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*. . . is to Love the World*

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# THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

## *Blueprint for World Missions*

*by A.T. Pierson*

Jesus found in His Father's Word full provision to meet His every need during His life and ministry. The Word was His sword in temptation, His stay in trial, and His guide in teaching. Its prophecies were the seals of His messiahship, its precepts the rule of His obedience and its promises the balm for His suffering. Through life He had no grander theme, and in death no richer legacy. Modern critics often handle it with irreverent hands, but to Him it was sacred in every part.

Today the orchestration of worldwide missions presents us with some difficult and timeless questions... Should we look for true guidance in anything beyond the oracles of God? Where shall we turn for guidance if not to these very oracles? Over these "pillars of Hercules" is forevermore written, *ne plus ultra* (no more beyond). Beyond this word, there is nothing satisfactory, nothing needful. God has magnified His word above all His name, and herein lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

On this principle then we should seek to practically apply the Acts of the Apostles to world missions. The Acts prove themselves to be both a history and a philosophy of missions in one. What is found in the four Gospels in precept and principle is found in the Acts of the Apostles in practice and application. The gospel teaching as set forth by Luke the Evangelist is applied literally and historically by the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Luke, who in the gospel tells us what Jesus "began," in the Acts tells us what He "continued, both to do and teach," by the Spirit through disciples. Pentecost links Old Testament prophecy with New Testament history. The Gospel is successively opening the door of faith to Hebrew, Roman, and Greek believers. This is the book of witness, both man's witness to God, and God's witness to man. It is the sequel of the gospels, and the whole basis of the epistles.

Acts is not so much the acts of the apostles per se, more so, it is the acts of the Holy Spirit

and of the risen Redeemer in the person of the Comforter. It is here the Spirit is seen applying the truth and the blood to the penitent believers followed directly by anointing them for service. After that they are sent forth as heralds and witnesses to preach the kingdom, to make disciples, and to organize disciples into churches.

It is interesting to note that the period of time covered by this book is only about thirty-three years—the length of our Lord’s human life, which is the average of one generation. This should serve to teach us what could and should be done in every successive generation even until the end of the world itself! The Acts of the Apostles thus forms one great, inspired book of missions, God’s own commentary and encyclopedia for all ages as to every question that touches this world’s evangelization.

The initial chapters of the Acts bear the designing marks of a great sequel, not only to the gospel of Luke but of all the four gospels. It braids together into one their four strands of testimony. In the structure of the New Testament this is the entablature resting upon and uniting the four columns which support it and which it surmounts. Hence, to read this book aright, we must perceive its fourfold character or aspect. It is the book of the advent of the Holy Spirit, and of the generation of the Church of Christ, begotten of the Spirit in the womb of our humanity. It is the beginning of the gospel of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Godhead. It is the orderly setting forth of the great fact and truth of the Spirit’s outpouring, as most surely believed among those who were eyewitnesses of His majestic advent. And it is the first clear revelation of His persona, that in the beginning the Spirit of God was with God and was God.

In a word, what the fourfold gospel is to Christ, the Acts of the Apostles is to the Spirit. It

is the inspired account of the Spirit’s advent, and of the birth of the Bride of Christ. It is the beginning of the gospel of the Spirit’s presence and power. It reveals and declares the supreme secret of a spiritual life of holiness and faithful service to be none other than the inner working

and power of the Spirit of God. And finally, it is the unveiling of His eternal identity with, and procession from, the Godhead. Truly this book is the Acts of the Holy Spirit.

Thus, the advent of the Spirit, and His activity in and through the Church, are the keys, which open the doors to all the chambers in this House of the Interpreter. From the first chapter to the last, the theme is the same: the coming of the Spirit to apply the truth, arouse the conscience, soften the heart, subdue the will, anoint the tongue, and hallow the lip.

Is the advent of the Spirit an attempt to take the place of the absent Lord? Nay, rather it is to make real to believers the promise of His perpetual presence by becoming to every renewed soul all that Christ would have been had He remained on earth. Hence, to the Church, this book of the Acts is the Principia embody-

ing the great laws and principles for our guidance in the work of missions. It is the history of primitive missions, illustrating the practical operation of these laws and principles during one whole generation.

Yet this book is manifestly and designedly incomplete, unfinished. This unfinished character is shown forth both in its beginning and its closure. The opening statement, “*The former treatise have I made O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach until the day in which He was taken up,*” implies that this latter book was now going to show what Jesus continued to do and teach *after* He was taken up. This introduction qualifies this book as a continuance and

“It is interesting to note that the period of time covered by this book is only about thirty-three years...which is the average of one generation. This should serve to teach us what could and should be done in every successive generation even until the end of the world itself!”



sequel to a previous narrative, which is necessary to its full interpretation. Accordingly, we are prepared to see Christ in the Acts continuing His words and works through the Spirit. He, who for forty days after His resurrection gave in His personal presence many infallible proofs of the reality of that resurrection, here gives equally infallible proofs of His perpetual presence in the work of the Holy Spirit.

But when do the Acts of the Apostles stop? How long will He continue to work and teach in this manner? So long as He has a believing body of disciples who still go forth into all the world as witnesses bearing His message. The wondrous story opens with the endowment of Power, and throughout exhibits its effect in qualifying witnesses for their work. There is never any hint that this Power ever was, or will be, withdrawn. The narrative stops, but the history goes on. Wherever devout disciples claim in prayer and by faith their full share in that Pentecostal fullness, they may go forth endowed with power from on High. Throughout all the ages, wherever Christ's witnesses have gone forth in obedience to His word, the same essential marks have attended their service and explained their success.

If we now turn to the conclusion of the Acts, we find a closure so abrupt that it suggests yet again a continuance and sequel. The curtain of silence suddenly falls upon a scene of continued action. Paul, dwelling in his own rented house, is still seen receiving all who come unto him, preaching the Kingdom of God, and teaching those things, which concern the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul's life is not brought to a close, and his work at Rome is still in progress. Surely this

is an unfinished picture; the canvas awaits other touches and tints from the Divine Artist.

New scenes in the lives of today's missionaries are to supply new chapters. The last two verses furnish a formula for all true witnesses through all time. Change all but the name, and the number of the years, and each successive disciple may here find a brief exposition of his life and labor. For whoever fulfills his mission adds one more unpretending entry to this apostolic record. You may think of yourself as less than the least of all saints. Yet if in obedience to your Lord



and dependence on His Spirit you spread the good tidings, to you this grace is given. Your service adds one more link in that golden chain that reaches from the upper chamber of the Jewish capital to the bridal chamber of the New Jerusalem. Furthermore, it unites into one glorious succession all in whom Jesus continues by the Spirit to speak and work.

We have therefore written discriminatingly in referring to the Acts of the Apostles as closing rather than ending, for the story comes to no proper conclusion, and is designedly left incomplete. Here is the story of only a single generation. However, no generation ever reaches completeness, but is linked and woven into the next, and its history merges into that of its successor as today melts into tomorrow. This is still the case in the work of world missions today. No eye can trace the point where the mission of one of God's witnesses ends and that of another begins. Paul's preaching and teaching still form threads in the fabric of missionary history, and will unto the end.

But in a grander sense, the Acts of the Apostles reaches no conclusion. Nor will the age of missions ever end, until this Divine Mission

of witness to men is accomplished. Therefore, this book left incomplete, and it always will be while one believer is left to teach and preach those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ and to fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in his own flesh for His body's sake—which is the Church.

Owen, in his *Pneumatologia* (study of the Holy Spirit), affirms that every age has its own test of orthodoxy or apostasy, and that the criterion of a standing or falling Church in this age is found in its attitude toward the Spirit of God.

The dispensation of the gospel age belongs especially to the person of the Holy Spirit. This divine person peculiarly fills the horizon as we study the Acts of the Apostles; and we cannot open the pages of this book of the Acts without starting an inquiry that is fundamental in importance. What is the actual place which Pentecost fills in Christian history? Was that outpouring both the first and the last, or only the foremost in a series of similar effusions? Was that revelation of the Spirit's power and presence full and final, or was it, like Christ's own advent, only the beginning of miracles and wonders with others to follow? And is that first advent of the Spirit to be succeeded by another, even more glorious, at the end of the age?

Christ's Incarnation was in fact a hiding of His true self behind a veil of flesh. His star in the East, seen by a few wise watchers, guided them to his cradle, and a few holy souls who waited for His salvation were not taken by surprise. A little band of disciples felt His love and bowed to His claims. They saw His glory shine at times when, as in the Transfiguration and Ascension, His disguise was laid aside. In fact, His Baptism, Transfiguration, Resurrection, Ascension, were stages of the revelation of His glory. This glory will be fully disclosed when at His second coming the curtain is finally lifted and the last act in this divine drama completes the marvelous manifestation.

