus Christ to bring them:
Seek this first.*

*Seek this first, His promise trying;
It is sure – all need supplying –
Heavenly things (on Him relying)
Seek ye first.*

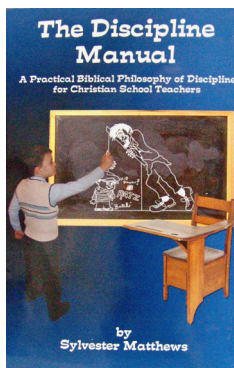
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by T.S. Rendall

Benefits & Blessings



Mrs. Pam Leake

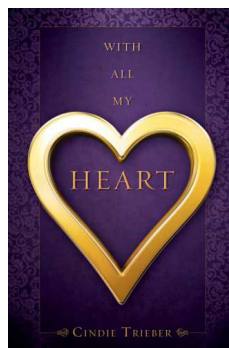
Pam is the wife of Ed Leake, pastor of Colonial Baptist Church and director of Colonial Press of Charlottesville, Virginia. You may e-mail her at pamleake@colonialbc.org.



The Discipline Manual

by Sylvester Matthews

Brother Matthews has taught at almost every level of the Christian school, as well as serving as administrator and principal. This is a great book for teachers, home schoolers, or parents with school-age children who want to know how to maintain control and train the unruly or undisciplined child. 201 pages. **\$12.00**



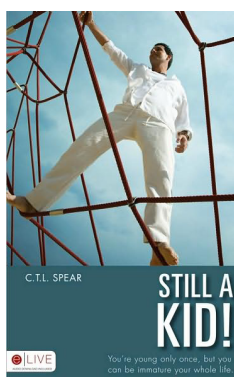
WITH ALL MY HEART

by Cindie Trieber

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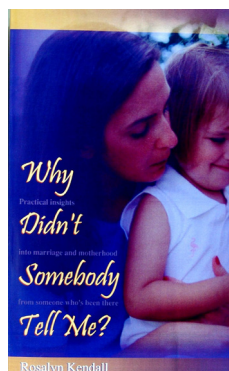
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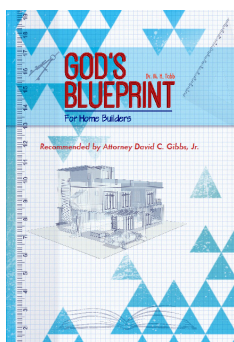


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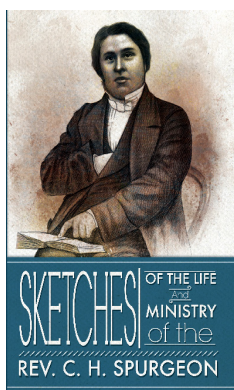
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Attorney David C. Gibbs, Jr.

337 pages. **\$15.00**



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

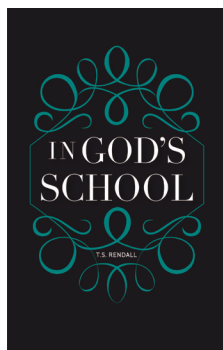
by George John Stevenson

This wonderful book Includes anecdotes and incidents of travel; biographical notices of former pastors; a 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. Suggested retail **\$12.00**

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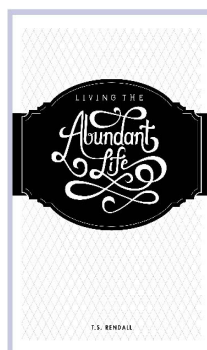
In God's School

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 that the

lessons taught in it become reproduced in the lives of many."

183 pages. Suggested retail **\$12.99** — VBP price only **\$10.00**
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by Dr. T.S. Rendall

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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)

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The Pastor's Page



Tim Fellure

Living on Borrowed Time

Luke 13:6-9

This brief parable provides us a wonderful context for examining the fruitfulness of our lives. If I were to preach this text, there are three basic steps I would take in preparation.

