

Pressing On!

Philippians 3:12-14

Vol. 111 - 1

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NEW TESTAMENT MINISTRIES UNLIMITED

"Spur one another on!"

(Heb. 10:24)

PRESSING ON!
(under a different name)
was launched in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1905.
In 1932 we moved to Buenos Aires, Argentina, and in 1998 to Málaga, Spain, from where the 'bullezine' is still sent out to some 75 countries, always spurring on the reader to keep on "pressing on!"

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Pressing On!

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Same Frame - Mighty Contrast! *Where Are You?*

1. Cain	& Abel	brothers
2. Enoch	& Noah	walkers with God
3. Job	& Ms. Job	spouses
4. Abraham	& Lot	uncle/nephew
5. Ishmael	& Isaac	half brothers
6. Esau	& Jacob	twins
7. Judah	& Joseph	half brothers
8. Moses	& Aaron	brothers
9. Joshua, Caleb	& 10 companions	12 spies
10. Rahab	& Achan	at Jericho
11. Deborah	& Barak	judges
12. Orpah	& Ruth	sisters-in-law
13. Hannah	& Peninnah	wives
14. Eli	& Samuel	judges
15. Saul	& David	anointed kings
16. God's meditator	& Satan's meditators	Psalms 1 & 2
17. Stone rejected	& Chief C. Stone	Psalm 118
18. Isaiah	& Jonah	prophets-on-a-mission
19. Micaiah	& Zedekiah	prophets consulted
20. Josiah	& Jehoiakim	kings: father/son
21. Esther	& Haman	queen/prime minister
22. Zechariah	& Mary	visited by Gabriel
23. The Magi	& Herod	searchers for the newborn King
24. Jewish teacher	& Samaritan woman	awaiting the Messiah
25. Matthew (publican)	& Simon the Zealot	disciples
26. Mr. Wise	& Mr. Foolish	builders
27. Simon Pharisee	& Sinful woman	citizens
28. 'Wheat' believers	& 'Weed' believers	Christianity
29. The Gadarene	& the Gadarenes	neighbors
30. Universal church	& Local church	Matthew 16 & 18
31. Priest, Levite	& Good Samaritan	travelers
32. Martha	& Mary of Bethany	sisters
33. Prodigal Son	& Elder brother	heirs
34. Mr. Wealthy	& Lazarus	neighbors
35. Mustard Seed	& Mustard 'Tree'	faith sown & grown
36. Pharisee	& Tax Collector	worshippers
37. Bartimaeus	& Zacchaeus	Jericho citizens
38. Son who did	& Son who didn't	matter of obedience
39. Rich people	& Poor widow	contributors
40. Girls plus	& Girls minus	rapture ready?
41. Crucified N° 1	& N° 2	criminals
42. Peter, John	& Mary Magdalene	at the tomb side
43. Tower of Babel	& Pentecost	languages
44. Barnabas	& Ananias	donors
45. Simon Magus	& Ethiopian Eunuch	new believers
46. Cornelius	& Herod Agrippa	imperialists in Caesarea
47. First Adam	& Last Adam	1 Corinthians 15
48. Professors	& Possessors	our time (2 Timothy 3)
49. Diotrephes	& Demetrius	local church leaders
50. Israel	& Ekklesia	the two 'Nations'



Same frame!

PRESSING ON! (DL: MA 1367-98)

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Don't let this PDF die! **Pass it on!**

Pentecost

Jim vH.

To understand all that happened at Pentecost, when the **EKKLESIA** was born, it is important to see its historical background in the Scriptures. For that we have to go back to Genesis 11 - the building of the Tower of Babel. Man in his pride and presumption was planning his future. The 'mutiny' of Psalm 2 was once again being played out, as it had been since the days of Adam and Cain.

On this occasion, God's reaction was: **'Let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech'**. As a result, many groups, possibly thousands of them, came into existence, each one characterized by a different language, which was unintelligible to the rest of them. It was these new 'tongues', now part of their identity, that divided them and caused them to split and scatter across the planet.

The Tower of Babel, or 'ziggurat', was built to get as close to the 'gods' as possible on its top platform, pacify the deities there with sacrifices, and find out from the stars whatever might be important in any course of events. No doubt Nimrod's mesmerizing influence was behind it all. Was he not the first post-diluvian 'messiah'?

