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THE NEWSLETTER

July–September 2020

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



The 1,085,000 cross cards printed by VBP are now being distributed in four African countries—South Sudan, Uganda, the Congo, and Rwanda.

Several months back, at the request of missionary Tony Stark, VBP printed the above picture on shirt-pocket-sized card stock. The cards were printed in nine different sets, with fourteen salvation verses of Scripture in one of nine languages on the back side of each card. The languages were English, Arabic, Kinyarwanda, Runyoro, Swahili, Bari, Alur, French, and Spanish, and they are being used in South Sudan, Uganda, the Congo, and Rwanda.

Continued on page six: Read how Brother Stark plans to use the cards in the public school system in Rwanda.

Editor's Notes



Jim & Mary Fellure

Dear Friends of VBP,

According to worldatlas.com, there are currently 195 independent countries world-wide, with a combined population of 7.6 billion and a total of 7,099 spoken languages. Although I have a hard time wrapping my mind around the fact, after just a few months, the entire world population (each in their own language) knows the meaning and potential danger of being infected with the Coronavirus.

We are truly experiencing a serious pandemic and should be as prudent as possible to not contract or help spread this or any other disease. However, it is my opinion the liberal politicians and news media have used this dilemma as an opportunity to create an unprecedented and unnecessary amount of fear and frustration in order to bring the entire U.S. population of over 328 million people (including churches) under “big government” control. But fear and frustration should never be a part of a dedicated, Spirit-filled Christian's life.

It is without controversy that Jesus Christ, whom we profess to be our Lord, wants His Gospel to go into all the world, but as of late spring of 2020, entries into nearly every country in the world have been restricted, and most of these have been in some form of lockdowns and stay-at-home quarantines, so many missionaries cannot go to the field, and those that are already on the field cannot function freely as missionaries.

What do we do next?

Some might think that all one can do during these times of uncertainty is just sit and wait to see what the government does next; however, here at VBP we have made the decision to take the Bible promise from Romans 8:28—“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose,” dedicate ourselves to pray for wisdom, and get council from men that we consider wiser than ourselves. In the words of Pastor Danny Farley, “God might use this pandemic to give us a space of grace and allow us to reach a people that for the most part have been overlooked.”

For example: For the last several years, though we have printed other languages, our emphasis has been on Spanish, but

now nearly every Spanish-speaking country in the world has become a closed field (hopefully temporarily). However, according to babbel.com, thirteen percent of the American population speaks Spanish as a first language. That is over 43 million native Spanish speakers living right here in our homeland. Many churches do have an outreach to Spanish-speaking people, but most do not. If we cannot currently go to a Spanish-speaking foreign country, we could get the Gospel to those living in the U.S. We could very easily say the same thing about Koreans, Chinese, Filipinos, Muslims, Jews, etc., etc. Almost every race and nationality on earth has people living in the U.S., many within the shadow of a church steeple, and yet most of them are overlooked, even by some missionaries trying to get to the foreign field. In my humble opinion, a missionary that claims a call and burden for another race or nationality of people, but only if they live on the other side of the world, has given a strong reason to suspect him of being fraudulent.

The nineteen thousand Cebuano Bibles being prepared for the Philippines will soon be finished, and our shipping advisor has just sent us good news—the port in Cebu is now open and our plan is to get those Bibles out the door and on their way to the missionaries within the next few weeks. We will then begin printing another eighteen-wheeler truckload of Scriptures for use in reaching the native Spanish speakers in the U.S. and then maybe split a load of paper to include more than one language to be used by those trying to reach every creature at home and abroad.

Sure, we are facing issues we have never dealt with before, but because our God is bigger than any problem we have and has promised to supply our every need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus, we are making plans for what we believe will enable us to reach more people with the Gospel than ever before. As always, we are praying and trusting the Lord for the next truckload of paper so the next printing can begin just as soon as the current project is completed.

Please pray about what the Lord would have you to do to help VBP print and distribute the Scriptures to as many people as possible before the soon coming of our Lord.

Thank you for your interest in Scripture printing, and may the Lord continue to bless your service for Him.