It has been commonly assumed, without Scriptural warrant, that on the day of Pentecost the Spirit was once for all poured out. Thenceforth, that Spirit was to dwell in the individual believer, and especially in the collective body of believers—the Church. Because of this idea, some hold that to pray for the outpourings

of the Spirit, either upon saints or sinners implies absurdity and contradiction, since He is already bestowed upon and abiding in the Church.

To this position exception may certainly be taken. First of all, there is an exegetical difficulty in the way. The inspired Scriptures are marked by exactness in the use of words which show that the Spirit guided in language as well as in thought. When Peter quotes that unique prediction of Joel, "I will pour out my Spirit upon *all flesh*," his words are carefully chosen. He does not say, "Now *is fulfilled* that which was foretold by Joel;" but, "*this is that which was spoken by Joel.*"

Peter might naturally have said, at Pentecost, "Now is fulfilled that which was spoken;" but Joel's perdition was not then fulfilled. The "great and terrible day of the Lord" is yet to come, and the wonders in heaven above and in the earth beneath have yet to be wrought. And another and greater effusion—the universal outpouring of the Spirit upon all flesh—is in the future. Joel's prophecy, though not fulfilled, furnished the true philosophy of Pentecost. Explaining what was then seen and heard spectators said, "These men are full of new wine." Peter answered that this was not spirituous intoxication but spiritual exhilaration! They were not drunk with wine wherein is excess, but were filled with the Spirit, the new wine from heaven's vineyards!

Careful comparison of the second chapters of Joel and of the Acts must convince us that the cup of prediction has not yet been full to the brim, and waits for a more copious outpouring. Pentecost was the summer shower after long drought; the final outpouring will make springs gush forth and turn the desert into a garden, and a thousand rills, singing their song, shall blend in rivers of grace that roll like a liquid anthem to the sea.

This distinction is more than grammatical; it is philosophical. A renewed heart must neither lose its renewal nor let go its Renewer. But the anointed tongue needs its special unction only while it is used in witness for Christ. Charles G. Finney held that a true servant of God might have more than one endowment. And he who, even in spiritual self-culture, forgets his call to service, may forfeit his endowment. It is possible to be so absorbed in the permanent ministry of

the indwelling Spirit as to overlook the occasional ministry of the enduing Spirit.

Even if it be conceded that, on the day of outpouring, the Spirit was once for all given in saving and sanctifying power, it does not follow that He does not, from time to time, come anew to saints in gifts of power for witnessing and working. Some careful Bible students regard Pentecost as a baptism wherein the Spirit was outpoured as into a vast reservoir, and would now urge disciples to ask not for a baptism of the Spirit, but to be *filled* with the Spirit, like empty vessels dipped into this Divine fullness.

But our contention is not for a form of statement. One practical question remains... Are we in faith and by prayer to seek for new effusions of power from on High? Should we expect tongues of fire to make our witness a Divine flame? Here lies the hope of worldwide missions. Without some new unction from the Spirit, we shall never feel that burning fire shut up in our bones which compels us to witness; nor will our witness without that be a power. If there is any way that this lost power from apostolic days may be recovered to the Church, it is most likely going to be from the severe school of fasting and prayer. A Church half-asleep and a world wholly dead waits for such a renaissance.

Yet a third argument is the historical. Pentecost was not the last, but only the first outpouring. It actually opened a series of such manifestations. This book of the Acts records repeated wonders similar in kind if not in degree.

When Philip preached in Samaria, and the rumor of his success reached Jerusalem, Peter and John were sent thither by the Apostles. When they came down, they prayed for the Samaritan converts that "*they might receive the Holy Ghost; for as yet He was fallen upon none of them.*" After they came they also received the Spirit and similar signs followed as at Jerusalem.

Again, at Cesarea, when Peter first preached to a representative Roman audience, as he began to speak the Holy Spirit fell on them, and as he expressly adds, "*as on us at the beginning.*" Here, once more were the signs of the first Pentecost wrought, repeated even in the gift of tongues. The gathering of the kinsmen, friends and retainers of the Centurion in the palace of the Caesars is believed to have exceeded in number the orig-

inal hundred and twenty at Jerusalem! Certainly the results were proportionately larger, for the Holy Spirit fell on all those that heard the word.

Yet again, at Ephesus, among the Greeks, Paul found certain disciples, probably adherents of Apollos, who had not gotten beyond John's preliminary baptism of repentance. When Paul laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them also, and they spake with tongues and prophesied.

Thus, within the bounds of this book and the limits of one generation, three instances are on record subsequent to the day of Pentecost. In each case, with language most explicit, the Spirit is said to have, "*come upon,*" "*fallen upon,*" or been "*received,*" by disciples. If within forty years there were four distinct and separate outpourings in the Apostolic age, who is competent to say that in the centuries succeeding there have been no other Pentecostal effusions. Many of them are scarcely less wonderful in some aspects than that earliest enduement. The question to us now is—are there now modern saints upon whom the Spirit has not yet fallen in the Pentecostal sense, but would come under power by an answer to believing prayer?

Recent history argues with the resistless logic of events that Pentecostal wonders are being repeated. This modern missionary century has been made both lustrous and illustrious by outpourings of the Spirit. In some respects, these outpourings are surpassing any recorded in apostolic days! Witness the story of Tahiti and all Western Polynesia; of the Hawaiian, Margquesan, Micronesian groups; of New Zealand, Madagascar and the Fiji Islands, of Nanumaga under Thomas Powell. Recollect Sierra Leone under William Johnson; of the missions in the valley of the Nile, in Zululand, and on the Gaboon River; in Banza Manteke under Henry Richards, and Basutoland under Dr. Moffat. Read the memoirs of Dr. Grant and Fidelia Fiske in Oroomiah; of Mackay in Uganda and his namesake in Formosa. Follow the work of Judson in Burma, of Broadman among the Karens; of Cyrus Wheeler on the Euphrates, of Clough and Jewett at Ongole, of William Duncan in his Metlakahtla and Joseph Neesima in his Doshisha. What are these and hundreds

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*A HOUSE THAT STANDS  
IN PERSECUTION*

**Corrie and Betsie  
ten Boom's**

**H o m e L i f e**

*by Denny Kenaston*

*Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.*

*Matt. 7:24-25*

**A**s I look out on the horizon, I see dark clouds coming for the church in peaceful America. Persecution is coming. Most sincere Christians agree to this. At meetings I often ask for people who believe this to raise their hands. Seventy five percent usually do. Whatever our end time persuasion is, most of us have to agree that the Bible says a lot about persecution in the last of the last days before Christ returns. I am concerned for the many who believe persecution is coming and the many who may be surprised. Are we

ready? Are we preparing the next generation for what they may face? These are sobering questions, especially when you find out how many homes are doing very little to lay a solid foundation in their children that will weather the coming storms.

Corrie and Betsie ten Boom grew up in a home that was a rock to them when the temptations and tribulations fell upon them in prison. Corrie tells their story in the book she wrote, *The Hiding Place*. Soldiers split up the family and placed them in prisons during the German occupation of Holland during World War II.

The crime? Loving the Jewish people and hiding them from the German soldiers. In prison, the memories of their stable home were like walls of strength surrounding their fainting minds. The experiential knowledge of God, received in the home from their godly





father, sustained them through many impossible circumstances. The security of their father's love helped them rest in the Father's love, though hate was manifested everywhere, through guards and inmates alike.

There may be some wisdom in teaching your children to bear pain and suffering as preparation for hard times to come. I am not against this. We Americans are too soft and find it hard to endure trials of deprivation. However, as I studied the lives of these two persecuted Christians, it became very clear where their great strength lay. It was their home. The godly home they grew up in was their salvation in the midst of great trials. I want to look at this home in the light of persecution to come so we can all be better prepared.

## No Compromise

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Some of us know what it is to stand alone regardless of the consequences. It is easy to say and even do in America, because the cost is actually quite small. When your home and an entire life savings are at stake, it isn't as easy. Like Daniel and his three friends, it takes men and women of deep conviction, who cannot do otherwise and still live with their conscience. This was the heritage of the ten Boom family. Father, Grandfather and even Great-grandfather were all men of unshakable convictions, reaching back into the days when Napoleon ruled in Holland. They chose to serve God rather than the "powers that be." When Betsie and Corrie's father was warned about his secret care of Jewish people, his response was, "It would be an honor for me to give my life for God's ancient people, the Jews." He did just that, as well as three other members of his family.

