

## GREAT GRANDMA AND VALENTINE'S DAY

Many years ago when I was about nine years old my dad opened the big family Bible and laid it on the dining room table and told me to read it out loud. He sat in a chair nearby with another Bible opened on his knee and followed as I read aloud. Day after day I read. I do remember well the stories of Joseph, Samson, and I remember reading Leviticus and reading the tests that Moses gave for the cure of leprosy. Years later in Bible College, the Professor in Gospels class one day asked the students if they knew the test for the cure of leprosy. I was the only one who knew because I had read it when I was nine years old.

When my dad was in the last weeks of his life he lamented that he had not done too much for the Lord. I reminded him of the days as a child when he had taught me to read the word, and that it was that discipline that later on was responsible for me being a preacher.

Now the plot thickens. Twenty years later after he died, 1 asked my mother shortly before she passed away why he used that method of teaching the word to me and she said that when dad was a child he had a blind grandmother. This blind grandmother had told her young grandson to read the Bible to her. This blind woman who is my great grandmother was born in the first part of the nineteenth century. She may have wondered as most of us would, why she had to suffer blindness. Her desire for the word of God over a hundred years ago is the reason many of you hear me on the radio today. God truly works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform.

Now a further thought about the providence of God. Shortly before my mother died in 1989, I asked her why it was that we were members of the Church of Christ and or Christian Church when most of our other relatives were Methodists and my grandfather was a primitive Baptist. In other words, how come dad was a maverick and did not go with the flow. She said when dad was a young man there was an area-wide interdenominational revival. Many people confessed Christ and they were told to go to the Church of their choice. Dad decided on uniting with the Church of Christ which was called Christian Church in Virginia. She said the reason he made that decision was became he remembered reading about the Church of Christ in the Bible. Paul said, "All the Churches of Christ salute you." He remembered how the disciples were called Christians first at Antioch in the eleventh chapter of Acts and the statement in Acts twenty-six, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian:" and how Peter said, "If any man suffers as a Christian let me not be ashamed."

So if folks don't like to hear me preach every week on the church revealed in the New Testament, and the terms of pardon as revealed on the day of Pentecost, "Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit," I guess you will have to blame it on my blind great grandmother.

And now that reminds me of a Valentine's Day this year 2010. I begin my sixty-seven years of preaching the gospel. On February 14, 1943 at Genntown, Ohio near Lebanon is where it began. That is part of the story at this point of my spiritual journey. I agree with the words of the gospel song 1 have heard somewhere. One line of it says: "I WOULDN'T TAKE NUTHIN FOR MY JOURNEY NOW."

### TWO COMMUNION MEDITATIONS

THE LORD'S SUPPER First Corinthians 11: 23, 30

The apostle Paul was not an eyewitness of the institution of the Lord Supper, and yet in his account of it, he had several things to say that the eyewitnesses did not include.

For one thing, he starts by telling us he received his information from the Lord, and this underscores the doctrine of the inspiration of the scriptures.

Paul arguably wrote 100 chapters of the New Testament, and this coupled with the promise the Lord made to the Apostles in the upper room concerning the Holy Spirit guiding them into all the truth, assures us that the entire New Testament is given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Another thought of Paul not included by the others is when he declared: "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye proclaim the Lord's death until He come."

There are two observations here. The first is the fact the congregation by observing the Lord's Supper together is preaching a sermon in action telling others that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and furthermore that Jesus tasted of death once for every man.

In the King James Version the term, "show forth His death" is used. There is an axiom in the theatre that says: "The show must go on." The Lord's Supper shows forth His death, and the show must go on regardless of what other event takes place on the Lord's Day.

The second observation in this statement was the statement, "Until He comes." Over one hundred thousand Sundays have passed by since the day the church began, and on every one of those Sundays Christians have assembled together and observed this feast, and will continue to do so for how ever long it takes until the trumpet sounds and the Lord appears. The Lord's Supper on the Lord's Day is a continual reminder that Jesus is coming again.

Something else Paul included left out by the others was the thought, "Wherefore whosever shall eat the bread and drink the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord." It is not the person that must be worthy to observe the feast, but the worthy manner of observance. If only the worthy could observe the feast none of us would qualify. But to observe the feast without a thought of what you are doing is to drink damnation unto oneself.

And then there is that mysterious statement of Paul the others do not mention: "For this cause many among you are weak and sickly and not a few sleep." Perhaps the best understanding of this is of a spiritual nature. Both the Lord Jesus and Paul quoted the words of the prophet Isaiah when he predicted: "By hearing ye shall hear and shall in no wise understand; And seeing ye shall see, and shall in no wise perceive: For this peoples' heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; Lest haply they should perceive with their eyes, And hear with their ears and understand with their hearts."

In other words there are many in a manner of speaking who are simply out of it. They have no idea of what is going one. They have heard, and don't know what they have heard; they have seen and have no idea what they have seen. They are fallen asleep and dead to the world. So eat of the bread and drink of the cup, and remember, Jesus said: "This do in remembrance of Me."