But a higher Authority decided otherwise... Pandemonium broke out, and suddenly everyone was out of touch! As a result, the project was abandoned. Builders and everyone else set out to find a happier place. In reality it was the hand of God strewing them out to the ends of the earth... Their huge symbol of unity and destiny had become their icon of division and defeat.

Even so, the ziggurat idea was alive and well, and for centuries the same old mutiny kept rearing its ugly head in very different cultures and languages. Notably the Mayas, in what is now Mexico and Central America, proved to be adept at re-creating the ziggurat with all that accompanied it. Many of these now serve as tourist attractions.

But God had a better plan - a million times better! The Lord Jesus Christ

solved the problem of sin, rebellion and enmity. He gave his life as a substitute for sinful man; then, rising from the dead, He reconciled man with God, making us participants of his New Life.

But not only that - He also reconciled us to each other, through faith in him. He made all true believers members of one New Human Family - the **EKKLESIA**, not built around a 'man of outstanding power', like Nimrod, builder of cities and the driving force behind the Tower of Babel (Gn. 10); not even around a 'man of outstanding faith', like Abraham (Gn. 11), but around the Son of Man himself, the One who rose from the dead!

Having risen from the dead, He sat down at the right hand of the Father, thereby 'setting the stage' for a full implementation on earth. As the whole 'Tri-Unity' was involved at the scattering of humanity at the Tower of Babel (Gn. 11:7), so now the Father, the Son *and* the Holy Spirit must show the full effect of God's New Creation on earth.

It happened on the **Lord's Day**, celebrated by the Jews as Pentecost, which means as much as 'Day Fifty after Passover'. Of course, it was at Passover that the Lamb of God had been slain. Now the Holy Spirit (or God's Breath) came down, breathing New Life into man - 'dead in trespasses and sins'.

That is: all human hearts pledged to the one Head of the one new Family would henceforth enjoy a living relationship with the Messiah (the Christ) and belong to his Ekklesia, whatever their language or location. At this spontaneous meeting in Jerusalem, Jews and Prose-

lytes represented a minimum of some 17 regions and languages. They were the 'firstfruits' of an immense harvest to be gathered.

So the moment was a truly historical one - God's Spirit being 'poured out' like a mighty waterfall (Acts 2:17-18). One of the outstanding features was that now, instead of the 'strife of tongues' of Nimrod's day, there was a spontaneous uttering of the "wonderful works of God" in foreign 'tongues' by the 120 disciples, as portrayed in this chapter.

When the apostle Paul writes on the subject in 1 Corinthians 14, he says that our understanding must not be infantile, but mature. He explains that the occurrence of 'foreign tongues' had been prophesied (Is. 28:11-12). It was a sign for the unbelieving nation of Israel! In other words, God in his love and patience was prodding Israel, even though He knew that, as a nation, they would continue to harden their hearts.

It was as if God was telling them, "Look, I am turning the curse of the Tower of Babel into blessing. From the nations that know me not, salvation will be proclaimed to you, even in their heathen languages. They will follow Israel's Messiah and they will provoke you to surrender in faith to HIM!"

God's nation said "No", and to this day, for two millennia now, they have stubbornly rejected their Messiah. However, the many prophecies show there is a final turning point, and we can only conclude that this point is now very near! The last 'Nimrod' is about to arise, i.e., as soon as the Ekklesia has been promoted to higher service...

Then the time of "Jacob's Trouble" starts, the Great Tribulation (Jer. 30:7). Before the worst is unleashed, 12,000 Israelites from each tribe are sealed as God's servants. They number 144,000. In the Upper Room in Jerusalem there were 120. Now there are 1,200 times that number! Then John sees what the effect is at that time of *their* testimony. It is an incredible harvest: **"Behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and TONGUES, standing before the throne and before the Lamb...; [they] washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb"** (Rev. 7).

And now? Now God's Spirit is out to use **you** and **me** at **this** time of harvest!



The Real Prisoners

(As adapted from: <http://the-end-time.blogspot.com>)

We know the story of Joseph and his brothers as given in Genesis 37 to 50. We read that Joseph's dreams came across to the ten older ones as their kid brother's 'delusions of greatness'. We are also told of his coat of many colors, of the murderous plot to kill him (Gn. 37:18-20) and how they sold him into slavery in Egypt (37:28). Not only that, we also find out how the dreams came true, most remarkably.

