

## THE BELLS PRAYER & PRAISE LETTER

July---August---September--- 2010

### To our supporting Churches and Dear Friends:

Greetings in Jesus name.

With every passing day Mamie and I are very grateful for your fellowship in this Barnabas ministry of helps and are daily reminded of just how important you are to its success. From our hearts we say thank you. Your thoughtfulness in prayer and financial support and so many others ways is very humbling. As we go we take you with us and as we labor you are there beside us, thanks for your fellowship in the gospel of Christ.

Mamie stepped into a hole when were out visiting and sprained her foot, it is still bothering her some but we are praising the Lord it was no worse. In the last letter I wrote of her falling off the steps of the motor home and now this. When I think of what could have taken place I bow my heart and thank God for his mercy towards us both. I have had a growth on my left knee for over four years. Well last month I had it removed and it was a glumos tumor, not malignant, Praise the Lord! It is healing slowly because of my diabetes but I am able to keep going, God is so wonderful!

Our meetings have been well attended and a good spirit enjoyed, good move among the church folks but there has been a lack of lost people visiting the meetings. The folks are inviting people but it's been a real barren time concerning lost people responding. I know that there seems to be cycles or seasons in the harvest of souls and we must not become slack in the matter of sowing the Word, as we sow I pray that the Lord will allow us to sow in tears. *Psalm 126:5-6 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. <sup>6</sup>He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.*

I hope these examples of this truth will bless your hearts as they have mine.

One who knew George Whitefield well, and attended his preaching more frequently, perhaps, than any other person, said he hardly ever knew him to go through a sermon without weeping; his voice was often interrupted by his tears, which sometimes were so excessive as to stop him from proceeding for a few moments. You blame me for weeping," he would say, "but how can I help it when you will not weep for yourselves, though your immortal souls are on the verge of destruction, and for ought you know, you are hearing your last sermon, and may never more have an opportunity to have Christ offered to you?"—

*Let the old sexton tell the story. A visitor to the parsonage where McCheyne lived and church where he preached asked the old man to tell him something of McCheyne—how he studied and how he preached. The old sexton took him into the study and said, "Sit down, now put your hands over your face, now let the tears fall—that is the way my master studied." They went into the church and up into the pulpit. "Lean over, way over, and stretch out your hands towards the congregation and now let the tears fall—that is the way my master preached*

*When I first began preaching, I remember how I wept from the beginning to the end of my sermons. I was embarrassed of it. This was wholly unlike the college debating, the commencement addresses and other public speaking which I had been accustomed to doing. The tears flowed down my cheeks almost continually, and I was so broken up that sometimes I could scarcely talk. Then I grew ashamed of my tears and longed to speak more logically. As I recall, I asked the Lord to give me better control of myself as I preached. My tears soon vanished and I found I had only the dry husk of preaching left. Then I begged God to give me again the broken heart, the concern, even if it meant tears in public and a trembling voice. I feel the same need today. We preachers ought to cry out like Jeremiah, "Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!" (Jeremiah 9:1)*

—John R. Rice

Here are a list of five broken things in the Bible—and the results achieved by them:

- Broken pitchers (Judges 7:18, 19)—and the light shone out
- A Broken Box (Mark 14:3)—and the ointment was poured out
- Broken Bread (Matthew 14:10)—and the hungry were fed
- A Broken Body (1 Cor. 11:24)—and the world was saved
- A Broken Will (Psalm 51:17)—and a life of fulfillment in Christ!

Serving Jesus Joyously.

Brother Russell & Mamie Bell