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THE NEWSLETTER

January–March 2023

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



VICTORY
BAPTIST CHURCH

CONSIDER THIS YOUR PERSONAL INVITATION TO ATTEND THE 2023 ANNUAL BIBLE CONFERENCE APRIL 10–13

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- Pastor Rob Carlson
- Pastor James Knox
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Editor's Notes



Jim & Mary Fellure

Dear Friends,

When VBP needs extra help in the print shop, the ability to do that job is not our first requirement. If we can find a person with **an honest heart** and a burden for the ministry, chances are they can be trained for the job. The majority of times we have had to terminate a worker it has been because of a dishonest heart. It is very sad to see someone with the potential of being greatly used in the service of

the Lord with an obvious heart problem that will be detrimental to the ministry. If, after doing all we know to do to help the person see the error of their way, we are still met with a rebellious and unwilling spirit, we are left with no alternative but to let them go.

Is there a remedy for a dishonest heart?

Of course there is: it's called the new birth.

Second Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Being in Christ, having Christ in you, being saved, having your sins washed away by the blood of Christ, repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and many more salvation terms are all summed up in being born again. From the moment of their new birth, these individuals have Christ ruling their lives from their hearts.

Believing that the only hope for any individual is the new birth, I keep a magnetic sticker on the back of my truck that says, "Ye must be born again."

As I write these notes, my grandson Jacob and his family are using my truck to go and visit his in-laws in Rochester, New York. As I drive around Milton, Florida, many of the same locals probably see those words over and over again, but I get excited just thinking about how many new people during that 2,400 mile trip to New York and back will read, "Ye must be born again," maybe for the first time in their lives.

I try to consistently give a Gospel witness to people one at a time.

When Mary and I go to our favorite restaurant, we always try to get the same waitress, and I always give her the same card with the graphic of the pit of fire depicting hell, and nine verses of Scripture leading up to salvation printed on the card. Before we place our order, I have the waitress promise she will, at her convenience, read all nine of the verses on the card. We then place our order, and to try and sweeten the pot, make sure to leave a far above average tip when we leave. One waitress who is no longer at that restaurant once responded to my offer of the cross card with "I have one hundred and thirty-eight of them. I see them in my sleep." Another

waitress said, "I have so many of them, I think I will start passing them out." Praise the Lord!

Another tactic I have is to scan the crowd, and when I see a young couple, especially if the man would look better wearing a mask and the wife is half-way attractive (if you are a young man close to their age don't try this, but being eighty years old it works for me), I simply walk up to their table and after a five second introduction, I look them both square in the face and say to the man, "Is this your wife?" If she is, I say something like, "How in the world did **you get her?**" She immediately looks him square in the face with a big smile of approval, and she has set him up for a chuckle or at least a smile. I then give them the card with verses and say, "Y'all have a good day."

Another way that has worked for me is ,when you see some big fellow that looks like he has overdosed on donuts, walk right up to him and say, "Man, if I was looking for somebody to body slam, you wouldn't have a thing to worry about. I don't feel up to it today. I'm going to let you off." I have never had one person get angry, but they have always responded with at least a smile and sometimes with a chuckle and words of appreciation for not hurting them. I then give them the tract or cross card.

I remember one experience at a restaurant late at night. When we entered the restaurant, I spotted a big black fellow that had all the markings of a heathen. Now, just to let our readers know I am not accusing him of being a heathen because he was black; I'll say he had a white, female heathen with him who looked worse than he did, and in my opinion there was some kind of illegal action going on. (Maybe a drug deal; nobody knows!) I went through the same deal about body slamming him. He laughed and thanked me for letting him off. I then gave both of them a card with the cross, and as we were leaving the restaurant, he and his companion (drug buddy?) were still making some kind of a deal. As we passed their table he got my attention, and with a big smile said, "Thank you for not body slamming me." (I have never had a person reject a gospel tract with a smile on their face!) I replied, "Yeah bro. No problem. Have a good one."

I have found that a little friendliness will open a door for witnessing far easier than a somber mood. However, the same approach isn't the same in every situation. For example, if I was trying to witness to a patient on life support in the ICU at a local hospital, I would forget about the body slam approach.

Each and every one of us at VBP gives financially to help support world-wide missions.

Our home church has an annual faith promise missions conference and with money that is promised for the following year, missionaries going to the foreign field are financially supported.

...Continued next page

Print Shop News



Al & Heidi Berg

Dear Friends and Supporters,
Well, another year has rolled by, and I trust it was a good one for you in the Lord. It was a good year for me and the shop overall. In spite of paper shortages and higher prices for nearly everything, we have managed to stay busy. Not that there were no hindrances; there certainly were. In fact, I often say hindrances are just part of the job. The trick is to just keep working through them, and

eventually things will break through.

