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WORDS FOR LIVING MINISTRIES

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Spring 2019

Dear ones,

I am still in Ocean Springs, doing the same things. I continue to progress--slowly, but steadily. My main goal is to drive again; I continue to do well, and I hope to cross that finish line in a month or so; what a day that will be.

Susan and I continue to teach the weekly Bible class, doing selected book studies. As you probably know, Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther constitute a trilogy, telling the story of the final return of the Israelites from Babylonian/Persian captivity, about 500-400 BC. We studied Esther first, because the events in Esther occur during the times of both Ezra and Nehemiah, which are chronological. We finished Esther, have just finished Ezra, and will now begin Nehemiah. The class members are great; they love to learn, and, as always, we teach each other.



*Susan, Tom and Sunday Bible Study Class*

At long last I am going back to the work on my unfinished book, which ended abruptly when I was hurt. I have not been capable of it until now; and I will ease into the work, moving slowly and thoughtfully at first until I learn what I am able to do; I am definitely not 100% yet.

### **A New Approach in Newsletters**

We are working on taking selected teachings from my past ministry, converting them from the old audio cassettes to print, and posting them on the web

site. Some of those will be published here, perhaps in installments because of the length. We will continue to publish the introductory studies to selected books from my study guide to the Bible. In time, I would like to convert some of the old teaching tapes to CDs and send them to those who want them, free. This may be more than we can do with our limited income; but it is my hope. If you have requests for newsletter or web site content, please let us know.

### **Quotable Quote**

*This Quotable Quote is from our Spring 1999 newsletter--twenty years ago.*

"We live in a nation where we slaughter our children and we act surprised when they slaughter each other. God help us!" (Rev. Tim Percy at the funeral of the slain student prayer participants at Heath High School, Paducah, KY) – the first of such in modern times.

*Twenty years later:* When New York's Democratic Legislature and Gov. celebrated making late term abortions / infanticide legal, New Orleans Saints tight end Ben Watson, an outspoken Christian, strongly condemned the law saying, "It is a sad and evil day when the murder of our most innocent and vulnerable is celebrated with such overwhelming exuberance."

*A call to arms: Life is a gift from God, a blessing to protect. Take a stand. Boldly speak out.*

### **Some Things I have Learned through the years.**

I have been in the ministry of Christian teaching and writing since the beginning with 6 (or was it 8?) hungry people in Jerry and June Thomas's living room in Obion County, Tennessee in 1976. I have travelled from coast to coast, and to several foreign countries, to teach the Bible and, on rare occasions, to preach.

I was for years active in the Christian Booksellers Association and the National Religious Broadcasters, lived and moved in that world, have appeared many times on secular and Christian radio and television. Through the years I came to know many of the people in that world, both prominent and obscure, leaders of huge ministries with international

outreach, and men and women with small ministries, small budgets and small circles of influence.

I say these things only to make the point that I have been able to know and observe many of the people in that world; and, in the process, I have learned some things. One of them, of which I am thoroughly convinced, is that the larger and more "successful" a ministry becomes, the greater the temptations to become corrupt. We have all seen regrettable examples of this. It is not easy to survive "success."

Another thing of which I have become convinced is that (with notable, godly exceptions) small ministries, with small budgets and limited resources, change more lives, in proportion to the dollars available to them, proclaiming and teaching the Truth of God, helping the needy with Bibles, books and other publications, than do most huge ministries, with huge budgets, huge staffs, private jets, expensive cars, bodyguards, and walled estates.

Such a small and vital ministry is Tom Adcock's Jesus People Information Center in Sacramento, California. He and his family preach in the street, witness and pass out tracts at public gatherings, including those that are celebrations of sodomy and abortion. He provides free Bibles and Bible studies to men and women in prisons. And (when he has enough money) he irregularly publishes a no-nonsense, free newsletter.



*Tom Adcock*

*Jesus People*



Another such ministry that I have long admired is a teaching newsletter called "Voice in the Wilderness," written and published until recently by my late friend Ed Spurlin of Milford, New Hampshire. Ed died a year ago and, as is the case with most such ministries, unless there is an assistant, friend, or family member to carry on, his ministry died with him. Ed had a brilliant, logical mind, and was a crusader for truth. His newsletter featured carefully crafted scriptural teachings, and verbatim exchanges with those who wrote to him, many of whom took issue with what he had written. He seemed never to tire of it; I couldn't have done it.

I know that his Lord welcomed him into Paradise with "Well done, good and faithful servant." His wife, Dawn, has moved to Georgia to be near one of their children; she will join him in God's time.

*Thanks be to God for such men and women,  
and for their small, vital ministries.*

## MILESTONES

### Born

15 Jan. 2019 - **Louise Holmes Beaton**, weighing in at almost 10 pounds and fourth bundle of joy, to Benjamin & Andrea Beaton.

### Died

28 Sept 2018 - **Doris Britt**, wife of Rev Jim Britt. Doris ministered to the needy in many ways, including ministry to the homeless. Jim and Doris are long-time friends.

3 Feb. 2019 - **Genevieve Boswell** who hosted Bible studies in her home for many years. Her daughter Renee, who was with her when she died, let us know with this perfect note: "*Mom changed her address last night at 12:20...she is having a glory dance for sure! Just hard to believe that little dynamo has gone on....*"

18 Feb. 2019 - **Ethel Tucker**, at 101 years, the consummate hostess who exemplified the Marion Methodist Church as well as the whole community of Marion, KY.

**Note:** Due to our computer crashing in early January the "prefer by email" list was mangled. If you want to receive the newsletter by email only, please let us know. Also: The sender of the newsletter may be [wflm@bellsouth.net](mailto:wflm@bellsouth.net) or [sumacsally@gmail.com](mailto:sumacsally@gmail.com).

### A Final Word

Treasure and use each day as if it were your last, and never give up hope: God has a limitless supply of new beginnings, and He makes beautiful things out of broken pieces.