These deep convictions and the inner strength to live by them passed on to the next generation of children. Father and mother infused the children with a passion for right from early on in life. During the months of unkind treatment in prison, this quality car-

ried the two of them through unimaginable suffering.

## The Atmosphere of a Godly Father

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When a man loves God with all his heart and walks with Him, there is an atmosphere about him. Betsie and Corrie's father was such a man. His influence on the children cannot be properly measured. Eternity will tell the true story of his daily impressions on the family. He walked with God as he worked in his watch repair shop and guided his family. Because he was a truly godly man from deep within, the very character of his person touched every aspect of his house. Dear fathers, we are all pressing for this goal. We are pressing toward the goal when the effects of our lives reach far beyond the things that we do. We want the things that we do to flow from who we are in our walk with God. Let us consider Casper ten Boom for a few moments.

### • He was a Man Who Knew His Bible

Casper ten Boom was an everyday, all the day Christian. All day long he linked the Word of God to the things that were happening around their everyday lives. He knew his Bible because he was reading and meditating in it all the time. He was a self-taught theologian, a lay preacher, teacher and an apologist well known for his ability to debate the scriptures.

### • He was a Christian Businessman

His watchmaker shop was opened each day with the reading of the Bible and a season of prayer. He went the second mile with his customers and refused to be known as a man after money. Christian principles guided him in his philosophies of business and the gospel was preached when the opportunity arose. This family business provided many hours of father-child relationships as they worked together.

• **His Calm, Quiet Authority**

Corrie said, “We were to obey father, his will was law and we all knew it.” The surprising facts behind this statement are a bit staggering. Her father was not an authoritarian. No one ever spoke about the “lines of authority.” It was an unstated fact that all assumed. Father had a spiritual authority about him that permeated all aspects of home life. There are two levels of authority in the home. They are positional authority and spiritual authority. It is a powerful combination when you find them both in a home. Many fathers have the positional level of authority, but lack the spiritual level. Their authority does not work very well. When a father walks with God and exercises his God given authority, beautiful things happen. When we fathers have both of these, we never have to push our weight around or demand that we be obeyed. Casper had spiritual authority, and all understood his position in the home. Beautiful things did happen, things that lasted into eternity.

• **He Never Used the Rod to Spank**

It may surprise you that I have made a special point out of this “unscriptural practice,” but stay with me. I have a very good reason. This point is for all those who think that spanking is the key to order in your home. The rod of correction is only one of many ways to bring your children up “in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” I feel many parents lean too heavily on the rod and shy away from other areas, which require much more time and character on our part. This is a grave mistake. Mr. ten Boom was a master at building relationships. He was full of love, full of wisdom and full of the Holy Ghost. This is a tremendous combination that works so well that you can skip the rod. I am not stating that we should “skip the rod.” That would be unscriptural and never right. I am saying that some of us could use some development in other areas of child training. Give your child a break; build a relationship.

• **He was a Man of Prayer**

I have already stated that Casper ten Boom “walked with his God.” Many aspects of his life can validate this, but his prayer life is the crowning proof. He had his times of private prayer which opened the way for the spirit of prayer that was upon him at all times. There was nothing formal about this man’s prayer life. God was with him all the time, and he talked with Him all the time. He would just break out in prayer to God in the middle of a conversation as the need arose. Like a child, he moved in and out of prayer while talking on important subjects.

• **A Father’s Love**

I am sure we will all agree that a man who loves God like this is going to love his family also, and Casper did. There are so many aspects of this father’s love for his children that I don’t have room for them all. You must get the book that I gleaned from which tells the whole story, *In My Father’s House* by Corrie ten Boom. This firm, gentle man captivated the heart of all who dwelt in his house. The children were affirmed and blessed by their father’s love daily. Kind words and a sympathetic heart flowed from him to the children. At bedtime they all looked forward to Papa’s goodnight rituals. His special prayers, the tender way he tucked them in bed and his gentle hand upon their forehead brought tender memories to the girls as they lay in prison. The security of this father’s love opened the way for two lonely ladies to trust in their heavenly Father’s love through many a hard trial in prison.

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## The Glowing Fragrance of a Godly Mother

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The power and influence of a godly father will establish a child for life, even if mother is not what she should be. The same is true of a

godly mother. However, when a family has them both, home becomes a solid rock upon which a long and stable life is built. Betsie and Corrie's mother stood beside her godly husband and provided the foundation needed for a life of trials and service for the Kingdom of God. The two met teaching children in a Sunday school class. Oh, how joyful it is to behold the beginning of a godly home. It is always a thrill to see a young man and a young woman who love God unite in holy matrimony.

While it is evident that father had the dominate influence in the ten Boom home, it is also very clear that mother was a hidden power working in the lives of her children. The gentle light that shined out of her eyes graced all who came under her influence. Corrie ten Boom suffered with poor health throughout her mothering years and died when Corrie was but a youth. The years of suffering brought tender grace into her life and into her home. When she was able, she was always in her place guiding the household and the children. Her compassion for others left a lifelong imprint on each of her four children. Though they lived in poverty much of the time, she always made room for one more at the family table. Her enthusiasm for hospitality infected everyone, and the home became an open home to all.

## Addicted to the Ministry of the Saints

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This describes the ten Boom household to a tee. Father's love for the Jews, mother's love for the needy and the activities of single aunts who lived there provided an ongoing atmosphere of service for all. The household bubbled with living for others. The ten Boom children grew up in this fertile soil. I think we all know what happened. Each child followed the same example so that, by the time they were all youth, the house was a beehive of caring activity. "Others Lord, yes others, let this my motto be." Christianity without loving, giving and caring activity is just another dead religion. There is nothing to pass on to the next generation. True

Christianity is a heart religion. If there is no compassion for others, there really is nothing to pass on. Papa and Mama addicted themselves to the ministry, though they were not "in the ministry." Consequently, the children made the same choice as they grew up. Herein lays one of the secrets for securing the next generation. There must be a cause; there must be a purpose to join the ranks of the redeemed. Heaven is great, and hell a place to flee, but the greatest motivation for coming to God is to serve Him. This purpose motivated the Apostle Paul as he cried out on the road to Damascus, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

## Conclusion

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Let us come back to the prison and the persecution that the whole family endured. The rain did descend and the winds did blow, but this family was held by an unseen power and deeply planted principles. Mr. and Mrs. ten Boom dug deep down to the rock and laid a foundation for their family, "and the house on the rock stood firm." We must do the same—not because persecution is coming, but because we love God with all our heart and want our children to do the same. However, if persecution does come, the family will be well prepared by the solid content of a Spirit-filled home. In conclusion, consider how their godly home sustained Betsie and Corrie.

- They stood for right. There was a cause, a purpose for their suffering. Because they were taught to have convictions to die for, they were able to endure the hate and ill treatment.
- They knew the Bible well. The Bible became a constant source of strength to them. It was precious to them, and they watched God protect the New Testament that they had. In addition, the word was hidden in their hearts, and they drew wisdom and direction from it all day long when they had no Bible.

*continued on page 16*

# W a n t e d . . . E a r n e s t P a r e n t s

Brother Denny is going to re-preach *The Godly Home Series*. While writing his book, *The Pursuit of Godly Seed*, Brother Denny realized that a more organized, updated series on the home was needed. The need for a digital copy of the series is another motivation for preaching it again.

## We Need Your Help

We are looking for serious, earnest parents to help us in this endeavor. We need earnest hearers who want to seek God for their homes for ten days. The depth of desire in the hearers will effect the preaching of the messages. All preachers know this fact. We plan to seek God together with fasting prayers for our hearts and our homes. If you are interested in ten days of brokenness, openness and fervent fellowship, we could use your help.

### Dates

January 17-26, 2003

### Services

There will be a service each of the ten evenings, with morning services on the weekends.

### Location

*Please note this change.* The location is on hold because of the growing number of families who want to attend. (Originally we had planned to have the meetings in Cleveland, NC.)

### Registration

Write to Charity Ministries for a registration form or request a form by e-mail.

### Lodging

Some housing will be provided in homes. Other options will be sent with your registration form. All this depends on how many attend.

### Urgent Request

We need to know *by the first of December* who is planning to come. We then can determine where to hold the meetings. We may need to have them here in Pennsylvania.

*continued from page 7, The Acts of the Apostles, Blueprint for World Missions by A.T. Pierson*

more examples that might be cited, but instances of mighty outpourings. In many cases these testimonies boast of Pentecostal signs and wonders scarcely paralleled on a scale of majesty and magnificence.

