

G O D ' S M I S S I O N A R Y
STANDARD

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IF GOD BE FOR US...



David Wise

THE BATTLE FOR A BEAN FIELD

Sometimes greatness is found in the unlikeliest of places. In the case of one of David's mighty men, that place would be a "ground full of lentils"; a bean field if you will. We know very little about Shammah son of Agee the Hararite, but what we do know is most impressive and inspiring. The Philistines had come to fight Israel again. Their fighting men were apparently in no mood to show mercy, and the Israelites, sensing their spirit and seeing their force, fled in every direction. The battle seemed to be over before it had even begun. Yet one man, Shammah, stood his ground and would not run from the enemy like his brethren. The spot chosen by Shammah to be his "Alamo" was a bean field. There was no cover and there was no place to hide. He would have to fight and seemingly die in the midst of the beans. Why he chose not to run we don't know. The "ground full of lentils" more than likely was his own modest garden, and there is a strong probability that he had just had enough of the enemy taking what did not belong to them. This willingness to die for the cause gave him a recklessness and a courage that must have stunned the Philistine attackers. To them, the beans were potentially part of a good meal but not a reason to die young. Shammah had drawn his "line in the sand," and as he struck down Philistine after Philistine, the tide of battle turned in his direction. His principled stand must have inspired the Israelites who were still around to watch his "rendezvous with death." Man after man must have felt the tug of conscience and returned to join the brave warrior in his stand for truth. What at first seemed like a foolish decision turned out to be one of the greatest victories in the history of Old Testament Israel. A man willing to stand and fight for principle changed the course of history and secured a legacy of faith and heroism that speaks to us three thousand years later.

We live in a day when the "Philistines" of this world are doing their best to demoralize and destroy the people of God. Conservative Christians are under attack in this nation and around the world. The culture of ungodliness all around us seeks to impose its false values and fake tolerance upon true Bible believers. This vicious assault is not just from the "world" but within the ranks of Evangelicalism. Much pressure is being exerted to "conform to the culture." Old-fashioned Holiness people with biblical

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A PERFECT FAITH

by Spencer Johnson from *The Peerlessness of Holiness*

Faith must persistently press its claims upon the authority of God's word. The seeker must become so desperate that he loses sight of everything else but the desire for the blessing before victory will come. When Jacob became so desperate in his wrestling with the angel that he would not let him go until he blessed him, then he received the blessing that changed his nature and his name. (Gen. 32:26-29) "The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." (Matt. 11:12) Weak half-hearted seeking will never bring down the blessing. Living faith will not give up but it preserves until it obtains the object of its desires. "For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." (Heb. 10:36) If the blessing does not come immediately then search your heart and wait on the Lord, fully expecting victory. "I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry." (Psalms 40:1) Some have received the blessing of heart purity in a matter of minutes while others have struggled for weeks and even years. Those who have waited long invariably

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see that they could have had the blessing long ago if they had obediently trusted the Saviour. "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." (I John 5:14-15)

In one of my meetings a young man was at the altar seeking to be sanctified. Everyone else at the altar had prayed through to victory. The hour was late and only a faithful few had stayed while the battle raged long and fierce. This young man had stayed on with a desperate determination to have the blessing of a clean heart. I shall never forget the prayer he prayed that night and the blessing he received. He looked up toward Heaven and said, "Lord Thou knowest that I have yielded all to Thee. Nothing do I withhold. Thou art so big and I am so little. It would not be hard for Thee to sanctify me. Oh, Lord, I must have the assurance that the work is done. I will never leave this altar until I know I am sanctified. Men may carry my body out the door but I will not leave until thou dost make me holy." That was as far as he got in his prayer, for "God came down his soul to greet, and glory crowned the mercy seat." He had crossed Jordan and swept into the Canaan experience. Praise God! ❏



HE MEANT BUSINESS

by Parker Maxey from “We’ll Get To That Later”

