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# THE NEWSLETTER

July–September 2023

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

## SUMMER REVIVAL

Sunday, July 16–Wednesday, July 19

with

Evangelist Dana Williams

at

Victory Baptist Church  
4000 Avalon Boulevard, Milton, Florida

Service times:

Sunday 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Monday–Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

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## Editor's Notes

**Jim & Mary Fellure**

Dear Friends,

**It has been recommended that  
Victory Baptist Press subscribe  
to Facebook!**

The following notes might seem a little off track from our usual approach, but I feel that friends of VBP, especially those who support us financially, deserve to know where we stand on certain issues. Since it has been recommended that VBP subscribe to Facebook, and others have asked

why we don't use social networking programs, I will try to face the issue as I see it.

Back in 1970, after hearing Evangelist Lester Roloff say the monster out of hell (referring to the television) would be the downfall of the nation, Mary and I believed the man of God (and many other fearless and faithful preachers of that day), and we trashed our TV.

Now, the television pales in significance to the internet, for both good and bad. I have had to change my mind, and I now believe that the internet, especially wireless, will be the downfall of the nation, simply because it would be almost impossible to function with any degree of ordinary life without an internet connection. For example: your local pharmacy, bank, supermarket, gas station, police, doctor, postal service, etc., all depend on the internet for normal operation. And at one time or another, we have all found that if we need those services, we have to have an internet connection.

Victory Baptist Press uses an email marketing program to send information to several thousand subscribers. On the other hand, **we don't subscribe to any social networking programs** because, in my humble opinion, Facebook, along with all the many other social networking programs, has been the devil's most effective means for those with an unrestrained appetite to be like the Athenians, who "spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing" (Acts 17:21)—they were addicted to gossip.

Horror stories abound telling of a good church that was split because of some carnal, disgruntled member posting some gossip on Facebook. Attorneys tell us that 30 to 40 percent of divorce cases have some sort of Facebook involvement. Plans for killing innocent people in school classrooms, shopping malls, or other places

where crowds gather, are often posted on some social networking program before they happen but are not discovered until after the tragedies take place. Then, before the dust settles, the devil uses the power of suggestion through what was posted on social media and what the talking heads in the secular news media reported, and another individual has an idea conveyed to them. That idea, in turn, becomes reality, and another mass shooting takes place.

Illustrations of evil doings of every imaginable sort, encouraged by an unrestrained use of a computer (whether it's on your desk or in your pocket) connected to the internet, are endless.

For me there is a lot of mystery connected to the internet, but one thing I know for sure—Christians should try to practice some degree of separation from the world. The internet is not designed to help you separate from the world, but rather to connect you to this present evil world, and 1 John 5:19 declares that "the whole world lieth in wickedness."

In writing this article I am not offering a rebuke or reproof to all social network users; I am simply being transparent on where we stand at Victory Baptist Press.

**Mary and I both need your prayers**

On May 24, Mary took a fall on our front porch, and because there was not an unusual amount of pain she thought she only got a bruise and the pain would soon go away, but after a couple of weeks the pain became unbearable, and the doctor discovered a broken sacrum (connected to the pelvis). She is now taking medication for the inflammation and pain, is scheduled for an MRI to detect any possible nerve damage, and will soon start physical therapy. The doctor said it will take a couple of months to heal. In the meantime, she is for the most part confined to her new recliner that our daughters, Chris and Kathy, bought. Chris comes by nearly every day and helps her keep up with her office work and does some house cleaning.

I have finished up my radiation treatments, and as far as I know there is no more cancer at this time. I now look forward to having better vision once my cataract surgery scheduled for the first week in July is over. I feel greatly blessed to not have any other health problems to report.

Thank you for your support and prayers,  
Jim Fellure

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

## Print Shop News

**Al & Heidi Berg**

Dear Friends and Supporters,  
Thank you so much for your prayers and support; both are needed and appreciated. I have said this before, but it is still true, in my life at least: there is always some type of resistance to getting things done. More than just the physical labor involved, there are all kinds of opposition. Machinery gets old and breaks down, people get sick, you sometimes push the wrong button, twist the wrong knob in the

wrong direction, and on and on it goes. But by the grace of God and your prayers, work does get done. We recently, after several delays, sent a container of Bibles and tracts to Don Rich in Peru, South America. They are scheduled to be there on July 4. Please pray they will arrive safely and will go through customs easily.

One of the hindrances I failed to mention above is paper work. To those of you who work in offices and do this every day, my hat goes off to you. I spent nearly a full day filling out all the forms needed for customs and shipping. The first time, it took me much longer, so I am improving.

