

Global Witness





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Bible & Literature Missionary Foundation

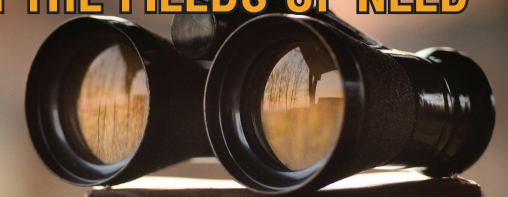
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BLMF 20/20: FOCUSING ON THE FIELDS OF NEED





By: Shannon Lemmon

His name is David...he recently had to pack up all he owns and everything he has worked for most of his life because the flames had suddenly moved into the South Wales area behind his Australian home. Her name is Rena, and she is wearing a facemask as she walks to her job to keep the smoke and ash out of her lungs in Talisay, Philippines. And then there's Marco who awoke to a 4.6 earthquake in Ponce, Puerto Rico. People around the globe have been affected by natural disasters that have been extra tumultuous, as the year 2020 has come in as quite the lion. Of course, other "disasters" have threatened as some even fear WW3 might be on the horizon. Recently, a new coronavirus has reared its ugly head, and strains of Type A and B influenza continue to wreak havoc but not as dramatically as crazed individuals who walk into churches and synagogues worldwide to insanely kill as many innocent members as possible. Life on this earth is definitely uncertain, yet all people can receive a "copy of complete certainty" in print if God's people will simply give. You see, BLMF was able to send Bibles to Australia a couple years ago before the wild fires were started, and the Philippines have received multiple containers of Scriptures from this work annually for many years. Puerto Rico also receives Scriptures from BLMF. I'm reminded of a lady in Haiti who spoke to a news journalist after the earthquakes in 2010 with such peace that the journalist questioned how she could be so calm and strong after she had lost all of her family and her home that lie in ruins behind her. To which she responded, "This book gives me comfort and promises that because our family received Christ, I will see them again one day." The "Book" she confidently held was a Bible printed in Shelbyville, TN by BLMF.

This ministry is not merely a stateside ministry. BLMF is GLOBAL in its mission, in its objective, and in

its daily productivity. In 1919, by the Lord's doing, we stood at our dock on 231 South and watched 20 38,000 to 40,000 pound containers loaded with almost 2 million Scriptures headed to every corner of this world. The Bible and Literature Missionary Foundation has reached 125 different countries with the printed Word of God. Our 20/20 Vision project reaching multiple people groups is really at the heart of what BLMF was founded to achieve. Dr. Bob Lemmon, Sr., my grandfather, was in the midst of WW2 in Europe when the Lord gave him a tremendous vision: no one had a copy of God's Word and the church needed to change that. He would write to publishing companies in the states, begging them to send Italian Scriptures so he could hand them out to people in need. This strong burden came home with him and in 1968, he and my dad, Bobby Lemmon, founded the Bible and Literature Missionary Foundation – not for stateside Bible distribution – but to reach into the foreign mission fields where Scriptures are unavailable or unaffordable for the common people. When these Bibles arrive, many folks will say they have never even seen a Bible in their lifetimes, let alone think they would ever own their own copy. How blessed we are, and what a responsibility we have as Americans to share this precious gift of God's Word with a world in need. Yes, we operate on stateside soil, but BLMF is the epitome of a foreign mission ministry.

Would you catch the global vision with us this year? BLMF is the greatest resource for your church to reach the "uttermost part of the earth" with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Imagine your church touching 20 different countries this year with a container of God's Word...more than 2 million Bibles that will change families, churches, communities and nations for eternity! You can be a part in fulfilling the church's responsibility to produce and send the Light of God's Word!

At our October 2019 Scripture Conference and again in the last issue of this newsletter, we introduced our BLMF theme for 2020 setting a very aggressive goal to produce 20 languages to fill 20 containers going to 20 different countries! These 20 containers by themselves would not be a big challenge as we produced and shipped that many Scriptures and containers in 2019 but all of these 20 languages and 20 containers are in addition to the eight more containers of English, Spanish and Tagalog Bibles and Scriptures that we already have commitments to produce and ship this year. Consequently we are looking at a goal of somewhere around 2.5 million Scriptures shipping 28 containers instead of 20!