If this preliminary question seems to have undue heed given to it, it is for a purpose. Our supreme aim is to offset the discouraging lack and need of spiritual life and

power by the encouraging fact that from time to time, and in many cases, that original blessing of Pentecost has in its main features been repeated. The history of missions with uplifted finger points to the glowing and glorious records on her shining scroll, and solemnly attests the fact that, wherever the most consecrated witnesses have gone faithfully preaching the gospel,

there God has exhibited His power and bestowed His new Pentecosts. □

*This article was taken from  
A.T. Pierson's book  
The New Acts of the Apostles  
(1892). It is out of print,  
but is a classic work on missions.  
-Bro. Denny*



# Fellowship WITH me



He created me for Him—then bore my sin.  
He bore my sin to set me free,  
To give me holy liberty,  
To be to Him a bosom friend,  
Cleansed from all sin.

He wants fellowship with me—“Lord, can it be?  
Can it be, that this is true,  
That it’s not me pursuing You,  
Rather, You’re pursuing me?  
Lord, can it be?”

“No high and mighty work to do? Just me—for You?  
My laboring is all in vain;  
You’ve borne the toil, endured the pain.  
I choose this one great work to do:  
Here’s me—for You!”

“I lay my heart before Your throne—rule there, alone.  
My Savior...Father...my Best Friend.  
Sweet fellowship that has no end,  
No greater joy I’ve ever known:  
Just You, alone!”

“Amazing love, how can it be—that You want me?  
I look into Your precious face;  
I rest inside Your warm embrace.  
My greatest blessing, this I see:  
That You want ME!”

- Ann Brubaker -



# Satan's Secret Playground

*by Helen Leibee*

Several recent experiences have propelled me to write on the hidden (and not so hidden) dangers facing even our little people when they are out in our local communities with us.

I call these areas, where perils lurk but are covered with a sugar coating, Satan's secret playground. For just as he enticed Eve with beautiful fruit, so he would like to entice our dear little ones with that playground appeal.

I'm not talking about ugly and frightening pictures or toys, satanic looking creatures or half-animal, half-people toys and pictures. Most of our children would stay clear of those things, treating them as they should, like the poison they are. I'm not even talking about the cute

looking but loaded with sorcery characters such as Cinderella, Care Bears, mystical unicorns, or spell-casting princesses. The parents who have studied what God's word has to say on sorcery, spell casting and necromancy cannot be fooled by such witchcraft wrapped in innocent looking surroundings.

I am thinking about the activities, decorations, books, toys, songs, jingles and sayings that are constantly being used in public to appeal to children and to draw them away from the Creator God and away from the truths of the Bible. This playground of Satan seems to attack a wide variety of Bible teachings, while hiding under the guise of being colorful, fun, happy, loving, unselfish, *tolerant* (now considered the highest calling of humans) and peaceable. But it is only a disguise.

I had mentioned that two recent events made me give more consideration to this subject. The first involved a children's playroom in a hospital. Recently I walked into such a playroom to see if I would be able to sit in there with my children for a short time while waiting to see someone. I had some doubts, which is why I went "scouting" while the children waited by the door. My husband wasn't with us or he would have done this, as he is very dedicated to us in these areas. As expected the room had been designed with tremendous child appeal: bright colors, animals wearing clothes and doing human-like activities, and plenty of signs, pictures and poems about how special the children are. And they are special! But something about the poems was "off." Much of the atmosphere was against the Kingdom of God.

My heart sank as I viewed the many toys, games and books that were blatantly satanic or subtly New Age. At that moment I spotted a hardback book on the sofa which had a bookmark in it and an interesting title containing the words "Final Judgement." It looked like it was targeted more for adults or youth. Wondering what someone might have been reading aloud to children concerning that day in the future, I opened to the marked page and began to scan. Nausea hit me as I realized it was a detailed pornographic description involving perversion and fornication. Quickly shutting it, I stared again at the title and saw that, though I was

thinking of the great final judgement, this book was obviously not referring to that day when the author himself will face the judgement concerning his writings. May he repent and be mercifully saved before that time!

How my heart aches for the children who are sometimes left alone or with siblings in playrooms while their parents visit the sick or take care of a hospitalized family member or simply chat unknowingly nearby. Oh what a tragedy for a child to pollute his mind like this and possibly suffer the consequence of a dulled conscience for years to come. But there were also many other less dramatic dangers in that room.

Am I being too negative, or harshly judging the possibly well-meaning people who work hard to decorate, donate and set up these and other playrooms or waiting areas now commonly seen in medical offices, chiropractors, shoe stores, fabric shops, etc.? That is not my heart. Most of these people are ignorant in these areas and need to be saved and given wisdom from above. I am not against these people; rather I want us to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. This assault against our children will only get worse, and we must not let our guard down. We need to be diligent to protect their purity and to protect them from the onslaught of anti-biblical teaching by both keeping our little ones away from it and at the same time teaching our young ones, as they grow, to recognize and avoid evil.

Another enlightening experience took place in a medical clinic. Passing an area entitled "Family Materials and Resources" (somewhat like a large tract rack!), I saw a brightly decorated book with pictures of what looked like "loving, understanding and *tolerant*" parents. I was shocked to see the title: *Understanding and accepting Your Young Homosexual Child*. These booklets are appearing more and more frequently in public areas such as libraries, waiting rooms, etc. It is Satan's playground, and he wishes to deceive our children and destroy our biblical teachings.

At this point you may think we wouldn't be seeing these things if we would wisely stay at home and away from the medical world or other public places. This may be true, but there

are some cases where we *will* find ourselves out there in that world: when visiting and ministering to the sick, or experiencing an accident or other situation, or simply on outings with the children. We want to enjoy these times with our children, yet remain prayerful and vigilant while also maintaining a testimony for Jesus, the Hope of the world.

Besides these blatant examples of evil being fanned before the eyes of children, here are many quieter everyday examples. Following are some of the subtle themes being used to draw our children. (Satan has come to lie, steal and kill.)

There are billboards, which *glamorize children who are disrespectful* to parents. How far we have come from the Bible truths of honoring parents. Last year's advertising campaign for a new "adult" sandwich at a popular food chain involved large picture of children rolling their eyes, sticking out their tongues and defiantly saying to their parents, "No way—gross—yuck—never!" The punch line was that the children will hate this new sandwich, but we adults will appreciate it. Worldly children across America solemnly take in this same message on T-shirts, comic strips, TV shows and movies. The message is this: it is normal and cute when children are rebels.

Another common theme that runs parallel to the "rebels are cute" theme is the "boys will be boys" theme in which *impertinent, independent, sassy boys and girls are portrayed as good, and wholesome and submissive children are portrayed as wimpy and robot-like*. More and more Satan is using this subtle contradiction to God's teaching of reverence and honor for parents and authorities. How often the children's books of today, even so-called children's classics, lift up children who are not following God's order and plan for them. The countless role models of literature and advertising make it hard for girls to believe that God's desire for women to have gentle, sweet, submissive spirits is true for today. And for boys, the "rebelliousness is simply boyishness" theme makes it hard to believe that God still desires men to be meek, yet bold, lovers of their wives, sound in doctrine, submissive to authority and having a passion for souls! Again the truth is twisted.

Another common theme prevalent in advertising and in many of the sugarcoated children's books is that **children are wise and parents are stupid**. Parents bumble through in these stories and the wise children save the day while the silly old parents hardly know what happened. In real life this produces children who seek the advice of peers rather than desiring to seek the wisdom of their parents and older brethren in the church.

Still another popular but unbiblical theme is that **things of nature, especially animals, are good while man is evil** (*Bambi, Jungle Book* and many more modern books and stories). True, man is sinful and in need of a Savior. But "Satan's playground" greatly warps the Biblical view of man subduing the earth by elevating nature over man.

The most dangerous of all the themes presented to children today and the most prevalent is, **"You are a good child and you never do anything wrong"**. You are sometimes different and sometimes a little naughty and funny

(exchangeable character traits in the mindset of the world) but *never* do you really do wrong or sin." Oh may we save our children from this message from the devil, which keeps them from seeing the redemption of a living Savior, who had to step into our place and take our punishment in order to atone for our sins—all because God loves us and wants to have fellowship with us.

What are we to do in the midst of the deceptive assault aimed at drawing our children away from the truth? It seems that we need to be aware that there are forces pulling against the Word of God. We must pray diligently and teach truth. We must let our children see that we love the Word and that most of all we love our Savior and want to please Him in all things. May we, as mothers, do our part in the home to provide our children with a joyful, Christ-centered home life and with the love, prayer, fellowship, protection and teaching that will protect them from the wiles of the devil and lead them towards a life of full surrender to Jesus. □

*continued from page 11, Corrie & Betsie ten Boom's Home Life by Denny Kenaston*

- They were secure in their earthly father's love. Because of this, they were able to rest in the arms of the Father in heaven. He became their "Hiding Place." The accusations of the enemy did not penetrate their hearts. Father's love opened up the door of truth of the Heavenly Father's love, and nothing could harm them inside. This is where the real battle is won, in the heart.
- The memories of a solid, love-filled home sustained them. In the real world, they saw and heard misery all around. At night they could shut their eyes and remember the many scenes of home life: Mother's smile, Father's touch, the family table, and more. The scenes came repeatedly to their minds, and they shared encouragement by them.
- Hard times and a large household provided many opportunities to do with less and be content with it. God was all they needed to be happy when they were at home; this made it easier to look past the depriving situations and find God.

