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THE NEWSLETTER

November–December 2019

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

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BRIAN McBRIDE **TERRY ANGLEA** **ED WAGNER** **JOE ARTHUR**

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Editor's Notes

Jim & Mary Fellure

Greetings in the name of Christ Jesus, our wonderful Lord,

Is God doing anything in America?

Back in 1987, while Mikhail Gorbachev was the General Secretary of the Soviet Union (this included East Germany and the Berlin wall that stood as a symbol of the division between the communist ruled countries in Eastern Europe and the

democracies of the West), President Ronald Reagan stood in front of that wall and gave his famous speech that included the words, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." Just two years later, the socialistic government lost its grip on the countries of Eastern Europe, and in 1991 that wall was literally torn down. Among many other blessings, there was now an open door to preach the Gospel in those former Soviet Union countries.

As was expected, evangelical groups from every professed Christian denomination in America, including many fundamental, Bible-believing Baptists, began having crusades all over Eastern Europe with thousands of people attending. Reports came back to the US of the hundreds of people making professions of faith. One evangelist, who was so enamoured with the results he had seen while preaching in Eastern Europe as compared with what he had witnessed in the US, made the statement that God wasn't doing anything in America. One person who heard that statement said, "If God is not doing anything in America, where are you getting your money?!"

It may be the long way around to get to my point, but I want to go on record as saying I believe God is still working in our country today in a marvelous way. Those who have a totally negative attitude about the success of our nation are probably watching too many news reports by the liberal news media or are attending a dead, contemporary church that entertains a Sunday-go-to-meeting crowd that knows nothing about the life-changing power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Since our last *Newsletter*, it has been my privilege to be in some of the best preaching meetings one can imagine. I say "preaching meetings" because regardless of the emphasis or type of meeting (revival, Bible conference, missions conference, etc.), they all gave special attention to the preaching of the Word of God.

For the sake of space given, I will only mention the last two out of the many. The first one was the annual Missions Conference at our home church held the last week of September with Pastor Danny Farley as the main preacher. When the faith prom-

ise offering was taken for last year, the church had exceeded their previous commitment by about \$40,000. When the new faith promise commitment was taken for this next year, a total of \$175,000 was promised. In addition to the money raised for worldwide missions, during the closing service that Sunday night Brother Marcus Scruggs (a young man who was saved at Victory Baptist Church and now pastors the Bible Baptist Church of Freeport, Florida) and our pastor's son, Jacob Fellure, were both ordained to the gospel ministry.

The second meeting I want to mention was the annual Faith Promise Missions Conference at the Shady Acres Baptist Church of Houston, Texas. On the first Sunday of the conference, Missionary Ted Mullins set the tone for the meeting by preaching two tremendous messages on knowing God. The presentations by more than twenty missionaries and the preaching Monday through Thursday by Brother Brent Logan could not have been better. On the last night of the conference, when Pastor Danny Farley announced the new Faith Promise commitment of \$794,481 for worldwide missions for next year, we were all amazed at what God can do with a willing people.

During the ordination of Brother Scruggs and of Jacob Fellure mentioned earlier, Brother Farley gave a charge to the church, and I gave the charge to the preachers being ordained, which was simply, "Make preaching your passion. Regardless of what else you may do—**PREACH THE WORD!**" And that's where Victory Baptist Press comes into play. It would be impossible to obey that command without a copy of the Bible.

You will notice on the masthead of each issue of this *Newsletter* is Psalm 68:11, "The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published *it*." One definition the old, Oxford English dictionary gives for "publish" is—"To make public. 1. To make publicly or generally known; to declare or report openly or publicly; to announce; to tell or noise abroad . . ."

In Ecclesiastes 12:9-10 God said concerning Solomon, the wisest man that ever lived,

And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, *and* set in order many proverbs. The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and *that which was written was* upright, *even* words of truth.

Solomon was wise because of what he did with words, and Victory Baptist Press is trying to follow that example by printing and distributing as many copies of the Bible to the mission fields of the world as we are able.

Thank you for your prayers and support,
Jim Fellure

Print Shop News



Al & Heidi Berg

Dear Friends and Supporters, Psalm 39:4 says, “LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am.” This year I turned fifty-nine years old. I know that to many of you that does not seem very old, but there were two important people in my life who died near the age of sixty, and I have thought of them often this last year.

One was my first Baptist pastor.

I was raised in Catholicism, got converted in junior high school, and through a series of events that I will not take time to go into here, I ended up at Sauk Trail Baptist Temple in Richton Park, Illinois. When I began to realize I needed to be baptized, my pastor, Don Humbert, made a visit to my home to speak with my parents (I was still a minor at the time). My mother was polite at first when pleasantries were being exchanged, but that changed very quickly when he broached the subject of baptism. She let him know in no uncertain terms what she thought of him and his church and let him know he was not welcome in our house. He took it all in stride as part of a day's work. He was an inspiration to me in my early Christian walk.

