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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

***Victory Baptist Church's Annual
Faith Promise Mission Conference***

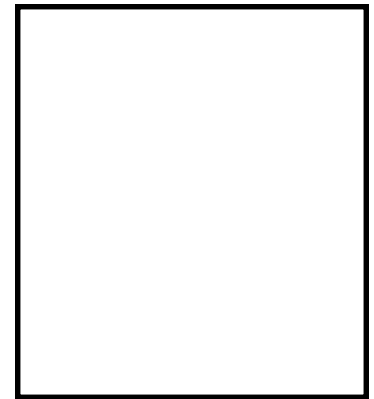
will be held

Wednesday, September 24 - Sunday, September 28

Pastor Danny Farley from Houston, Texas,

will be the main speaker.

Missionaries will show slides and give testimonies each night and many mission displays of different countries will be set up. Don't miss these challenging services at 7:00 P.M. each night



Danny Farley

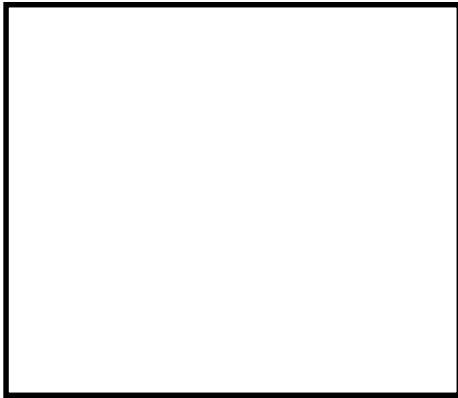
Charles Malik, Lebanese ambassador to the United Nations, asked in a speech: "What has been the greatest American contribution to the rest of the world? Has it been money? Has it been food? Has it been medical skill? Has it been military might? Has it been industrial know-how?" Then he answered, "The greatest thing to come out of America has been the American missionary effort: the quiet, selfless men and women who have left the comfort and security of their homeland to bring the gospel of Christianity to less favored nations."

...copied from James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: The **Winter Emerald Coast Jubilee** is just around the corner
Sunday, January 4 - Friday, January 9, 2004.

The preachers will be ***Harold Clayton, John Jenkins, Brian McBride, Mark Wesley, and Joe Arthur.***
The ***Rochester Family*** will provide special music.

Editor's Notes



Jim & Mary Fellure

I am writing these notes on Saturday afternoon, July 12, from a motel room in Louisville, Kentucky, where I am supposed to preach for Pastor John Allen and the Landmark Baptist Church tomorrow. I don't think it is going to happen, but if it does it will take a miracle. I don't ever remember having laryngitis in my life, but I have a severe case of it now.

Since the last Newsletter we have traveled thousands of miles and the Lord has kept us safe and healthy all the way. The week of April 27th we had a group in Monterrey with Brother Sonny Fritz. As always some were saved and the churches were full. During the week Brother Ed Leake, who was with our group, visited their print shop in Monterrey and saw the need for a collator. I agreed to get the machine down to Monterrey if Brother Leake's church bought it. He went back to his church in Charlottesville, Virginia, and in just one service raised the several thousand dollars needed to purchase the collator. I left Florida with Tim's pickup truck and a U-HAUL trailer on Saturday, June 14. I stopped in Lebanon, Virginia, and preached for Pastor Brent Logan and the Spring City Baptist Church on Sunday morning, then made my way up to Charlottesville the weekend of June 15 and loaded the collator on Monday. The following Friday, I had the machine in Monterrey, Mexico. The next Monday Brother Leake flew into Monterrey and set the machine up. In addition to setting up the collator, we had the privilege of attending the twenty-second annual preachers' conference the Monterrey churches had the week we were there. Brother Leake preached the first message the first night of the conference and I preached last. The conference closed out on Thursday night with Brother Roy Carrizales from Houston, Texas, preaching

to probably a thousand or more people. When Brother Roy gave the invitation I don't ever remember seeing more response at the altar. It was a great service. I left Monterrey on Friday morning, June 27, dropped the U-HAUL trailer off in Laredo, Texas, and made my way back to Florida. I was home for six days before coming up to Louisville. Brother Richburg met me here with the bus, one week ago today, and we took the Landmark Baptist Church group to Progresso, Mexico, to be with Brother Jose Gomez Jr. and his church for a three day meeting. People were saved during the meeting and I believe we had more people inside the church than we have ever had with Brother Jose. As usual there was several that could not get inside and one man got saved that listened from the outside.