We know that Joseph's faith was real, and that despite arriving in Egypt as a slave, God was with him. Joseph rose to a place of prominence in Potiphar's house (39:1-6), was then unjustly accused of rape and thrown into jail. Even in jail, Joseph's faith continued strong and there too he rose to a place of authority (39:23), then to a place of eminence in all of Egypt (41:38-44).

Initially the brothers had plotted to kill Joseph. But Judah said, "*What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites...*" (37:26-27). In other words, let's indulge our sin of jealousy, anger, conspiracy, fratricide, AND profit from it.

So they did; they waffled on about killing their brother, but ended up stuffing him into a pit, then dragged him out when the caravan passed by, so they could sell him into slavery. To the brothers that was the end of Joseph - for all they knew - but a handsome profit had been made: two pieces of silver each...

Decades later, a severe famine came on Canaan and all the surrounding region. Unbeknownst to the brothers, Joseph got to foresee this famine coming. That was thanks to a dream the LORD had sent to Pharaoh, and because God gave Joseph the grace of insight and interpretation.

Some time later, the brothers, facing starvation, decided to travel to Egypt to buy grain, and, of course, they came face to face with Joseph, now Pharaoh's 'grand vizier', the second most powerful man in all of Egypt. The brothers did not recognize Joseph, but

Joseph recognized them. He accused them of being spies and held them in custody. Then told them to return to Canaan and bring Benjamin back with them. Benjamin, the youngest, was Joseph's only full brother, all the others were half-brothers.

The brothers huddled: "*In truth we are guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he begged us and we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us*". And Reuben answered them, "*Did I not tell you not to sin against the boy? But you did not listen. So now there comes a reckoning for his blood*" (42:21-22).

Reuben was referring to an inevitable penalty, which after so many years, was still hanging over their heads. But let us focus on the spiritual aspect. Joseph had been in actual prison, and no doubt had some dark days. But **the LORD was with Joseph**. It says so during the recounting of Joseph's life, over and over (39:2-23).

In Psalm 105:16-22 we see how God was not only *with* Joseph, but that He was *in* the whole thing from beginning to end: "**Moreover He called for a famine in the land; He destroyed all the provision of bread. He sent a man before them—Joseph—who was sold as a slave. They hurt his feet with fetters, he was laid in irons. Until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the Lord tested him. The king sent and released him, the ruler of the people let him go free. He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his possessions, to bind his princes at his pleasure, and teach his elders wisdom.**"

When the LORD is with you, no matter the circumstances, you can dwell in joy and peace. Just think of Paul and Silas in the Philippian jail. Later Paul wrote about joy - from a Roman jail - to those same Philippian Christians (Phil. 4:4, etc.). Being "in Christ" brings with it a sphere of peace and joy that is unrelated to the circumstances of this worldly life. Being in the Lord means

you possess an unchanging, invincible bubble of joy that none can penetrate (4:7).

What contrast, as we compare Joseph's spiritual prosperity with his brothers' poverty! He was 17 when he was sold and 30 when released from jail. For all those years his Lord's nearness was real, even as terrible sexual temptation was thrust on him at Potiphar's (Gen. 39). Compare him there with big brother Judah in chapter 38. Judah was a mature man and widower, but how easily he fell in with what he took to be a prostitute, a woman whose face he never even got to see, but who in reality was his own daughter-in-law...

Now, many years later, the brothers crumbled under the weight of the collective guilt of having sold their brother. How appalling that burden - they had carried it ever since the day Joseph was dragged off! Didn't the cries and the pleas of the teenager they had conspired to sell still ring in their ears? That guilt had been their prison ever since!

The Scriptures declare we are all prisoners of sin. Release only comes by faith in the Lord Jesus (John 8:34; Romans 7:14; Gal. 3:22-23). Joseph, though imprisoned, was free; the brothers, though free, were imprisoned! The burden of sin is heavy, but how light is a clean conscience!

The solution: "**Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?**"

Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Romans 7:24).

You may remember 'Christian', the man in the famous allegory of 'The Pilgrim's Progress' by John Bunyan. Now this was in the 17th century - Bunyan, in an English prison for many years for the 'crime' of preaching the Gospel without a due licence from the Anglican Church, wrote down all that he dreamed. He saw this man called 'Christian', who was weighed down with a heavy burden on his back. He just couldn't get rid of it and it caused him much distress.

Bunyan wrote: "Now I saw in my dream, that just as they had ended this talk, they drew nigh to a very miry slough that was in the midst of the plain: and they being heedless, did both fall suddenly into the bog. The name of the slough was 'Des-

pond'. Here, therefore, they wallowed for a time, being grievously bedaubed with the dirt; and Christian, because of the burden that was on his back, began to sink in the mire."

