

Philippians 3:12-14

Pressing On!

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PRESSING ON!

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Family Bible Time

by Al Troester

"Family Bible Time" simply means the time the family gives to Bible study and worship. Every Christian family should have such a time daily. It is amazing how few families really take this seriously and practice this routinely. It is the best guarantee to have Christian children with good moral standards that do not drift through the teen years, to have a home that has a witness for Christ in the community, and to have a family that takes the Christian community seriously and enjoys the meetings.

It is well to remember the great command that the Lord gave to Israel: "*Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up*" (Dt. 6:4-7).

Worship of the Lord is first of all 'vertical' and then 'horizontal'. It begins in the home and takes in the whole family.

What Is the Purpose of Family Bible Time?

1) To worship God together and learn more of his ways. What could be a better purpose? Children should learn to worship God in their early years that they might have respect for him in their later years. They need to learn how to regard him and to realize that He is the Creator, holy, and to be honored in all that we say and do.

2) To honor God's Word, develop respect for it, and to live by it. James says, "*Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves*" (Js. 1:22). Remember the words quoted by the Lord Jesus, "*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God*" (Mt. 4:4). Home is a good place to practice the exhortation, "*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord*" (Col. 3:16). In these days when the Bible has been put out of our schools, let's have it at the center of our homes and teach our children from it.

3) To establish the family in the faith, personal convictions, and doctrine. Children and young people need convictions to stand up against their peers. They must understand their faith and know something of good Bible doctrine so they know what they believe and why. The home makes a good Bible school where the children can be grounded as they face the world's humanistic, evolutionary philosophies.

4) To pray over family problems and needs, over burdens the children may have, and that they may have confidence in the God who answers prayer in the everyday things of life. All the members of the family have personal needs. It would be good if they could learn to share them openly and take them before the Lord together. There are school needs, boy and girl friend problems, problems with play mates, character problems such as timidity and fears of all kinds, questions about amusements, finances.

Teenagers have deep needs and hate to express them for fear of being misunderstood or embarrassed. Their problems are big problems to them and must be considered. Mom and Dad have needs of all kinds. Financial needs, work needs, health needs - all kinds of needs can be prayed through with God. The family must know they can have confidence in him and that He will hear and answer prayer.

5) To pray and intercede for others such as God's appointed leaders in the congregation, missionaries, the congregation's outreach, sick folk, unsaved loved ones, the neighbors, persecuted believers, the shut-ins, those who are enduring other trials.

Children who can learn to pray openly at home will have no problem praying publicly in the congregation's prayer meetings as they grow.

* Slightly adapted from <http://www.wholesomewords.org/family/famaltar.html>



Look Out - Examine Yourselves

Lessons from 2 Corinthians

Howel
Jones

The Corinthian letters represent a dialogue between Paul and a church with real needs. Those needs were made up of issues that they had identified. But there were other issues, such as condoning immorality and misuse of spiritual gifts. Paul attempted to address these through several visits and a number of letters. Now, in this final letter he provides an insight into why he has acted in that way.

He explains that his actions were motivated by genuine concerns which reflected the positive nature of God. They had also been tempered by experiences he had of God's help in different situations. That experience had enabled him to "comfort them with the same comfort as we have been comforted by God". It was out of sincere love for them that he had acted; and his strong actions were explained by the preparation he had received through these arduous experiences.

Always eager to teach and help them by proving insights into Christian experience he follows on in chapters 3 - 7 with four pictures:

1. They are a living epistle. The ministry he - and others - conveyed is engraved in their hearts by the Holy Spirit so that they are living testimony to the effective truth.

2. That 'epistle' or living message is a treasure contained in an earthen vessel. The content is of great worth but the container unworthy. The excellence of the power comes not from the worth - or work - of the container but from God, the author of the contents. Although the container undergoes a terrible series of privations the content is renewed and sustained wonderfully

3. In chapter 5 he elaborates even further on the nature of the contents and the experience. It is one of being reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. That experience is one of new creation. If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away and all things are of God. Christ has been made sin so that we can be made the righteousness of God. That means that those who now live, no longer live to themselves but to God and to his Christ. The focus is on belonging, being reconciled,

4. That then leads to inevitable separation from what had had a major hold on them. The verses which play a significant part here are "Come ye apart, be not unequally yoked, everyone that has this promise purifies himself from flesh and spirit perfecting holiness in the fear of God".

