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THE NEWSLETTER

October–December 2023

“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

Dear Friends,

We are going through some very important changes at the print shop, and the indication is that, if implemented properly, the best days for this ministry are yet to come.

It's been stated over and over again that the central purpose of VBP since its beginning has been to print and distribute Scriptures, whether they be whole Bibles or Bible portions, to as many people as possible without charge. In order to fulfill that purpose, there must be printing equipment, and out of all the equipment in the VBP shop, the most important is the big web press; it is more than fifty years old but is in good working condition. Then, there must be someone to run the press faithfully and skillfully. Our main pressman over the past thirty-nine years has been Al Berg, but he is now sixty-three years of age, and though our hopes are that he stays on the job for the rest of his life, in the last couple of years he has made the very wise decision to train Joe Bertram and Daniel Kendrick to run the big press. Brother Al could not have made a better choice than these young men to train to do his job when the time comes.

Brother Al's daughter Sarah has been working full-time in the office for over ten years and has been invaluable, but she and Ronald Slutz have their wedding day set for November 11, and after that she will no longer be able to work full-time for VBP. Our prayer

is that if the Lord doesn't come first, He will give Ron and Sarah many fruitful years to serve the Lord together.

Grace Kendrick worked in the office with Sarah until she married last year and moved away. Then the Lord almost immediately sent us Leah Seely (an extremely intelligent and talented young lady) to take Grace's place, but she is now pregnant and no longer works in the VBP office. However, the Lord had Lori Seely ready to step in and take Leah's place. Like the other workers, Lori brought with her a boatload of intelligence and talent. We are now praying and waiting on the Lord to send us another office worker to take Sarah's place.

The next transition has been in the making for several months, and even some of my preacher friends have said they felt this one coming. In August of this year, I turned eighty-one years old, and with a few health issues that come with old age, I have no doubt that for the future success of Scripture printing, the time for me to step aside is now, and I believe Joe Bertram is the right man to take my place. I am by no means leaving the VBP ministry. I will still be available for anything that is needed that I can do. In fact, it has already been suggested that for now I continue as editor of *The Newsletter*. We are just making the transition to new and more qualified leadership.

Please pray for the future success of VBP as we make these changes and strive to do more for our wonderful Lord.

Thank you for your support and prayers,

Jim Fellure

MORDECAI'S METHOD

The book of Esther tells the story of wicked Haman using the Persian empire postal system to send a letter with a death sentence upon every Jew to every province in Persia. When those Jews received that letter the Bible declares that Shushan, Persia's capitol city, was perplexed (Esther 3:15). However, the Lord had His man, Mordecai, on hand ready to use the same postal system to send a letter of life to the same 127 provinces. When the Jews received that letter, we read in the last three verses of Esther, chapter eight, "the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad. The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour. And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment [the letter of life] and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them."

Victory Baptist Press has taken Mordecai's method as an example, and for the last two years has used the USPS's Every Door Direct Mail to help more than one hundred fundamental Baptist churches saturate their communities with the glorious Gospel of Christ. Many areas are restricted or closed to the public but not to the postman. Already, if the USPS has done its job, these mailouts of the **Cross Cards** with nine select verses of Scripture and a QR code connected to a gospel video presentation in English, Spanish, Russian, and Chinese have been mailed to 2.4 million households in the US. And each and every week several thousand more of the cards are mailed out with the prayer that many souls for whom Christ shed His precious blood will come to know Him as their personal Lord and Saviour.

Print Shop News

**Al & Heidi Berg**

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We have recently purchased fourteen rolls of paper at a good price (good for today's prices anyway) to print one hundred thousand John/Romans for missionary Josh Szwarga in New Zealand. There will also be enough to print thirty thousand additional John/Romans in English and forty-six thousand in Spanish. We are ready to start collating, binding and trimming as soon as we get boxes for