Can "we" do it you ask? We have the capacity, the equipment, and most of the personnel but lack some of the financial resources to purchase the 30 trailer loads of paper and the additional printing materials that we will need. So, this is a big step of faith, but we know that our God wants and intends for His Word to be published and distributed as He has consistently demonstrated and confirmed so many times and in so many ways in the past 51 years. We also have the assurance that He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we can think or ask! Based on our present level of support "we" can't, but with God all things are possible, we know that "He" can! With the prayers and faithful financial support of you who are already Scripture Partners in this ministry and some additional help from other Christian friends who love the Word of God, together we can!

Why in the world would we set such a ridiculous goal? Because the need for these Bibles and Scriptures is so great and the request for them so many! Because 70% of the world's population do not have a copy of God's Word and most of them have never heard a clear presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Because our time to work for Christ is short, and there are thousands of lost souls going out into eternity every day without Christ. Because we have grown accustomed to seeing what God can and will do when someone will step out and trust Him by faith! Most of all, because we know that God would have us to, that's the whole purpose of this ministry. Hopefully, this theme and goal will help to motivate us all to pray more, work a little harder, give a little more sacrificially and help us to stay focused on our objective!

God places great emphasis on our responsibility as the local New Testament church to evangelize the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ, carrying out the "Great Commission", Matt. 28:18-20, Mk. 13:10, 16:15, Lk. 24:47, John 20:21 & Act 1:8. The instrument God has ordained to do the job is "US", you and I, we are the body of Christ, His body, His eyes, His hands, His feet and His mouth and He has left us two very effective and powerful tools to use to do the job, the Holy Spirit and His Word! It takes all three, obedient Christians, the Holy Spirit and the Word of God! This is God's perfect plan for world evangelism: Godly surrendered Men and women going, the Holy Spirit provides the "Power" and direction and His written "Word" is the message and our sole authority.

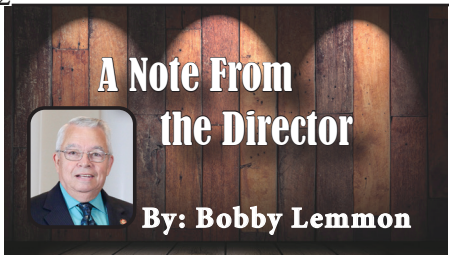
Of these, the Holy Spirit and the Word are both indispensable, for without the Word we are destined to hell without salvation or hope and without the Holy Spirit to teach us we would not know or understand the Word preached or written for it is His Spirit that beareth witness with our spirit. Where there is no missionary or spoken word, while not as effective and not by God's perfect plan, His Word and the Holy Spirit can and will stand on their own. Galatians 3:8 says God's Word was preaching the gospel before Abraham, Heb. 4:12 says that His Word is quick and powerful, a "...discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart," John 5:24 says that, "...He that heareth my words and believeth on him that hath sent me, hath everlasting life," John 20:31 says, "...these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ," and II Tim. 3:15 says that the scriptures will make you, "wise unto salvation!" Isa. 55:11 God promises that his word will not return unto him void but will accomplish what he intends for it to accomplish. There is no limit to what God can and will do with His Written Word! God can make the paper talk! That's what the Wayana Indians would tell the Schoen's, missionaries to Suriname, S.A., when they wanted someone to read the Bible to them!

Some 350 to 400 years after the death of Moses and Joshua, I Samuel 3:1 says, "And the word of the Lord was precious in those days: there was no open vision," meaning no continuing vision, no prophets of God like Moses or Joshua. The first five books of the Old Testament were all they had then and it was precious to them because it was all they had. They clung to it, claimed it and cherished it longing for the day that God would send a prophet like unto Moses (Jesus) to deliver His people, as He had promised in Deut. 18 vs 15 & 18! God fulfilled that promise (vs. 18 says "I will raise up") almost 1,500 years later, over 2,000 years ago in Lk 1:2, Mt 1:2, & John 1:1,2, & 14, they missed Him the first time He came but they will see Him for who He is when He comes back again!

Howbeit they had so few copies and so little scripture, but just look at what they had in those five books: the creation account, 2,500 years of history to remind them how God had been faithful to **2020 Vision Continued on Page 2**

Have you missed us?

