

Editor's Notes



Jim & Mary Fellure

Greetings in the name of Christ, our wonderful Lord,

One of my pet peeves is the idea that all things in the ministry must be promoted with a positive attitude or with flattery, which is false or insincere praise or gratifying deception designed to manipulate a person into being happy. The extreme opposite is the attitude that, as bad as things are in these last days, there is nothing good that can be said unless it is said

about me. This translates into egotism and chronic or habitual criticism, which can breed nothing but discouragement. The Scripture emphasizes truth, whether negative or positive, hopefully with a positive outcome.

The following is quoted about George Whitefield:

George Whitefield, the man that God used to bring about the great awakening in the seventeen hundreds, learned that it was more important to please God than to please men. Knowing that he was doing what was honoring to the Lord kept him from discouragement when he was falsely accused by his enemies. At one point in his ministry, Whitefield received a vicious letter accusing him of wrongdoing. His reply was brief and courteous: "I thank you heartily for your letter. As for what you and my other enemies are saying against me, I know worse things about myself than you will ever say about me. With love in Christ, George Whitefield."

He didn't try to defend himself. He was much more concerned about pleasing the Lord.

Just as I began preparing these notes with the desire to encourage our readers during all the difficulties that many have faced in the last few years, Brother Wayne Hudson of Texas sent me his most recent newsletter with the following article that says exactly what I wanted to say. With Brother Hudson's permission I offer his good words of wisdom.

Greetings and Blessings from this very troubled time in North Texas. I pray for those who read this letter. I know that some are in struggles, sickness, grief, or other besetting trials. There is political chaos, military debacle, forest fire disaster, wind and flood of hurricane, and Covid pandemic that refuses to go away. We face missing soldiers of our ranks who are at home with the Lord, the disappointments of failures in churches, in brethren, and in ourselves. Peter said that those of us who are saved, in His will and in His power, can expect "manifold temptations," which are more precious than gold to our faith-life and will bring praise, honor, and glory at His appearing but are hard to face in these present times.

Most of us have had a little of that recently and honestly, I don't like it. My heart is to serve Him, and although my hindrances are nothing in comparison to the many that are suffering around us, sometimes it's hard to accept "God's nos," isn't it?

Can I give you an old thought that encourages my heart today? Paul introduces: "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14). Some of you may be tired, weary, and ready to go home, but God isn't through with you—press on! Some of you are hurting and fearful of what might lie ahead, but you don't know the future—so press on! Some of you feel discouraged because you can no longer do what you used to do, but you can do something—so press on, even if it is at a snail's pace. Some of you feel your efforts are in vain and a waste of time, but it is God who gives the increase—so press on! Keep sowing and watering, and leave the results with God. Some of you feel defeated, as though you have failed, because there is yet so much to do—but press on! You never know what yet might happen—press on! It's always too soon to quit—press on! The fact that you are still here is evidence that you are needed—press on! If you can't do anything else, be a cheerleader urging others to press on! He is no failure who can say he has faithfully finished his course. God demands no more from us. Till then, with Paul—Press On!

In the last couple of years VBP has had more setbacks (negatives) than I care to mention, but not mentioning them doesn't mean the problems didn't occur. It simply means, rather than acting like everything was on an even keel (staying positive), each of the six most dedicated shop workers that one could ever ask for (no flattery—just facts) faced every problem, found a solution, and pressed on, the result being a steady flow of the printed word to a lost world. Before our next *Newsletter*, plans are to ship another container of 25,000 Spanish Bibles into South America and 10,000 to Mexico, plus several smaller orders filled for Spanish ministries in the US. Also, in just a few weeks we will pass the one-million mark (already more than 900,000) of the EDDM cards printed and shipped to other churches to be mailed to every household in their community. If the statistics are right, the average home in America has three people. Each card has nine verses of Scripture, totalling two-hundred and thirty-eight words (some negative, some positive but all true). When one million cards have been mailed, the Gospel will be within reach of three-million people right here in the US.

I personally don't know how to turn a press on, but in my very limited capacity I plan to press on.

In Christ,
Jim Fellure