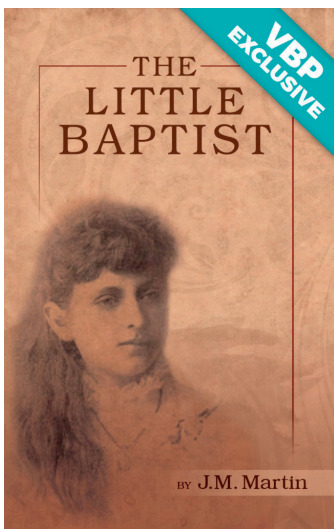
Presently we are working on printing covers for about 490,000 John/Romans in English and Spanish. The English ones are all going to New Zealand, where Missionary Josh Szwarga will be distributing them much like we do our cross cards here. The Spanish John/Romans have not been designated as yet.

Another hindrance, that will be only temporary, is that Joseph Bertram got married on June 10 and was gone two weeks honeymooning. He works mostly on the cross cards, so if you have been waiting on some, hopefully he will get them done soon.

We often say around here that we do not do this work for results. The fact is, we like to hear of good results from our work, but in reality, we never really know the full impact of what we do for the Lord. If one soul gets saved, that is good, but who knows what the impact of that one soul will be in a community, or in a nation. Think of all the famous preachers you have heard of throughout history, or for that matter, your own pastor, who studies and preaches the word in your church. They were all one soul someone led to the Lord, and they did not do it without the word of God.

There will no doubt be more hindrances along the way (unless Jesus comes very soon). Please keep praying and pressing forward. My life's verse for many years has been 1 Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." It almost seems like a contradiction that one can be both "unmoveable" and "always abounding." But I thought of the simple act of walking or running. One cannot go forward unless one foot is firmly planted to propel the rest of the body forward. If we are to abound for Him, we must be firmly planted in Him.

God bless,  
Bro. Albert Berg

***The Little Baptist***

by J. M. Martin

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First published in 1848, *The Little Baptist* was written so that a child or an adult may read it with equal enjoyment and learning.

This is the fascinating and captivating story of little ten-year-old Mellie, who, through her personal study of the Bible given to her as a gift by her older brother, came to understand the Bible way of salvation and baptism by immersion. Though raised as a Presbyterian, Mellie became a little Baptist.

Available as a paperback, downloadable PDF, and Kindle eBook.

## Memorials

Each contributor listed below, through their individual contribution, has helped provide 1,139 Bibles for the mission field.

FROM	IN MEMORY OF
Linda Woodhouse .....	<b>Roger Boyer &amp; Eunice Hulth</b>
Jim & Sue Burns .....	<b>John Yannuzzi</b>
Dr. Mark & Theresa Smith .....	<b>Edna Mae Smiley</b>
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.....	<b>Jean Ellen Dent</b>
Calvary Baptist Church of Batavia, IA .....	<b>Marlus Smith</b>
Freedom Fellowship Church .....	
.....	<b>Francis Ward &amp; Robert Cox</b>

## ABSOLUTES

At a gathering of seminary professors, one teacher reported that at his school the most damaging charge one student can lodge against another is that the person is being “judgmental.” He found this pattern very upsetting. “You can’t get a good argument going in class anymore,” he said. “As soon as somebody takes a stand on any important issue, someone else says that the person is being judgmental. And that’s it. End of discussion.”

Being civil doesn’t mean that we cannot criticize what goes on around us. Civility doesn’t require us to approve of what other people believe and do. It is one thing to insist that other people have the right to express their basic convictions; it is another thing to say that they are right in doing so. Civility requires us to live by the first of these principles. But it does not commit us to the second formula. To say that all beliefs and values deserve to be treated as if they were on a par is to endorse relativism—a perspective that is incompatible with Christian faith and practice. Christian civility does not mean refusing to make judgments about what is good and true. For one thing, it really isn’t possible to be completely nonjudgmental. Even telling someone else that she is being judgmental is a rather judgmental thing to do!

—Richard J. Mouw, *Uncommon Decency*, pp. 20–21.

## Field Reps



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## Benefits &amp; Blessings



Mrs. Pam Leake

## Granddaddy's Rose

Outside our back door, by the patio, there is a small rose bush. My father-in-law gave it to us over twenty-five years ago, and it has been in the same location all these years. He was a dear man, gentle and wise, and he has been greatly missed since he moved to his heavenly home in 2003. Roses were a favorite of his, and he had a small, but well-tended, rose garden at his house, so it was a blessing to us when he gifted us this rose bush for our home. There's nothing special about this rose when you look at it, because it has not grown much over the years, though it has survived many cold winters and bad weather. At times we wonder if the bush is going to make it, but it always revives and produces a new stem or two when spring arrives. It is not loaded with blooms as my other roses are, normally producing only one or two buds each season, but the rose bloom itself is very special to us. It is a deep red, long stem rose, with the sweetest fragrance that causes you to want to get close and smell it often. My husband and I look forward to the arrival of this special bloom each year, and I always cut it while it is in the bud stage so that we can enjoy it on our dining room table for as long as possible.