If you didn't receive all 4 issues of our Global Witness last year but would like to this year, please call our office @ 931-684-0304 or email patblmf@bellsouth.net



Since I write several if not most of the articles that are in this newsletter, I don't usually see a need or feel it necessary to do a personal article, however on this rare occasion, I believe I will. I'll use this space to cover a potpourri of different subjects, personal and ministry. I do apologize that we have not had the space in this newsletter in quite some time to continue the article we called "Highlights from The Past" as I always enjoy sharing the history of this ministry, past experiences, especially the many blessings and miracles that the Lord has wrought for this ministry.

If I only had the time and space to write one article in this issue of this newsletter it would be the "Production Report" where I have shared some of the Lord's blessings on this ministry this past year. God has been good, so good! Since He called us into this ministry, 51 years ago, I have never had any reservation about His calling and every miracle just reconfirms it even more. It is so evident to me that God wants and intends for His Word to be published. I thank and praise Him for all of you wonderful Brothers and Sisters in Christ who are co-laborers together in this ministry. Thank you!

I realize that this ministry and the Lord's blessings on it are going to mean more to me than anyone because it has been my life for 51 of the 56 years that I have been in fulltime Christian ministry. I just wish every one of you could have seen and experienced what I have concerning God's blessings and provisions on this ministry in these past 51 years. The hours have been long, the work difficult and stressful, the financial compensation little and the sacrifices many but if the Lord were to take me home today, I can say that it has been worth it all! Certainly more difficult since Linda's home going but I can still say, God has been good! I didn't mean to get this old this fast, and not that it should matter to anyone, should I be promoted to the main office anytime soon, the churches and folks who are invested in this ministry can rest assured that the future leadership of this ministry is in good hands!

A personal thank you to all of you who sent cards, letters, e-mails, phone calls and texts assuring me of your prayers after my heart attack and two short stays in the hospital in September of 2018. Thank you! All of the attention and kindness has been encouraging and humbling! At my 12 month checkup my cardiologist said that my heart is not and never will be back to normal, which explains my lack of energy and stamina. I'm still going, just not as fast, strong or as long as I used to! I can still say that God has been good! As the production of this ministry has grown and with Shannon and Tiffany on the road and gone most of the time, it has become increasingly more necessary for me to stay close to the office in addition to my age and physical issues! Your continued prayers will be greatly appreciated!

This ministry always has needs; some of them insignificant; some of them "wants" so we don't mention them because they pale in comparison to our need for paper and printing materials! We do however have some legitimate needs from time to time so should any of you have a rich uncle to

Director Continued on Page 4

2020 Vision Continued from Page 1

protect and provide for His people, God's miracles and mighty works, prophecies and promises all recorded and preserved in writing. How reassuring it must have been for them to be able to read of God's promises to Abraham that through his seed, all of the world would be blessed Gen. 12:1, 2, and while lamenting over not having a prophet, a seer, a man of God they were living in the land that God had promised Abraham. Maybe even more important, they could read how faithful God had been to bless, protect, provide for them and forgive them of their sins and deliver them when they confessed their sins and called upon Him.

In comparison, look what we have recorded and preserved for us in His Word today, 6,000 years of examples of His faithfulness, all of His fulfilled prophecies and promises, everything that we need in this day of grace, the complete, perfect, verbally inspired, infallible, inerrant, pure, preserved finished and living Word of God. The Apostle Peter best sums it up in II Peter 1:19 when he says, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed..." All the way from Abram to Jesus, God has revealed Himself to man in visions and visions recorded revealing to us the Holy Spirit living in us, our hope of glory, the church and His reassurance of the resurrection. We have all the vision that we need in the Book, what more could we possibly need or want, we just need to live it and put it all into practice.

...we need a new look at the old Book!

A couple of thoughts about I Sam. 1:3, since we have so much more of His Word today than they did then you would think His Word would be equally if not more precious to us than it was to them but that doesn't seem to be the case! Could it be that so many who profess Christ are not seeking God's vision for their life but rather seeking after other visions, visions of material possessions, pleasure, fame, wealth and to some, power and favor with men!

Secondly, of the millions of people in this world, what if any vision of God or from God do they have? The answer to that is very little if any! Ps. 19:1 says that "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork." and John 1:9 says that He is "...the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." Those who have never heard the gospel worship something because their heart tells them there is a God but it takes the truth to set them free and we have the Truth. Prov. 29:18, says "Where there is no vision, the people perish:..." The lost world needs to get a vision of the Son of God with outstretched arms inviting them to come to Him, while the church and those of us who are saved need a vision of lost sinners, people going to hell without Christ!