One hindrance that I have had is that I never had anyone show me how to do all the things we have to do in the print shop. It is not that I have had no help. People come through from time to time and show me some things, for which I am grateful. But there was never one teacher who was able to impart all his wisdom in printing to me. I read the manuals and follow them as close as I can, but there are some things that are just not in the manuals. I say all that to say that after nearly twenty years of running our big web press, we finally found an ink that has made a noticeable improvement in the quality of our printing. Quality has always been an issue here, and some are kind enough to brag on it to us, but I know it can always be better. One of the good things about having to learn things for yourself is you do not easily forget the hard lessons you had to learn. The bad thing about having to learn things for yourself is it often takes a long time to figure things out. I am thankful to God for putting the right person in my path to help me with this particular

problem, as well as all the other people, some of whom I have forgotten by now, who have helped me over the years.

Recently we finished binding all of the English Bibles, most of which had a military-themed cover. We trust they are a blessing to the men and women in uniform who have received them. Some ministries we sent them to also give them to veterans. It is our prayer that they will be read and God will do whatever is needed in each individual heart.

We have also once again started printing and collating Spanish Bibles for South America. It seems that the more we send down there, the more demand there is. According to Bro. Don Rich, our contact in Peru, there are many churches in South America where people do not have access to a Bible. Buying one in a bookstore, at any price, is not even an option for them. So, the more that go out, the more people hear about it and then request some for their churches. One of the things we spend extra money on is the vinyl cover for these Bibles. We have been sending Bibles to Bro. Rich for ten years now, and he has told us there are some people who still have one from ten years ago and are still reading it. That is truly a blessing and really should not be possible, even with a vinyl cover. Years ago a man in the book-binding industry told me a paperback book is intended only for two or three reads. They are considered a throwaway item. It is a great blessing to hear that at least some people are proving him wrong.

Please pray for us as we continue through this year. There is one thing I am certain of: there will be more hindrances. I pray and trust that God will help us push through them for His honor and glory.

May God bless you,

Bro. Albert Berg

...Editor's notes continued

VBP keeps printing and distributing the Scriptures, which is the main reason for our existence.

We are always working toward getting more Scriptures printed and shipped to some mission field around the world.

Knowing that our own country has forgotten God, VBP is doing more to reach individuals in the United States.

Just recently VBP printed 23,000 military-edition King James Bibles. They have all been shipped to churches or other ministries to give to veterans or active-duty men in uniform.

Another outreach to America that Joseph Bertram is in charge of, is mailing the cross cards. He has now processed approximately two million of the cards and either mailed them from our location or sent them to a few local churches that preferred to get the cards and mail them themselves. The reported current size of the American household is 2.51. If all the local churches that got cards mailed them, and the post office did their job, then Brother Joseph has helped VBP put the Gospel of Christ within reach of more than five million people in the USA. Now, if one wanted to be sceptical,

they might ask if all the printed word ever gets results—does it work? A few weeks ago field Rep. Herb Moore called telling me about dropping in unannounced to one of the local churches in his area. It just so happened a middle-aged woman was being baptized that night. As the pastor was getting ready to baptize her, he announced that she was the result of receiving one of the cross cards through the mail. The story goes that after receiving the card she wanted to be saved but couldn't figure out how to do it. At that time she was attending a church that didn't know either, so she came to the church listed on the card. That pastor knew what to do, led her to Christ, and baptized her that night. Does all this effort to preach the Gospel to every creature really work? It worked for that one, and maybe hundreds, or even thousands more that we will never know about!

Thank you for your prayers and support, and may God get all the glory.

VBP Director,
Jim Fellure

MEMORIALS

Each contributor listed below, through their individual contribution, has helped provide 2,038 Bibles for the mission field.

FROM IN MEMORY OF

Dana and Esther Williams.....*Dayton Hoyt Cook*
*Shelia Wallace*
 Harvest Hill Baptist Church.....*Mary Riley*
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*Peggy Strawder*
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 Hope Whitson.....*Tracy Dwayne Damron*
 Esther Scott.....*Sandra Brewer*
 Dale & Karen Shirley.....*Linda Ward's 75th Birthday*

According to the World Population Clock the current world population is 7.999 Billion People. The United States population is reported to be 338,289,857.