Besides being a reminder of the love we had for my husband's father and his love for us, this rose always evokes memories of special times we shared with him as a family. As the rose sits on our table, each day that we have to enjoy it will cause us to share a special memory or two of "Granddaddy," as he was affectionately called by us and our daughter. These remembrances are a treasure to our hearts. I believe God has given us the gift of memory, allowing us to cherish those special experiences of the past and those we love. Granted, there are the bad memories no one likes to recall, but those good memories, those heart-warming special moments are a gift from the Lord.

Why are memories important? Because when we reminisce, or look back upon past experiences, and contemplate those friends, family, and acquaintances that made a mark on our lives, we can also see and realize God's hand in our walk with Him. There are many times when my husband and I, in our conversation over special memories, will realize that the Lord's hand was in the events and the lives of people we have been blessed to know. Things they said to us, the kindnesses shown to us and the lessons learned from their lives are often brought to the forefront in our memories of them. Above all, the memories of the Lord's goodness and love in our lives should provoke us to worship Him and praise Him, meditating on how He has orchestrated our lives, creating the tapestry that is uniquely ours.

Granddaddy's rose—a relatively small, insignificant plant—has been a constant reminder through the years of not only precious memories of a departed loved one, but in the beauty and fragrance of its bloom, it continues to remind us of the faithfulness, beauty, and sweetness of the Lord in our lives. Our prayer is that He would sustain that little plant and keep those memories in the forefront of our minds so that we never forget the goodness of God!

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



## A WASTE OF TIME

**H**ow would you like to spend two years making phone calls to people who aren't home? Sound absurd? According to one time management study, that's how much time the average person spends trying to return calls to people who never seem to be in. Not only that, we spend six months waiting for the traffic light to turn green, and another eight months reading junk mail. These unusual statistics should cause us to do time-use evaluation. Once we recognize that simple "life maintenance" can chip away at our time in such huge blocks, we will see how vital it is that we don't busy ourselves "in vain" (Psalm 39:6).

Psalm 39 gives us some perspective. In David's complaint to God, he said, "Behold, thou hast made my days as an hand-breadth; and mine age *is* as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state *is* altogether vanity" (v. 5). He meant that to an eternal God our time on earth is brief, and He doesn't want us to waste it. When we do, we throw away one of the most precious commodities He gives us. Each minute is an irretrievable gift—an unredeemable slice of eternity.

Sure, we have to make the phone calls, and we must wait at the light. But what about the rest of our time? Are we using it to advance the cause of Christ and to enhance our relationship with Him? Is our time well spent?

—Source Unknown

## Depth of Mercy

by Charles Wesley

*Depth of mercy, can there be  
Mercy still reserved for me?  
Can my God His wrath forbear me  
The chief of sinners, spare?*

*Heaven find me on my knees  
Hear my soul in passionate pleas  
Depth of mercy, can there be  
Mercy still reserved for me?*

*Now incline me to repent  
Let me now my sins lament  
Deeply my revolt deplore  
Weep, believe and sin no more*

*Heaven find me on my knees  
Hear my soul in passionate pleas  
Depth of mercy, can there be  
Mercy still reserved for me?*

*Heaven find me on my knees  
Hear my soul in passionate pleas  
Depth of mercy, can there be  
Mercy still reserved, mercy still reserved  
Mercy still reserved for me?*

—Copied from page 6  
of Dr. T. S. Rendall's book  
*God Is Able for These Times*

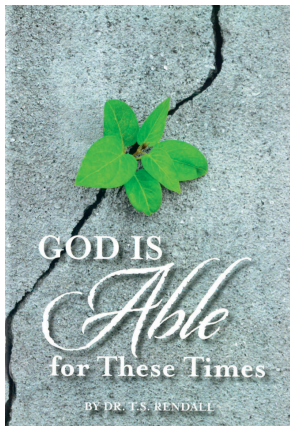


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## ***God Is Able for These Times***

by Dr. T. S. Rendall

277 pages \$16.95

What does it really mean to say that “God is able,” especially in the midst of our own limitations? To answer this question, we must start and end with what God has revealed about Himself. Dr. Rendall has gone to God's Word to find the answer, and he has shared it with us in this most excellent book.