Some time later, Bro. Tom Woodward came into my life. I had already had a burden for the printing ministry and was searching for the Lord's will. We had, with some others, tried and failed to start a church in Greenville, Alabama. I did not know where to go next when Bro. Woodward came to visit us and invited us to come to Victory Baptist Church. The printing ministry was in its infancy then and without a pressman. I was no pressman at the time, but wanted to help and needed a place to go. That was in 1985. Eventually I did become the pressman, but only until they found someone who knew what they were doing. We are still looking! I know there are many who have had productive years well beyond age fifty-nine, but I am feeling aches and pains that make me wonder how many useful days I have left. I still struggle trying to get the best quality we possibly

can. It is my heart's desire to have God call some young person to come and learn what little I can teach them and then go far beyond what I have been allowed to do.

So much for reminiscing. I mentioned in our last Newsletter the new computer to plate system (CTP). There was a little learning curve in getting used to it, but with some help from an Agfa rep., I learned how to use it and the new plates it requires, and we are having good results. Presently we are working on collating about 12,000 Spanish Bibles for South America and Mexico. This project finished up all the rolls of paper we had in the shop, and we are praying God will supply the next truckload soon. We are planning to send another container-load of Bibles to the island of Cebu in the Philippines and one to Don Rich in Peru. Here are a few words from a recent email from Bro. Rich:

With the requests promised that I have now, we are out of Bibles. It has been a total of 10½ weeks (2½ months) since we received the shipment. It is hard to believe. And I am still receiving requests.

Since the Bibles we have will fill less than half of a container, the illustrated book of Romans provided by Beacon of Truth Baptist ministries in Florence, South Carolina and tracts from a ministry in Pennsylvania will be provided so we will be able to ship another full container.

Now that our CTP is working, we are able to clear up some space in the print shop and bless some other ministries with our old but still working equipment. Along the way we have also gathered some other printing equipment—a two-color press, a small paper cutter, and a smaller CTP that will be sent to other ministries as well. Bro. Keith Davidson with Seedline International in Brazil, Indiana will be taking some of it and helping move some to another ministry in Indiana.

I trust that you will have a good holiday season as you spend some extra time thanking God and reflecting on His great gift of sending His Son into the world to die for our sins.

May God bless you,
Bro. Albert Berg



“With the requests promised, we are out of Bibles. It has been a total of 10½ weeks (2½ months) since we received the shipment, and I am still receiving requests. —Don Rich

The storage building on the left held the 25,000 Bibles delivered on August 4th. The one to the right is the same building 2 1/2 months later. The 25,000 Bibles have already all been distributed to missionaries or national pastors in each of the nine Spanish speaking countries of South America. To God be the glory!



Memorials

Each contributor listed below, through their individual contribution, has helped provide 435 Bibles for the mission field.

FROM	IN MEMORY OF
Mary and Lea Allen Rich.....	Sharon Palmer Sikorski
Calvary Baptist Church, Powder Springs, GA.....	Sharon Palmer Sikorski
Kathleen Martin.....	Terese Ulickey
Lisa Burress.....	Luca Ross Prince
First Baptist Church, New Lisbon, WI.....	Ethyl Mae Kruckenberg
Ridge Road Baptist Church, Brewton, AL.....	Carolyn Murphy
Mary and Lea Allen Rich.....	Mrs. Jackie Plemmons and Tammy Rich
First Baptist Church, Roseland, LA.....	Rose Totor Johnson
First Baptist Church, Roseland, LA.....	Connie Raborn
First Baptist Church, Roseland, LA.....	W. G. Cutrer
Sarah Russo.....	Jeffrey Malwitz, Loretta DeMaria, Flor and Tucker
Debbie Portier.....	Connie Raborn and Rose Mary Johnson
Grace Bible Church, Staunton, VA.....	Mrs. Shirley Bush
Grace Bible Church Ladies Bible Class, Staunton, VA.....	Mrs. Shirley Bush
Mrs. Sharon Hodges...	Sharon Sikorski and the Palmers
Lisa Dawson and Ginger Sanders.....	Stephanie Green
Sarah Russo.....	John "Jock" Nisbet
Riverdale Baptist Church, Riverdale, NJ.....	Nick Weiss

FROM	IN RECOGNITION OF
Sarah Russo.....	Ava Rose's Dedication
FROM	THINKING OF
Sarah Russo.....	George on his 102nd birthday

*The grass withereth,
the flower fadeth: but the
word of our God shall
stand for ever. Isaiah 40:8*

VBP Field Reps



Bill and Vicki Richburg

P.O. Box 508
Six Mile, SC 29682
864.506.2380
billyrichburg@gmail.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

6 Hollowtree Court
Hamilton, OH 45013
765.580.2196
preacherswdunn@gmail.com

The Dunns left a full time pastorate in Indiana to become VBP field reps in September of 2010.