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

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Benefits & Blessings

**Mrs. Pam Leake****WRITE YOUR SONG!**

One morning after a few particularly difficult days and as certain situations weighed heavy on my heart, I had a few moments to sit and be still before the Lord and listen to some beautiful, worshipful music. I did not sing, but I did open my heart to the Holy Spirit, as I was in need of the comfort only He can give. The pleasant sound of the instruments, the truth of the lyrics that exalted my Savior, was a soothing balm to my soul and the tears began to flow.

In silence, from my heart I praised my heavenly Father, and my burden was made lighter and I began to rejoice in Him. Have you ever been there?

Music has long been a treasure to me, not because I am a singer, but because of the blessing it is to my soul. I'm speaking of godly music such as traditional hymns and sound gospel music that honor the Lord and proclaim the Gospel. I do love to sing, or rather, make a joyful noise unto the Lord, but the hearing of it is such encouragement to my heart. I believe God gave people talents and abilities to write songs/music, to play on instruments, and to sing in order to bless Him and His children!

There are many books with the back stories to many of our traditional hymns and their writers. A young evangelist who is a friend of my husband and me just recorded his first CD and has been sharing the back stories of several of the hymns which he sings on the CD. If you've ever read some of the biographies of these hymn

writers you know that many of their songs were borne out of deep pain, great tragedy, loss, discouragement and sickness. How can one who experiences such pain and sorrow compose a song that is so uplifting? How can praise and rejoicing rise from the depths of despair? It is God that gives the song in the night. . . . It is looking up to the One whose presence is desperately needed that births the song in the heart of the one who is cast down. That is how the words pour forth to give praise to the Lord.

That morning, with my heart uplifted and a peace experienced that only comes from above, I sat down to write a few lines of my own to praise my Redeemer. Not to impress with song writing talent, nor to draw attention to anything of me, but as an outward expression of love and gratitude and as an offering to Him. I challenge you to write down your song of praise—whether in proper rhyme or cadence or not—but simply as an offering from your heart to the Lord. He is worthy! Hallelujah to my Savior,

He is mine, He knows my name.
Not one instance has He failed me,
He will forever be the same!

Grace and peace He freely offers,
Through acceptance of His gift;
Complete pardon through salvation,
Heaven is gained, and hell is missed!

Note: Pam Leake served alongside her husband, Ed Leake, in the pastoral ministry for over thirty-four years. They continue to serve the Lord as He opens doors of opportunity. Pam's email address is leakepm@gmail.com.

Use what talents you possess: The woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best.

It is almost as presumptuous to think you can do nothing as to think you can do everything.

Consider the postage stamp: its usefulness consists in the ability to stick to one thing till it gets there.

—Copied

**Display a memorial and recognition card rack in your church.**

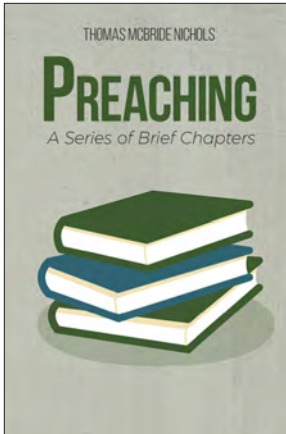
Simply send, call, or e-mail your request for a fully-stocked rack to the following:

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Ph: 850.623.0086

E-mail: news@victorybaptistpress.com

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.

Victory Baptist Press Bookstore



Preaching

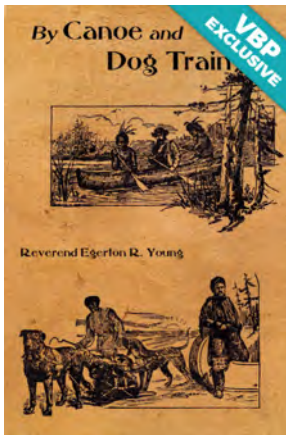
by Thomas McBride Nichols
\$8.95

"This book does not profess to be a course of theological seminary lectures on preaching but treats only certain practical phases of the great subject. No preacher can read these earnest words thoughtfully without being freshly impressed with the sacredness and importance of his calling. He will also be encouraged and stimulated to improve the work of his ministry."—J. R. Miller



A Wandering Jew in Brazil \$13.95

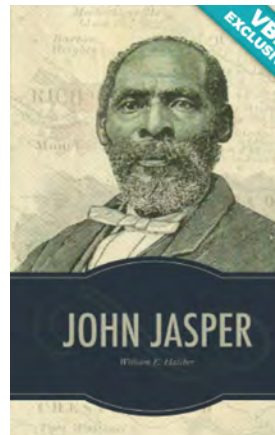
Solomon Ginsburg was born into the home of a Jewish Rabbi and trained to be a Jewish teacher. However, as a young man he was confronted with the glorious Gospel of Christ by another converted Jew. Within a few months of his first encounter with the Gospel he was saved. Soon after his conversion, persecution by friends and family and even attempts on his life began. God overruled, though, and used him for thirty-five phenomenal, fruitful years of service as a missionary in the country of Brazil.



