

January 2012 Address all mail: Ed Bousman Evangelistic Assoc., P.O. Box 511, Lynchburg, Ohio 45142-0511 Issue 1



# Ask and you shall receive... Matthew 7:7-8

(Naomi introduced family members, trustees and workers of the GIJAPA radio broadcast: from left, Glenna Butler, worker; Robert Feathers and Bob Stevens, trustees; Joe and Melanie Rightmyer, family. The God Is Just A Prayer Away quilt in the background was made by Melanie from Ed's ties and presented to him Christmas 2010 before he passed away May 2011.) Photo by Steve Roush of The Times Gazette, Hillsboro, OH.



Joe & Melanie Rightmyer; Eric & Tina Vail



Bob Stevens, Allensburg Church of Christ, preacher & trustee



Kerry Allen, Person to Person Ministries, Hillsboro, OH



Mona Allen, Barbara Ertel, Glenna Butler, workers



George Faull, President of Summit Theological Seminary, Peru, IN



A half century ago, Ed Bousman had a dream. On Saturday, November 19th, people came from all over to celebrate 50 years of the dream that became a reality. This dream became a reality when Ed went to his congregation at the Lynchburg First Church of Christ in Lynchburg, Ohio, one Sunday morning with a challenge for them to go home and ask God for something impossible. Ed took his dream to God that day; asking for the impossible - a nation-wide radio broadcast. You know the rest of the story - The God is Just A Prayer Away ministry.

Lee Mason, director of the CRA in Mason; George Faull, President of the Summit Theological Seminary in Peru, IN; Kerry Allen of Person To Person Ministries in Hillsboro; and Bob Stevens, Allensburg Church of Christ minister, all delivered messages at the GIJAPA 50th anniversary celebration held at the Allensburg Church. "Over one billion souls can hear the gospel each week," Allen said. "Only God could do what GIJAPA has done. Ed was brilliant in scripture. He was a genius in making his point and making it stick. As Ed got older, he got busier. . . at age 92 he was still recording broadcasts for the future. . . after he was gone. And from Highland County, through God Is Just A Prayer Away, the gospel has been spread around the world."

Stevens, a trustee of the GIJAPA ministry, said Bousman was an unforgettable evangelist. "A unique man walked among us. Such a giving man he was. He remained strong and vibrant until his 90's, and as long as the God Is Just A Prayer Away is on the air, the gospel will be proclaimed by his voice. God Is Just A Prayer Away is the most appropriate name for that ministry. It was started by and has been sustained by prayers."

For decades, The God Is Just A Prayer Away radio broadcast has been heard on 700 WLW but it is also aired in Richmond, VA; Louisville, KY; Indianapolis, IN; Waterloo, IA; Little Rock, AR; and Wheeling, WV. It's also part of an international broadcast ministry that includes stations Radio Africa, Sri Lanka Broadcasting, Bible Voice Russia, Bible Voice Europe and Beacon of Hope in Africa. Those international broadcasts reach a total of 60 countries every week.

"I liked to be around Ed because when I was around Ed, I felt young," Faull said with a smile. "I'm going to be like Ed, I'm not going to retire, I'm going to retread. It motivated me to hear how he'd got the ministry started. He had a dream and he did it, he started a national radio program broadcast. Some told him, "No, you can't do that." But he recalled the Bible scripture, "Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shall you dwell in the land, and truly you shall be fed. Delight yourself also in the Lord: and He shall give you the desires of your heart." God can do anything. Nothing is impossible, and Ed is living proof of that. We often limit God, but Ed didn't limit God."

Stevens said 50 years ago when Bousman was preaching at the First Church of Christ in Lynchburg in 1962, he preached a sermon challenging everyone to go home and pray about God doing something impossible with their lives. "For his prayer," Stevens said, "Bousman asked for a nation-wide radio ministry." Ed used this scripture, Matthew 7: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye

shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened," said Bob Feathers, a GIJAPA trustee. "Ed believed that the Lord blessed him."

Joe Rightmyer, Bousman's son-in-law and a GIJAPA trustee, said impact of the long-time evangelist is immeasurable. "Ed Bousman had audacity," Rightmyer said. "This was a man who dressed up like the devil and drove around Lynchburg and told people not to go to church. He was not afraid to preach the gospel. I wish I could give you some numbers on how many he saved, how many have heard his broadcast and how many hear them now. Only God knows."

Naomi Bousman, Ed's widow, said that Ed, who always shied away from attention, at first wasn't in favor of a GIJAPA 50th anniversary celebration, but he figured it would happen anyway so he wanted to have a role in setting up the program. "Before Ed passed, we set this date," Naomi said. "Ed told me he wanted to choose the speakers. He chose Lee, George and Kerry, and I chose Bob, because he has been a longtime friend to us. This was a special celebration for us and I thank everyone for coming." (Taken from an article in The Times Gazette, Hillsboro, Ohio by Steve Roush.)