Then a man, called 'Evangelist', comes along and explains to Christian why the ground was so bad at the 'Slough of Despond':

"This miry slough is such a place as cannot be mended; it is the descent whither the scum and filth that attend conviction for sin do continually run, and therefore is it called the 'Slough of Despond': for

still as the sinner is awakened about his lost condition, there arise in his soul many fears, and doubts, and discouraging apprehensions, which all of them get together, and settle in this place; and this is the reason of the badness of this ground."

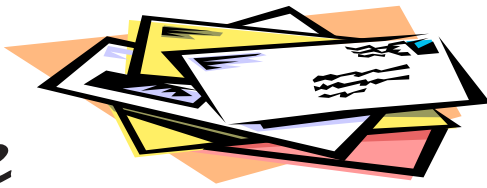
Now my question to you is: 'Are you sinking deep into *your* 'slough' of guilt and shame?' Joseph's brothers certainly were sinking - weighed down as they were by the guilt of their heinous acts. Yet there was forgiveness and freedom even for them and new hope. Do you long for freedom from sin, for

a cleansed heart, forgiveness of the sins which are burdening you? Only Jesus can provide that - in fact He *has* provided all of that perfectly!

Luke 4:18: "*He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed!*"

Galatians 5:1: "*Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free!*"

You Wrote



From Paraguay: Hello brother. Yes, as you said, it is a privilege to be part of the 'Body' of the Lord Jesus Christ. By his grace we received salvation and the forgiveness of our sin. Now, as the sons of God that we are, He expects us to go out and preach the Gospel. That is not only an obligation, but a privilege of the true believer, telling the story of what God has done in his life and giving testimony of HIM. Let's keep in touch. I'll be grateful for anything you send me that will help us to dig deeper as we seek to know God. Have a good day and may God help us to do his will at all times and in all places. Blessings! HD.

From Argentina: Hi brother, I am CA's husband. Thanks to her I got to know the Lord Jesus. BBN-radio in Spanish helped me a lot to grow in the Word. I was told about you - very glad to know that there are people like you with that thirst to know more of the Lord. At the present I am reading one of your booklets. The elders told me that you could send me reading material to know more and apply to my life. My own family is still unconverted and I wonder if you can send or recommend something that would help me to speak to them, avoiding, hopefully, any offence. Thank you very much and may the Lord continue to bless you! RC.

From England: Hi to you, Many thanks for your regular magazine. It is very interesting and a great encouragement. May God greatly bless you. Love from us all in the precious Name of our Lord Jesus, WL&NB.

From Uruguay: Hi Jim, Thank you for PRESSING ON! Very good! I read it all in English and it taught me some new words. Please send me more English material so I can read more and learn more about the Lord. I'll pass it on to my friends. Blessings, RM.

From China: I met you and Janet only a couple of times while I was a student in Holland, about 6 or 7 years back... But your letters and booklets have never failed to reach me during all these intervening years by email. I trust many more people are blessed through this way by the Lord, whether they are on high or low, or steady in the Lord. Am very thankful to you and Janet's work for the Lord. I trust the Lord would bless and give you strength to continue to serve Him. Best regards, PD.

He Promised Paradise

Jesus promised the repentant criminal: '**Today you will be with me in Paradise!**' No more curse there! Note that by simple faith in the Messiah this pathetic human being is transformed into a subject of the King - the Curse of sin on his life is broken! It has been forever exchanged for God's Blessing! - Lk. 23:40-43.

A convicted brigand, who did not hesitate to kill in order to obtain his victim's goods, was now at death's door

himself. His sudden change was not brought about by complying with certain requirements, like changing his religion, signing on the dot, being deserving, being baptized, or paying tithes! He was down and out, in agony and dying on his cross, yet now, unquestionably, he was '**with Christ**'. What it took was true repentance and simple faith! That was all.

Take note of this also: Jesus could not have said, '**You will be with me!**', **unless** the man was already '**with him**' before he died. No one **without Christ** at the moment of death, will be **with Christ**

after death. The cursed criminal, now a true son of Abraham, is ushered into Paradise, solely on the merit of Christ himself. In **him** he had believed, availing himself of Christ. And **with Christ** he was!