By Canoe and Dog Train

by Reverend Egerton R. Young
\$15.95

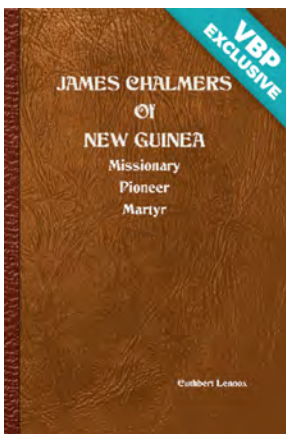
This is the story of...missionaries to the Indians of northern Canada. The author tells of his sufferings, toils, and triumphs: of being lost in freezing blizzards, fishing in picturesque lakes, learning Indian customs—some humorous, others abominable—suffering the loss of a child, the triumph of winning souls, and watching God transform their lives. One hangs onto every word like children at hearthstones listening to tales of adventure.



John Jasper

The Thrilling Story of the Negro Preacher of Richmond, Virginia
By William E. Hatcher
\$12.95

John Jasper was a slave for 50 years and was a preacher during 25 years of his slavery. Freedom came full-handed to him, but it did not in any notable degree change him in his style, language, or manner of preaching. He was an antebellum preacher until 89 years of age. He was the last of his type, and we shall not look upon his like again.



James Chalmers of New Guinea

By Cuthbert Lennox
\$12.95

"You may kill us," said the white man, "for we never carry arms.... Remember that we are living among you as friends." This white man was none other than missionary James Chalmers, the "Great-Heart of New Guinea," who, after fourteen years of phenomenal Christian service among the savages, was brutally murdered and eaten by cannibal tribesmen. This great missionary biography is a must-read book for Christians of all ages.



The Lord Is My Shepherd, and That's Enough

By Jim Fellure
\$12.95

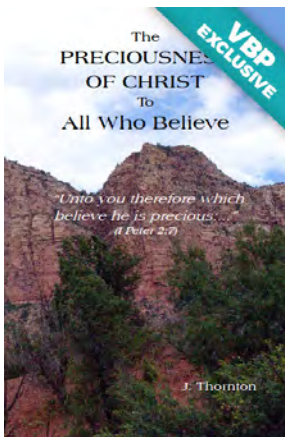
Brother Fellure spent the greater part of one year researching what other authors had to say about this pearl of the psalms. Many quotes from the best books available are included, making this one of the most thorough devotional commentaries in print today. The many notes, quotes, and illustrations will be a great help to any Christian who desires to know more about the Good Shepherd.



What a Beautiful Day

The Kendrick Family CD
\$15.00

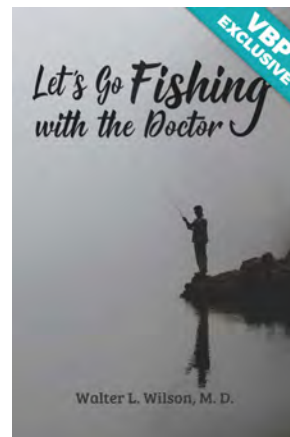
1. I Found It All in the Blood 2. My Heart Knows 3. Secret Place 4. What a Beautiful Day 5. Testing Time 6. Thank God for These 7. Complete in Thee 8. I Remember When 9. Center of Your Will 10. The Greater God's Love Will Shine 11. Thank You, Lord 12. Welcome Home



The Preciousness of Christ to All Who Believe

By John Thornton
\$10.95

There is very little information on record about the author's personal life. However, his contribution to the cause of Christ and His Church through his classic work on *Repentance* and this work on *The Preciousness of Christ* are priceless. An absolutely must-read book.



Let's Go Fishing with the Doctor

by Walter L. Wilson, M.D.
\$9.95

The purpose of this excellent book is to provide simple, yet very reasonable methods of witnessing to the unsaved, one at a time.

Churches would do well to provide copies for their entire staff and other members interested in winning people to Christ.



Finished

The Doucettes CD
\$15.00

1. I'm Excited 2. It's Still the Blood 3. No One Else 4. You're Still the Greatest 5. When He Sees Me 6. It Was Finished on the Cross 7. Jesus Stepped In 8. There Is a Kingdom Coming 9. Jesus Spoke to Me 10. Mercy Walked In 11. The Judgement 12. When I Go Home

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www.victorybaptistpress.com



Victory Baptist Press Bookstore is a ministry of Victory Baptist Press. Any profit made from the sale of our conservatively priced books goes toward the printing of more Bibles and Scripture portions. This is just one more way we get the word of God to a lost world.

