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THE NEWSLETTER

January–March 2021

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



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Editor's Notes

**Jim & Mary Fellure**

In Genesis 47, the story of Joseph has just about come full circle. By this time, the brothers of Joseph have been reconciled to him and have persuaded their father, Jacob, to move to Goshen where Joseph can provide for them. The family has moved to the land given to them by Pharaoh and has settled in, and all is well. All that is, except for the ongoing famine. Genesis 47:13 describes the bleak conditions: "And *there was*

no bread in all the land; for the famine *was* very sore, so that the land of Egypt and *all* the land of Canaan fainted by reason of the famine." In the following verses (14–26), Moses describes the dire circumstances the Egyptians found themselves in, how these worsened every year, and how they came to Joseph (government) for help. Joseph first bought all their livestock and then all their lands in exchange for grain, so by the end of the famine Pharaoh owned everything, and the citizens were tenant farmers. But in sharp contrast to those dire circumstances we read of a different effect in 46:27: "And Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions therein, and grew, and multiplied exceedingly." The children of Israel experienced the same famine as the Egyptians, but somehow they flourished and multiplied during that famine. They went through the same trouble as the rest of the world, but it did not affect them like it did everyone else.

It is almost like beating a dead horse to say how challenging this year has been. Pastors have had to make decisions about keeping their churches open and safe. Other churches in Democratic-controlled states are still battling local governments over the right to even have church. Everyone reading this probably knows someone who has been seriously ill with the coronavirus. Nearly every missionary letter I read says something to the effect that they are trying to keep their ministries going in the face of their

government's orders. Many churches across the land are experiencing a decrease in giving and may have smaller congregations than they had at the beginning of this year. If we add to this the fact that at this writing we still do not know who our next President will be, then we see things could get very ugly in the streets during the coming weeks depending on what the courts decide.

As a result, depression and suicide are on the increase. Our nation is looking to a government they do not trust to bail them out. But the "famine" does not affect us Christians in the same way. Yes, we may get the coronavirus too, and if Biden becomes President he will be our President too, but we don't wring our hands in worry and turn to psychotic drugs to calm our nerves. We have a God who is bigger than a virus or a fraudulent election or anything else we're going through. And our God is able to prosper and multiply His people even in the famine.

We are thankful to report this year has been a very productive year for Victory Baptist Press. To date we have had over 260,000 Cross cards printed for distribution across the United States. We shipped a container of 18,325 Cebuano Bibles to Cebu, Philippines, and a container of 7,546 Spanish Bibles and 478,800 illustrated Romans booklets (that were donated by another ministry) to Cajamarca, Peru. We printed 160,000 English John and Romans and have begun printing 195,000 Spanish John and Romans. We also had 1,000 Jack Wood Memorial Bibles printed for Shady Acres Baptist Church and published a second book by Missionaries Ted and Lyn Mullins. We are busy every day finishing the year strong, and are excited about what 2021 will bring.

I'm writing this article in place of my dad, Jim Fellure. Dad has been battling some serious and ongoing health issues and has just recently stepped back from most of his responsibilities in the ministry to focus on getting medical attention. I will be overseeing the operations of the printshop in his absence. Thank you so much for your continued support of the Bible printing ministry. We wish you a merry Christmas season and pray that you have a great 2021.

Tim Fellure

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

Print Shop News



Al & Heidi Berg

Dear Friends and Supporters,

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18).

As I was reading in my personal devotions recently, I came across this verse which seemed to speak to me about this past year. Although I have not suffered much (I did contract Covid-19, as many others have, and was sick for several days), I know

that many others have, whether they were sick or lost some income because of the pandemic. We may not be able to control things as much as we would like to down here, but Paul reminds us there is a better day coming. Christians have the opportunity to show God's grace during hard times more than in the good times. Apparently some of you have chosen to do just that, because by the grace of God, with the exception of several of us getting sick for a few days, Victory Baptist Press has had a great year. We sent a container of Bibles and Romans booklets to Peru back in March. It was held in storage for a few weeks because of the pandemic, but the Scriptures are now being distributed. We were also able to print a whole load of paper into Cebuano Bibles for the Philippines. They were expected to be delivered back in November, but something delayed the shipping. By the grace of God, the missionaries should have them by the time you read this. Then, just in time, another truckload of paper was made available to us at a very low price, and we are currently printing and binding it into English and Spanish John/Romans.