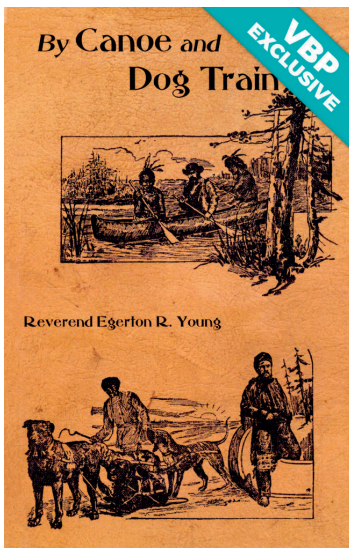
Bro. Szwarga's project. According to Bro. Szwarga, the agency that will be doing the mailing wants two hundred booklets in boxes that weigh not more than eleven kilograms. Unfortunately, two hundred John/Romans weigh more than eleven kilograms, but we have recently learned that two hundred in a box will do, even though it is overweight. Bro. Szwarga's plan is to mail a John/Romans to every household in New Zealand, much like we do with the cross cards here in the United States. He is planning on one million John/Romans going out in this fashion. Please pray that he can accomplish this goal, and pray for all the printing ministries trying to help him. I think others are also having the same problem with the piece count and weight.

In some family news, there is some good news/bad news. The good news is that our daughter Sarah will be getting married in

November of this year. The bad news is that Sarah will be getting married in November of this year. Her fiancé, Ronald, was actually born here over thirty years ago, but his family moved away when he was quite young. His dad took jobs all over the country, and a few foreign ones, over the years. Both his family and Ronald decided to move back to the area last summer. Ronald and Sarah began courting in February and became engaged this summer. Bro. Jeff (Ronald's dad) has kept in touch all these years and has been a faithful supporter of Victory Baptist Press. The rest of the bad news is that Sarah will be working fewer hours, or worse, may not be able to continue in the print shop. She is a vital part of the office staff here and will be very hard to replace.

In other news, please pray for my wife, Heidi. We have several people on our prayer list in the shop with much more serious issues, but she has been experiencing double vision for almost a month now. The good news is that none of the tests indicate any kind of stroke or neurological damage, but it is something in the eye causing the double vision. Her optometrist said it was nothing to worry about for now, and in about five to seven years cataract surgery may be required. I had to wonder if he was seeing double if he thought he should wait five to seven years to get it fixed! Anyway, she is to see an ophthalmologist for a second opinion soon. Please pray she can get this resolved long before five years are up.

May God bless you,
Bro. Albert Berg

**By Canoe and Dog Train**

by Reverend Egerton R. Young

297 pages: Price 15.95

This is the story of the Youngs—missionaries to the Indians of northern Canada. Reverend Young was the pastor of a thriving church and newly married when he was given an unexpected commission. 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.

Note: Mrs. Heidi Berg found this book several years ago in a Helping Hand Mission store and out of curiosity bought it for her husband. After reading the book, Brother Al said it was the most interesting mission book he had ever read. Victory Baptist Press then put this great old out-of-print book back in print.

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

Memorials

Each contributor listed below, through their individual contribution, has helped provide 1,202 Bibles for the mission field.

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Benefits & Blessings

**Mrs. Pam Leake****Finding Blessings
in Any Season**

Since I have begun writing these articles quarterly, the deadlines arrive in each of the four seasons that we experience here in Virginia. I love that we enjoy the changing seasons and the variations in the weather that come along with them. Of course I have my favorites—spring and fall, because of the pleasant tempera-

tures and gorgeous colors in nature—but I can always find blessings as well in the more extreme conditions of winter and summer.

The fact is that God created the seasons and “a time to every purpose under the heaven.” This passage in Ecclesiastes 3 not only includes the seasons in nature, but also seasons in life, and concludes in verse 11, “He hath made every *thing* beautiful in his time . . .”

The wise and powerful Creator makes no mistake, and has a purpose in everything He does. That being said, I must confess that it is not always easy to enter and experience the different seasons of life and the attending challenges and difficulties. Discovering the blessings can sometimes be hard to do. The changing seasons in nature most often move gradually from one to the next, allowing us to adjust and prepare for what will come—just as when I walked through the nice green grass of the backyard which was in need of a trim, yet was then being sprinkled with fallen leaves from the poplar and chestnut trees, I knew the grass mowing would soon be replaced with leaf raking! Past experience teaches us what to expect and what will likely take place during each season and how we can prepare to face the weather to come.