Victory Baptist Press Bookstore

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CHALLENGES FOR GOD'S CHILDREN

Joseph Bertram

Joshua 23:1-8

The book of Joshua is the book of new beginnings for the people of God. After wandering in the wilderness for forty years, Israel was ready to claim the inheritance that God had promised them. This book of conquest is filled with strife, strategy, and slaughter; all were necessary steps of progression toward the rest they would find in Canaan Land.

In chapter twenty-three, we see that Joshua was not the capable man he used to be. He was about to travel “the way of all the earth.” With this understood, the man of God was concerned about the spiritual state of the people God had given him to lead. Joshua wanted to challenge his people one final time before he passed. He called a meeting of the leaders of the nation to assemble for his “farewell address.” In his speech, the man of God demonstrated to the people reasons why they ought to love the Lord and keep His commandments. Joshua proclaimed the protection, the provision, and the promises that they had experienced originated solely from the hand of God. He followed this explanation with three challenges for the children of Israel as they dwelt in Canaan.

1) Be Courageous in the Word (v. 6)

One cannot discuss Joshua without mentioning the devotion he had to the word of God. He not only knew the Word of God, but he knew the God of the Word. The secret behind Joshua’s “good success” was not in his intuitive military methods, but rather in his obedience to all that God commanded him to do. Likewise, the children of Israel were not victorious against their enemies merely because they were valiant warriors, but because they were committed to the Scriptures. With Joshua being the leader of the Israelites, they knew the Law of the Lord, and they knew what they must do. Joshua’s challenge to God’s children was not to attain more knowledge in the Law, it was instead to be courageous in doing what they already knew to do.

The Bible is a special Book. We as Christians can grow in grace as we reference these sacred pages. We can apply its principles to our lives as we strive to be more like Jesus Christ. Many of us have a basic understanding of the Bible. We can tell the stories and quote the verses, yet we occasionally stray away. We have the same problem Joshua alluded to for the Israelites. The problem is not a lack of knowledge, but it is a lack of following through with what we already know to do. We know what to do, we simply do not do it. We can attempt to gain all the knowledge of the Bible, but that knowledge means absolutely nothing without action.

2) Be Cautious among the World (v. 7)

The Israelites had already defeated the enemy and claimed their inheritance, yet other groups of people still lived in the land. Having

considered this, it was important that Israel remained a separate people unto God. The children of Israel were not to conform to the world around them. Knowing this, Joshua warned the Israelites specifically in the realm of idolatry. He pleaded with them that they would not be influenced into serving other gods. He told them, “Do not bow, serve, swear, or even mention the names of these idols that your neighbors are serving.” This showed them that idolatry is a gradual occurrence and a serious matter.

Although we are the minority, that is no excuse for the Christian to live as he pleases. We may be in the world, but we are not to be of the world. We should not subscribe to the world’s philosophies. Furthermore, we should not serve the gods that they serve. Now, idolatry in this day may be perceived differently than in the day of Joshua. Idolatry is not excluded to the bowing down of constructed idols, it is simply anyone or anything that we may put above God in priority or practice. What do we spend our time doing? What takes up residence in our minds? We can claim our loyalty and devotion to the one true God as much as we please, but I’m afraid our actions speak louder than our words. Our God is a jealous God. He is very particular about the throne of our hearts. If He is not number one in our life; He is number none.

3) Be Constant in the Work (v. 8)

This statement provided an appropriate summary to what Joshua had already told his people. Instead of serving other gods, they must cleave to the Lord their God. That word “cleave” possesses two opposing or contradicting definitions, otherwise known as a contronym. While one side of the definition describes the connection to one thing, the other side of the definition describes the desertion of another. To hold firmly onto something, one must release whatever he is holding. The Israelites are challenged by their leader to adhere with strong attachment to their God while leaving the idols of this world. Joshua went on to say, “as ye have done unto this day.” We like to give the Israelites a hard time for the many mistakes they historically made; but at this point, they were doing well. Joshua did not urge his people to start living for the Lord. He encouraged them to continue living for the Lord.

Many times, we desire a word of God from the man of God, motivating us to continue serving Him. One day we may need the reproof and rebuke, but other days we may need the exhortation to continue on for the cause of Christ. We must bear in remembrance the same charge that Joshua gave the Israelites. Not only should we cleave to our God, but we should be faithful in cleaving to our God. When our departure is at hand, let us be like Paul in saying we have fought a good fight, we have finished our course, and we have kept the faith.