VBP Director,
Jim Fellure

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Print Shop News



Al & Heidi Berg

Dear Friends and Supporters,
In our last Newsletter we informed you about a container of Spanish Scripture we shipped to Bro. Don Rich in Peru, South America. We had found out the day after we shipped it that Peru went into lockdown due to the Coronavirus. The container arrived and cleared customs, but as of this writing, the country is still locked down, which means the container is still in storage because no one is al-

lowed to leave their houses except for essentials. Please pray that this will end soon so Bro. Rich can get and start distributing the literature. Regardless of what you think about Covid-19, the fact is people are dying every day. If you believe the Bible, the Word of God is more important than physical food. So, in our eyes, this container of Scripture is essential—"Faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). The majority of this container contains booklets of Romans with a thorough gospel message in the back. There is no telling how many lives will be transformed once this Scripture is distributed. Once again, please pray for its release.

In the meantime, we have been printing and collating Cebuano Bibles for the island of Cebu in the Philippines. There are forty-eight signatures in the Cebuano Bible, versus thirty-four in the

Spanish, so there will not be as many total Bibles in the container. There should be a little over 18,500. Praise the Lord, we just found out that the port on the island of Cebu is now open, so there should be no problem shipping this load when it is ready. There is probably about two months of work left to finish this project.

In the middle of all this, Victory Baptist Press will be updating our ministry's video presentation. Much of the information and equipment is outdated in the old one. Please pray that we not only make a good, informational video about what we do here, and would like to do in the future, but also that people's hearts will be touched to help get the Word of God to those that need it, whether that includes helping us financially, or simply by being more faithful in personal evangelism themselves.

On a personal note, the Covid crisis has had very little impact on my personal life, for which I am thankful. Our prayers are with you if you have lost your job or business due to the shutdowns. This spring, not knowing what might happen, I decided to only plant things in my garden that usually do well. So now, I am reaping green beans, pink-eye purple hull peas, tomatoes, potatoes, and a few other things. They all seem to be doing better than usual. Things may change tomorrow, but at least I have food for a few weeks. God is good. The country and the whole world may be in chaos right now, but the grace of God is sufficient, and the peace of God is real in my heart and it can be in yours as well.

May God bless you,

Bro. Albert Berg

**Those who support Victory Baptist Press prayerfully
and financially are helping send the Gospel of Jesus Christ,
in its purest form, around the world**

Jesus Loves Me

Words by Anna B. Warner

Music by William B. Bradbury

The Rev. Dr. Jacob Chamberlain, who for many years had been working among the Hindus, wrote the following regarding this hymn, long one of the most popular children's songs in the world. "Many years ago, I translated into Telugu the children's hymn, 'Jesus Loves Me,' and taught it to the children of our day-school. Scarcely a week later, as I was going through the narrow streets of the native town on horseback, I heard singing that sounded natural, down a side street. I stopped to listen, cautiously drawing up to the corner, where unobserved I could look down the street and see and hear. And there was a little heathen boy, with heathen men and women standing around him, singing away at the top of his voice:

"Jesus loves me! this I know,

For the Bible tells me so;

.....

Yes, Jesus loves me!

The Bible tells me so!

"As he completed the verse someone asked the question, 'Sonny, where did you learn that song?' 'Over at the Missionary School,' was the answer. 'Who is that Jesus, and what is the Bible?' 'Oh! the Bible is the book from God, they say, to teach us how to get to heaven, and Jesus is the name of the Divine Redeemer that came into the world to save us from our sins; that is what the missionaries say.' 'Well, the song is a nice one. Come, sing us some more.' And so the little boy went on—a heathen himself, and singing to the heathen—about Jesus and His love. 'That is preaching the Gospel by proxy,' I said to myself, as I turned my pony and rode away, well satisfied to leave my little proxy to tell his interested audience all he himself knew, and sing to them over and over that sweet song of salvation."

—Excerpt from *My Life Story* by Ira Sankey

Available in our bookstore

Memorials

Each contributor listed below, through their individual contribution, has helped provide 673 Bibles for the mission field.

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Benefits & Blessings

**Mrs. Pam Leake****I Can See Clearly Now**

"Which is better? #1 or #2? OK, how about #3 or #4?" These are the questions my eye doctor asked me last week when I went for my regular eye checkup. He was using the phoropter to determine the strength of the lenses I need in my glasses so I can see as clearly as possible. It had been two years since I had my lenses checked, and I did need a change, but I already knew that, since my vision was a little less precise now in

certain situations. I treasure being able to see clearly, so I look forward to soon having my prescription filled for new lenses!