In other words, when the rising Christ transfers Paradise from Hades to Heaven (Eph. 4:8-10; Hb. 2:14-15; Rev. 1:18), this man is there. When later Christ rules the world from Jerusalem during his millennial reign, and Paradise is at long last restored to earth, the erstwhile criminal is there, **with Christ**! Wherever is the Christ, his disciple is there too - **with him!**

WELL DONE!

Howel
Jones

Lessons from 1 Thessalonians

This letter is understood to be one of the earliest of the apostle Paul's letters that we have in the NT. It certainly was written very soon after his traumatic visit to Thessalonica. He had gone there from Philippi, where he and his companions had gone in response to the "Macedonian call". While in Philippi, he experienced some blessing as well as strong opposition, ending in imprisonment. As a consequence he moved on to Thessalonica.

There his stay was cut short because of fierce opposition and rioting against *'these who have turned the world upside down'*. This time Paul, with Silas and Timothy, moved on quickly to Berea and then, with his opponents still pursuing him, he left the others behind and went on to Athens and eventually Corinth. That was the first chance Paul had to collect his thoughts some months later. It was from there that he eagerly wrote this epistle, having already sent Timothy from Athens to see how they were doing. Timothy's positive report encouraged him and caused Paul to write a letter full of thankfulness and encouragement.

Though brief, and troubled, it turned out that his mission to Thessalonica had actually been wonderfully successful. When they had turned to Christ, it had been in adverse circumstances, yet they were maintaining an exemplary testimony in their new life. Paul is full of thankfulness for them and encourages them to keep on shining and growing as they display their new found life as distinctive followers of *"The Way"*.

Paul surveys that testimony in three consecutive stages: the past, the present and the future. He sees it as the working out of a new way of living in the period between the initial acceptance of the gospel, when brought to them by Paul, and the anticipation of Christ's coming again to gather them to himself as "citizens of heaven"; that expectation, of course, being highly motivating.

As he recollects their past, he is full of thankfulness for the fact that they received the word, as it came to them *'in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance'*. That, says Paul, is surely an indication of their being chosen by God to fulfil his purpose. The transformation, as they *'turned to God from idols'*, and as they now *'waited for his Son from heaven'*, as newborn believers, resulted in their testimony being well spoken of and being widely recognized. It manifested itself in a new behavior that reflected their *'work of faith, labor of love and patience of hope'*. In becoming converts from a previous way of living, they had clearly demonstrated the distinctive qualities of this new life although doing so meant

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serious affliction from their opponents. Their testimony vindicated the workers' ministry among them and represented tangible evidence of the achievements and products of that ministry - their *'joy and crown in the Lord'*.

Now, however, he was forcibly separated from them but, as a *'nursing mother'* to them as young converts, he was most anxious about how they were doing in circumstances that were unfavourable and even hostile. Were they wilting? Concerned and anxious to see how they were faring, especially while subject to so much affliction, he had sent Timothy to find out and to *"establish and exhort you in your faith"*. Timothy brought back a glowing report of their faith and life (despite adversity), about their fond following of Paul's example, and their *"standing fast in the Lord"*. It made Paul want to visit them so that progress would increase.

Not able to do so, Paul looks ahead and urges them in this letter to consider how they ought to walk and to please God, just as they were already doing. He mentions three areas: (1) personal holiness, particularly in Thessalonica where sexual morality was at an all-time low; (2) brotherly love; (3) living quiet and industrious lives as a testimony to others. None of these were new - the encouragement he gave was to ensure that they continued to do so.

Not surprisingly, there were some distractions, especially an uncertainty about future events. As Christians and citizens of heaven, they were motivated by the prospect of Christ's coming for his people. But what about those among them who had already died? Or, when - and how - would the advent take place?

Paul encourages them on both these matters. There will be a clear sequence. The coming will be sudden, *"like a thief in the night"*. That has implications for them. As strong believers they are to be motivated by that prospect. They are to keep awake and alert! From their early acceptance of the gospel they are now encouraged to reflect the effects of anticipating the consummation of that salvation. As children of the day - or children of light - they should encourage each other with such thoughts and display positive behaviors such as: relating well to others, doing good, rejoicing, praying, being buoyant in all situations, being prompted by the Spirit, and heedful of prophecy. But all the time discerning and committing themselves only to what was good. In that way God will complete the work at the second coming of Jesus.

So, having started their journey through their acceptance of the first coming of Jesus, they continue, motivated by the prospect of his coming again. And, in the meantime they are encouraged to continue - and indeed excel - in being glorious examples of that new redeemed life.