## Letters

Dear Beloved Sister in Jesus Christ,

Thank you very much for your love and prayers for our ministry needs in INDIA. Thank you very much for the six boxes which I have received November 2011. There are 4 boxes of children's clothes and 2 boxes of children shoes. Sister, please pray for the completion work of the Church building, I have sent some of the photos of the progress work of the Church building. Please pray for our ministry needs, we continue pray for you all. With much love and prayers yours in His service

Bro. Garbhapu . Alphonse; Calvary Church of Christ; Mettavalasa - Palakhandyam , India

Hi Madame NAOMI, thank GOD for answering us our prayers! We are so pleased to know you are well & that some members of the family were with you lately. Your health is a little bit fragile lately & I could not help but to worry some for you. We have seen some snow rains in the states via the TV & we are thinking all of you well with that yuletide season. I am heading to our appointment today as it is holiday here in the Philippines & this is one of the good times where the Gospel is to be preached. Let us redeem the time while my country is in rest because of the holiday. Pray you keep on doing well. I will be at Tubao & Pugo areas tomorrow to continue working for the Lord there. Hope you could send us also a DVD copy of our GIJAPA anniversary lately. We are so excited to have a physical view on you all there. We love you & keep on praying for you. Take care!— God Bless Madame, we are remembering you well today as it is also our 50th Anniversary. We are then joining heart with you all there at GIJAPA for this Golden time achievement we have for

the Lord. This is our Legacy from Ed Bousman, & may God bless us all for its keeping! Yes, I would love too to receive a DVD copy of our anniversary celebration there. I do not have DVD yet but I could play it at our neighbors. Once again, Happy Golden Anniversary, God Bless!

Ed Domingo, Sunset Beach Church of Christ, The Philippines

#### Dear sister Naomi.

We received 4 boxes of clothes that you sent on 25th October 2011. Thank you my dear sister for your continued support and prayers. Thank you. My family and I are doing well and the Church is fine. Naomi is doing well, trying to start walking. God continue bless you.

John Maseka, Evangelist, Messenger Church of Christ, Zambia, Central Africa

#### Dear Sister Naomi,

Thanks so much for your concern for us here on this hard soil. I have been in the Cassamance Region of Senegal and have just returned. We got six baptisms and several backsliders returning to the Church. It was a great trip. That pastor and his people keep worshiping with us and many more have been baptized. Sister Naomi, we have today received four boxes of used clothing from you and we thank you so much. I am happy to hear that your ministry is now fifty good years old to the glory of God. Hallelujah to His great name through Christ Jesus, Amen. Your late husband did all that he could to propagate the gospel in so many places of the world. Even after his death, his ministry moves on to the glory of God our Maker. We thank God for your life on earth, let's keep on working faithfully for the Master for surely our labor will never be in Vain, Amen. Thanks so much sister Naomi, we really appreciate your assistance and love for us on this hard soil. To God alone be the glory through Christ, Amen.

Alexander Ofori, a servant of The Most High God, London Corner Church of Christ, The Gambia, W. Africa Hello,

Thank you for providing this study. These 10 lessons sure made me read and reread to find the answers Prison life has been tough these last 3 weeks. I am finally under 1 year until my possible parole, and I believe that's part of the problem - stress. Jesus is walking with me and I need to leave it in his hands instead of trying to do it my way. God bless you, your family and this ministry.

Kerry from prison in Malvern, AR

#### Dear Mr. Bousman,

I have been listening to you for quite some time now. My neighbor also listens to you. We visit for Sunday to hear you at 7:30 AM and 9:30 PM on 1140 WRVA - Richmond, VA. It comes in clear in this area. I've been in prison on death row since 1982. I enjoy your broadcast and Bible teachings. Thank you for your commitment to the Lord and to studying His word and teaching it line upon line! Where else can we hear you on the AM dial? If you can provide a listing as we get radio stations from Iowa to Atlanta, GA, we would appreciate it. We'll be listening tonight - it's the highlight and closure to our Sunday. You're in our prayers!

Sincerely in Christ, His bondservant Michael from Waynesburg, PA

### Naomi & Everyone!

Keep on keeping on! Press on! Fight the great fight! Henceforth, there is laid up for all of you a "crown of right-eousness." Merry Christmas, all of you, Happy New Year, as well, and let us remain faithful into eternity - Praise God!! Thanks for your faithfulness all of you, and still hearing Ed is worth its weight in gold.

Art & Mom Thelma from Columbus, OH





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