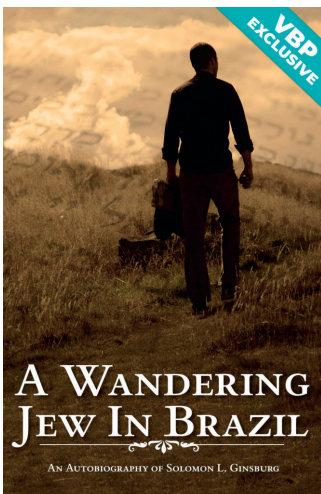
However, in life that is not always the case. A new “season” of life can come upon us with little notice, catching us off guard and unprepared to deal with great change. Doubt and uncertainty and fear are tools of the wicked one to get us to question whether God really cares for us, or if He is in control at all.

For those of us who are God's children, these changing seasons of life are not outside of His plan. He indeed is in control and has a purpose in all that He does, and He is always working to mature us and make us more like Him. The confidence and trust we have in Him because of His proven love and faithfulness may be tested, and we may struggle through some powerful storms and fearful unknowns, but our foundation is sure! The Word of God is His love letter of assurance to us that He has us in the palm of His hand, and we can say with the psalmist, “*He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust*” (Psalm 91:2).

I've been blessed to enjoy many beautiful times of “spring” and “fall” in my life. They were used to develop certain characteristics in me that the Lord could use for His purposes. But the less enjoyable seasons of life, that to me may seem unpleasant and difficult, He also has allowed. They are also being used for His purposes. Why? Because He's still working on me, to make me what I ought to be.

The molding and shaping process cannot be done without the purifying and purging necessary to complete His handiwork. I want to be pliable in His hands and not rebel against the work He is doing even in the seemingly unpleasant seasons of life, and then I can enjoy the peace and contentment that only He can give.

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 Wandering Jew in Brazil**

An Autobiography of Solomon L. Ginsburg

220 pages: Price \$13.95

Solomon was born into the home of a Jewish Rabbi and trained to be a Jewish teacher. However, as a young man, Ginsburg 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.

This autobiography is an absolute must-read book.

What Is Revival?

Revival is the visitation of God which brings to life Christians who have been sleeping and restores a deep sense of God's near presence and holiness. Thence springs a vivid sense of sin and a profound exercise of heart in repentance, praise, and love, with an evangelistic outflow. Each revival movement has its own distinctive features, but the pattern is the same every time.

First God comes. On New Year's Eve 1739, John Wesley, George Whitefield, and some of their friends held a "love feast" which became a watch night of prayer to see the New Year in. At about 3 a.m., Wesley wrote, "the power of God came mightily upon us, insomuch that many cried for exceeding joy, and many fell to the ground." Revival always begins with a restoration of the sense of the closeness of the Holy One.

Second, the Gospel is loved as never before. The sense of God's nearness creates an overwhelming awareness of one's own sins and sinfulness, and so the power of the cleansing blood of Christ is greatly appreciated.

Then repentance deepens. In the Ulster revival in the 1920s, shipyard workers brought back so many stolen tools that new sheds had to be built to house the recovered property! Repentance results in restitution.

Finally, the Spirit works fast: godliness multiplies, Christians mature, converts appear. Paul was at Thessalonica for less than three weeks, but God worked quickly and Paul left a virile church behind him.

—James Packer, *Your Father Loves You*, Harold Shaw Publishers, 1986.

Although the apathy of some Christians and the wickedness of society are discouraging, we should pray and remain confident. William Wilberforce was a great Christian philanthropist and vigorous opponent of the slave trade in England during the early 1800s. As he surveyed the terrible moral and spiritual climate of his day, he did not lose hope. He wrote, "My own solid hopes for the well-being of my country depend, not so much on her navies or armies, nor on the wisdom of her rulers, nor on the spirit of her people, as on the persuasion that she still contains many who love and obey the Gospel of Christ. I believe that their prayers may yet prevail." Within a few years after he made that statement, the country he loved experienced one of the greatest revivals in modern times, bringing salvation to thousands and producing widespread social changes.

—Source Unknown



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Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?