“That cat moved me to get something for him to eat!” That was what a man said to us when a friend and I visited him in his machine shop one cold, winter day in a city in Pennsylvania. It was an extremely hard winter for animals to keep alive in that part of the world. We found this man in his shop by a little gas heater where he would sit and eat his lunch during the noon hour. By sizing him up you wouldn’t have thought that big, rough machinist would have cared anything about a stray cat just like a lot of people have looked upon God as some distant, austere Person who cared nothing about them. As we listened with interest, he told us his cat story. We could see a man, rough appearing on the outside, but with a tender heart that could be touched with the struggling efforts of a stray cat to stay alive. He had made sure that his shop was closed up tight enough when he locked up every night so no animal could get in. One morning, however, when he opened shop, there inside was this cat. It was so thin he wondered how it was still alive. He had left a small jar of cream that he had for his coffee sitting on the floor beside where he sat to eat his lunch. There was some cream left in the bottom of the jar but there was no way the cat could get his head into the jar to lick up the cream. The cat didn’t seem to have noticed his presence but was sticking his paw down into the jar and then drawing it out and licking it off. He kept this up until the cream was all gone. While that big

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man watched he was moved with the impulse to go and get some milk and cat food to help that cat in his effort to stay alive, and he did that very thing! I listened to that man tell about his part in aiding a helpless stray cat in real need and thought how often God has looked down upon poor, helpless humanity in their extremities when they manifest a determination to keep alive spiritually regardless. We have often heard it repeated, “God helps those who help themselves.” This is not found in Scripture but it is true that God often holds back a blessing or help to see if we really mean business. Too often we stop at the halfway mark and fail to wait upon God until we are able to lay hold of the promise found in Philippians 4:19, “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” God grant us a faith that will not waver in the midst of life’s testings, but learn to hold steady as we lay hold of His never failing promises. (Read Matthew 6:24-34.)



GOD OF THE POSSIBLE

by Greg Hobelman

Have you ever been in a seemingly impossible situation? The Israelites faced an apparently impossible situation in I Samuel chapter 14. It seems as though they were always at war with the Philistines. Nothing new there. But now King Saul has disobeyed God by offering the sacrifice himself without waiting for Samuel. He has been rejected by God and appears to be at a loss in figuring out what to do. The Philistines have raided the country and spoiled the land. Weapons have been taken, and even the blacksmiths have been taken away so that the Israelites could not make any swords or spears to fight. Apparently, Saul and Jonathan were the only ones in the whole Israelite encampment with actual weapons. Everyone else only had sharpened farm implements. Also, the Israelites were outnumbered 600 men to 30,000 chariots, 6,000 horsemen, and a great multitude of soldiers besides. Then they were

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at a tactical disadvantage as the Philistines held the high ground with their garrison at Michmash over against Gibeah where Saul was hiding. The people were frightened and beginning to scatter, and some had even gone over to the side of the Philistines.

It was against this backdrop of impossibility that the faith and leadership of the young prince shone like a beacon in a dark hour. Jonathan had already attacked and taken the Philistine garrison in Geba, for which Saul was quick to take credit. Now, while his father tarries under a pomegranate tree, Jonathan proposes to his armor bearer that they go over to the garrison of Michmash. His logic? “It just may be the Lord will work for us.” For those appreciative of alliteration, this story could perhaps be summed up by the following phrases: a fellowship that perceived their God’s ability, a fleece that propelled them in God’s battle, a fight that proved their God’s faithfulness, and a fear that proceeds from their God’s working. Yet there is a profound consideration to the thought of “the God of the may be...” that grabs our attention and deserves a special focus. continued on **page 12**

PRINCIPLES of VICTORY

by Dale Yocum



Adapted from Armies of God

Faith Triumphs Over Discouragement

There was plenty to be discouraged about in [the days of Deborah]. The land had been under enemy control for twenty years. The Canaanites were so strong, and Israel was so weak, that for many the situation seemed utterly hopeless. There were no arms available for fighting; the army was untrained and small. How could there be any hope? Most folks just accepted the bondage as unchangeable.

Do you know that is one of our greatest dangers: to accept a long-standing problem as insoluble and adjust ourselves to it as inevitable? Look at some of the problems the church faces today: drug addiction, pornography, divorce, abortion, humanism in society, the unevangelized billions that make up half the world's population – these and others that could be mentioned. Are we attacking them in faith, or have we ceased to protest and accepted them as unavoidable?