- Lastly, they lived for others in the prison. What better way to forget about all your pain and suffering. There were many needy women in the prison camp who did not know the Lord. Betsie led out in this and Corrie followed her lead. This focus sustained them. They had a purpose to live, a reason to keep going and not lose heart. This focus guided them through their youthful years, and now it kept them from despair as the days slowly passed.

We as parents do not know what will befall our children in the days to come. God does not show us these things. He wants us to love Him and to live by faith. He has revealed to us His plan. He wants us to raise godly children and expects us to obey. Blessed are the children whose parents lay a firm foundation in the home. It shall sustain them through many unknown trials in the last days. □



# How to Pray for Your Children

by William Law



**I**t is very evident from Scripture that intercessory prayer is a great and necessary part of the Christian life. The first followers of Christ demonstrated their love for each other by their mutual prayers. When St. Paul wrote to churches and individuals, he mentioned to them that they were the constant subject of his prayers.

This was the ancient friendship of Christians. It united and cemented their hearts, not by worldly considerations or human passions, but by the mutual communica-

tion of spiritual blessings through prayers and thanksgivings to God for one another.

It was this holy intercession that raised Christians to such a high state of mutual love. They lived in a state that far exceeded all that previously had been praised and admired in human friendship. And when that same spirit of intercession is restored throughout the world—when Christianity has the same power over the hearts of people today that it originally had—this holy friendship will be again in fashion. Christians

will again be the wonder of the world because of that exceeding love which they bear to one another.

## Parental Intercession

Ironically, sometimes we intercede for other Christians, but forget to intercede for our own children. Yet, if parents were to make themselves advocates and intercessors with God for their children—constantly petitioning heaven on behalf of them—nothing would be more likely to bless their children. Not only would the children benefit, but such a prayer life would also mold and dispose the parents' heart to the performance of everything that was excellent and praiseworthy.

I assume, of course, that most Christian parents remember their children in prayers and call upon God to bless them. But what I am speaking of is not a *general* remembrance of them, but a regular method of recommending their particular needs and necessities unto God. I am speaking of praying for every such particular grace and virtue for our children according to their state and condition of life.

The office of parenthood is a holy state, in some degree like that of the priesthood. It obligates parents to bless their children with their prayers and sacrifices to God. This was the manner in which holy Job watched over and blessed his children. He "sanctified them,"

*continued on page 19*



# JOSÉ'S Feet

by Rodney Roberson

**I**t was turning out to be a bad night at the Marin County shelter for the homeless in San Rafael, California. With rain pouring down and a temperature in the 40s, our gym-sized armory was nearing its capacity of 125. All the cots and sleeping mats had been assigned, but people were still coming, and in no time there were complaints about shortages. Soon some of the blacks and Latinos started accusing my fellow workers and me of racial favoritism. We were white.

I was working at the shelter as a full-time counselor. Actually my duties were more like those of a handyman, but the money I earned was helping me pay my way through seminary.

When the arguments started, I knew we were in trouble. The armory echoed with

shouts and profanity. Some of the street people were trying to take sleeping mats away from others. When Bobbie, a black woman who worked late, found we hadn't saved her a mat as usual, she began to object loudly and accuse me of prejudice.

In the midst of all this, a Latino man named José, who had received one of the last sleeping mats, made his bed in the middle of the armory. He threw down his mat, fell on it, removed his tattered boots and collapsed in a drunken stupor. The stench of José's feet filled the air. The street people, ordinarily not picky about odors, began to raise a great protest.

I had been passing out towels when a group of men—black and whites—insisted I did something about José. The obvious solution was to persuade him to take a shower, but when two other workers

and I tried to wake him, it was no use. He was breathing, but nothing would rouse him. We discussed carrying him to the shower, but he weighed over 200 pounds, deadweight, and we could hardly move him. When someone suggested we drag him back out to the sidewalk, a howl of protests swept through the other Latinos.

*God, how am I supposed to handle this situation? I prayed in desperation. I don't know what to do!* Only a few nights earlier one of my fellow workers had been attacked and choked during one of the frequent melees at the armory.

Then a thought occurred to me: *If I can't get José into the shower, maybe I can bring the shower to him.* We didn't have a washbasin, but in the kitchen I found a large bowl and a container of lemon-scented dishwashing liquid. Armed with a washcloth, towel and the bowl of full warm soapy water, I headed back toward José. From all over the armory, stares of anger and suspicion followed me.

Back at José's mat, I knelt, rolled up his pant legs, and began to remove his filthy athletic type soaks, which were soggy on the bottom but dried to cardboard stiffness on top. I finally managed to tug them off, leaving the weave of the fabric imprinted on his skin. The stench would have been overwhelming if it had not been for the scent of the lemon bubbles in the bowl.

It took some persuasion, but one of the men who helped with the mats finally agreed to throw the socks

away and take José's boots outside to air. Then I went to work with the lemon soap and washcloth. For several minutes I carefully cleaned José's calves and ankles, feet and toes. In no time the water was black.

I took the towel and dried the area, then, still on my knees, turned to pick up the bowl. As I did, I saw a forest of legs and knees surrounding me. *Have they come to throw us both out?* I wondered.

Slowly, warily, I stood up. My eyes came to rest on the face of one of the black men

who had been protesting the loudest. And he was grinning! I had never seen him smile before! I looked from face to face. I was stunned. They were smiling—men and women of all races. And Bobbie, with tears in her eyes, stepped forward, took my soapy hands in hers and kissed them.

Nothing could have prepared me for what I experienced at that moment. No sermon, no seminary class. It was as if Jesus' words had come to life in me: "Whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant." (Matthew

20:27) It had not been intentional; I was simply doing my job. But by carrying out this unpleasant task, I had won over an entire auditorium of street people, and gained their respect.

A quiet hush fell on the National Guard armory in San Rafael that night. The shouting and the threats were gone. Someone who had both a mat and a cot gave his to Bobbie. And after some looking around, we even came up with a fresh pair of socks for José. □

*continued from page 17, How to Pray for Your Children by William Law*

and he rose up early in the morning and offered burnt-offerings, "according to the number of them all." (Job 1:5)

If parents viewed themselves as priests, they would be daily calling upon God in a solemn, deliberate manner. They would alter and extend their intercessions, as the circumstances and growth of their children required. And such devotion would have a mighty influence upon the parents' own lives. It would make them very careful as to how they themselves walked. They would be prudent and careful of everything they said or did, lest their example should hinder the very thing that they were constantly praying for on behalf of their children.

If a father were daily making specific prayers to God that He would inspire his children with true piety, great humility and strict temperance, what could be more like-

ly to make the father himself become exemplary in those virtues? He would naturally be ashamed to take the very virtues he thought necessary for his children. In short, his prayers for his children's godliness would be a certain means for elevating his *own* godliness.

If a father considers himself as an intercessor before God for his children, if he yearns to bless his children with his prayers, he will aspire to every degree of holiness. For "the fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (Jas 5:16) The man who earnestly prays for his children will amend his own life so that his prayers will "availeth much." He will avoid everything that is sinful and displeasing to God, lest when he prays for his children, God should reject his prayers.

How tenderly, how religiously would such a father interact with his children. For

he would consider them to be his little spiritual flock, whose virtues he was to form by his example, encourage by his authority, nourish by his counsel, and prosper by his prayers to God for them.

How fearful would he be of all greedy and unjust ways of accumulating riches. Or of bringing his children up in pride and indulgence. Or of making them too fond of the world. He would fear lest he might thereby render his children incapable of those virtues that he was so often beseeching God to grant them.

These are the plain, natural, happy effects of parental intercession. All parents, I hope, who have the real welfare of their children at heart, will not neglect so great an opportunity. An opportunity—not just to do an eternal good to those who are so near and dear to them—but also to raise their *own* spiritual life. □

# A Godly Woman

The Bible speaks to everyone who follows in the Way,  
But some parts are specific in the things they have to say.  
The fathers are encouraged, and those alone in life,  
And there are admonitions for the mother and the wife.