# The Glory Of The Cross

Galatians 6:14

God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of my Lord Jesus Christ. At the crucifixion, Jesus went out bearing for Himself the cross. Paul tells us: "How God made Him to be sin who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." On the cross Jesus felt that He was guilty of every sin ever committed. He felt the guilt of every lie, every murder; He was every homosexual, every abortionist, every pimp, every drug addict. He was numbered with the transgressors, that we might be numbered among those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

We think of the cross as something beautiful. We have gold crosses, chrome crosses; it makes such a nice decoration. Actually the cross is ugly. When Peter first learned about the cross, He said, "Be it far from thee Lord, this shall never be unto Thee."

Many feel the same way now. When they sing, "On a hill far away stood an Old rugged cross;" that is what they really mean. Get that cross as far away from me as you can get it. If the cross could be thrown into the water like a fishing raft with a motor on it, or trimmed down into baseball bats, or made into bowling balls, it would be better. But the Old Rugged Cross is unacceptable.

A sign on the wall of one church where I preached advertised the coming appearance of a noted linebacker to appear before the young people. I casually inquired why? An elder told me: "Well we must have something to draw the young people." Well discretion was the better part of valor, but I thought that is strange. Jesus said, "And I, if I be lifted up will draw all men unto Me." And then I thought that gospel song must not be true. That song that says: "Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood shall never lose its power."

But then I remembered the secret of the power of the cross, when I thought about the rustic preacher who preached a sermon with all kinds of grammatical mistakes. Some one asked him after the sermon: "Preacher, where in the world did you go to College?" The preacher said, "I ain't never been to College, but I been to Calvary." Have you been to Calvary for the cleansing power? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb? Are you freely trusting in His grace this hour? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?



Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!!! Praises be to our unfailing God Almighty for His guidance and protection for all of us till this time of the New Year 2010. May His Name be praised always. We are taking this opportunity to express our profound gratitude to everyone of you all over the world who are praying for us, our family and the work we are doing here for the Lord. May God also bless you for your prayers for Lee and also Ed Bousman when they got ill last year. Thank you all for also listening to the GIJAPA radio broadcast. God bless you and may He see you through in everything you do this year! It is our prayer that we are able to win more souls for Christ and to also at least plant a church this year so please, never forget to pray for us. In fact, God has blessed our ministry through this collaboration and we promise all of you all over the world who are praying for us that we will never fail you. Though the work and our quest to plant more churches of Christ in the villages and towns in Ghana is being a bit difficult, we promise that by your prayers and encouragement, we shall do all we can to win more souls for Christ. Thank you for the clothing, Bibles, the lessons and in fact, everything in running our soul winning program here in Africa. These materials are winning more souls for us that other congregations and churches are wondering how people are flooding the church.

Work has not yet started so seriously but I can say that we have already baptized two souls and to us, it is by the grace of God. Please, keep on praying, for GIJAPA/THE TRUTH. Thank you so much and keep your faith that 'God is truly Just A Prayer Away' so talk to Him using His uninterruptible phone line Jeremiah 33:3.

Thank you all and may God bless you. *Ike and Lee Pertey from Ghana, W. Africa* 

#### Dear Brother Bousman,

I wish you a happy and a rewarding New Year, Thank you for all the gifts you have blessed my ministry with for the past years. I appreciate you a whole lot especially for the Bibles you continue to donate to us in Liberia. However, I regret to say that you may please send only Bibles to me from now on and not clothes again even though we need them. My government had placed a very high tax on used clothing. I pray for your understanding. *In Christ, Mike Foday from Liberia, W. Africa* 

In Chrisi, Mike Foudy from Liberia, w.

#### Dear Brothers and Sister,

First I greet you brethren, Ed Bousman, sister Naomi and all Gijapa family. How are you? My family and I are doing well and the Church is fine. I want to apologize in the name of our Lord Jesus for taking long to communicate with you. Please forgive me. We are opening the Church in Mbonge area, 10 kilometers away from Solwezi town in February or first week of March. We have baptized 3 brothers now in this area. These brothers walk for 10 kilometers every Sunday to attend the services with us at Messenger congregation. In July-August last year 2009, they requested me to open the church in their area. I went alone and visited 11 villages to see the area to know if we can plant the church in that area. All the people I met and talked with encouraged me to open the Church. Again I returned to Mbonge and this time the brothers joined me to preach the gospel. We visited 16 homes. We preached to the deputy headmaster of Mbonge Primary School, we gave him some tracts you had sent us about salvation and the church. Glad to inform you that through this exercise we baptized one brother. It will interest you to know that the wife of the one baptized is asking for Bible studies. The deputy headmaster called me again asking us questions on the church he read in the tracts. He has offered to use the class room for worship once the Church is opened. All these brothers and the sisters are asking to establish the church. If you receive