Evangelist Jason and Jody Kendrick

7594 Yellowstone Dr.
Pace, FL 32571
850.261.5260
Email: jason.kendrick6@gmail.com
Web: <http://jasonkendrickfamily.com/>

Evangelist Jason Kendrick and his wife, Jody, have been traveling in evangelism for more than twenty years. They now also represent VBP as they travel throughout the US holding revival meetings.

The Kendrick Family sings gospel music and has four gospel music CDs available in the VBP Bookstore.



Tony & Dee Smith

P.O. Box 634
Mary Esther, FL 32569
850.714.1262
Email: smithkjb@gmail.com

Brother Tony pastored for 24 years and taught at three Bible colleges. During the summer they traveled to recruit young men and ladies for college. Now they are traveling full-time for VBP as field representatives.

Benefits & Blessings

Mrs. Pam Leake

Early in the summer I noticed a spider (an orb weaver) had made a web in a corner between the side of our front deck and the siding on the front of the house. She had located herself in a relatively protected spot where there was rarely anyone to disturb her web or her activity. Not only that, but the location she had decided upon was prime for catching insects for food. The porch light was frequently on for several hours as

we were away from home, so various bugs were attracted to it. To be sure, my normal tendency is to dispense with any spiders near our front door because I despise unwittingly walking into a web and having it caught on my hair and face. However this colorful mother had located her web away from where I might walk into it, so I left her alone and began to observe her each day. It was interesting, to say the least, as I noticed that each day for three days straight she caught in her web a katydid that had been drawn to the light, wrapping it in the silk to immobilize it. By the next morning the katydid was completely gone – eaten! Each time this happened it seemed that she ballooned in size as she gorged on the meal. I also noticed attached to the side of the house and neatly held in place by her webbing was a roundish, brown sac which I learned was her egg sac. After a couple weeks of her catching and eating the bugs caught in the web, I noticed there was a second egg sac attached to the siding right beside the other one. That was one busy mama spider! It was amazing to see how rapidly she produced and secured the second sac, almost overnight. Just a week or so later, as the summer days were drawing to a close, I noticed that my “friendly” spider mama was on the siding, up above where the other egg sacs hung. She had attempted to hang a third sac, but it had broken open and the yolk that would feed the babies until they

hatched had spilled out below it. Mama spider was not moving and had actually started to fade in color. She had died trying to produce one more egg sac (each of which holds hundreds of babies!) I was a little sad, just for a few moments, to see that her work had ended and there was nothing more for me to observe.

The whole process, however, had caught my interest and I couldn’t help but marvel at the amazing way my heavenly Father, the Creator of the Universe, had perfectly designed that one spider and instilled in her the instincts to find such a location that would be protected, yet provide a source of food for her and a place to lay her eggs for the procreation of her species to assure there would be lots of little orb weavers in the spring. In Job 12:9, after Job answers his friends with the acknowledgment of God’s omnipotence, he says “Who knoweth not in all these things that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this?” It is both overwhelming, yet comforting and reassuring to know that the Lord’s hand has created and ordered everything as only He could, and yet He is the same Lord that is at work in my life, directing and ordering my steps for my good and His glory. I can rest in knowing that “with him is wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and understanding” (Job 12:13). There is nothing unknown to Him, there is nothing beyond His understanding, and there is nothing too hard for Him. What a blessing! What a benefit to the child of God! I can safely trust and rest in Him whose hand hath wrought this.

Note: No, I did not leave the egg sacs on the side of our house, but neither did I destroy them. I just relocated them to a new home in the woods behind our house. Who knows, perhaps I’ll find one of them taking up residence in the same spot next summer. ☺

Pam is the wife of Ed Leake, pastor of Colonial Baptist Church and Director of Colonial Press of Charlottesville, Virginia.
Email her: pamleake@colonialbc.org

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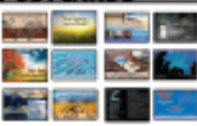
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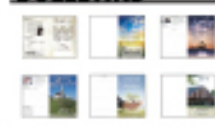
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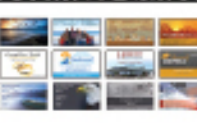
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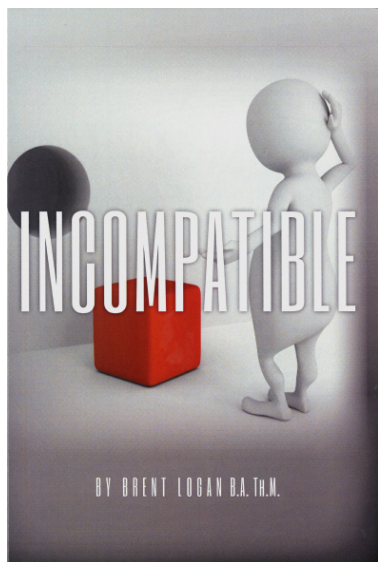