I always linger over these; they speak to my estate.  
They offer me direction in the small things and the great.  
To be a godly woman is the goal I want to reach,  
And so I need to study what the Scriptures have to teach.

A woman who is called to be a mother and a wife,  
Who takes the cross and purposes to live a godly life,  
Is ever growing in the faith she's chosen to profess,  
And there are certain qualities she covets to possess.

The godly woman stays at home, her duties keep her there.  
She rises while it yet is night and gives herself to prayer.  
Her days are full of service and her heart is full of love;  
Her mind is full of gratitude and praise for God above.

Though not employed outside the home, she has no mind to shirk,  
She eats not bread of idleness, but fruit of honest work.  
Her brother and her sister, her parents and her neighbor,  
Her husband and her children share the blessing of her labor.

The love her husband feels for her is easy to reflect,  
And she not only loves him, but she gives him her respect.  
In her his heart may safely trust; she does him only good;  
When he confides his inner thoughts, he finds them understood.

She's mindful, too, of Eden, where the woman was deceived.  
She knows it's not her place to teach, as others have believed,  
Nor to usurp authority, but listen with subjection,  
In meekness and humility, accepting his direction.



When all the church assembles in a solemn, formal way,  
The godly woman listens to what the brethren have to say;  
And if she hears a statement made that makes her sit up straighter,  
The question forming in her mind she asks her husband later.

Still, there is a congregation where her voice is often heard,  
And her children are attentive as she teaches them the Word,  
When she sits within her house, and when she walks along the way;  
When she lays them down at night and when she rises with the day.

The godly woman is discreet, not seeking other's praise;  
She's modest in appearance, and she's modest in her ways.  
She isn't prone to gossip, but her neighbors know she cares,  
And any help her hands can give is certain to be theirs.

The godly woman isn't gay; she's left that all behind.  
She's pleasant and she's cheerful, but she has a sober mind.  
Her covered head, her simple dress, her modest mien are one;  
Her singular adornment is the good that she has done.

When years of faithful laboring have bent her body low,  
She'll teach the younger women in the way that they should go.  
And verily, I say to you, she'll have a rich reward.

Oh, make of me that woman, Lord! And guide me in that way.  
Behold, thou art the potter, and I the softened clay.  
Encourage me where I am right; rebuke me where I'm wrong.  
I read these Scriptures often and I ponder on them long.

- Janice Etter -

**T** *The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; that they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.*

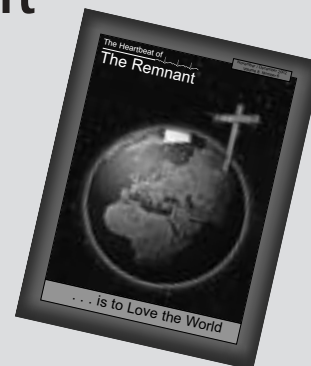
**T i t u s 2 : 3 - 5**

**W** *Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.*

**P r o v e r b s 3 1 : 1 0 - 1 1**

# Charity Gospel Tape Ministry & The Heartbeat of The Remnant

## July-September 2002 Financial Report



### A Prayer for All Our Supporters

Dear Heavenly Father, in Jesus name I pray for all the dear brothers and sisters who support this ministry. They have given, Lord. Give to them spiritual blessings, a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over.

Father, they are cheerful givers. Give them the promise that Paul wrote to the Corinthians. Make all grace abound toward them, that they may always have all sufficiency in all things. Let them abound with grace to every good work. They have dispersed abroad and given to the poor. Let their righteousness remain forever and increase the fruits thereof in each one of their lives.

In Jesus Christ's Name,  
The Editor

07/01/02 Beginning Balance	\$1,123.35
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#### Receipts

Tape Ministry Donations	\$56,567.63
Remnant Subscription Donations	\$9,487.28
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$66,054.91</b>

#### Disbursements

UPS & Postage	\$6,839.85
Tapes, Albums & Labels	\$28,999.48
Equipment & Software Purchases	\$1,247.96
Equipment Maint & Repairs	\$2,012.79
Mailing & Office Supplies	\$1,543.64
Rent, Housing & Electric	\$3,837.50
Telephone	\$1,359.85
Website Development & Maintenance	\$449.01
Miscellaneous	\$74.29
Payroll Expense	\$9,800.01
Books & Catalogs	\$275.55
Remnant Publishing & Mailing	\$10,941.43
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$67,381.36</b>

09/30/02 Ending Balance	-\$203.10
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Difference	-\$1,326.45
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# Freedom from Bondage

by Ben & Rachel Beiler



*“Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.”*

**Ben**

Our desire in sharing what God has done in our hearts and lives is to give courage to those who are in bondage, trapped in the strongholds of the enemy. “That the eyes

of your understanding being enlightened, that ye may know what the hope of his calling is, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe according to the working of his mighty power.” (Eph 1:18, 19)

God’s desire is that His children walk in freedom and peace, having faith to believe He is able to overcome and remove any obstacles or hindrance in our lives.

I grew up in a religious setting in a family of twelve children. I learned many valuable things while I was a child, especially from my mother. Through the books my parents provided, I developed a hunger and a thirst for God, for salvation and for a new heart and life. These things were not taught openly. Because of this, I floundered for several years.

**Rachel**

I also was born and raised in a conservative religious setting. We were taught many good things and values, which I am thankful for today. One thing that was lacking was the peace of God that comes through the new birth.

I grew up in a home that was full of worry and fear. This passed on to us children. I have been a fearful person all my life. It was always hard for me to trust God. I looked at God as being a hard taskmaster who would condemn or punish me as soon as I did something wrong.

As I grew older, I had questions about what it means to be born again. These questions were never

answered. Instead, the preachers preached, "You can't know that you're saved and that your sins are forgiven." I was also told that people who claim assurance of salvation are deceived. I was warned to stay away from such people and their doctrines.

I brought these questions and longings of my heart into my married life. The testimony and witness of neighbors spoke to me. I had a longing to have the peace I saw in their lives. Over a period of a few years, God sent Christians across my path and allowed many circumstances to happen that increased this thirst. I was beginning to have the longings of my heart answered. My search for answers increased.

#### **Ben**

During this time, Rachel had longings to attend meetings or Sunday evening services in other churches. She at times mentioned this to me. I always resisted this because it was against the rules of the church. This began to bring tension and frustration into our marriage. Rachel didn't know what to do. She was searching for something to meet the needs in her life and was not finding it where we were. Through the counsel of one of our neighbors, she submitted to my wishes and no longer mentioned going to meetings.

After this God started working in my heart. I was brought to the realization that I was lost and all my righteousness could never give me

a new heart. One day, in desperation, I cried out to God, "I need help. I don't know which way to go. My way is not working. Please send the Holy Spirit to show me the way." I told God I would do anything if only He would show me what is right and what I need to do. A few days later God gloriously answered my prayer in a way I never dreamed possible. God's Spirit came and completely changed and filled me. Praise the Lord! In the following days as I read the Bible, God revealed truth to my soul. I marveled repeatedly. I asked God, "Why didn't I see these things before?"

#### **Rachel**

After Ben was born again and people found out about it, we faced opposition from family and friends. This was very stressful for me, as I was close to both our families and to my cousins. My fear and worry problems increased, and I began to have health problems. I was unable to eat or sleep for three days and ended up going to the hospital. I was treated and sent home. After going somewhere else for treatments and told how to treat these stomach disorders, I was able to relax and sleep again.

Soon after this, we started attending another church. They preached the Gospel, salvation in Christ alone. I realized I was not ready to meet God. I cried out to God to forgive me and to give me the assurance of my salvation. God gave me peace. I rejoiced in the fact that I was His child and that He loved me.

As time went on, I struggled with assurance of salvation. Fear and worry plagued me. I had a hard time getting hold of faith and trusting God. Sometimes at night I would wake up with panic attacks and with a real fear of the unknown. I remember asking Ben to lay hands on me, plead the blood of Jesus and rebuke Satan away. As he did this, I could rest again. I could not understand why all this was happening to me because I knew I was a Christian. I just accepted it as normal or as a part of the Christian life. I went on like this for about twelve more years, not knowing the freedom of complete liberty in Jesus.

My life was filled with anger, frustration, fear and depression. At times I was afraid I would lose self-control and that Satan would get me to do things I would regret. Without knowing it, these frustrations were showing up in our children. I pondered at times, "Why are my children unhappy?" I made myself believe that they were happy and secure. I would pray my heart out and tell God I want to completely live for Him and serve Him. Sometimes I would feel better and then other times the feeling of fear and condemnation would come upon me. When the boys would go out to play, I struggled with the fear that something would happen to them.