We decided not to publish the July/August edition of the Newsletter so I stopped writing these notes for awhile. It is now the first part of August and I am on the Caribbean Island of St. Lucia preaching for missionary Mike Gibson. I have enjoyed the time of literature distribution and visiting the people in the village during the day and preaching to a full house almost every night. Brother Gibson has only been here for three years, but he has won many St. Lucians to Christ and established the Grace Baptist Church. This is a wide open mission field with 160,000 people and only a handful of fundamental Baptists on the entire Island. Maybe some of our readers will remember to pray for Brother Gibson, and some might want to support him financially. He's doing a good job on this needy mission field.

I will fly back to Miami, Florida, on Saturday, pick up my car and make the six hundred mile drive to Milton, spend a few days at home and in the office before starting a very busy schedule of meetings for the rest of this year. I have no idea why the Lord keeps opening doors of opportunity for me to serve, but I sure do appreciate Him using me. It would be an awful thing to grow cold and lose the desire to go preach. Brethren, we live in a world where *"men are dying, souls are crying, send the light at any cost."*

We cannot afford to miss an opportunity to get the gospel to a needy soul.

While waiting for an airplane in the Miami airport last week, I read the following story in the Miami Herald for Friday, August 1, 2003, entitled **A RACE AGAINST FLAMES**. The story said **"At 5:40 a.m. Thursday, Miami and Coral Gables police officers heard a chilling dispatch - car accident, officer involved, possibly trapped, car on fire."**

STATEMENT OF FAITH

WE ACCEPT the Holy Scriptures 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 the 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.

A girl driving a pickup truck crossed the center line and ran head-on into officer Darryl Smith's cruiser. The article said that Smith was *"too seriously injured and his car was too badly damaged to radio for help, but dozens of passersby called 911,*

...continued on page 5



Al & Heidi Berg

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It is good to report that we recently got a truckload of paper in the shop and the big press is running again. I never get tired taking the scriptures off and stacking them on the pallet. When visitors come through occasionally and watch the press run, they often ask how I can stand doing the same mundane thing hour after hour. I tell them that I am not just printing paper but the word of God. I know what it did for my life, and I can not imagine what thousands of copies of the word of God can do for countless thousands of others. That takes all the boredom out of it for me.

We have been telling folks that we were going to concentrate on New Testaments this year, but the year is nearly 3/4 gone and we are printing John/Romans again. The reason for this has been the difficulty in getting paper. We print the New Testaments on 38" wide paper and the John/Romans on 35" paper. It has been difficult finding any kind of paper in the last few months and impossible to find any 38" paper at a price we could afford. Please pray about this situation, as we do realize the great need for New Testaments and whole Bibles in churches on the mission fields of the world. Speaking of whole Bibles, we have taken advantage of the down time on the press to do some pre-press work on the Spanish Bible. Nearly all the negatives are made and stripped up now. We do not make the plates until we are actually ready to print them. Also nearing completion is a Tagalog New Testament (Philippines), and there has been ready for some time now a Portuguese New Testament. All these need to be printed as well as more Spanish and English New Testaments. This is more than enough to keep us busy for quite some time and we are well aware of the fact that there are many more languages that could and should be printed. That is why we need your prayers

for God's wisdom in these matters. We cannot do it all, so we must be careful to do what we are supposed to do.

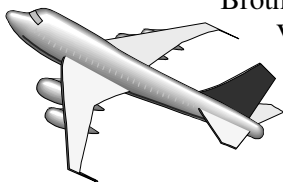
It is hard to believe how time flies. Our son just turned 18 and is enrolled in his first year in college. When we first moved here to get involved in the ministry he was only three months old. He won't be going far though, just over the bay to Pensacola Christian College, majoring in mechanical engineering. Please pray that God will guide him in this time of his life. His mother should not have it too hard since he will be so close. Hopefully he will be able to come home most weekends. We trust that all is well with you, and that God's grace will be sufficient to meet all your needs.