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The Pastor's Page



Tim Fellure

Cheap Substitutes**1 Samuel 4:1-5**

In 1 Samuel 4 the Israelites and Philistines were at war against each other. In this particular battle, the Israelites were losing badly and had already lost 4,000 men. At the end of the day, the leaders and captains of Israel got together to evaluate what had gone wrong. The suggestion was made to get the Ark of the Covenant and take it into battle. Surely, it would grant victory on the battlefield. But during the following battle, 30,000 of the Israelite soldiers died and the ark was taken by the Philistines.

The fundamental flaw in their logic was in believing the ark could be used as a good luck charm. They thought the ark guaranteed victory. But in reality, the ark was a cheap substitute for what they needed—the actual presence of God.

1) Relics Are No Substitute for a Relationship.

1 Samuel 4:3 — “. . . when it cometh among us, it may save us.” They believed a relic could save them. The ark was a special thing. At times, the Shekinah glory of God had rested upon it, but the relic was not enough. At the time of this battle, Israel was not in a good position spiritually. Eli’s two vile sons were priests in the house of God. They had very little relationship with God, and they thought the relic could replace the relationship.

There are people all across the world that worship in a church that values relics over a relationship. If a Catholic were to visit a Baptist church, their first thoughts would be—Where are the candles? Where are the clerical garments? Where is the Eucharist? They can’t worship without a relic. They have a relic but no relationship with the Savior.

Even Baptists can have their own relics. We believe we have God’s perfect word in the King James Bible. But some go so far as to almost worship the King James Bible. Just because you believe the KJV is God’s perfect Word, doesn’t mean you practice what it teaches. I’ve known people who can quote it, memorize it, defend it, and rightly divide it, but they still live contrary to it. The mere presence of God’s Word is no substitute for studying it, believing it, and living it.

2) Fleeces Are No Substitutes for Faith.

Judges 6:36-40—The Midianites had been terrorizing the nation of Israel for seven years when God raised up Gideon to gather an army together and drive them out. He was very reluctant, and this chapter shows him arguing with God that he wasn’t

the right man for the job. Gideon decided to put out a fleece to prove the will of God.

Now, God granted him his request, and Gideon finally led the army into battle and won victoriously. But the fleece was not an indicator of Gideon’s faith; it was an indicator of Gideon’s lack of faith. He was looking for guidance in an area in which the Lord had already given him assurance. He had the command of God to go into battle, and God would give him the victory.

God doesn’t want us to put out fleeces. God speaks to us through His Word and His Spirit, but signs are for the man who doesn’t have faith. Nowhere in the New Testament do you ever find a believer laying out a fleece. That is because we walk by faith, not by sight. You may lay out a fleece and it may come into fruition, but that is no guarantee God is in it. Why would you put your trust in some circumstantial

happening when you have the indwelling Spirit of God?

When you substitute fleeces for faith, you have the tendency to not even trust the results of the fleece. After Gideon put out the fleece the first time and God did as he requested, Gideon didn’t trust the results and put it out a second time! You might just be manipulating the results to fit into your will rather than God’s will. Fleeces are a cheap substitute for faith.

3) Giftedness Is No Substitute for Godliness.

1 Corinthians 1:4-7—The book of 1 Corinthians was written mostly as a rebuke. There was not much good you could say about that church, but the one good thing Paul did say was they were a very gifted church. “Ye come behind in no gift . . .” is how Paul put it. They had no shortage of gifted believers in any capacity. But the epistle was not written to commend them for their giftedness, but to rebuke them for their lack of godliness. The word ‘carnal’ was used five times to describe the Corinthian believers. While they were gifted, they were fleshly, self-serving, and self-centered.

The true test of a person’s christianity is not the abilities or gifts he or she has, but rather his or her walk with God. The church needs gifted people. Gifts are meant for the edification of the body, but if gifts are exercised without godliness, they produce strife, as seen in the Corinthian church. The church needs gifted people to be godly! If you have spiritual gifts but not a spiritual walk, that is a cheap substitute.

Just because you believe the KJV is God’s perfect word, doesn’t mean you practice what it teaches. I’ve known people who can quote it, memorize it, defend it, and rightly divide it, but they still live contrary to it.