In addition to all of this, the Lord has opened up a door of opportunity to us with the Cross cards. If you are not yet familiar with these, the idea originated with Missionary Tony Stark. We printed a million of them with several Bible verses on the back in several languages for East Africa. When the pandemic hit, and Bro. Don Rich's container was detained for a while, we were not sure how shipping to other countries would go, so we decided to concentrate on America. We took the same image, tweaked it a little, changed the verses on the back and added a QR code that links someone to a website with a presentation of the Gospel. Some of them are a size required by the Post Office for mass mailing; others are smaller for personal distribution.

As soon as possible we plan to print another truckload of Spanish Bibles that will be divided between missionaries Don Rich in Peru and Gary Schwer in Mexico.

Please pray for our director, Bro. Jim Fellure. He has been dealing with several health issues lately and has decided it is best to take a sabbatical for a month. It is hard for him. He still comes in the shop every few days to see how things are going and to get a cup of his favorite coffee.

The year 2020 was a crazy and difficult year for many, and God only knows what 2021 will hold, but His promises are still true, and it is our mission to get those promises into as many hands as possible before Jesus Christ returns. I pray that the “sufferings of this present time” will not dim our view of “the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

May God bless you,
Bro. Albert Berg



Display a memorial and recognition card rack in your church.

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.

Memorials

Each contributor listed below, through their individual contribution, has helped provide 552 Bibles for the mission field.

FROM	IN MEMORY OF
Debbie Portier.....	Martin Hayden
Calvary Baptist Church, Batavia, IA	Randy Fields
Nile Stine	Chiqui Garcia
Sarah Russo	Liberato Angelo, Adele Swing,
.....	John Launay, Renato Dipupulo,
.....	Aggie and Gabriel Adames-Gomez
Jim and Nancy Bradley.....	Steven Maynard
Lisa Burress.....	Richard L. Woodhouse
Bible Baptist Church, Covington, KY
.....	Steven Wayne Maynard
Wayne and Karen Scott.....	Richard Woodhouse
Ron and Mary Lou Rafferty.....	Richard Woodhouse
Fran Deener.....	Richard Woodhouse
Daniel Lovett.....	Richard Woodhouse
Veva Gerald.....	Richard Woodhouse
First Lord Baptist Church, Roseland, LA.....
.....	Billie Callihan Strahan
Robert and Mary Simpson	Johnny Hyde Alford
Bible Baptist Church, Bartlesville, OK.....	Cherie Coale
The Campbells, Portiers, and Adamsons
.....	Johnny Hyde Alford
Caylop Minchew	Charles Minchew
Bruce and Cindy King.....	June Hahn

FROM	IN RECOGNITION OF
Hope Whitson	Ma-Maw Damon
Carolyn Wright.....	Pastor Bill Forde's 80th Birthday

FROM	THINKING OF
Sarah Russo	Irene Smith, Etta Wright,
.....	and Pete Seiler

Correction:

In our last NEWSLETTER there was an error in the memorials. It was stated that the Oconee County Baptist Campmeeting donated in Memory of Rev. Scottie King, it should have been Rev. Scottie Owen. We apologize for the mistake.

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Benefits & Blessings



Mrs. Pam Leake

Where, oh where, did our smile go?

If you are reading this, you have made it through the most unusual year (in my memory) that has challenged us to the max! We were forced to re-think how we interact and participate in church, in our workplaces, and in some cases, even in our own homes. But, through it all we have to admit that God has still been faithful, loving, and merciful. We could not have made it this far without Him!

Having said that, I just wanted to focus a moment on something that we seemed to have lost, hopefully temporarily, during the restrictions of the coronavirus pandemic, and that is OUR SMILE. Early on, as we began to wear masks where required, my husband and I often commented about the disadvantages of that practice which included being unable to discern someone's countenance. Try as we might to display a "smile" with our eyes, it is nearly impossible to determine a person's countenance when half of their face is covered. And when you can't express a smile toward someone they are a lot more likely to ignore you as they pass by, or look with fear or suspicion if you happen to get too close in the grocery aisle or pass by too closely in the post office or wherever you happen to be.