That is the message that they were to respond to, just as they had done in the practical matter of sharing financially with those in need - a matter dealt with in a 2-chapter interlude (8 & 9).

In the final chapters he returns to the explanation of the motives and credentials of his corrective actions towards them. Back of his actions and the exercise of authority is a set of past (and private) experiences which he now calls upon and reluctantly describes. He claims that the "weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds". He brings his mind into subjection to apply these. He has spiritual authority beyond anything they can imagine.

Aware of still being under pressure to defend and justify himself, he goes on to speak of experiences - private experiences - that he would not normally disclose, but under this kind of pressure feels compelled to recite; and he complements them with his own achievements through the rabbinic school and his pedigree as a Jew.

What do we learn from a letter like this? One of the main lessons is the insight into **the personal nature** of concerned ministry. It gives an insight into the privations endured by God's servant; and shows that **authority comes from a deep experience of God**. And, lest the discharge of any ministry leads to pride, God sets a safeguard against it.

"TOO BLESSED TO BE STRESSED!"

Although things are not perfect,
Because of trial or pain,
Continue in thanksgiving,
Do not begin to blame.
Even when the times are hard -
Fierce winds are bound to blow -
God is forever able;
Hold on to what you know!
Imagine life without His love;
Joy would cease to be!
Keept thanking Him for all the things
Love imparts to thee.
Move out of "Camp Complaining";
No weapon that is known

On earth can yield the power
Praise can do alone.
Quit looking at the future;
Redeem the time at hand.
Start every day with worship;
To "thank" is a command!
Until we see Him coming,
Victorious in the sky,
We'll run the race with gratitude,
X-alting God most high!
Yes, there'll be good times and,
yes, some will be bad, but...
Zion waits in glory..., where none
are ever sad! - anon.

"The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor!" - anon.

"Behind every work of God you will always find some kneeling form" - Dwright L Moody.

"The Christian on his knees sees more than the philosopher on tiptoe" - Augustus M Toplady.

"There's no way you'll get to the one true source, unless you first get down from that 'high horse'" - JvH.



Loving Means Listening

By Sam Burton

“Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind... You shall love your neighbor as yourself’” (Mt. 22:37-39).

To love another person we must learn to “hear” or “listen to” that person. If our Lord Jesus said that we are to love God with our entire being and our neighbor as ourself, then listening or hearing is very much implied. It may be helpful to consider **loving** and **listening** in three important areas of life:

- 1) Fundamental to the Christian is his relationship and experience with God.
- 2) But his love for God will reflect itself in his relationship with his family.
- 3) It will also be visible in the work committed to him by God. Many of our problems, and the problems of the world in general, have their basis in the loss of communication.

1) So often Christians have lost a vital and living communication with God. There is no real love for God, and, therefore, no listening to his voice. When Jesus repeated these two great commandments, He was emphasizing the need of loving God and our neighbor - they are basic to our own well-being. As one has written, "To learn what love is we must go to God, for He alone is perfect love and He alone can reveal the unsearchable riches and power of that which is the foundation of his universe... Love is an active, not a passive force. It is not a theoretical or abstract principle. It has no existence apart from its manifestation. To say that one loves God or man has no reality except as there is the evidence of that love. God's love is manifested in action".⁽¹⁾

We need to love God as we need to be loved by him. But if we would love God with all our heart, soul and mind, that love must be manifest. One evidence of love is **listening** to him. He who made the mouth, the ear, the eye, will He not communicate perfectly? But communication must be responded to.

God is not simply a doctrine or “something” that has to do with church. We are to love him and to answer his desire, "My son, give me your heart" (Pr. 23:26). That means a surrender, a yielding, of our heart and will to him.

How then do we listen to God? Principally we hear God speak through his Word, the Bible, as we prayerfully pore over its pages. "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Ro. 10:17). So his voice can be heard through his Word, but, as we learn to listen, it may, at times, be discerned through circumstances as well. God's Holy Spirit is ever speaking, but, alas, how few there are to listen! Didn't our Lord repeat it over and over, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"? Not only in the Gospels, but also in Revelation 2 and 3. Didn't He say that his people had become "hard (or dull) of hearing"?