**"He who calls you is faithful,
who also will do it!"**

Miracle on the Homosassa

by Nelson Hutchinson



Back in those days, our family was very poor. We lived in a small house on the Homosassa River, Florida - USA, four miles upstream from the Gulf of Mexico. My father struggled to make ends meet as a commercial fisherman.

To help, my mother and I would gather oysters when they were in season. Other times, we went into the woods and chopped fallen trees into firewood, which we sold to the people in town. On good days, we could make a dollar or two.

This was 1939. It was a bad time. A lot of people were poor. The fortunate people who had jobs earned 30 cents an hour.

That year, my mother joined a local church. There was no road from our house into town. To get there, we had to go by boat three more miles upstream to the highway and the little village. Even so, my mother was at church every time the doors opened. She loved the church. It gave her a certain strength that carried her through the ordeal of raising a family in such dark days.

We didn't have a Bible in our home. We couldn't afford one. This was a great sadness for my mother. Week after week, she tried to put a few coins aside, saving for enough to buy a Bible, but time and again some emergency would come up, and she had to use the money for food or clothes or medicine. She never complained, but her face showed her hunger for the Word of God in our house.

One day my father came home from work with an empty boat. He had caught nothing. He went into the house discouraged, as though he never wanted to look at the river again.

I watched my mother. She got into the boat, arranged the nets, started the motor and headed downstream. As she later told me many times, she went about a mile toward those vast, shallow flats that reach as far as the eye can see at the mouth of the Homosassa. She cut off the motor. Then she knelt in the bow of the little boat, and she began talking to God.

"Father", she said, "I want a Bible for my home and my children. We don't have any money, and so I need your help. Let me catch some fish today and I'll take them to the market and buy a Bible before nightfall. I have been working hard, trying to get enough ahead to buy a Bible, but I can't seem to make it. Anything I catch today will be yours. Please help me".

She started the motor. Standing up, she threw into the water the staff that held one end of the net. Slowly she moved the boat in a circle to close off the net. Even before she had gone halfway, fat mullet began jumping into the net. And by the time she had completed the circle, the trapped area was alive with flouncing fish. My mother had lived on the river over a dozen years, ever since she had married my father at the age of 16, and she had never seen anything like this.

As fast as my mother could empty her catch into the boat, the net filled up again. In an hour, there was hardly enough room in the boat for herself and the net. She headed home.

I was on the dock as my mother arrived. The boat was riding so low in the water that I wondered if it had sprung a leak. Then I saw the cargo. I couldn't believe my eyes.

"Come on", Mother called to me, "we're going into town to get our Bible".

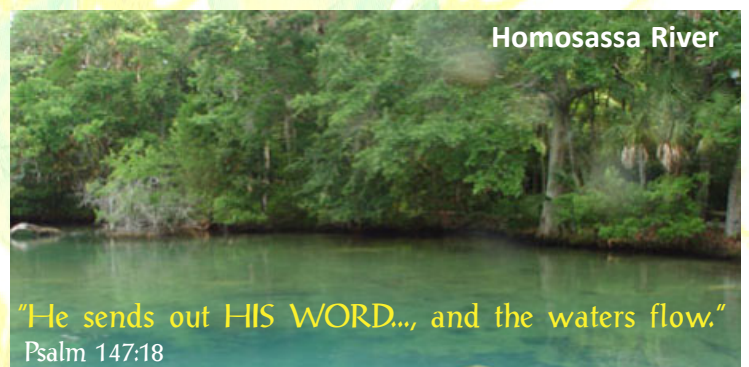
We went upstream to the highway, where we borrowed a cart from a farmer, transferred the catch into it, then hurried into town to a wholesaler who sold fish to stores and restaurants. The scales showed that my mother had brought in nearly 300 pounds of fish. The wholesaler paid three cents a pound for the catch - almost ten dollars, as well as my father could do during a good, seven day week.

We went directly to a bookstore and bought the best Bible that money could buy. My mother let me carry the Bible as we went back to the river and returned the cart. She let me hold it on my lap as she maneuvered the boat back to our home. That evening my mother read aloud to us from her own Bible for the very first time.

After nearly 40 years, the Bible is still in our family, a bit tattered now from so much use. Every morning, my mother would read the Bible to herself; every evening, she would read aloud to the family. We children studied the Bible as we prepared for our Sunday-school classes. And my mother never tired of telling people how she had acquired it.