We've heard the saying, "A smile is worth a thousand words," but I doubt we ever really counted the worth of being able to share a smile with someone. A smile can ease a difficult situation, it can light up a room of despair, or comfort a child in distress. I have

especially been saddened to see little children staring at me as I stood nearby in a checkout line and tried to catch their eye with a wink in place of a smile. They, with their face mask, and I, with mine, were at a loss to have any type of communication other than a stare.

A person's countenance conveys so much about him. Often in Scripture man's countenance is mentioned, from Cain's "fallen" countenance in Genesis 4, to David's "beautiful" countenance in 1 Samuel 16, to the "cheerful" countenance in Proverbs 15, and most importantly, the beneficent countenance of the Lord as found in Numbers 6:26.

I don't think we can overestimate the communicating power of a cheerful countenance (a smile). It's a universal expression that not only impacts those who see your smile, but it has been proven to be a physical boon to the one who smiles by causing an increase in the mood-boosters in the body which help with stress reduction and lead to feelings of happiness. And after the year we've come through, how needy we are of a reduction in stress and an increase in feelings of happiness!!

In no way am I insinuating anything about the efficacy of wearing a mask, but I pray that we soon can return to life without that requirement so that our smiles can once again grace our faces and we can express something positive such as hope, love, confidence, friendliness, and joy! Too long we've had to contend with a highly contagious virus—it's time we started once again to spread the "contagion" of smiles!

Note: 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

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

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

—Isaiah 1:18



A Race Against The Flames

The following is an excerpt from the editor's notes in the September/October 2003 edition of The Newsletter.

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."

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; 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."

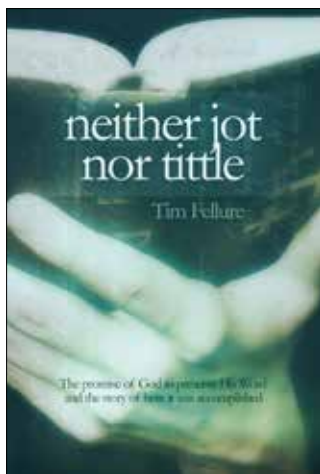
A woman who saw the crash ran into a nearby gas station and borrowed two fire extinguishers. A lady police officer sent out a call for more police officers and more fire extinguishers. Police cars came from everywhere, and at least twenty fire extinguishers from the cruiser cars and three borrowed from 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 flames that it burned the hair off their arms. The dashboard and steering wheel were pressed up against the officer's 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 Darryl 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.

—Jim Fellure, 2003

Victory Baptist Press Bookstore



Neither Jot nor Tittle

by Tim Fellure

\$13.95

Now more than ever, there is a need for fundamentalists to arise and defend the authority and integrity of the Scriptures. The issue must be kept in the forefront; the facts must be presented clearly and forcefully; the heresy of modern versions must be exposed; and the critic must be silenced. The battle for the Bible rages on. *Neither Jot Nor Tittle* is the promise of God to preserve His Word and how it was accomplished.

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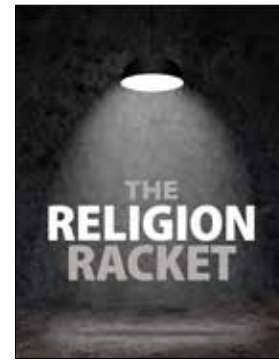


Fire in the Church

by Dr. T. S. Rendall

\$12.95

"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. 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."



The Religion Racket

by Norman H. Wells

\$11.95

Religion is a failure! It is an obvious fact that the high ideals, lofty goals, and high-sounding phrases of religion do not find much expression in daily life. The sham and hypocrisy of modern day religion are brought into glaring light when we compare what we are with what we profess to believe. Repentance and faith produce a reality in our religion that makes sham and pretense unnecessary. It is all summed up in one sublime statement that Jesus made: "Repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15).