A clear focus is so important, whether in reference to our physical vision or to our spiritual vision. As we have struggled through these last few months of dealing with Covid-19 and all the imposed restrictions and subsequent problems we have all faced, it has often been difficult to maintain a clear spiritual view because of all the things that have drawn my focus away from what is actual truth, that truth upon which I can solidly stand and be assured of. From the myriad statistics that strike fear into the hearts of many concerning the impact of this virus, to the stringent and often draconian measures imposed by governments upon their constituents (such measures seemingly always in flux), to the unsettledness all around us, everyday it seems that there is something new to draw away my focus from my Lord and Savior and the truth of His Word. The flesh is weak, oh yes, it is...but praise the Lord, greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world!

The silver lining in the clouds is that all of the disruption and uncertainty and discouragement has prodded me to constantly turn (even run!) to the only Source of stability and strength. My Savior is the One to whom I can turn for solace, for peace in the midst of the storm. He is unchanging, ever present—my Rock, my Hiding Place, my Provider and Protector! When I can't see clearly and my focus is drawn away from Him, the Holy Spirit nudges me toward Him, speaking in that still, small voice, "Come unto me...", "Draw nigh to God..." to the place where my clear vision can be restored and I can see that He is still in control and I'm still His child and nothing can overtake me that He does not allow.

There's nothing like getting new glasses that bring your vision back to 20/20 or better, so that you can enjoy the sights around you and be able to handle the intricate jobs that require good eyesight. In the same way, there is nothing like getting back your clear spiritual vision, being able to "see" that the Lord is always at work, accomplishing His purposes, even in our seemingly impossible circumstances. What a joy and encouragement when He shows us that His arm is not shortened, that His ability is not limited, that His desire is that we remain faithful and steadfast even in the hard times, realizing that Heaven is just ahead where our faith will be made sight!

"Human sight" minus "divine insight" equals a vision killer.

Source Unknown

Note: Pam is the wife of Ed Leake, pastor of Colonial Baptist Church and Director of Colonial Press of Charlottesville, Virginia. Email her: leakepm@gmail.com

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Simply send, call, or e-mail your request for a fully-stocked rack to the following:

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There is no cost involved in acquiring or maintaining the rack. Any time you need additional cards, simply contact Victory Baptist Press. We look forward to hearing from you.

Continued from page 1.

This note came from Brother Stark:

There are three languages spoken in Rwanda—English, Kinyarwanda, and French. In 2008 Rwanda changed their language from French to English and started educating in English. Fifty percent of the population of about fourteen million is under the age of twenty. Our plan is for several other national preachers and myself to go into schools (just as soon as their lockdown is lifted) and preach a message using the bridge card in English. We will give each student one of the cards. We then will offer them an English Bible if they memorize (word perfect) the fourteen verses on the back of the card. We will also leave each teacher an English KJV Bible.

Our message will cover four pictures revealed on the bridge card.

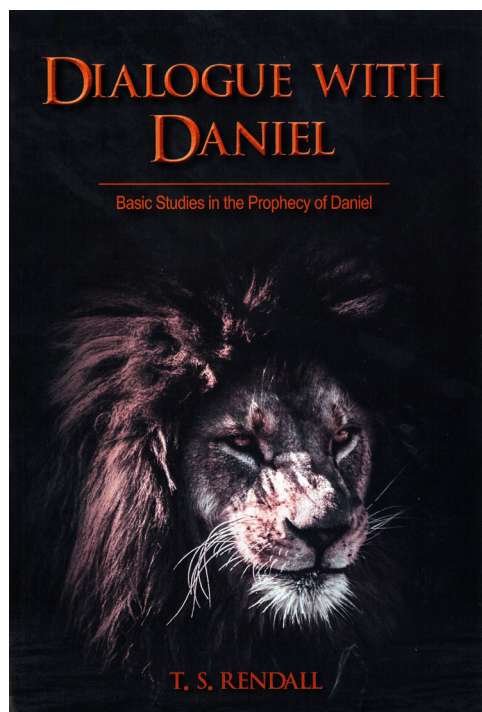
1. Man—a sinner, on his way to hell
2. Hell—a place where people burn in torment forever
3. Heaven—a place where everyone wants to go
4. Jesus and the way God made for a sinful man to escape Hell and enter Heaven

This is one prong in our plan to saturate Rwanda with the Word of God and reach the country with the truth of Jesus Christ. It will take some time, but what an opportunity.

—Bro. Tony

Note: The following verses are those on the back side of the card that the students will memorize.