We don't need a new method to reach the lost, we need a new look at the old Book! We need to get a vision of God's heart for this world for it is His desires that all men might come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved, not willing that any should perish! Shouldn't God's vision for this world be our vision? There is a beautiful song that says "If I could see this world through His eyes I know that I would serve Him more faithfully!" We can know Jesus's vision for the world, He wants us too, it's recorded in His Word and all we have to do is to claim it! Oh, to be more like Jesus, it would change our heart and we would never be the same! We can see Jesus's heart in Lk. 13:34 when He lamented over Jerusalem saying "... how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!" And, in Lk. 19:41 He wept over the condition of Jerusalem.

But, the very best place for us to see the heart of Christ is on the cross for it was there where He gave His life for us and for the sins of the whole world. "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 Cor. 5:21. In I Cor. 15:1-4 we find the gospel which has been provided to us according to the scriptures! II Cor. 4:3, "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost." Verse 4, "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." The Apostle Paul says in Rom. 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;..." The question is, what are we doing to get this gospel to those who do not have it? Where there is no vision there is no effort made, a little vision produces little effort and little fruit, while a broken heart and much vision produces much more effort and much fruit, some a hundred fold, some sixty, some thirty.

List of 20 Languages for 20/20 Campaign

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|--|--|
| 1. Burmese Bibles - <i>Myanmar</i> | 11. Portuguese Bibles - <i>Brazil & Mozambique</i> |
| 2. Kannada Bibles & NT - <i>India*</i> | 12. Spanish Bibles & NT's (3 containers) - <i>Central America & Mexico</i> |
| 3. English (4 containers) - <i>Africa & 3 to the Philippines</i> | 13. Urdu Bible Portions - <i>Pakistan</i> |
| 4. Tagalog(2 containers) - <i>Philippines</i> | 14. Wayana Bibles - <i>Suriname, SA</i> |
| 5. Pidgin - <i>Papua, New Guinea</i> | 15. Swedish Bibles - <i>Sweden*</i> |
| 6. Croatian Bibles - <i>Croatia</i> | 16. Pashto NT's - <i>Afghanistan*</i> |
| 7. French/English NT's - <i>Haiti</i> | 17. Romanian Bibles - <i>Romania</i> |
| 8. Creole NT's - <i>Haiti</i> | 18. Hebrew NT's - <i>Israel</i> |
| 9. Korean Bible Portions - <i>South Korea*</i> | 19. Arabic NT's - <i>Lebanon</i> |
| 10. Shona NT's - <i>Zimbabwe</i> | 20. Cebuano NT's - <i>Philippines*</i> |
- * New - 1st Time Printing**

India Project

First printing of the Kannada Language arrived in India at the end of January. These 4 men from Victory Baptist Church in Shelbyville, TN helped collate the Bibles and load the container here at BLMF. They are pictured here in India unloading the Scriptures for distribution.



Some of you may think we're rushing things a bit but we have to start announcing the Scripture Conference early because if we don't, after three issues of the Global Witness, nine support letters, three personal letters and a conference brochure most pastors will forget the dates and schedule their revival meetings or vacations for the very same week. The Conference is usually the third Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of October every year unless we need to move it forward or back a week to accommodate our keynote speaker or unless the director miscounts the number of weeks as he was accused of doing last year. In his defense, however, how many days does a week have to have to be called a "week"? The dates are October 19 thru 21, 2020!

Dr. John Wilkerson, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Hammond, IN, will be our keynote speaker this year. The conference as usual will start with a special gourmet supper at 5 PM on Monday evening October 19 and go thru Wednesday evening, October 21. Please write these dates on your pocket calendar, your wall calendar, record them in your cell phone, tell you wife, your secretary and put a sign on your refrigerator, the one place we frequent the most! Of all of the fellowship meetings, Camp meetings and Bible conferences in the world, this is the one you don't want to miss. Come not just to hear the Word, but to do something to promote the production and distribution of it so that others can benefit from our having assembled together.

This conference is different in that it is built solely around Jesus Christ and His Word. No one taking credit for what the Lord is doing and no one trying to climb the ecclesiastical ladder! Three days of Spirit filled preaching, singing, wonderful fellowship and delicious food! If you love your old King James Bible and sincerely want to do something to get it to those who do not have it then this conference is the place you need to be October 19 - 21, please don't miss it! There will be several other special daytime preachers and guest present that we will be announcing closer to the conference!