May God bless you,
Bro. Albert Berg

Pastor at the pulpit:

*"To respond to the charges: Yes, much of last week's sermon was lifted from Scripture, and **NO**, I don't consider that plagiarism."*

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.

Phone 850-983-3954 Fax 850-983-1358
e-mail bobleonor3@msn.com

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

If you would like to be a part of the Sponsor-A-Day program, send your offering of at least \$684.96, and we will recognize your gift by sending you a personalized certificate on beautiful parchment paper suitable for framing. The certificate, when displayed on a mission display board, office wall, etc. will encourage others to get involved.

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

Way of the Cross Baptist Church, Dunlap, TN = \$684.96

Mr. David Root, Pensacola, FL = \$685.00

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

MEMORIALS

Victory Baptist Press recently received memorial gifts from

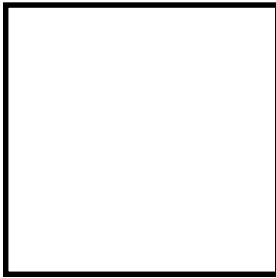
Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Harrell
of Climax, Georgia
in memory of
Martha Edmunds

.....

Faith Baptist Church
James Hiers
Sonya Sadler
of Perry, Florida
in memory of
Helen Ribero

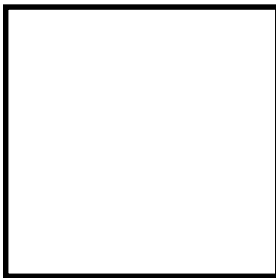
"Blessed are the dead in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

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



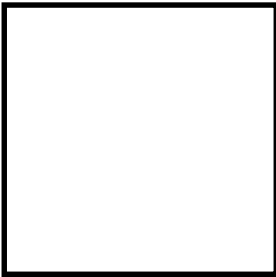
MIKE & DEE PICKENS began with Victory Baptist Press in December of 1994. Brother Pickens is a 1965 graduate of Baptist Bible College of Springfield, Missouri. He has pastored churches in Indiana, Alabama, North Carolina and Texas, and was in evangelism for 7 years.

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.



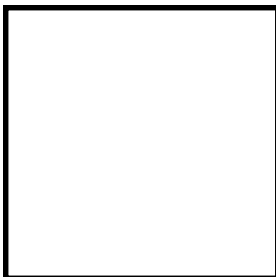
RICK & MELINDA REED have been field representatives for Victory Baptist Press since October of 1996. Brother Reed gave up a very comfortable and secure employment position in order to help send the gospel of Christ around the world through this ministry.

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, South Carolina 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

***“Blessed is he that
considereth the poor:
The Lord will deliver
him in time of trouble.”***

Psalm 41:1

Praise the Lord for another great month with many saved by the blood of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

This month we have had temperatures at times over 100 degrees here in Arizona and Mexico. We have traveled with the air conditioner on and have a fan plugged into our cigarette lighter and it still is not very cool. We even have our van windows tinted.

With only a fan to cool the small room where we meet for our prison services, we still have had attendances of over 100 in all our services.

About 130 miles southwest into Mexico, they have torn up the highway. The highway is being completely rebuilt. They have been working on the road for about three or four months. We have been traveling on a dirt road for about 13 miles while going and coming. The dirt road is very dusty and rough. But we know that the born again Christians in the prison are happy to have church services again. We know the Holy Spirit is working in the prison and men will step out and come down to the front in front of everyone to repent and receive Christ as their Saviour. So with the dust and heat, when we get home it is necessary to have a shower and change clothes completely. We are always very happy to return home. Juanita is still driving much of the way home after we get back on the pavement after leaving the road repairs.

I visited an American prison out west of Phoenix, Arizona. The prison was air conditioned and had hot water. It was a beautiful modern place. The temperature out there was probably way over 110 degrees. It seems to me once it gets over about 105 degrees, it is all about the same; just very hot. I feel Mexican prisons are much better to work in. Prisoners in American prisons are arrogant, independent and some have long hair. In Mexico, the men are humble and look like men.

Prayer Needs:

1. All of our suppliers, tracts, New Testaments, Bibles, John and Romans booklets in Spanish.
2. More missionaries.
3. Safety in traveling.

Yours For Souls In Mexico,
Ray & Juanita Bowie

P.S.

We want to thank you for your prayerful support, and we want to thank those who help us financially.