“Love is an active, not a passive force. It is not a theoretical or abstract principle. It has no existence apart from its manifestation.”

As Hebrews 1 explains so clearly, in these days, God is continually speaking to us, in and through the person and work of his Son! Yet, as then, so today, comparatively few are tuned in to listen, to hear that voice. But *how* can we love God without listening to his Word?

True listening implies responding. It is the response of obedience. "This obedience is not submission to arbitrary commands. It is the obedience of love: the willing, glad, understanding obedience rendered to the one to whom the whole heart's affection is due and is given."⁽²⁾ Jesus said, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word" (Jn. 14:23). This means that the Christian, because he loves Christ, will listen and hear that Word. There will be obedience to it and to God's will.

As Christians, must we not confess that often we have no vital communica-

tion with him whom we say we love? There may be a superficial reading of a chapter of the Bible each day; prayers may be said, but am I really "hearing" God? We remember how, after a superficial and emotional outburst by a woman of the company, Jesus answered, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" (Lk. 11:27-28). He also said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (Jn. 10:27). Why do the sheep hear him? Why do they follow him? Is it only because He gives them pasture? Is it not also because they know and hear the voice they love? The Father says, "This is my Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Hear him!" (Mt. 17:5). May our response be that of young Samuel, "Speak, Lord, for your servant hears" (1 Sam. 3:9-10). "Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, 'Today if you will hear his voice, do not harden your hearts...'" (Hb. 3:7-8).

2) A new fellowship and communication with our Lord, a renewed loving and listening, will result in a changed family. Attitudes and relationships between husband and wife, parents and children will be transformed. For **loving means listening** in the family too! A man and wife must listen to one another if they would love. Is it not sad that many married couples gradually lose communication with one another? This gradual estrangement may begin early in marriage by silences when there ought to be talking and listening. Reuel L. Howe in his book 'The Creative Years' expresses clearly the importance of listening when he writes, "In listening we give ourselves to others, we give them our attention, we commit ourselves to them. Unless two people listen to each other, a relationship cannot grow between them. This listening is not a one-sided activity. The other person calls to us in all kinds of ways. He wants to be heard because to be heard is to be known."⁽³⁾

Howe continues to point out that many wives and husbands do not listen to one another because of abuse on the part of the speaker. Some wives may discourage their husbands from listening because they chatter aimlessly on, driving the husband away by the abundance and meaninglessness of her words. Both parties have a responsibility to give their whole attention to the other person. In marriage the husband or wife "listens" not only with the ears, but with the heart, to the desires and interests of the partner.

If modern statistics of divorce show us anything, it is the immense tragedy of countless couples who have simply lost that vital art of communication. A Christian couple that prays together and reads God's Word together should wonderfully experience the blessing of closeness and "oneness" in Christ.

Of course, in the family there is also the consideration of the children. How hard it sometimes is to listen to them, to really "hear" our children. As babies they cry and insist until we "listen" because they 'bother' us. Later, when they are still very young, we may pay sufficient attention (because they are 'so cute'). Even so, there are cases of neglect. Later still, when they come from school or play, they have *so* much to tell us... Often their conversation seems trivial and meaningless and we hardly listen to what they are so eagerly saying.

Then, all of a sudden, they are in their teens, and we'd like them to tell us their thoughts and their problems, but... we find we have lost that privilege! Perhaps unconsciously, they remember how, as children, we did not have the patience and the interest to listen to them. *We* taught them to count us out from their communication. Contact is lost because of that lack of attention and interest when they needed to be heard.

3) As Christians, we must also look beyond the family relationships. There are our relationships with neighbors, friends, colleagues, etc. In other words, "fields white unto

harvest" are waiting for attention - urgent attention. Here, too, listening is vital if we would manifest the love of Christ. Paul said, "**The love of Christ compels us... We are ambassadors for Christ..., we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God!**" (2 Co. 5:14, 20). As his witnesses, his ambassadors, we are supremely interested in men and women coming to the knowledge of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Yet how often in our witnessing, we are more interested in what *we* have to say than in the persons to whom we are speaking. We don't really love them; we love ourselves... We do not "win a hearing" because *we* are unwilling to listen. Perhaps, we are more interested in winning the argument. How often we have gotten the "message" out, but no response. They don't hear us if they don't have "ears to hear"... But why don't they have 'ears to hear'? Could it be that *we* are so busy in God's work, with so many activities, that *we* haven't the time to listen?