Well, in Israel things began to change, and it started with one woman of faith named Deborah. Here is one verse in her victory song: “The inhabitants of the villages ceased, they ceased in Israel until that I Deborah arose, that I arose a mother in Israel.” What a pungent phrase that is: a “mother in Israel!” A mother travails until she brings forth. And Deborah travailed before God for her nation, until He intervened and turned her travail into a new birth of freedom.

I tell you, we need more “mothers in Israel” today for our land, for our nation and for our churches – people who know how to travail in intercession until our God intervenes from Heaven in behalf of His people.

Human action is necessary, but if there is no supernatural help from the God of battles, we will be swallowed up by our problems. Of course, we can just ignore them as inescapable elements of modern society, but “mothers in Israel” will not be so easily reconciled to defeat. Their faith will overcome their discouragement, and God will answer them!

God gave to Deborah a plan of victory, including the number and position of her forces. He assured her of the outcome as well. It all looked highly unreasonable: 10,000 mostly unarmed men going against the multitude of Sisera's forces, with their 900 chariots of iron. But Deborah believed God, and declared unto Barak, “Up, for this is the day in which the Lord hath delivered Sisera into thine hand: is not the Lord gone out before thee?” And Barak also responded in faith, leading his “Lightning Brigade” to brilliant victory.

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It is this kind of fervent intercession, followed with unwavering faith that opens up God's resources of victory. As St. John said, “This is the victory that overcometh the world, even your faith.” So renounce your doubts today, pray with faith, and look for the God of battles to intervene in the conflict!

I do not know what part God has for you to do in this battle against the forces of evil, but it is an important part, because the assignment comes from Him. Do not be intimidated because nobody else sees what you see or believes what you believe. Deborah was

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continued from **page 6** very much alone, but God brought her to victory, and He will do the same for you! You can be an effective witness; you can pioneer a new church; you can be a successful missionary, if that is God's assignment for you. You can be a mother – or father – in Israel; you can make a difference, by God's help!

Dedication Triumphs Over Distraction

Just as it is today, there were many things which served to distract some of the people from joining in the battle for deliverance. Deborah named the people in her song of praise and showed what their distractions were.

Distraction of Pleasure In Judges 5:16 Deborah named the tribe of Reuben and asked, "Why abodest thou among the sheepfolds, to hear the bleatings of the flocks? For the divisions of Reuben there were great searchings of heart." Some scholars believe the word "bleatings" refers to a sort of shepherd's pipe with which they made music around the campfires at night. While the people of Reuben were troubled in their consciences, the attraction of those musical "afterglows" prevailed over their sense of duty. It would bring more pleasure to stay by the campfires and let somebody else go and fight...

Distraction of Distance Verse 17 says, "Gilead abode beyond Jordan." This verse refers to the tribe of Gad which dwelled east of Jordan, while the battle was miles away to the west. They were just too far away to feel the sense of need...

Distraction of Business In verse 17 Deborah asked, "Why did Dan remain in his ships?" The answer is: because that was his business – his source of income and

profit. His business just might suffer loss if he left it and went to war for his nation... It was the immediate present that counted with Dan... There was no time for idealism about the future welfare of a nation or even his own children. "Business is business," he said, and stayed with his ships, while a nation hung in the balance.

Distraction of Security "Asher continued on the seashore, and abode in his harbors," verse 17 continues. There in the safety of the harbor and the seashore he stayed until the danger had passed. It would be risking too much to go into enemy territory with such a small military force, especially one called to arms by a lady. No, it was safer to stay at home and let somebody else go to battle.

My friend, there are many people who are suffering from these same distractions today: pleasure, distance, business and security. They are mildly aware of a battle going on, but they are not involved... How about you, neighbor? Are you really in this fight against evil, against ignorance and unconcern? Or are you among the distracted?