Please pray for our vehicle and for us in this triple digit heat. It is taking a toll on us.

Thank You ! God Bless You !

editors notes...

police raced to the scene from all directions."

The wrecked cruiser burst into flames with the officer trapped inside. The first officer to arrive grabbed a handheld fire extinguisher and began beating back the flames but was unable to put the fire out. A fire engine from less than a mile away immediately responded, but for some unknown reason when it arrived on the scene it didn't work. It wouldn't pump water. One officer screamed, **"If this truck won't pump water, get us one that will."**

**IF THIS TRUCK WON'T
PUMP WATER,
GET US ONE THAT WILL.**

The truck that wouldn't pump water illustrates the tragedy of a preacher with the water of the word, but he won't put it out. God helps us to ***Preach! Preach! Preach!***

A woman who saw the crash ran into a nearby gas station and borrowed two fire extinguishers. A lady police officer sent out a call for more police officers and more fire extinguishers. Police cars came from everywhere and at least twenty fire extinguishers from the cruiser cars and three borrowed from gas stations were used, but they could not put the fire out. The report said flames were leaping four feet high from the engine compartment. The heat blew the windshield out and the flames closed in on the officer as he screamed, *"Why did this happen to me. I'm burning, I'm burning. Why did this happen to me."* Some of the assisting officers cut their hands trying to open the car door, others got so close to the flames that it burned the hair off their arms. The dashboard and steering wheel were pressed up against the officers chest, his ribs were broken and his hips were crushed. One officer said *"At one point we thought we were going to have to take life over limb and basically rip him out of the car."* He said, *"Smitty said to us 'I'm burning. I'm burning.' His legs were on fire."* One officer said, *"Finally, after what seemed like forever but was actually only a couple of minutes, the city of Miami fire truck arrived. I screamed, we were all screaming, at the truck when he arrived, 'The car's on fire! The car's on fire! Get the hose!'"* The fire fighter from

engine 8 grabbed the hose, turned, and blasted the car, and the fire was out. One officer said *"We had exhausted all of the fire extinguishers. Smith would have perished in that vehicle if engine 8 had not of responded when they did."* The article tells about police blocking off streets in all directions and even parts of I-95 were closed as traffic backed up several miles. Hundreds of fire fighters and policemen and no telling how many pedestrians were involved in some way in rescuing officer Darryle Smith from a fiery death.

My friend, if that many people would get involved and risk their own lives to save that police officer from a burning vehicle, we as Christians should be doing our best to keep sinners out of the eternal flames of hell. I plan to keep going, keep preaching and keep Victory Baptist Press printing scriptures for the glory of God and the salvation of the lost.

Please pray for me and the following meetings.

Aug. 24-29, Bible Baptist Fellowship Church, Alpine, New York. Pastor Bruce Varner.

Aug. 31, Eastern Shore Bible Church, Galena, Maryland. Pastor Steve Hays.

Sept. 7-14, Capitol City Baptist Church, Austin, Texas. Pastor Hank Thompson.

Sept. 17-21, Calvary Baptist Church, Tallassee, Alabama. Pastor Jim Voss.

Sept. 21-28, Mission Conference at the home church.

Oct. 5-12, Faith Baptist Church, Temple, Texas. Pastor Mike Lewis.

Oct. 13-16, Shady Acre Baptist Church, Houston, Texas. Pastor Danny Farley.

Oct. 19-22, Trinity Bible Baptist Church, Choctaw, Oklahoma, Pastor Rodney Dirkson

Oct. 26-29, Douglas Baptist Church, Douglas, Wyoming. Pastor Roy Phillips.

Nov. 2-6, Iglesia Bautista Libertad, Houston, Texas. Pastor Roy Carrizales.

Nov. 7-9, Landmark Baptist Church, Louisville, Kentucky. Pastor John Allen.

Nov. 16-19, Faith Baptist Church, Morgan City, Louisiana. Pastor Ted Kullerd.

Dec. 11-14, Calvary Baptist Church, Seymour, Missouri. Pastor Richard Rhoades.

Thank you for your prayers and support to Victory Baptist Press.

Jim Fellure

The Death Of Common Sense

Today I am mourning the passing of an old friend by the name of Common Sense.