Psalm 85:6



Fire in the Church

by Dr. T. S. Rendall

167 pages: Price \$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. Although Mr. Rendall points out some of the common characteristics of past revivals, 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"

— Theodore H. Epp (1907–1985)

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The Pastor's Page



Tim Fellure

Teach Us to Number Our Days

Psalm 90

Psalm 90 is the oldest psalm in the psalter and the only psalm attributed to Moses. The psalmist sets out two contrasting themes: the glory of God and the frailty of man. God is eternal; man is made of dust. So this is a psalm for life; it gives us a foothold for times of sorrow and uncertainty by reminding us of our God and how

He is not affected by the frailty of our lives. Though we are frail, our God is mighty. If all you focus on is the horizontal dimension of life, then it brings discouragement and depression; but if you buttress that with a vertical view of life and look up, then there is encouragement and even joy.

Embrace Eternity (vv. 1-2)

There is an aspect to life that transcends your seventy or eighty years here on earth. If life is only earth-bound—enjoyment, entertainment, possessions—then you are going to waste the years God gives you. You cannot possibly live life correctly, much less for the glory of God, if you do not anchor your philosophy of life in God.

The natural man looks at life as nothing more than a continuum between two points: birth and death and that which is in between. But a Christian says, “My life was planned by a God who has always been in existence. With eternity in my soul, I know there will be more to come after death than what will have already been in life. There is never a moment in any circumstance that the eternal God is not accomplishing His purpose in me.”

Any interpretation of life that does not begin and end with God is faulty. “In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him” (Ecc. 7:14). When you are having a day of prosperity, enjoy it; but when you are in a day of adversity, know that God made the one as well as the other. You can’t view one day as coming from God, and the other as a mistake or tragedy. We must learn to measure every day through the eternal purpose of God.

Embrace Brevity (vv. 3-6)

I figure into life that God is eternal and my life is in His hands, but I also calculate that life is short and death is the certain end of it. We are but mortal beings living in temporary housing passing through a transient world. It is important to accept this because prosperity has a way of lulling us into a false sense of security. Today was like yesterday **SO** tomorrow will be like today, and on it goes. This thinking begins to shape our life: what I don’t get done today, I always

have tomorrow; I have good health today, so I know I’ll have good health tomorrow; because today is a good day, I’m sure the rest of the days will be good days. There is an unconscious assumption in our hearts that life is going to continue on like it always has.

If you have ever visited Niagara Falls you have been impressed with the powerful force of water. The current is so powerful that if you were to fall into the river near the falls, you would be swept to a certain death. But if you were to go upstream a couple of miles, the river would be calm. You could take a canoe or inner tube and float ever so gently down the river. And while you would not be worried about it in the serene calmness of that river, there would be a very slight current carrying you toward the falls. We sometimes look at life as being in that river: everything is okay because today is just as serene as yesterday. But there is an unseen current in your life that is pulling you toward the certainty of death. A right view of life must take into account brevity.

Embrace Priority (v. 12)

“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” If someone gave you a thousand dollars and told you it had to last you for the rest of the week, the temptation would be to be loose with that money. If you had only five dollars to spend on all your necessities for the week, you would be much more careful with the money. We think we’re in a pool just floating around, when in reality we’re in the river being carried toward the waterfall. We have one chance at this thing called life, so the psalmist urges us to get it right the first time.

Picture yourself in your old age, sitting in a rocking chair on the porch of your house. You realize you are at the end of life: so you begin to reflect on your long years. You don’t get to go back and redo anything: there are no mulligans and repeats in life. What has been done, is! As you reflect on your life, what would you want to see? What would be success to you? What would be regret to you? If you are about to give an account of your life to God, what do you want to present to Him?

There are a lot of people who sit in that rocking chair and they have nothing but regrets. They did not live as a Christian, they destroyed their family, they spent all their money on foolish things, they harbored sins for years and never tried to get any victory. They realize they have wasted the one life they had to live and everything is utter emptiness.

I am fifty-four years of age and feel the current of the river more than in my younger years. I used to never feel the current, but the farther I go down the river, the faster it flows and the more I feel it. It would be a great tragedy to live a long life and have nothing to show for it. I pray the Lord will help us do something, make something, leave something behind enduring so it is not just a frivolous, wasted life.