There is a dedication that triumphs over distraction. Hear these words from Deborah's song: "My heart is toward the governors of Israel, that offered themselves willingly among the people. Bless ye the Lord . . . Zebulun and Naphtali were a people that jeopardized their lives unto the death in the high places of the field." With that little band of dedicated people God won a mighty victory and saved a nation. The distracted people drew rebuke and shame. They missed the hour of heroism for a noble cause. Their names will live forever as examples of failure, while others were heroes of faith and dedication. How will yours and mine be remembered? ☐

continued from **page 2** standards and biblical convictions are looked upon as out of touch or intolerant. This double-barreled assault has caused many to drop their swords and run from the field of conflict. Yet in the midst of this toxic atmosphere, "the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him." God still wants His people to engage the enemy on the field of battle. He is looking for sanctified souls who will take a stand in their own "bean fields" and not back down from the enemy or a good fight. He wants the "pure in heart" to not only have a sweet spirit but also a strong backbone. Our Lord longs for His people to not only "stand in the evil day" but also to "wax valiant in fight" as they labor to steal souls from the devil

and bring lost men and women to the Savior's cause. The home, the school, the factory, and the public square need Spirit-filled believers to make their presence known and felt. Our encouragement comes from the fact that "if God be for us," it doesn't really matter who is against us. Before Shammah stood his ground in the bean field, he had counted the cost and "died to himself" in the secret place where he met with God. If we meet with God in our places of prayer and pay the price Shammah paid in consecration, there is no doubt that when we take our stand for truth, the God of heaven will stand by us wherever His Providence has placed us . . . and more than likely, it won't be in a field of beans.☐



Whither Shall I Go from Thy Spirit?

From a simple country home in Oregon, a mother's prayers ascended for Jacob DeShazer, her wayward son. Being awakened in the middle of the night with a strange feeling of falling through the air, this anxious mother poured out her soul in prayer for her son until the burden lifted. This was not the first time she had cried out to Heaven for his protection and salvation. So many prayers, so many tears. Did God hear?

From the sky on a quiet Sunday morning, bombs descended, screaming, upon Pearl Harbor. Mitsuo Fuchida, a Japanese captain, led the first wave of the attack. Did God see?

Jacob DeShazer had joined the Army Air Corps at the age of 27 after a year's failure at turkey farming. Jake volunteered to serve as a bombardier in the Doolittle mission in reprisal for the attack on Pearl Harbor. The plan was to make a risky and unprecedented launch from an aircraft carrier, drop bombs over five cities in Japan, and land among friends in China. The result, after being unfortunately spotted by a Japanese ship, was a successful but premature bombing run followed by crash landings over the ocean, China, and Russia. Bailing out as their planes ran out of fuel, all but three

of the soldiers survived. Most returned safely home within a short time. Eight were captured. Jake found himself in a Japanese prison cell within China. Waterboardings, beatings, cruel interrogations, extreme heat and cold, and severe deprivation were part of his normal daily routine. The torture never seemed to end. Three of the POWs were executed. With each passing day, his hatred for the Japanese grew stronger and stronger. The faith of his godly mother had not become his own faith.

The DeShazer family in Oregon didn't know what had become of Jake for some time. Then they learned. Despairing, Jacob's mother would try to remember

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hearing
their prayers

that God was just as able to reach her son in a faraway military prison as He was on the home farm. Often after bowing his head and thanking God for a meal, Ja-

cob's stepfather would look at the table and murmur, "I wonder if Jake has anything to eat?" and the family would leave their food untouched. Yet in the midst of it all, God was hearing their prayers, and the Spirit of God was drawing Jacob to a place of repentance.

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continued from **page 8** Each locked in solitary confinement, one of Jacob's crewmates did die of starvation. The Japanese captors were alarmed. They decided on better treatment. They offered bread with the wormy rice soup, more blankets, books, and even "the Book."

Since Jacob was the lowest ranking of the four remaining soldiers, he had to wait to take his three week turn with the Bible. God had been softening his heart as Jacob realized that his hatred was destroying him. DeShazer poured over the prophecies, feeding his awakening faith. His doubts about the accuracy of the Bible disappeared as the words of life ministered to his soul. On June 8, 1944, he read again the words of Romans 10:9. He did believe! He was a child of Christ! Miraculously, Jake's bitter hatred for his Japanese enemies drained from his heart.

Early on the morning of August 10, 1945, Jacob sensed God asking him to pray for peace. For hours, he prayed. "God wants us to pray, and we can cooperate with God by praying and being in touch with Him," he would later say. By 2:30 p.m., God told Jake that the victory was won. As the old Free Methodists would say, "he prayed through." Days later, the war was over, and Jake's three years of captivity were behind him.