such request, what would you do? My dear brother Ed Bousman and sister Naomi, if we don't answer their request to start the Church of Christ, soon, they will lose interest in religious matters and may go back to the world or they may join a denomination. I am asking for more Bibles and materials that will help us to continue evangelism and Bible studies in this area. Again Messenger Church of Christ, is the church you started with your support of Bibles, Bible studies and used clothing, God willing will be 2 years on February 24th 2010. The brethren are strong in their Christian life and very serious with church attendance and Bible studies. Now I have started teaching them on Peter's telling virtues that he urges Christians to add to their faith, self control is preceded by knowledge, suggesting that what Christians are learning needs to put into practice. It is significantly follows by perseverance: make every effort to add to your faith goodness. They should not expect quick results but anticipate progress, falling down, and getting up, all the way to heaven. Above all, when love is in place, the other aspects of the spirit's fruit grow in the Christian life. (2 Peter:5-10). Awaiting your reply and remembering you very specially in our prayers.

Your brother, John Maseka from Zambia

#### Dear Sir Ed & Madame Nomie:

Pray things are getting better with you now. May God continue to pour out His blessings & grace to you that you may have more years ahead to work in His Kingdom & People. Ed we are praying for you in the midst of the four congregations we are serving. Thanks for the emails. They are giving me things on how you've gone through the past weeks. Sister, I understand the personal sacrifices you are doing with our precious brother Ed. May God bless you always & to your family. I wonder if you know of any congregations or individuals there who could help us with a couple of communion trays and some mono block chairs for the services of the two local churches we've just started. Please remember us in your prayers as we prayed for you. Sometimes I'm indeed in a vacuum & don't know which way we turn to. Thanks a lot for helping us in our work here with Bibles and clothes. Thank you so much for the seven (7) boxes you sent today in the mail for us! There may be some slow movement of mails this December due to this Yuletide Season's gifts & mails but I will inform you when I've got them.

Pray you can keep on! We are doing every possible means to work for the Lord amidst our difficulties here. Sister Naomi! Thanks for taking the time to write me on the situation of Sir Ed. We've been offering much prayers on him. We understand how things are going on with you. Just take your time my precious sister. You're doing great by taking care with the man who keep on fire'n in the souls of men. We appreciated so much for giving us update. Please tell to Sir ED we love & pray for him!

Ed Domingo, Philippines

#### Dear sister Naomi,

Thanks be to God for keeping beloved brother Bousman up to now. We are still praying for him and we believe the Lord is in control of affairs, Amen.We have today received a box of used clothing and shoes and we thank you so much. Please incase you have Bibles, send some to us. We are short of Bibles now. We always appreciate your kind gesture to us on this hard soil. Our Lord keeps on abiding with you through Christ, Amen. It is our prayer that our Beloved Brother Bousman will receive his healing soon in Jesus name, Amen.

Alexander Ofori, a servant Of the Most High God. From The Gambia, W. Africa

#### Dear Naomi,

Thank you so much for the for the items i.e clothes that you sent us we got five boxes of clothes and shoes we are so grateful and may the good Lord bless you so much for such a care,

Love you all, Yrs.Bro.Raymond GALIWANGO Uganda, E Africa

#### Dear Ed & Naomi:

Thanks be to God that you are OK, Ed and Naomi I hope you are OK too. Keep on the firing line, both of you because I look forward to your preaching every Sunday at 6:30 AM on WLW 700 AM on the dial. "Keep on Keeping on" ole Buddy and Naomi you keep that friend of mine fed only the best. Here's a few pennies to keep 'GIJAPA' on the air. Because He is coming back.

Arthur from Columbus, OH

Comments from webpage: - I Love your radio program and try and read each sermon and newsletters online. My husband was a fan of yours and always loved to hear you preach on the mountain at the Prayer Clinic in Grundy, VA. He passed away in March of 2007 he was a man of God and preached the word til he was called home. I was wondering how can I receive your sermons on CD? And please keep the services coming on your web site. May God's Grace and Love go with you all.

Tammy

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Dear Mr. Bousman

When I last wrote you in November 2009, I mentioned that listening to your broadcasts have inspired me to read the entire Bible from beginning to end and that at that time I had started Deuteronomy. I'm now in 2 Samuel and continuing my decision and dedication to studying the Bible so that I may learn to live my life for God. Please find enclosed some more ammunition! Thank you for your continued dedication to God and to spreading His word.

Mark David from Henrico, VA

2010 WINTER WORSHIP AND WORKSHOP

will again be held in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee February 8-11 Denny Coburn, Director

#### Scheduled Speakers

Herb Alexander, Woodsfield, OH Tom Arehart, New Manchester, WV Denny Coburn, Gallipolis, OH Ed Bousman, Lynchburg, OH Don Cooper, East Liverpool, OH Daniel Davenport, Gallipolis, OH Lee Mason, Mason, OH Wayne Smith, Lexington, OH

Tim Wallace, Martinsville, OH Music and Special Features Art Bush, Chesapeake, OH

Jeff Bush, Kenosha, WI

Steven Foster, Camby, IN Marvin Whiteman, Wellsburg, WV

Bowden Family, Perryville, KY

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