For those of you who are serving the Lord in those frigid states in the north, our Scripture Conference North sponsored by the First Baptist Church in Flat Rock, MI, will be Sunday, March 15th thru Wednesday, March 18th. Evening services will start at 7 pm, with Pastor Robb Foreman preaching Monday and Tuesday evenings. There will be a special supper for pastors and preachers at 5 pm prior to the service on Tuesday evening! Shannon and I look forward to renewing our fellowship with you pastors and preachers who have attended in previous years, to have an opportunity to give you a personal report and hopefully, for an opportunity to introduce this ministry to some new pastors and preachers who are not already acquainted with this ministry. For additional information you can contact me, Shannon, or Brother Robert Boyce, the host pastor at (734)782-3073 or (843) 514-3891.



One of the greatest responsibilities we have as a Christian is to GET THE WORD OF GOD OUT! Not only is it the personal responsibility of the Christian, it is also the responsibility of the local church to GET THE WORD OF GOD OUT. This year, at Home Line Baptist Church, we have made it our theme and our personal goals to do everything we can to do more to “GET THE WORD OUT” in 2020. Greater Vision!



By: Pastor Robb Foreman

It seems like every Christian, pastor, and church is looking for a way to be prosperous and successful in all the wrong places. God was so perfect in giving us a formula to be prosperous and successful, all at the same time. Moses, the servant of the Lord is now dead. Joshua is now thrust into this incredible position of leadership to complete the mission of leading the children of Israel into the promise land. God tells Joshua in Joshua 1:7; “Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper withersoever thou goest.”

In verse 8, God gives Joshua the formula to prosperity and success. Joshua 1:8 “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

It seems we have lost the importance of “THIS BOOK.” God lays it out so simply to say, if you want to be prosperous and successful, we must be wrapped up in “THIS BOOK.” We must be finding more ways to “GET THE WORD OUT!”

The world has their idea of prosperity and success. The idea of climbing the corporate ladder, making a six figure income, living in a fancy house, or even driving a new car. However, there is much more to God’s prosperity and success. It is so incredible to show up on Saturday at the local church, take the gospel of Jesus Christ to an individual, total stranger, tell them about a place called heaven, and watch them bow their head and trust Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. Wow, there is nothing like it! To watch that struggling family, come to know the Saviour through the Word of God, and then grow in the Lord and the local church. That is the kind of prosperity and success that we should be striving for. There is nothing like pastoring a church that sees the importance of GETTING THE WORD OUT.

I preached a message on the first Sunday of this year entitled - Greater Vision 20/20—GET THE WORD OUT! I told the people that “I want to see Home Line Baptist Church be more prosperous and more successful than we have ever been.” God has been so good to us throughout the first six years of our ministry. However, I believe much of that prosperity and success has to be attributed to our people seeing the need to participate in giving to the BLMF—Bible Literature Missionary Foundation. I gave the following simple three point outline to our church, that if we will follow it in 2020, I believe we will see God make our way even more prosperous, and then we will find even more good success.

Some of the greatest highlights of our ministry have been to give to the BLMF, watch and help them ship scripture to a foreign country, then be there when it arrives and hand it to someone who would have never been able to have their own Bible, without our participation. Incredible!

The following photos are just some of what we got to be a part of in 2019 in GETTING THE WORD OUT!

- Get the “WORD” out!**
Three steps to Prosperity & Success
Joshua 1:1-8

 1. Get the Word out for Yourself!
Find a way to get the Word of God EVERYDAY!
Joshua 1:8 - Psalm 1:1-3
 - A. Hear it. Get to Church!
Romans 10:17 - *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*
 - B. Read it.
Read through in a Year.
 - C. Study it.
2 Timothy 2:15 - *“Study to shew”*
 - D. Memorize it.
Psalm 119:11 - *“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”*
 - E. Meditate on it.
Joshua 1:8
 2. Get the Word out for Others!
Acts 1:8 - Matthew 28:19-20
 - A. Go Soul Winning
 - B. Pass out Gospel Tracts everyday
 3. Get the Word out to the World!
Luke 3:2-6 - Matthew 28:19
 - A. BLMF - Bible Literature Missionary Foundation - Support Them!
 - B. The world is in desperate need of the Word of God!
Romans 10:14-15



To each and every one of you who pray for this ministry, are Scripture Partners or have given of your time to help collate, Thank you and God bless you! With your faithful support, this ministry in 2019 purchased a record 21 trailer loads of paper, shipped a record 1,743,265 Bibles and Scriptures filling a record 20 containers in addition to multiple pallets and hundreds of individual cases. Thank you all! We cannot begin to thank you enough for all that you have done to help grow this ministry in 2019. Many of you, like the church at Macedonia have given sacrificially, far beyond your financial ability, Thank you! That church did so after first giving of themselves unto the Lord! Thank you for every prayer, every Bible you collated and every dollar you contributed, together it has made a difference.