Within six weeks, Jacob DeShazer was sitting in classes at Seattle Pacific College, distressingly thin in body, his speech a halting monotone, but with his heart aflame. The Japanese people were searching for truth. Their emperor had been forced to admit that he was not divine, not a god. In a Japanese prison, Jake had found the truth, had found God, and he was ready to return with the Good News. With him would go a young teacher from Iowa, Florence Matheny, his bride.

Jake's bitter hatred for his Japanese enemies drained from his heart

In 1948, only three years after the war, the Free Methodist Missions Board sent Jacob and Florence DeShazer into Japan. Jake's identity was not a secret. He had written a tract called "I Was a Prisoner of Japan." It was widely distributed throughout the country. Everywhere he went, the Japanese people asked him why he had returned after being so badly treated.

Jake told them. He told them about the love of Christ that could defeat even the hatred of war. Intrigued, the Japanese gave him the opportunity to speak before audiences of thousands at universities throughout the country, and many were saved. Jacob would spend 30 years as a missionary in Japan. He would establish many churches, including one in the city of Nagoya which his plane had bombed during the Doolittle raid.

One of Jacob's tracts ended up in the hands of Mitsuo Fuchida, the Japanese captain who had led the attack on Pearl Harbor. Fascinated by the story of how Jacob had given his life to Jesus after receiving a Bible in a Japanese prison, Fuchida decided that he must read the Scriptures for himself. When he discovered the words of Luke 22:34, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do," tears rained down his cheeks as he recalled bombs streaming down upon Pearl Harbor. "I didn't know what I was doing," he whispered.

Jacob DeShazer baptized Mitsuo Fuchida in his own home. Fuchida also became a missionary and a witness for Christ. "I'm going to see him in Heaven. He's a brother," Jake said. Doubtless Jacob and Mitsuo did meet in Heaven in March 2008, when Jacob's earthly journey came to an end. What joy they must have experienced together as they unraveled the threads of God's mysterious plan! "If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me." ▣



REV. ROBERT WALKER

If you asked Rev. Robert Walker how he was doing, he would always respond in his cheerful, exuberant way, "Happy as a bumble bee in a clover patch!" His countenance and appearance testified of it with a hat and a large belt buckle that each proclaimed "Jesus Saves." You see, anyone who knew Bro. Walker soon knew that everything about him revolved around Jesus, that Jesus saves, and as Bro. Walker would likely add, "and sanctifies."

Robert Walker was a fellow minister in God's Missionary Church for most of my pastoral years. He was a friend. His devotion to God and family and love for the lost men and women of Ft. Myers and beyond is what the Gospel is all about. He was consistent, considerate, compassionate, and totally consecrated to his Lord. The Scripture "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men" typified him. His love for lost souls is still what Ft. Myers Rescue Mission is all about. So much could be and deserves to be said about Bro. Walker, yet he would humbly deflect praise from himself with the words from the back of his old calling card (which I still carry in my preaching Bible). On the front, with his name and service info, is a picture printed of the Holy Bible (his favorite book, and he had many books). On the back, the card read, "If we meet and you forget me, you have lost nothing, but if you meet Jesus Christ and forget Him, you have lost everything!" Bro. Robert Walker, once he met Jesus, never forgot Him!

Thank you, Bro. Walker, for a life well lived in Jesus. Some of us will never forget you.

Thank you to all the family of Robert Walker who sacrificed to let him live his calling and his dream amongst all of us and especially amongst those at the Ft. Myers Rescue Mission.

Our sympathy, thoughts, and prayers are with you all.

Rev. Harry Plank

IN LOVING MEMORY OF DOROTHY M. STRAIGHT



Rev. Dorothy M. Straight, age 94, went to be with Jesus on Saturday, December 1, 2018. She was born January 22, 1924, in Camden, NJ, to Roy B. and Elizabeth M. (Skillen) Collins. On September 6, 1946, in Glassboro, NJ, she married Howard H. Straight who preceded her on November 4, 1995.