- For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord—Romans 6:23.
- Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me—John 14:6.
- Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God—John 3:3.
- That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again—John 3:6–7.
- But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:—John 1:12.
- For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through
- him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God—John 3:16–18.
- Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life—John 5:24.
- He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him—John 3:36.
- Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it—Matthew 7:13–14.
- And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel—Mark 1:15.



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The Pastor's Page



Tim Fellure

Running with Horses

Jeremiah 11:18–12:6

There are five very personal confessions of Jeremiah in the book that bears his name. These confessions have long been recognized by Bible students as passionate conversations the prophet had with the Lord during times of great burden. This passage is the first of these conversations and it is borne out of a threat on his life. Some of the residents

from his hometown had become angered by his preaching and had plotted to kill him. Jeremiah was made aware of the hatred directed his way and turned to God in prayer.

1) The Conspiracy against Him (11:18–23)

When Jeremiah first heard about the plot against his life, it must have blind-sided him, because he said, *“I knew not that they had devised devices against me.”* He may have known they didn't like him, but he didn't know their hatred went that deep. And what made it so personal is that the men were from his own hometown of Anathoth. So hate-filled were they that they imagined cutting him down like a tree before it bore any fruit. They wanted to cut him off and for people to forget he ever lived—*“that his name may be no more remembered.”*

“Prophecy not in the name of the LORD, that thou die not by our hand.” They hated his preaching because it **condemned their character** (5:31; 6:13). What is preaching if you never preach AGAINST something? If all we hear from the pulpit is how wonderful we are, and how we're all going to make it together through the storm, then we're going to be sugar-coated saints who can't take any hardship. They hated his preaching because it **condemned their false worship**. Jeremiah came into ministry in the thirteenth year of Josiah's reign as king. Josiah brought in a lot of religious reforms, including removing all the shrines and idols in the nation, and Jeremiah was right there preaching against the idolatry of the land. And the more he exposed the false religionists, the more they hated him. They hated his preaching because it was **out of step with the time**. He was preaching judgment when they wanted to hear peace (6:14; 8:11). Jeremiah was the kind of preacher that is very much needed today. We still need preaching that condemns godless character, that exposes false worship, and that is out of step with popular trends and culture.

2) The Complaint from Him (12:1–4)

Jeremiah believed in the sovereignty of God, but he found some of His ways hard to understand. He had been told in the

previous verses the wicked would not stand, but it evidently was not enough. There, the Lord had told him they would **EVENTUALLY** face judgment, but Jeremiah would rather it happened sooner than later.

In all this, Jeremiah never questioned the character of God. The first words out of his mouth were, *“Righteous art thou, O LORD.”* He didn't believe there was some moral failure on the part of God, but it still begged the question of “Why?” From verse 4 we read that God had brought a drought to the land as judgment, but it didn't bring repentance. The vegetation was withering and the animals were dying, but the wicked men were still boastful against God and were saying they were beyond the reach of God's judgment. So, the complaint Jeremiah had was that these people were blaspheming God and threatening him and it was so wearisome.

3) The Challenge to Him (12:5)

When God answered Jeremiah, it was not the answer Jeremiah had expected. The essence of what God said was—you haven't seen anything yet. If you are discouraged and weary and ready to quit now, what are you going to do when bigger trouble comes? If you are weary running with footmen, how are you going to run when you have to run against horses? If you are troubled now in the land of peace, how are you going to make it when the Jordan swells? You are complaining because some rogue priests and prophets want to take your life, but what you don't know is your own father and brothers are plotting against you. Things are actually worse than you know, and it's going to get worse, so brace yourself for some real trouble down the road. If you break down under these small trials, how are you going to bear up when you have to endure something worse than this? Greater trials are coming, but how will you meet them if you fail in these lesser trials.

Faithfulness is not easy now, and it's going to be even harder tomorrow. Jeremiah was under a lot of pressure right then, but it was going to get tougher for him. They were going to put this man in prison for preaching. Jeremiah was running a foot race, but the horses would come next. And if you can't serve God faithfully now in these days of light trials, how do you expect your Christianity to survive when it really gets tough? Victory now will strengthen you for victory later. If you will stand now, you will gain strength for the next trial. If you will say no to temptation while you're young, you will gain strength to keep saying no to temptation when you're older. How are you doing in the race? Are you weary with the footmen, or have you gained enough strength spiritually to face some horses? *“If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of the Jordan?”*