Even in our congregations, among the believers, needless problems and dissensions arise because one believer will not give his attention to another, he will not listen humbly, quietly, responsively. Speaking of a case of discipline in the congregation, where one brother has offended another, the Lord said that the offended one should go to the guilty. Then He adds, "**if he hears you, you have gained your brother**" (Mt. 18:15-20). It would be well to practise James' admonition, "**let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak**" (Js. 1:19). How can we learn to listen to God and to others? First, there must be love and this love is the fruit of the Spirit in the believer's life. It is the Holy Spirit who pours out love in our hearts (Ro. 5:5). Then, as evidence of love, let us practise listening to our Lover, and to the ones He loves.

1. Alexander R. Hay, *Life in God*, p. 15.

2. *Life in God*, p. 17.

3. Ruell L. Howe. *The Creative Years*, p. 74.



WHO MEETS THEIR NEEDS?

Parents are often disturbed to find their children spending valuable time and hard-earned money on things that contradict biblical principles. For example, it can be distressing to discover that young people devote hours listening to music with ungodly lyrics.

Al Menconi thinks he knows why. In his publication *Media Update*, he observed that popular music meets three basic needs of today's youth:

(1) The artists (via CDs, DVDs, videos) spend huge amounts of time with the young person.

(2) The stars accept the young person as he or she is.

(3) The performers relate to the young person's problems.

Of course, those musicians do not actually love your son or daughter, Menconi points out. They're in it for the money. But they do meet the three basic needs of companionship, acceptance, and identification. Fulfilling these needs is the primary job of parents. When they fail, young people

"These words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children". (Dt. 6:6-7)

fill that void with something else.

Are you spending time with your children, loving them unconditionally, and trying to be understanding? If not, you may be causing them to run into the open arms of those who might "meet their needs", but who care nothing about them. - JDR

**Our children are a gift from God
To nurture and to love;
They need our help in guiding them
To turn their thoughts above. - Sper**

**Time spent with your
children
Is time wisely invested!**

From "Our Daily Bread"



From Argentina: Esteemed brother Jim, May this writing find both of you enjoying the Good Shepherd's loving care. It makes us very happy to have your news. The articles are a very great blessing, and of tremendous usefulness. Let me assure you that we continually remember you in prayer, our desire being that the Lord may go on blessing and prospering you as He has done thus far. I trust that indeed you may continue like this, for there are many souls that do not yet know the Lord. In so many countries the need is very great! We send you our loving greetings,
JC.

From Kenya, Dear Servant of God, Blessed be the name of the Lord and indeed God is good to his people. We have had our conference that was very successful. We really value you and love you and we know that God united us for a reason. May God be with you as you continue to stand with us in prayers, we know that one day God will make it possible for us to meet. Please remember to pray for our nation; we are faced with a spirit of tribal clashes, that God will grant us peace.
DW.

You Wrote



From England: Dear Jim & Janet, Greetings in the all-sufficient name of the living Jesus! I was just looking through your Sept.-Dec. PRESSING ON!, and it gave me that little extra push to pray for you and to get a few lines on paper. Thanks for sending me a copy and for the little article which I have in my hand, "The Sorcerer and the Treasurer". Keep on keeping on. In His grace and grip.
G&DV.

From Paraguay: Brother Jim, May God reward you for the messages which I have read. They were, and continue to be, very useful to me. Only our Lord Jesus Christ will be able to reward you for all the teaching you have given us. I am going to pray for you both that God may continue to make use of you in his vineyard. May the peace of God reign in your hearts! PCQ.

From Germany: Hello Jim, Greetings in the Lord's name. We recently received the latest edition of 'Pressing On!'. Thanks so much. I very much enjoyed the summary lesson from 1 Corinthians by Howel Jones and was wondering if more extensive materials by him on the Corinthian Epistles may be available? I've been looking for a good commentary on the Corinthian epistles for some time, but am still searching. By HIS Grace alone, GH.