#### **Ben**

In the midst of all this, we moved to Lancaster County so that I could oversee the tape



ministry. I could no longer be at home during the day. This brought on more fears and insecurities in Rachel's life. After a time we began losing our closeness. I realized we were not one in vision and spirit. As the children got older, this started showing in their lives. In the summer of 1999, things got worse. I was going away two or three nights a week caring for my father-in-law. With no time to communicate, we grew further apart. I began to realize our home and marriage were in critical condition.

During the next year, I got desperate before God. He immediately began doing a work in my heart. The Lord showed me that I had lost my first love. As I repented of this and experienced His grace and forgiveness, God began a deeper work in my life. I realized and confessed that I did not know how to be a father and a husband. I started becoming more earnest in my prayers and supplications. I was brought face to face with my own weaknesses and undisciplined habits. As I looked at the magnitude of not just a few failings, but an ongoing pattern, I almost despaired. However, in prayer and desperation I told God, "For the sake of my family—I will lay myself on the cross and bear whatever pain, shame, and agony is needed to bring salvation and healing to our home." As God poured grace in my life, I found brokenness repeatedly. I realized He did not need to do this. However, in His great love

and mercy He *chose* to have mercy on us.

God continued giving me victory over anger and frustration when things went wrong at home and at work. Zac Poonen's message, *The Paths of Righteousness*, gave me fresh courage and faith. God revealed to me that there were generational strongholds in Rachel's life. When praying I seemed to come against a wall. This brought more desperate prayers. During this time, God healed me of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. I was so weak and tired, and I could hardly function. I am convinced that this healing came because I dealt with my sin and my cold heart. I received the strength and energy of a young man.

I was able to go to Leadership Seminar and soak in everything God had for me. On Friday morning, Brother Denny brought his teaching on the Holy Spirit down to practical levels, challenging us to live these things out in everyday life. I felt the need and burden to go to prayer at break time. As I went, I met Brother Denny and asked if he would have time to go with me. We prayed in faith, asking God to loose the chains and break down the strongholds in Rachel's life. After this God revealed to me that Rachel was bound and controlled by the spirit of fear. I cannot explain how God revealed this to me. I had never read any books, or engaged in any spiritual warfare. Once this was revealed, God began to work quickly.

## **Rachel**

One day that which I greatly feared happened. I awoke one morning to find the boys missing. They were not in their beds. I told Ben, and we looked everywhere trying to find them. We did not find them until that afternoon. They had read an ad in the paper that a local horse stable needed help cleaning out stalls in the morning and evening. They knew we were in the process of buying property and wanted to do their part and make some money. After asking for a job, they went different places, the library, pet store, etc. As the hours ticked by, I was plagued with fear repeatedly.

Through this whole ordeal, God brought me to the end of myself. I saw that I could not control things in my life and my family any longer.

God in His great mercy saw that I had had enough. The hour of my deliverance had come. (My eyes are filled even now, as I am writing this. I feel His presence of love within me.) Praise God! A few days later, I saw the unhappy look in my sons' eyes. My mother heart hurt as I felt what they were feeling. I told Ben, "We need help." I was thinking that the boys need help, but God knew who needed help. We went to Brother Denny's home that evening. I thought we would just get some counseling, but Brother Denny knew and saw deeper into my life than what I realized. He started asking questions. I was so ashamed, and yet I was glad to finally get

some help. During the counseling session, I repented and confessed my pride, rebellion against authorities, frustrations, fears and depression. Many of these were generational bondages passed down through the family. I renounced them and asked God to break these chains in my life. In the name of Jesus, they were broken that night. I renounced witchcraft and all of its influence in my life in Jesus' name. I had been taken to a pow wow doctor a few times in my childhood. This is the same as a witch doctor in heathen lands, and it brings the influence of tormenting spirits into a person's life.

That day Jesus set me free, and praise God I am still free today, one year later. All my fears are gone. My condemnation is gone. The burden of trying to please God on my own merits is gone. I have given up the fight, and God is in control of my life. I cannot believe the difference. I can go to meetings and not feel condemned. I have such a peace I never knew a person could have. I love to sit and soak in the Word of God. When people would give their testimonies of being free from bondage, I was always under conviction. Now I know what they were experiencing. I am free to live for Christ.

#### **Ben**

When we came home from counseling, the children met us at the door with smiling faces. Rachel's comment afterward was that she could not believe the peace that was in

our home. The whole atmosphere had changed.

A day or so later, when gathering together for the evening meal, Rachel made the comment, "Praise the Lord. I'm free. I'm not in prison anymore." I overheard Ryan, our oldest son, saying, "I'm still in prison."

That evening, as I was putting the boys to bed, I put my hands on them, prayed against all the evil influences in their lives and claimed them for Jesus. I prayed with Nicholas, our youngest son, first and then went to Ryan's room and did the same. I especially prayed against any evil spirits and influences that he might have received before God brought him into our home. After praying, I asked him about the comment he had made earlier. He said he wants to be free and become a Christian. I led him through in prayer and confession. Afterwards it was a joy to see the smile on his face. After this I went to Nicholas, as he wanted me to lie down with him. When Rachel came into Ryan's room to say goodnight, he told her what had happened. As they were rejoicing together, Nicholas asked what had happened.

After I told him, he was quiet for a while. I sensed heaviness on his spirit. Thinking he was troubled about the happenings a few days ago. I asked him if anything is wrong. He said, "I want to be saved and have my sins forgiven." After leading him in prayer, all was quiet. Suddenly he said, "I'm so

happy. I feel so good." Rachel and Ryan came into the room. We all rejoiced together. Nicholas got the songbooks, and we ended up in our bedroom singing praises to God. God is ruling in my home now. Praise His wonderful name!

#### **Rachel**

I still have a long way to go, but life is so different. When trials come, I do not go down in defeat like I used to go, but rather I can freely go to the great God who has won the victory over my trials. I have Jesus, full and free. Satan comes and says this was all a myth and that I am not free, but I never once give into any doubt. I know deliverance is real.

God has taught me many things since that day. It is such a joy to be taught of God. He has shown me the powerful influence a mother can have in her home. I never truly knew what it meant to be a submissive wife. Before it was so hard, and now it is my delight to do what my husband thinks is best. I no longer want to rule my house. My prayer life has also taken on new meaning. I sometimes felt my prayers were not heard. I now have the witness of God within me, and I feel secure in His love.

My prayer and desire for all who may read this testimony is this: If anyone is living with anger, frustrations and defeat in the Christian life, you can be free. If you think, "This is normal. Everybody lives with these temptations," you are wrong. You do not have to be this way. What God

did for me, He will do for you. He is not a respecter of persons. I had to lay down a whole life of pride and confusion in repentance. I wanted everybody to think I was all right. On the outside, I looked good, but my inside needed a cleansing. Satan will try to make you believe you are all right; don't believe him. If God shows you areas in your life that are not right, please respond to Him.

**Ben**

Now, these many months later, I still marvel and am awestruck at what God has done and is still doing. We are but human and often fail, but as we learn to chose God's way in all areas and not our own. God's grace and power is there to overcome the evil one and all his tactics. May the name of the Lord Jesus Christ be exalted and magnified. □

*The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.*

*Psalm 27:1&4*

# L eARN To S ING H YmNS

Many of our readers often ask for help learning hymns. They do not know the hymns because some of them are from churches that teach newer choruses. If you cannot read music, it can be difficult to try to learn the old hymns of the faith. Here is an answer to the problem.

The brothers and sisters of Shippensburg Christian Fellowship have made a recording of 54 songs from the Church Hymnal (which they use for worship). They sing two verses from each song so that you can learn how to sing them. You can get the tape and a songbook and then sing along as a family. (Total playing time: 72:41.)

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## Book Review

by Dean Taylor

# Power Through Prayer

by Edward M. Bounds  
1835-1913



**P**ower Through Prayer has been hailed by many to be a “truly great masterpiece on the theme of prayer.” This book has reached beyond its own time. For generations it has inspired godly men and women to recognize the need for a life fully surrendered to genuine, Holy Spirit-inspired, fervent prayer. Since it is written in a revivalistic preaching style like that of Wesley, Tozer or Ravenhill, you will feel more as if you have been to a revival meeting than simply reading from the pages of a book. It is one of those books that one could read many times and still gain fresh exhortation and inspiration each time you read it. I am convinced that if we, our families and our churches, could take hold of the Biblical truths declared in this book and bring prayer back to the place it deserves, we would find in prayer a treasure so great that living without it would be insufferable.