Examine the text: What does it say? This story is a parable, which is like an illustration. It wasn't necessarily a true story, but could have been a story Jesus made up to

draw an analogy or make a point. Since Israel was a very agrarian society, Jesus often used farming analogies in His sermons. The vineyard would be a vineyard of grapes, and there was a fig tree planted in that vineyard. The "certain man" would be the owner of the vineyard, and the "dresser of the vineyard" would be the man responsible to work it. In this story, the owner came to inspect his property, and he noticed a particular fig tree which had failed to produce any fruit for the several years it had been growing. The owner was disappointed in it and decided he wasn't going to have his workers spend any more energy on it. It would be best to just cut it down and grow something else in its place. And this is not the first time he has been disappointed in this fig tree; this is his third year waiting for fruit, and he's not giving it any more time. But the keeper has put so much work into this tree, he hates to see it cut down, so he intervenes. He wants to give it one more year and if it doesn't produce by then, he will cut it down.

Interpret the text: What does it mean? We are sure Jesus was not just concerned with horticulture. The fig tree stands for something else, and that something else is Israel. There are three trees in the Bible that picture the nation of Israel: the vine tells us of Israel's past (Ps. 80:8-10); the fig tree represents Israel's present (Is. 5:2-7); and the olive tree represents Israel's future (Rom. 11). It is interesting that Jesus had been ministering to Israel for three years at the time of His giving this parable, and He says the owner of the vineyard had been seeking fruit from the tree for three years. The parallel is obvious: Jesus is the keeper of the vineyard who has been cultivating the tree and trying to get it to produce fruit. It has resisted all of His efforts for these three years, and now the owner of the vineyard, God the Father, is ready to cut it down.

The message to Israel was that their time was up. They had had three years of the Messiah in their midst, and they refused to acknowledge Him. It was only a few months before the crucifixion. They would see just a few more miracles and hear just a few more sermons from Christ, but they were living on borrowed time. Even after the crucifixion they would be given another 35 years before Jerusalem would be destroyed. God would, in essence, give them another brief season to bring forth fruit, but then He would cut the tree down.

Apply the text: What does it matter? Every text has two audiences: the original and contemporary. Every Scripture was

written **TO** someone and **FOR** us. And preaching has to build a bridge between the two worlds: what did the text mean to them, and how does it apply to me? From this passage, we draw three fundamental truths.

1) The Lord Expects Fruit

Every thing God created He expected to be fruitful. "Be fruitful, and multiply . . ." (Gen. 1:28). "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples" (John 15:8). When we think fruit, we tend to think of works; but works and fruit are not the same. Works is something you do; fruit is something that is done to you. You can do works, but you cannot create fruit. A machine can do works, but only life can produce fruit. And at the very introductory level, the fruit God wants to see in you is the fruit of the Spirit. And the fruit of the Spirit is nothing more than the character of Christ.

What glorifies the Father is not when you are just busy, but when you are like Christ – that He could change us so we would be conformed to the image of His Son. So, is the fruit of Christ's character evident in your life? After all these years of being saved and being cultivated by the Holy Spirit, are you more like Jesus or more like you?

2) The Lord Examines for Progress

The owner had invested three years of his resources and had nothing to show for it. His question was, "why cumbereth it the ground?" (Luke 13:7). It has caused more trouble than what it's worth. If it's not producing, why even leave it standing there? It's just taking up space. And with all the Lord has invested in us, is it unreasonable for Him to expect to see some growth? It would be a shame with all the preaching I've heard in my life if I'm at the same spiritual level year after year. It would be a shame if year after year I struggle with the same sins, have the same problems, or display the same sorry attitudes. Think about everything the Lord has invested in you. He put more into Israel than He did any other nation, and there is more invested in you and me than most other people. What more could He do for us to promote growth and fruitfulness?

3) The Lord Extends Opportunity

This parable is not about a God who just can't wait to judge us; it's about a God who is longsuffering and patient and slow to anger. Are not three years enough? Why give it another year? Surely, He could plant another tree and it would produce more fruit for Him. But He grants it one more year, hoping this year it will turn around and become fruitful. And the only reason He doesn't cut us down and plant another tree in our place is because He is gracious to give us more time.

So, if He came examining His "vineyard," would He be pleased with what He sees or would He want to cut it down? If the owner of the vineyard was disappointed after just three years of investment, I wonder how the Lord feels when He examines the fruit of 10/20/30 years of investment? May the Lord examine His "trees" and be pleased with what He sees.