She was ordained in 1955 by the Pilgrim Holiness Church Conference. She served from 1952-1957 in Monticello, NY; from 1957-1959 in Wells, NY; from 1960-1970 in Pittsfield, MA; and from 1972-1977 in Muir, PA. In 1977-1989 she served the Evangelical Holiness Church in Millmont, PA. In 1989 she was ordained by the God's Missionary Church Conference and served in White Haven, PA, until 1990, but due to Howard's poor health, they moved to Halifax, PA, to be with family. Dorothy took her last church in 1991-1996, the Bible Holiness Church in Halifax, PA. The last church she attended was the Emmanuel Wesleyan Church in Gratz, PA.

Dorothy's early schooling and high school years were in New Jersey. Then she took college classes at Allentown Bible School in Allentown, PA. At the age of 48, Dorothy attended Penn View Bible Institute where she graduated top of her class with a Bachelor of Theology degree. She was a very busy lady as a wife, mother, student, head cook for the school, and teacher for the Home Economics class.

The Lord enabled Dorothy to do amazing things. Dorothy testified that Jesus Christ had redeemed her at age 9 and later cleansed her soul by His precious blood. She was faithful to her Lord, her family, and all those to whom she ministered. She left her family a godly example and a Christian heritage. Her deep concern was for the salvation of each member of her family and she prayed daily for each individual by name.

She is survived by 4 children: Dawn (Richard) Keister, Millmont; Lucille (Marvin) Melhorn, Halifax; Dean (Judy) Straight, Tower City; and Kent (Dolly) Straight, Shamokin; and 9 grandchildren, 4 grandsons-in-law, 2 granddaughters-in-law, 26 great grandchildren, 2 great grandsons-in-law, and 3 great great granddaughters.

She was preceded in death by 5 siblings: Wallace Collins, Marie Erhart, Bertha Collins, Helen Collins, and Lulu Howell, and 1 daughter-in-law, Connie (Thomas) Straight.

Aug. 18: Hanover. I appreciated all the kind words about the message. We were privileged to share a wonderful meal with the Pauluses and Bundys.

Sunbury. We appreciate how God is using the church. There are new people coming in regularly.

Aug. 19: School devotional at PVBI. We thank God for staff and faculty that are committed to God and Penn View. The General Board also met with Servant Solutions to find out about their ministry.

Aug. 21-22: Administrative work and sermon prep.

Aug. 23: Welcome Night at Penn View with beautiful fireworks and fellowship.

Aug. 24-25: Salamanca, NY. God has blessed the church with a new parsonage and pavilion. Ask Pastor John Walter, Jr. about the special Native American mark in the pavilion.

Mahaffey. We praise God for a couple new families who are now part of the church.

Aug. 27-29: Administrative work and sermon prep for Florida trip.

Aug. 30-Sept. 09: Florida. It was wonderful to be with our Florida District brothers and sisters. Rev. Matt Ellison did a great job preaching at the rally Friday evening. The Conference started with a challenging communion message by Rev. Justin Steen. I then preached the message for our conference along with going to the four churches and preaching at each one. We enjoyed a wonderful meal with the Rev. Maurilio Ambrocio family. He pastors the Spanish church on our campgrounds.

Sept. 12-14: Administrative work and sermon prep. I also heard Bro. Steve Stetler speak in a PVBI chapel Thursday along with our Conference-wide Youth Rally on Friday. God used him in a powerful way both times. It was wonderful to see so many young people used in different ways during the service.

Sept. 15: Bloserville. We appreciated the good spirit of unity we felt in the service.

Lewistown. We appreciate the answer to prayers for Sis Donahey.

Sept. 16-17: Developed a new sermon and attended PVBI Constitution Day.

Sept 18,20: Sunbury revival services with Rev. Adam Buckler. Enjoyed and appreciated his object lesson on being filled with the spirit on Friday night (youth emphasis).

Sept. 22: Chambersburg. It was wonderful to see the active bus ministry children and teens. We appreciate the church's desire to be faithful to their community.

Shamokin has a similar ministry that has recently started. God is blessing, and they had 40 children and church folk on Sunday night. Praise God! Thank You, Rev. Michael Fritz family and people, for your new efforts into the community.

Sept 23-24: Administrative work. General Board met, and then Bro. Jeremy Fuller and I moved many books from the camp meeting bookstore to another location.

Sept. 26-28: Alabama. (IMF) Represented G.M.C. to ministerial students. Rev. Daniel Durkee and Rev. Rodney Keister also were main speakers on outreach and evangelism.