Common Sense, AKA C.S., lived a long life but died from heart failure at the brink of the millennium. No one really knows how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

Known affectionately to close friends as Horse Sense and Sound Thinking, he selflessly devoted himself to a life of service in home, schools, hospitals and offices, helping folks get jobs done without a lot of fanfare, whooping and hollering. Rules and regulations and petty, frivolous lawsuits held no power over C.S.

A most reliable sage, he was credited with cultivating the ability to know when to come in out of the rain, the discovery that the early bird gets the worm and how to take the bitter with the sweet. C. S. also developed sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn), reliable parenting strategies (the adult is in charge, not the kid), and prudent dietary plans (offset eggs and bacon with a little fiber and orange juice).

A veteran of the Industrial Revolution, the Great Depression and the Technological Revolution, C.S. survived cultural and educational trends including feminism, body piercing, whole language and "new math".

C.S.'s health began declining in the late 1960's when he became infected with the 'If it feels good, do it' virus. In the following decades his waning strength proved no match for the ravages of overbearing federal regulation. He watched in pain as good people became ruled by self-seeking lawyers and enlightened auditors. His health rapidly deteriorated when schools endlessly implemented zero tolerance policies, reports of 6-year-old boys charged with sexual harassment for kissing classmates, a teen suspended for taking a swig of mouthwash after lunch, a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, girls suspended for possessing Midol, and an honor student expelled for having a table knife in her school lunch were more than his heart could endure.

Finally, C.S. lost his will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, churches became businesses, criminals received better treatment than victims, and federal judges stuck their noses in everything from Boy Scouts to professional sports. As the end neared, C.S. drifted in and out of logic but was kept informed of developments, regarding questionable regulations for asbestos, low flow toilets, "smart" guns, the nurturing of Prohibition Laws, and mandatory air bags. Finally, when told that the homeowners association restricted exterior furniture only to that which enhanced property values, he breathed his last.

C.S. was preceded in death by his parents Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason. He is survived by three stepbrothers, Rights, Tolerance, and Whiner. Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

Victory Baptist Press Bookstore Sales

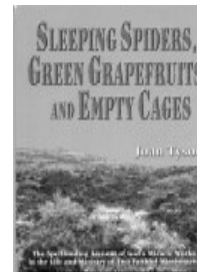
Victory Baptist Press Bookstore is a ministry of Victory Baptist Press. Any profit made from the sale of our competitive priced books through our bookstore, goes toward the printing of more scripture portions. These scripture portions are free at our door as the Lord provides. This is just one more way we get the word of God to a lost world.



We are introducing the reprinted edition of *The Religion Racket*, by Norman H. Wells, a student and assistant of Dr. J. Frank Norris. This book reveals religion in its true light; as a failure that uses deception to lead people away from the truth. It is written in an interesting, easy-to-understand style.

119 pages. Price: \$7.00*

Sleeping Spiders, Green Grapefruits, and Empty Cages is a spellbinding account of God's miracle works in the life and ministry of Bob and Joan Tyson, faithful missionaries to Nicaragua. This touching, easy-to-read, story shows how God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things for Him. 171 pages.



Price: \$8.50*



We are introducing our new cookbook published by Victory Baptist Press Bookstore. *The Heavenly Cookbook*, by Mary Felleure, will be a great asset to your kitchen or as a gift for a friend. It contains 469 recipes compiled from across America. There are over 180 pages of delicious recipes and helps.

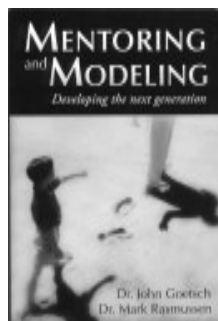
Price: \$10.00*

This attractive pocket-size tract, written by Bro. Jim Felleure, is an excellent witnessing tool for your church. It gives a clear-cut presentation of salvation using scripture and illustrations in an easy-to-understand manner. We will personalize each order with your church's own information.



Price: 1-99/\$0.25 each*

100 or more/\$0.15 each*



Mentoring and Modeling, by Dr. John Goetsch & Dr. Mark Rasmussen, is a widely acclaimed book, full of practical, scriptural advice on the training of young people for Christ. It is highly recommended by our pastor, Bro. Tim Felleure, for all parents and teachers.

180 pages.