From India: Praise the Lord for PRESSING ON! which is a blessing to us. The contents motivate us to pass on every copy to as many people as possible. God called my wife and me in 2006. He makes use of us in his work, PRESSING ON! helping us in many ways.
Yours DPB.

From Northern Ireland: Hi Jim and Janet, Graeme and I wish you both God's richest blessing as you celebrate your 50th wedding anniversary in Holland. We trust you will both have a relaxing and refreshing break with friends and family. We continue to remember you both and Michael and Julie in the work in Spain. Thank you also for continuing to send Pressing On! We really enjoy the articles and look forward to receiving it. With kind regards,
G&MO.



Ready for some "Oceanography"?

1513 (5 centuries ago):
GREAT OCEAN DISCOVERED!

On Sept. 25, Vasco Núñez de Balboa, a Spanish "conquistador", is the first European to cast eyes on the Pacific Ocean (from what would later be the Peruvian coast).

1713 (3 centuries ago):
GREAT ROCK ACQUIRED!

On April 11, Spain, by the Treaty of Utrecht, cedes Gibraltar, the Atlantic Ocean's gateway to the Mediterranean Sea, to Great Britain.

1813 (2 centuries ago):
GREAT DISCOVERER BORN!

On March 19, David Livingstone is born in Scotland. Aged 10, David worked in a mill tying up broken threads on spinning jennies - 12 hours a day. He becomes a Christian and later a medical doctor. Then he goes to Africa. The rest of his life is spent there as history's most famous explorer and missionary. Traveling tirelessly between the Atlantic and the Indian Ocean, he discovers the Victoria Falls, but, best of all, channels the living water of God's "ocean" of love to the Africans.

1913 (1 century ago):
GREAT CANAL COMPLETED!

On October 10, the Panama Canal is completed. The world's ships can now save many thousands of miles on their way from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean and vice versa.

1963 (½ century ago):
GREAT CHRISTIAN PROMOTED!

On November 22, CS Lewis dies, aged 65. As a young academic, he professed atheism, but at 30 years of age his life is turned over to Christ. The legacy of his many books (seven Narnia books for children, The Screwtape Letters, Mere Christianity, and many more) in over 30 languages, continues to enthrall millions of Christians and non-Christians. As Livingstone, Lewis had discovered the biggest "ocean" of all - the ocean of God's love!

That very same date marks the deaths of two other great men (great by human standards): John F. Kennedy, President of the USA, assassinated in Dallas, Texas; and Aldous Huxley, like Lewis, a prolific author. Oceans of politics and diplomacy, yes, *and* philosophy, but no water of life.

1963 stands out also as the year in which the Second Vatican Council comes to an end; and as the first year of "Beatlemania". "Oceans" of religiosity and musical pandemonium are discovered; millions are fascinated and mesmerized, but they quench no spiritual thirst...

2013 Now and always, we can do no better than follow the example of another Scot, George Matheson. He wrote:

**"O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be."**



The Azeri Woman

Azerbaijan is an oil-rich country on the Caspian Sea with nearly 10 million inhabitants, called Azeris. In 1991 it stopped being part of the Soviet Union. Its capital city is Baku, and the dominant religion Islam, while the main languages are Azeri and Russian.

One Christian mission that works in the country, called "Friedensstimme" ('Voice of Peace'), was founded in Berlin in 1902. Their traveling evangelists seek to reach the towns and villages of Azerbaijan and other countries with the liberating Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The country folks in the mountains are used to greeting each other as they meet in the streets or pathways, always ready to exchange some news or gossip. The evangelists do the same, but as they stop to greet someone, they are ever eager to spot an opening for the best news of all, the story of the Gospel.

One of them wrote down for us what happened when he greeted a man and his wife - the couple in the picture. To his surprise, it was the woman who answered. She said: "My husband can't hear or speak"... Then, with a smile, she added: "When he wanted to marry me, he only had one option, kidnapping me! He knew that my parents would never consent to the marriage. So that's what he did - he kidnapped me".

This seemed to be a curious way to begin a conversation, especially when you are strangers to each other. But the evangelist then introduced himself and she listened to all he had to say. Then it is her turn again and he listens... But my, what a story unfolds - nothing short of amazing!