Sept. 29: Columbia, SC. I preached and then enjoyed the fellowship of Rev. Kenneth and Pat Walter.

Sept. 30 – Oct 03: I took a few vacation days and hunted. I filled a doe tag in SC and was hoping to shoot a wild hog but was unsuccessful.

Oct. 04: PVBI revival service. I also met today with a couple ministers to discuss their ministries.

Oct. 05: Opening of PA archery season. Our son Chad and I both shot a doe today.

Oct. 06: Millmont. It was a privilege to help honor and show appreciation to the Bennett family during the Harvest Home services.

Oct 07: Camp Hill, Hanover Camp board meeting. God has helped in every area spiritually, physically, and financially. Praise His Name!

Oct. 08: G.M.Y.C. board meeting. We appreciate the vision and dedication of this board to see a spiritual and enjoyable youth camp.

Oct. 09: Newport revival meeting. Rev. John Case preached on "Rest" from Matt. 11:28-30.

Oct. 11: Delaware, for the funeral of Sis Janice Jones, Denise Shaffer's mother. Rev. Jeb Stigell did a very good job officiating the service.

Oct 12: Penns Creek Headquarters building to meet with one of our church boards. We appreciate the boards of each of our churches and the blessing they are to our conference.

Oct. 13: Lebanon, Harvest Home to help honor the pastor team. I appreciated the special honor this year to the associate pastor, Rev. Joel Sickler. The four young men from his youth group did a tremendous job talking about how he was a blessing to them.

Oct.14: Headquarters building. Strategic planning meeting with the General Board, PVBI board, Penns Creek Camp board, and two youth leaders who met to discuss and plan our future as G.M.C. God gave us a great day together. Let's continue to pray, plan, and promote G.M.C.

Oct 15 -20: Glouster, Ohio. It was wonderful to be at Fairfield Holiness Church for the third time in five years. God moved and strengthened the church in a special way. I have gained some great friends at the church. ☑



JACOB MARTIN



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PENN VIEW BIBLE INSTITUTE
GOD'S MISSIONARY STANDARDS
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continued from **page 3** A closer consideration of the thought of “may be...” recognizes the reality of the uncertainty of life, and, at times, perhaps even our understanding of God’s will in our lives. The simple truth is that there are some things we can know and other things that we will not know in life. We start with what we know, however. What could Jonathan have known that would cause him to even consider setting out on such a venture? The answer to that question is that he knew his history. He told his armor bearer, “There is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few.” Over and over God had been faithful to deliver in the past, and Jonathan knew that regardless of the odds God could deliver again if He would choose to do so. Our past is full of anchor points on which we can look back and say, “I know God did this in my life, and in our church, and in our school, and across our movement.” It is this foundation that should bolster our faith.

But at this point we must acknowledge that while we may know what happened in the past, we do not know the future. Jonathan serves as an excellent example for us here as well. In such a seemingly impossible situation it would be easy to follow Saul’s example of doing nothing. Yet, Jonathan wasn’t content to sit back while circumstances deteriorated around him. He believed God and wanted to do something for God! Even the fleece he laid out about whether

or not to go up to the garrison came after they had shown themselves to the enemy. His loyalty to God was matched by the loyalty of his armor bearer, and they did something, allowing God to use them mightily! The challenge we often face is: Are we willing to act for God even when the outcome is not certain? Jonathan was so fixed on his faith in God he was willing to risk his life for a maybe, not a guarantee. Yet, is God not pleased when we move forward in faith, without demands, leaving the details up to Him?

The takeaway principle for this consideration of “the God of the may be...” is that in spite of what we do not know, we can or should know that we can trust God no matter what. In this story, Jonathan acted on his faith, and God wrought a mighty victory for the Israelites. Yet I am also reminded of what the three Hebrew boys said to Nebuchadnezzar before they were thrown in the fiery furnace. In essence it was, “IF our God chooses (it may be...), He can deliver us, BUT IF NOT we still aren’t going to bow!” It worked out for them as well, but we must remember that sometimes it “may be” that God has a better plan. We may not know what God is choosing to do around us, or what He might do through us, but I for one think that it just may be the Lord is wanting to work for us. God, give us the courage of Jonathan to act in faith and see a mighty victory won for Your glory! ■