Price: \$10.00 each*

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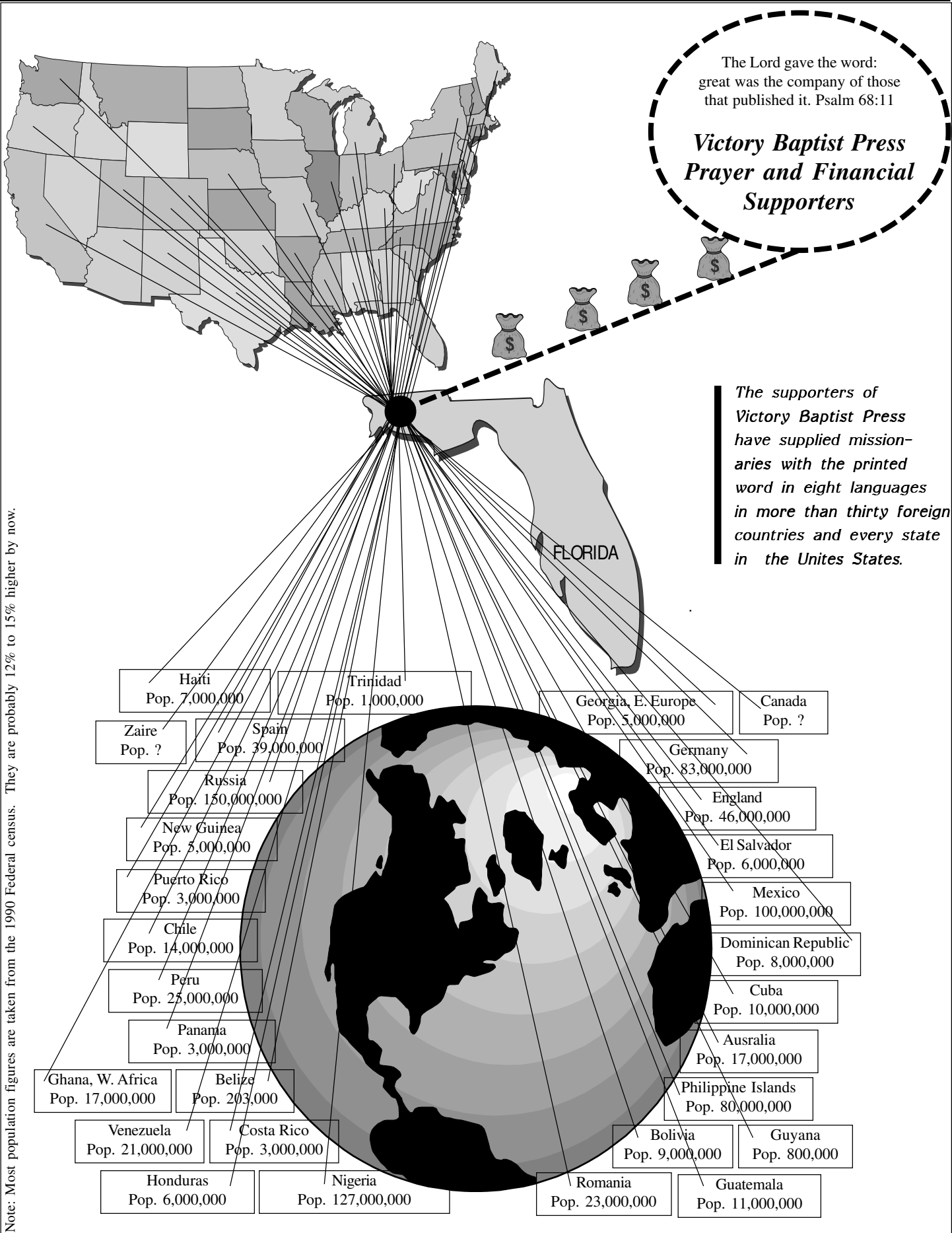
*** Plus Shipping and Handling**

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

***Victory Baptist Press
 Prayer and Financial
 Supporters***

The supporters of
 Victory Baptist Press
 have supplied mission-
 aries with the printed
 word in eight languages
 in more than thirty foreign
 countries and every state
 in the Unites States.

Note: Most population figures are taken from the 1990 Federal census. They are probably 12% to 15% higher by now.