To those of you, who may not have received the December monthly prayer/support letter, let me briefly reiterate for you some of the ways the Lord so wonderfully blessed in 2019. We started the year with a goal to raise \$300,000 to retire some old equipment debt in addition to raising contributions and support for Scripture production. By April, we had received \$125,000 designated for debt retirement but we had also received so many request for containers of Scriptures that we quit asking for contributions for debt retirement. We put Scripture production first as we always have and just concentrated on Scripture production. God honored that and in June or July, a church that was selling their property and closing their doors sent this ministry a \$200,000 offering designated for debt retirement enabling us to finish paying off all of that equipment debt. Praise the Lord, what a blessing!

However, with all of the request that we were receiving for Scriptures we were buying two trailer loads of paper most months, three a month in June, September and December, a whole lot more paper than we had funds to pay for. As a result, we came into our Scripture Conference in October owing \$104,000 for three trailer loads of paper. At the conference, our vice president made an appeal asking those who could to help with this need and by Wednesday night had received offerings and pledges for \$130,000. The amazing thing was how folks responded so quickly and so


generously. I don’t believe that I have ever seen so much money raised so quickly. God again honored the faith of His people and as a result, we were able to pay the October, November and December paper bills in time to earn over \$1,300 in discounts! That kind of faith and generosity enabled this ministry to accomplish the production and growth we achieved in 2019! To God be all the praise and the glory!

Those extra offerings from the conference put us over the hump allowing us to end the year without going into the red. However, if not for you Scripture Partners who support this ministry regularly and those three churches who sponsored entire trailer loads of paper, one of them for five loads; we could not have purchased the other 14 trailer loads of paper. Even with 21 trailer loads of paper, our web press was down 9 weeks in 2019, one week a month from January through September without paper, we could have used another five or six additional trailer loads of paper. I can’t help but wonder, if we had purchased them by faith as we had some of the others, maybe the Lord would have provided the funds for them as well. No one is complaining; we just want you to see that we have the potential of producing more Scriptures.

This ministry received \$1,353,884.78 in support and contributions designated for Scripture production in 2019. Of these contributions, we spent \$1,323,426.81 of it to produce and ship 1.74 million Bibles and Scriptures, a bargain at twice the price! You might find it interesting to know that 75% of the money spent on paper and materials last year went into producing 363,800 whole Bibles. The funds carried over into this year have helped to purchase the first trailer load of paper for 2020 and because we were able to pay for it within ten days of delivery, we saved another \$300!

On behalf of all of our BLMF Scriptures Partners, the eight pastors who serve on our board of directors, all of our staff, workers and myself, thank you! Only in eternity will we ever know the full impact of these Bibles and Scriptures, if God will reward a cup of liquid water given in His name, I wonder what the value of a cup of the “Living Water” given in His name is going to be?





“The Greatest Words NEVER Read!”

Pastor Chad Stanley
Countryside Baptist Church
BLMF Board Member, Secretary

I am by no means an old man. I am not the most learned or educated man. I have not read all of the great works of literature that are out there today. I have, however, been very fortunate in my life. Though I have never had the desire to read the numerous classics, I have had the opportunity to read Herman Melville’s Moby Dick, and Mark Twain’s The Adventures Of Huckleberry Finn. Til this day, I still remember reading Ol Yeller as a young boy.

However, for as long as I live and no matter what great literary authors I have read after, I will never forget when I read the words of John chapter three and verse sixteen! *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*

I have preached many times from this verse and yet many more could be preached. It is a verse of Scripture that will never run dry. It is a passage of Scripture that most anyone could quote. I don’t know when the first time was that I read these words, but I can conclude without a shadow of a doubt that they are the greatest words that I have ever read!

With that being said, I want to draw your attention to why these words are the greatest...

First, these words SPEAK OF THE GREATEST PERSON, “God.”