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The Pastor's Page



Tim Fellure

Hindered, But Not Stopped

1 Thessalonians 2:18; 3:1–5

In 1 Thessalonians 2, Paul wrote of his love for the believers at Thessalonica and of his concern for their spiritual health. He expressed multiple times how he longed to see them to strengthen them in the faith. He commended them for their reception of the Word and how they followed spiritual examples, even in the face of persecution. His love for the believers

is summarized in verse 20, “Ye are our glory and joy.”

But in verse 18, Paul wrote “but Satan hindered us.” Everything Paul wanted to do was stymied by Satan's hindrances. Paul was forced to send Timothy instead of going himself, and they endured afflictions as a result of these hindrances. It is a sad thing when a good work is disrupted by the hindrances of Satan. We ought to be careful not to give Satan too much credit in our failures, but undoubtedly Satan is behind the scenes disrupting, deceiving, and destroying. How many churches have been broken up by the work of Satan? How many preachers have fallen to some trap laid by Satan? Is history not filled with leaders influenced by Satan to oppress the church? Satan will use anything he can to disrupt a good work.

However in 1 Thessalonians 3, Paul writes that despite these hindrances the work went on. Paul was not about to be stopped by Satan. For far too many Christians, the work ceases when Satan begins. The Christian life requires perseverance. There will certainly be hindrances, but will you be stopped or will you press on? Notice Paul spends only four words to describe the hindrances of Satan. There was no need to give a detailed description of his hindrances, but only to focus on what was done to overcome those obstacles. Too many times our focus is on the obstacles in our way rather than what must be done to overcome and accomplish something for God.

The Priority of Ministry (3:1–2)

Paul was concerned about the young church at Thessalonica, and despite his present afflictions, their spiritual well-being was at the forefront of his mind. You get the impression that ministering to people wasn't just a part of Paul's life, but it was his life. This kind of commitment requires the proper perspective. Ministry is not to be something that blends in with the other agenda items; it is the priority. This year has exposed where most Christians put church on their agenda. They have no problem going to Walmart, but they can't risk getting sick at church. Does this reflect a proper

perspective? Christianity is not merely to be a part of our lives; it is the hub, and everything else is a spoke that comes out of it.

When adversity comes, we have two choices: we can either neglect our duty or we can persevere and adjust. Paul wasn't able to go himself, so he sent Timothy. The hindrance didn't stop the ministry; rather, Paul and his companions pivoted to plan B. Hindrances will come, but will you adjust and be faithful? When the money gets tight, will you adjust and continue to honor God with your tithe and missions giving? If your boss tells you that you must work on Sunday, are you going to be faithful to God or your boss? Commitment to the work may require adjustments.

The Problems are Mandatory (3:3–4)

After Paul was forced to leave, the harassment Paul and his companions had endured evidently had been turned towards the young believers. Paul and Silas would have been hardened against persecution because they had faced it many times before, but those young believers were hardly established, and to face this just weeks after getting saved was a hard thing. So, when Paul talked about afflictions here, he was talking about their afflictions.

Any believer who is willing to stand up for truth and right will face problems. Satan can not simply allow a good work to progress without trouble. For every Nehemiah trying to do a good work, there is a Sanballat and Tobiah. Adversity comes with the territory.

“That no man should be moved by these afflictions.” When trouble comes, it shouldn't move you. When you have a proper perspective of the Christian life, when you have set your priorities in order, and when you know Satan will try to hinder you, but you are willing to make adjustments to keep serving God, then trials and tribulations won't cause you to fall apart.

The Protective Mindset (3:5)

You and I are to be concerned with the trials others face. Paul said what he was most concerned about was not the physical health, but the spiritual health—“I sent to know of your faith.” In 2020, there has been a lot of focus on physical health, but there ought to be more focus on spiritual health.

You can read this letter and tell Paul poured his life into these believers. He had prayed for them; he had wept over them; he had sat up in the long hours of the night helping them; and he just had too much invested in them to walk away now. God help us to have the perseverance of Paul. I have too much invested in our marriage to let anything come between us. We have too many prayers and too many hopes invested in our children to give up now. I have too much invested in this church to let Satan snatch it away. I have too much invested in living for Jesus to quit now.