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## The Pastor's Page



Tim Fellure

## The Saddest Song Psalm 88

One of the most beloved English poets was William Cowper (1731–1800). Cowper was close friends with John Newton and was an ardent abolitionist who wrote much against slavery, but he is best known for the many hymns he gave us. One of his hymns we still sing is “There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood.” In his poem “Light Shining Out of Darkness,” he gave us the words, “God moves in a mysteri-

ous way, His wonders to perform. He plants his footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm.” It is well-known that Cowper suffered from chronic depression and mental illness. He was institutionalized as a young man for insanity, and even after his conversion, often dreamed that he was doomed to eternal damnation. The death of his mother at a very early age had such an effect on him that he wrote a poem about her fifty years after she had died. Throughout his life he would go through dark seasons of depression, he attempted suicide at least three times, and was in and out of several asylums for his mental health issues. In 1796 he lost a dear friend, and it sent him into a dark gloom from which he never recovered. It was during these last four years of his life that he wrote what many believe was his last work, titled “The Castaway.” The poem is the story of a sailor who is lost at sea when he is washed overboard in a storm, but the last stanzas reveal Cowper was really writing about himself.

No voice divine the storm allayed,  
No light propitious shone;  
When, snatched from all effectual aid,  
We perished, each alone;  
But I beneath a rougher sea,  
And whelmed in deeper gulfs than he.

With depression so pervasive in his life, William Cowper could have been the penman of Psalm 88 had he lived in Bible times. Psalm 88 is unique as the saddest psalm of the Psalter. If we are looking for daily encouragement, we should skip this psalm, for there is not one note of hope in it. Many psalms start out describing distress or trouble, but always end up expressing hope in God, but not this one. It is as one writer described, “One wail of sorrow from beginning to end.” The writer is suffering, but there is no clear reason why. He does tell us that his problems have been ongoing since his youth (v. 15). It is possible he suffers from leprosy (vv. 8–9), he feels his affliction is chastisement from God (vv. 7, 16), and he is despondent enough to wish to die (v. 15). The writer is a man

named Heman, but commentators are divided as to his identity. We cannot be sure who Heman was or what caused the darkness of his soul, but the psalm does allow us to see into the heart of one who feels overwhelmed. And from this sad song, we can learn what a believer must do when we find ourselves “beneath a rougher sea, and whelmed in deeper gulfs than he.”

### Keep Praying

Every word in this psalm is a prayer directed to God. He prays audibly—“I have cried.” He prays emotionally—“Mine eye mourneth by reason of affliction.” He prays continually—“I have cried day and night before thee.” He prays honestly—there is nothing irreverent or blasphemous about his prayer. Four times he addresses God as “LORD,” the name of God that refers to Him as the covenant-keeping God. Thus, this psalm teaches us that even in the worst of circumstances we can still talk to God. Even in his despair, he still acknowledges the salvation of God (v. 1), the lovingkindness and faithfulness of God (v. 11), and the righteousness of God (v. 12). He still knows God, he still believes in God, he still desires God.

### Keep Praising

There is only one spark of hope in this psalm, found in the psalmist's first statement—“O LORD God of my salvation.” Ponder that: no matter how dark the valley, how deep the pain, how difficult the way, if you are saved you can still praise Him for that. Praise will not make your pain or problems disappear, but praise will bring you into the presence of the Lord. It is okay to weep and pour your anguish out before the Lord, but don't get off your knees until you have praised Him for His salvation.

### Keep Persevering

The psalmist asks eight questions of God that are not answered. God does not speak in this psalm, but God's greatest work is often done in silence. God is not mentioned once in Genesis 37, when Joseph is sold by his brothers into slavery. Jesus cried out to the Father from the cross, but no answer came. God's silence does not indicate absence. In those times when the heavens were shut, God was doing His greatest work.

The psalmist came to the place where, though he could not see God, he could still trust Him. And when your soul is overwhelmed, remember that it is only for a short time until God begins to speak peace to your heart. For though Psalm 88 is a dark song, the next psalm is a delightful song. “I will sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations.” Psalms 88 and 89 are the only two psalms written by an Ezrahite. Heman the Ezrahite (Psalm 88) and Ethan the Ezrahite (Psalm 89) could have been brothers (1 Kings 4:31), and it is only imagination that Ethan wrote his psalm to encourage Heman. That is only speculation, but it is not speculation that God can send you a song in your darkest hours that will lift your spirits and give you hope in His faithfulness.