Pastor & Mrs. Tim Fellure

GRACE IN THE GARDEN

Genesis 3: 1-10

We all know the story well. Man lives in innocence; he has absolutely no knowledge of evil. When you think about it, there is only one wrong thing Adam could do. There is no one to murder - none to commit adultery with - nothing to covet or lie about - and no other gods to bow down to. He has been given only one prohibition, and disobedience to that one command is the only chance he has of committing sin. He can only make one mistake; he has only a 1% chance of sinning. He does not have any knowledge of sin, he does not have the nature to sin, he does not have a desire to sin, and he does not have much opportunity to sin.

But he sins. SIN. What an ugly word! In this chapter, we are introduced to the devil, disobedience, and death. This is a gloomy chapter: it gives some bad news and paints a bleak picture. Things had started out so well for the human race but now it has all changed for the worse.

But then God steps on the scene. Genesis 3:8 could be the most important verse in the Bible. Were it not for Genesis 3:8, all men are condemned as sinners, death is final and man could never know God. I tell you when God comes walking in the garden, the gloom gives way to grace. There is more grace here than there is gloom.

1. He Came To Them! (v. 8)

Apparently, it was God's custom to come every day "in the cool of the day." He would come either early morning or late

afternoon - or even both. They would walk and talk - just the three of them.

But then "sin entered into the world" and "death by sin." When Adam and Eve disobeyed, they became something they had never been before: sinners. They caused a great gulf between themselves and the Creator.

But do you know what God did? He came looking for them. The Sovereign is seeking the sinner. He had every right to stay away and to leave them in their sin. His holiness allowed him to curse the creation and to let it run its' own course. His justice permitted him to destroy the creation without warning. But He came walking. That is pure, unadulterated, marvelous grace.

2. He Called To Them! (v. 9-10)

When God calls out to Adam, I would expect to hear the thundering voice of wrath. I would not be surprised to hear a mighty announcement of judgment. But instead I hear a call. God came searching for Adam to talk to him. He didn't come to just look at their misery. He didn't come to only mete out punishment. He did not come to cast him away. He called to Adam.

Too, I would just mention that God speaks first. He initiates the call. In his spiritual death, man cannot come nor call upon God. A man who is physically dead cannot move on his behalf. In fact, he does not even have the desire to. So a man who is spiritually dead cannot move on his behalf nor does he have the desire to.

When God speaks to Adam he asks, "Where art thou?" In other words, "What have you done, Adam?" "Why are you hiding, Adam?" He is seeking the sinner and he is speaking to the sinner.

3. He Confronted Them! (v.11)

He challenged Adam on the basis of his sin. God wasn't just fishing for information; he knew what had happened. He was looking for a confession, though all he received were accusations. Adam had to see what he had done - he must acknowledge it. He must accept the blame.

God is asking him questions not for his own good but for Adam to realize the seriousness of his sin. "Where art thou?" "Who told thee thou wast naked?" "Hast

thou eaten of the tree?" God knew the answer to all these questions, but he wanted Adam to answer them.

God introduces conviction to them. They pass from innocence to conscience: conviction is created. God is willing to forgive if they will repent and he even puts something inside them to induce repentance.

It is pure grace that shows the sinner the error of his ways. Conviction is not judgment. Conviction is grace. Without it you will die in your sins.

4. He Covered Them! (v. 21)

For the first time in history, an innocent lamb is slain and blood is spilt. The innocent dies for the guilty. A coat of skins is made to replace the dead fig leaves. Man had attempted to cover himself but was still naked before God. So God provides a covering for him. For the first time Adam sees death. For the first time, Adam sees blood. You may see that as judgment but I see grace there.

But there is another garden of grace for us. A garden called Gethsemane. There God's Lamb prayed all night sweating as it were great drops of blood. Then he was falsely accused before the Roman and the Jewish court. There he was blindfolded and struck in mockery. He was spat upon. He was scourged with a cruel whip. He had his beard plucked out. He was stripped naked and shamed before men. He was crowned with a diadem of thorns. He was forced to carry the cross to Golgotha where he was crucified between two thieves. I see judgment and wrath there but I see grace more. I see sin abounding but I see grace abounding much more. I see grace in that garden.

Tim Fellure

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Ephesians 2:8&9