The book was originally addressed to preachers and ministers. Anyone, however, who desires to be a channel of God’s grace and a follower of His will (whether that be in witnessing at work, preparing devotions at home or organizing a busy homeschool schedule), will find this book a real encouragement and challenge. As busy as our lives may seem and as tempting as it may be to cheapen the place of prayer, Bounds argues that it is prayer that will put the other things of daily life in order. He states:

Praying gives sense, brings wisdom, broadens and strengthens the mind. The closet is a perfect schoolteacher and schoolhouse for the preacher. Thought is not only brightened and clarified in prayer, but thought is born in prayer. We can learn more in an hour praying, when praying indeed, than from many hours in the study. Books are in the closet which can be found and read nowhere else. Revelations are made in the closet which are made nowhere else.

The book starts with a cry for the desperate need for godly, praying men. It is written in a time when people sat huddled together on homemade wooden pews and the average church didn’t even have light bulbs. Yet Bounds



was concerned that the church was already selling out to modern innovations. He was afraid that the church was losing its dependence on real man-to-God contact and relying instead on new designs and inventions. He writes:

What the Church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use—men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men—men of prayer.

With keen insight Bounds digs up the possible hidden motives and pitfalls common to the Christian walk. He also addresses such issues as our sufficiency in Christ, the dangers of dead orthodoxy and the essentialness of prayer to all parts of our life and ministry. He sees a life and ministry without prayer to be death. Early in the book he gives some pretty sobering considerations on that:

Preaching which kills is prayerless preaching. Without prayer the preacher creates death, and not life. The preacher who is feeble in prayer is feeble in life-giving forces. The preacher who has retired prayer as a conspicuous and largely prevailing element in his own character has shorn his preaching of its distinctive life-giving power.

One of his subjects that probably pierced my heart the most was his admonishment concerning the amount of time that should be put into prayer. He says:

God's acquaintance is not made by pop calls. God does not bestow His gifts on the casual or hasty comers and goers. Much with God alone is the secret of knowing Him and of influence with Him. He yields to the persistency of a faith that knows Him. He bestows His richest gifts upon those who declare their desire for and appreciation of those gifts by the constancy as well as earnestness of their importunity. Christ, who in this as well as other things is our Example, spent many whole

nights in prayer...We would not have any think that the value of their prayers is to be measured by the clock, but our purpose is to impress on our minds the necessity of being much alone with God; and that if this feature has not been produced by our faith, then our faith is of a feeble and surface type.

Later chapters include subjects such as examples of praying men, the preparation of the heart and the beseeching of God for His holy unction and power. With God-fearing reverence throughout the book, he reminds us that the ultimate need for God's blessing and unction is so that we might give it back to others by ministering to the lost and to our next generation. In a quote about the goal of the minister he says:

The preacher must throw himself, with all the abandon of a perfect, self-emptying faith and a self-consuming zeal, into his work for the salvation of men. Hearty, heroic, compassionate, fearless martyrs must the men be who take hold of and shape a generation for God. If they be timid time servers, place seekers, if they be men pleasers or men fearers, if their faith has a weak hold on God or his Word, if their denial be broken by any phase of self or the world, they cannot take hold of the Church nor the world for God.

The book is small and put into twenty short chapters. It could be read through fairly easily in one setting. However, I would recommend reading it slowly and really pondering the challenges he presents. I hope that many will get a chance to read this book and that all of us would experience true *Power Through Prayer*. □

This book is no longer copyrighted, so it can be purchased from many different publishers in different forms and collections. It can be downloaded or viewed free on the Internet at <http://www.ccel.org/index/classics.html>.



## Precious Letters from Our Readers

**W**e thank God for the many letters of counsel and encouragement we have been receiving. It is the only way we can evaluate our progress. Keep them coming. Our desire is to foster a free flow of edification, inspiration and burden from us to you, and you to us. This way we can pass some of the blessings on to the others who are reading. We would love to hear from you in any of the following ways:

- ▶ A meaningful lesson in family devotions that you can pass on to other fathers.
- ▶ A testimony for “The Blessing Corner” of God’s blessing in some area of obedience.
- ▶ A question that can be answered to the edification of all.
- ▶ An area of spiritual growth, obtained by one of the exercises suggested in the magazine.
- ▶ A word of encouragement or counsel about *The Remnant*, or any section of it.

*Waiting to hear... --The Editors*

To my dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am writing to thank all those involved with the production of your magazines and the tape ministry. Both my mother and I have been so blessed, encouraged and challenged by the articles in *The Remnant*. Most recently we were moved by Denny Kenaston’s article “The Spirit of Nehemiah.” He said that “there has never been a time when [God] had no one anywhere to be jealous for His cause...There will always be men and women with the spirit of Nehemiah...” (July/Aug 2002, pg. 5). How I thank you for that encouragement. It is far too easy for us to fall into feeling like “the only one.”

A Canadian friend of mine sent us two of your tapes. My sincere thanks to you for that ministry also!

I was interested to read of your Fellowship Finder. I was

wondering how that would work in Australia? Do you have any information you could send me? How do you put people in touch with one another?

Words just seem so inadequate to express the blessing it is for us just to know there are other people out there—people committed to serving our Lord Jesus wholeheartedly!

May God’s richest blessings be upon you all.

*In His love,  
Lake Bathurst, NSW*

Dear Brother Denny,

Just a personal note in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

Our family has received *The Remnant* and *Charity Missions Newsletter* for well over ten years and would like

to renew our subscription. Your publications have always been encouraging in our life with the Lord Jesus. We often thank Him and praise Him for you all and your service and fruitfulness for Him.

Only eternity will reveal the impact of your decision to take over *The Remnant* this past year. Thank you and God bless you. The focus has been a tremendous help and blessing to many of the few we know.

Peace be with you today.

*West Gardiner, Maine*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May you all be encouraged as you serve the Lord. We pray for you often and will continue to do so.

Please continue our subscription to *The Heartbeat of the*

*Remnant.* We are so blessed by this publication. We appreciate your labor of love for the Savior. We have been helped countless times by the articles and have made copies of some of the articles to encourage others. May your work continue to bear fruit, to the glory of God. Thank you for faithfully continuing your publication of *The Remnant*.

*In Christ,  
Elk Grove, California*

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To my Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

I did *not* see the giant (Sept/Oct 2002). How well that short message spoke to me. The giants in my life may be my own, but their footsteps effect everyone around me. I long to have the faith of David and have no fear and slay them in the name of the Lord. Then their thundering fall would be a testimony of God's strength and mercy to all

those who stood beneath their great cloud.

We do not walk this life alone. Our giants are awful and ugly, and they touch everyone we love. So we should not be deceived. Instead I pray Psalm 139:23-24:

*"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."*

God will give us wisdom to know these giants. He opens our eyes to see them and gives us faith to slay them. We can even rejoice in the turmoil that they have caused, knowing it has made us stronger in our faith.

Thank you for your publication. God has used it to help me grow.

*Love in Jesus,  
New Windsor, New York*

Dear Friends,

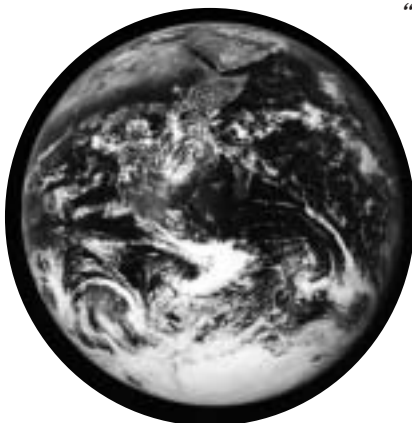
Thanks you so much for the blessing and encouragement you are to me. The Lord has used the articles and testimonies in your magazine and missions newsletter to teach me, challenge me and draw me ever closer to Him. God bless you all so much!

Please keep me on your mailing list—I am unable to send a donation, which makes me feel badly when I ask to keep receiving from you—but mail from you is always a ray of hope to me. I do miss *The Remnant* so much—I keep reading back issues over and over! The teaching is fresh each time.

You are truly servants of God, and I thank Him profusely for you all and your willingness. You have blessed me much!

Thank you again.

*Sincerely in Christ,  
Bow Island, Alberta*



*"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."*

II CORINTHIANS 5:17-21





# A Life Poured Out

Beloved, let us live for others, living for others is of God  
Everyone who lives for others is born of God and knoweth God  
He that does not live for others, knoweth not God  
For God lives for others

Beloved, this is how God lived for others  
God sent His only begotten Son into the world  
To be the propitiation for our sins  
This is the true definition of love

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought to live for others  
If we live for others, God dwelleth in us  
And His love is perfected in us  
By this we are assured that God dwells in us

Beloved, whosoever shall confess to others  
That the Father sent the Son to be the Savior  
God dwells in him, and he dwells in God continually  
God is love

*Adapted*

*The Heartbeat of*  
  
**The Remnant**

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