Last December, my parents celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. In the special ceremony at our church, my mother and my father held the family Bible between them - living proof that the miracles of the Bible can come alive today for those who have faith enough to believe in them.

From 'GUIDEPOSTS'.

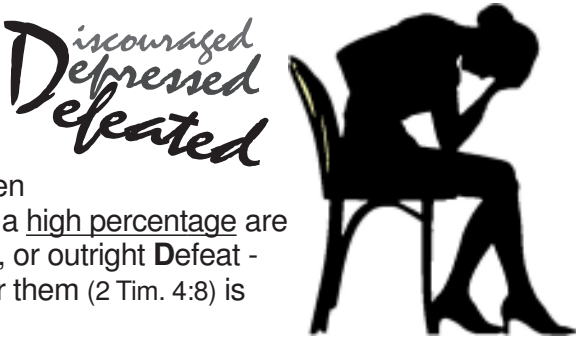


"He sends out HIS WORD... and the waters flow."
Psalm 147:18

Dear reader,

We think and we hope that you will enjoy this latest issue of **PRESSING ON!** Like every other true Christian, you're in the "race", in the spiritual one. And you know that after a while it's easy to start dragging your feet, lose sight of the "finishing line", get side-tracked, faint, even turn back. **Pressing On!** is here to inform you, to encourage you and to challenge you about **counting on God's grace for all of the race...** As Philippians 3 informs us, there's the **goal** and there's the **prize** that are set before us, but then Hebrews 10 tells us that the **"considering"**, the **"stirring up"**, the **"exhorting"** are the things **all** of us are involved in: *"Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching"*. It will be obvious to you that the 'considering, stirring up and exhorting' have everything to do with the "assembling". Jesus says that two or three in his name are sufficient for him to be very much present in the midst of them with all that He has to offer. It is absolutely basic for fruitful encouragement and challenge, that you and I plus other 'runners in the race' do so very humbly around HIM, looking to HIM and his open word. You too can be wonderfully used for your fellow "athletes". **Pressing On!** prepares and encourages the encouragers, and can prove to be a very worthwhile tool in your hands...

Picture yourself traveling round the planet, say from Canada, to Croatia, to Cameroon, to the Comoros, to Cambodia, to the Cook Islands, to Colombia or to Cuba. In every one of these countries you'll find true Christians. You may find some big groups, meeting in churches, and you'll find there are small groups, meeting in homes or wherever, even in prisons, but as you get to know them, you'll also find that among them a high percentage are feeling the effects of Satan's 3-D strategy - **Discouragement**, **Depression**, or outright **Defeat** - Christian "athletes" falling, or fallen, by the wayside. The crown laid up for them (2 Tim. 4:8) is receding and could be taken from them (Rev. 3:11).



Not in every country can such folks read English. In many of the 75 countries to which we send **Pressing On!**, English is not even the second language. However, there usually are individual Christians who know sufficient English to grasp the message. And some of these are receiving up to 30 or 40 copies for regular distribution.

We are fully persuaded that you too can become a most valuable encourager of the brethren! And we want you to plainly realize that **PRESSING ON!** is entirely at your disposal to help you, in other words, free of charge!

Please, consider the form below, pray over it, then fill out what applies and send it to us:

- ☐ I can be a regular distributor to Christian individuals, house church(es) or other Christians in **my** region. I need ___ free paper copies of future issues (even of this one too if available).
- ☐ I have access to professional-quality production facilities. I only need a print-ready PDF copy to become a printer-distributor of **PRESSING ON!** in my region (at my own cost). I need info about the format to be printed.
- ☐ Regardless of having the printed copy (copies) sent snailmail, I'd also like you to send me the **pdf** e-copy, so I can easily forward it by email to my Christian friends.
- ☐ Separately I am sending you names, addresses and e-addresses of Christian friends who have confirmed they would like to be on your mailing list, either for email or snailmail.
- ☐ If the Lord should make it clear I must contribute in some other way, I'll let you know, so you can tell me how to go about it.

YOUR INFO: Name _____

Address _____

Country _____ E-address _____@_____

Signature _____

- OUR INFO:**
1. Print this form, fill out what applies, sign it, then mail to:
Apartado 31, 29700 Vélez-Málaga, Spain. **Or:**
 2. Once printed and filled out, scan and email the form to:
pressingonstill@gmail.com

"And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward" - Mt. 10:42.