I have looked high and low across the internet for lists of the greatest people of all time. They had lists of the greatest people of each country, categorized down in different groups. They had every list you could think of. I even found religious lists. I never found one list with THE REAL GREATEST PERSON, GOD!

I don’t know about you, but the Greatest Words I Ever Read told me about the Greatest Person who ever lived! God was manifest in the flesh...

These words SPEAK OF THE GREATEST PASSION, “so loved the world.”

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.” (1 John 3:1)

“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us:” (1 John 3:16)

“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (1 John 4:8-10)

When I think about this verse, I can’t help but think of the words of the song, Jesus Loves Me! “Jesus loves me, this I know; for the Bible tells me so...”!

These words SPEAK OF THE GREATEST PRESENT, “that he gave his only begotten Son.”

I have received some great presents in my life, but none can compare to the Greatest present ever given...the Son of God. You can GIVE without LOVING, but you can’t LOVE without GIVING! GOD SO loved us in that He gave us His ONLY BEGOTTEN Son.

These words SPEAK OF THE GREATEST PROSPECT, “that whosoever.”

I don’t know who else was saved on the night of March 16, 2007, but I know one thing, I am glad that I was a great prospect. I am still rejoicing that “whosoever” included me!

These words SPEAK OF THE GREATEST PLAN, “believeth in him.”

The religions of the world say, “Do this...” or “Do that...” However, God’s plan says, “I have already done it! It is finished!” His plan is not only the greatest plan, it is the only plan.

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:14-18)

“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” (John 3:36)

These words SPEAK OF THE GREATEST PROMISE, “should not perish.”

2 Peter 3:9 says, *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*

These words SPEAK OF THE GREATEST POSSESSION “but have everlasting life.”

Everlasting life is more than a divine place. It is a divine Person! I have within me everlasting life!!! The song writer put it like this:

I’d rather have Jesus than silver or gold;
I’d rather be His than have riches untold;
I’d rather have Jesus than houses or lands,
I’d rather be led by His nail pierced hands.
Than to be a king of a vast domain
Or be held in sin’s dread sway,
I’d rather have Jesus than anything
This world affords today.

As I began this article, I stated that without a shadow of a doubt, these words are the greatest words that I have ever read! However, with that being said, I submit to you that the words of John 3:16 are also the greatest words that have NEVER been read. That is because there are multitudes of people around the

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Women of the Word



feasting & being filled



March 28
2020

Director Continued from Page 2

pass away and bequeath you a fortune, and after your tithe and taxes you still have some left, please give us a call. We anticipated having to replace our three-knife trimmer last year but it’s still operating at 50%, but there are many times we need it at 100% but at least it’s still going! And, the day will come in the future, if in the unlikely event the Lord does not return first that we will need to consider upgrading our small web press that is printing 48 page signatures to a larger one with capability of printing 64 page signatures.

Right now, our number one priority is to do everything within our power to reach our 20/20 goal for 2020 so please pray and anything you can do to help will be appreciated! While you are praying please remember our staff representatives, Shannon, Tiffany & family and Robbie & Jennifer Allen & family and our volunteer representatives; Maxie Smith, David & Debbie Miles, Houston & Anita Buchanan and Phil & Betty Jones. Pray especially for Brother Phil as he had some serious complications from a surgery, requiring 3 additional surgeries with one more surgery scheduled for March.

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world who don't have a copy of God's Word. It is estimated that out of the seven billion people that are in the world, almost five billion of them do not have a Bible.

By partnering with Bible & Literature Missionary Foundation, you and I have the opportunity to change that for thousands, even hundreds of thousands, of those people! For just \$2.50, we can help put a Bible in the hands of a person who has never held a copy of God's word! Think of it this way, for \$100 per month, you and your church could help produce a Bible for forty boys and girls. That is 480 children per year to whom you could give the opportunity to read John 3:16 for themselves!

Remember, we are talking about the GREATEST words. Psalm 119:130 says, *“The entrance of thy words giveth light...”* If the Lord so led, for \$1,000 per month, you and your church could buy an entire roll of paper which would produce 500 Bibles. Think about it, that is SIX THOUSAND Bibles each year! They say that the average world-wide household is 4 per house. With that figure in mind, for \$1,000 per month, you and your church could help reach as many as 24,000 souls with the light of God’s Word!!! Will you help get God’s Word around the world so that others may also say, “These are the greatest words I ever read?”