"I believed in Allah and I regularly read the Qur'an," she says. "I faithfully said all my prayers, but my heart was empty. My soul was searching for something, but I didn't know what. More and more doubts assailed me about the truth of this book of Allah. But where to find the truth, if it is not in the Qur'an?"

That's the way things were before I got married, but once we were together the turmoil didn't end. My husband had a difficult childhood, as his parents didn't like him. As a small boy, all he did day after day was looking after the sheep. In his condition going to school was not an option. Then, as a teenager, the work he had to do was much too heavy for a youth his age. We escaped into marriage, but it brought no happiness, either for him, or for me. We struggled with lots of problems and gave our children no example of mutual love and care. Frequently I also quarreled with the neighbors. But yelling at them didn't give me any sense of relief, rather a sense of desperation. Thoughts of suicide, though rejected at first, would come again and again. Fortunately, the worry about what would become of my family kept me back from taking my life.

But what about my faith? Did it mean anything to me? In a commentary on the Qur'an I had once read about Muhammad that he asked people to pray for him that Allah might save



him...! Reading that made a profound impression on me. How could such a one be a savior to me? A child could understand that this just doesn't add up. At one point, I lifted my hands to the heavens and called out: 'Oh God, help me! Please, show me where I can find the truth!' After this scream from my heart, I was calmer. Somehow I was comforted, yet the doubts remained.

Until we moved to Barisy... There I got to know Tahira, and Tahira was a Christian. She listened as I poured out my heart to her. Her answer was short and simple: 'What you are looking for is Jesus and I can see you're already close'. I was surprised and kept silent for a long time. At last I asked, 'How do you know that?' 'I gathered that from all you told me', she said. 'Unconsciously you are searching for Jesus'. Tahira then gave me a Christian book. This capti-

vated me to such an extent that I simply forgot all about my chores. At lunch time there was no food prepared - hadn't even gone to market...! Plenty of questions kept popping up and I kept going to Tahira for answers. But in the end I just asked her to, please, tell me more about Jesus Christ.

Not long afterwards I went along to my first Christian meeting, and I became a regular visitor. I continued to hear that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world, and that only in his Name can we receive God's forgiveness of our sins. Still, I didn't dare believe those words. I had once heard a woman say: 'Christ belongs to the Christians. He is not ours. We have Muhammad'. That was the problem, Christians said one thing, Muslims another; how was I to know who spoke the truth?

Once, when I had come home from a meeting, I prayed: 'If Jesus Christ really is the Savior, then show me, oh God! Please, show me *what* I need, and *who* I need!' As I prayed, peace entered my heart. My evil thoughts disappeared, my hostility towards certain people just melted away. I cried for a long time; but the tears I shed were tears of peace, for the first time in my life.

But unanswered questions remained. So I went back to Tahira and said: 'Jesus is a Savior, I believe that. But is He also my Savior? Will He want to save me; will He save my family?' She then showed me the way I should go to him with the burden of my sins, and confess to him my guilt. I longed to do just that, but there was a fear in my heart: 'What if the neighbors find out that I've become a Christian? They will turn their backs on me, make life difficult for me. They may kill me!' Finally I knelt down once again and prayed, 'Lord, whatever happens: I thank you for sending your Son into the world, even for me. Please, forgive my sins! I believe in Jesus Christ; I receive him now'. God heard my voice and removed my heavy burden.

The way He answered my prayer fills me with wonder; it is the most important thing that ever happened to me. And I can't keep it quiet. I've already told a few people that Jesus Christ is my Savior. My fear is gone now. I rejoice in the God of my salvation. Him I want to praise and thank!"



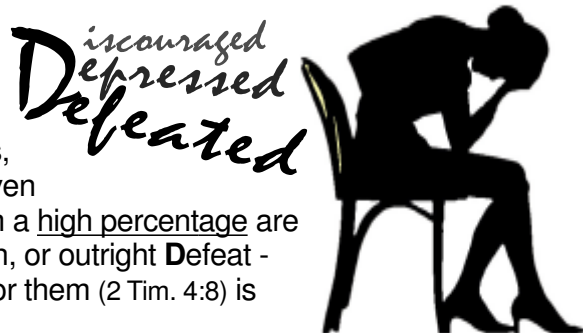
Dear reader,

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 70 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:

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- 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.