



# MOGA

## Mercies of God Association

### FALL, 2016

ISSUE NINE

## Newsletter

THE GRASS WITHERETH, THE FLOWER FADETH: BUT THE  
WORD OF OUR GOD SHALL STAND FOR EVER.  
Isaiah 40:8

FOCUS: GOSPEL  
HOPE & FRUIT

Dear Friends,

Thanksgiving is upon us. What greater thanks can we offer than thanks to our Lord for the amazing grace of salvation through His beloved Son, Jesus Christ? May you have a Christ-centered Thanksgiving Day.

Welcome to another issue of the MOGA Newsletter. May the devotionals feed your soul, may the on-going work of radio Bible ministry remain a passion for you, and may you be blessed as you learn about Mrs. Nancy Whytock's ministry through library work in helping pastors to study the Word.

In our next issue, I hope to share a personal testimony about radio ministry and also share stories from the field. So "stay tuned" and every blessing as you read.

Dr. Jack,  
Overseas Director MOGA

## Are You Satisfied?

We often hear folks say they are not satisfied with their work or their living accommodations or their grades at school (or the parents imply they are not satisfied!)

Rarely, however, do we find ourselves saying we are not satisfied with our spiritual state or with our spiritual progress; and if we do, we can quickly pass it off with, "Well, we're all not perfect." True, none of us are perfect. But before we quickly just cast off the question, let us be reminded of a tension Paul, the Apostle and Missionary, once wrote about to the Ephesians.

Paul was delighted that these Christians, former pagans and idolaters, had clear convictions about faith in the Lord Jesus and love for all the saints (Ephesians 1:15). It was quite incredible. Paul, was "satisfied" and thrilled by knowing and seeing faith and love in the Christian community in Ephesus. Yet, like so many things in life, there is often a "but".

Sure enough, there is with Paul here – he was satisfied...but not completely satisfied! He expressed four prayer requests for the believers in Ephesus: that they

would know Christ better (Eph. 1:17), that they would know there was hope (Eph 1:18a), that they would know they were rich (Eph. 1:18b), and that they would know God's power (Eph. 1:19). In other words, Paul was not satisfied that in each of these four areas these Christians had it completely together.

Allow me to select only one of these, the second, Paul's prayer that these Christians know more of their hope. In part I want to focus upon this because this joins us with Paul's great recurring theme in his writings in what is often called Paul's trinity of Christian virtues – faith, love and hope. "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love..." (1 Corinthians 13:13).

What does a "hopeful Christian" look like? They have an optimism that is rooted in the promises of the Bible. They are the opposite of a cynic or a cynical Christian. You know this kind – they doubt and despise everything in the world, in the church, and with virtually all Christians.

We need hopeful Christians who have a biblically rooted optimism that does not despair, but says to oneself, "God has called me to hope; God has not called the Christian to despair. I hear the promises of my Lord, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not overcome it," and "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Friends, if you have fallen into the trap of being a cynically minded Christian, you must not be satisfied. Paul made a prayer for you, that the eyes of your heart would be changed, that you would see and know you have been called to be a "hopeful Christian".

## Redeeming the Time

"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."  
Ephesians 5:16

The events that are unfolding around the world certainly touch our lives on a daily basis. They speak to each of us "that our hold on what remains is so uncertain" and the Scripture calls us to redeem the time with true works of love and helpfulness in the Gospel mandate. How sobering the world situation is, and what a call before us to "redeem the time".

The apostle Paul gave the text at the head of this column to people in Ephesus who were redeemed by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul acknowledged first their living relationship and experience in the work of Jesus Christ upon the cross.

Those who claim to be redeemed in the blood of Christ must then so live as to bear the fruit of redemption. Are you redeemed in the blood of Christ? Ask the following questions: Have I left the darkness of this world to live in God's light? Do I know that I am a child of the Lord (verses 2 and 8)?

If so, then Paul is speaking to you and calling you to bear the appropriate fruit of being a Christian by redeeming the time which remains in your life. Buy up each opportunity. In other words, make the most of each opportunity. Remember, no one has any more time than you! Each person is given twenty-four hours each day, and the real question is what we do with it.

I believe there are four practical areas which follow from Paul's exhortation for Christians to "redeem the time." First, our time is really not our own – it is the Lord's. We need to submit our time to His will, not our will (verse 17).

Second, wise Christians will want to use the remaining time of their lives under the correct influences (verse 18). What influences of our world and culture are negatively leading us into unproductive Christian lives? Paul states clearly here that wrong influences will waste valuable time in our Christian lives. Who or what is influencing you day by day?

Third, are we making time for worship and fellowship with the saints, and when we do give time to this, is it truly spiritual and from the heart (verse 19), not just rote "duty"?

And fourth, a spirit of thanksgiving will make your use of time precious. A sure way to become ineffective with the use of our time is to have an attitude of grumbling and complaining – it will take the energy right out of you.

Are you thankful to the Lord for His mercies? Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our days are fleeting. May you bear much fruit by redeeming the time today.

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God

Colossians 1: 9,10



## Praying for Radio Bible Ministry

Many Christians in North America enjoy the blessings of Christian radio ministry. The Bible teaching, the hymns of praise, and the opportunity to write in and ask questions are privileges that we can easily take for granted. Today in many other parts of the world, Christian radio ministry is also thriving. Yet there are still areas where Christians are isolated and are longing for such a ministry to encourage them and feed them day by day.

Perhaps you would consider praying specifically about this need. Please pray:

- That more ministers of the gospel will be called to this specific area of evangelism and teaching
- Pray especially that those gifted in speaking in their mother tongue will be raised up to reach their own people through radio ministry
- Pray that government officials and those in charge of airtime will not silence the voice of Christian radio
- Pray for clear, solid exposition of the Word that is applied with love and compassion.

## Airing Stations

We are happy to announce that Mercies of God Daily is airing on the following Stations:

- Flint, MI - **WSNL AM 600/FM 106.5** - 10:00 AM EST - Monday through Friday & Sundays 8:00 am & 3:30 pm [www.wsnlradio.com](http://www.wsnlradio.com)
- New Orleans, LA - **WVOG AM 600** - 11:30 AM CST - Monday through Friday & Sundays 9:00 am
- Jackson, MS - **WTWZ AM 1120 and FM 102.5** - 11:15 AM CST - Monday through Friday - [www.wtwzradio.com](http://www.wtwzradio.com)
- Spokane, WA - **KTW AM 630 and FM 96.5** - 11:30 AM PST - Monday through Friday - To listen via your android or smartphone, please download LBS which is out of Spokane.
- Dayton, OH- **WGNZ AM 1110 and FM 104.3** - Sundays 7:30 AM and 2:00pm <http://www.wgnz.com/>
- Bristol, TN - **WHCB-FM 91.5** - Sundays 1:30pm <http://www.whcbradio.org/>
- Virginia Beach, VA- **WPMH AM 1010** 7:30pm Sundays <http://www.wpmhradio.com/>

### Online

- [www.sermonaudio.com](http://www.sermonaudio.com)  
Pastor Peter Nortier

**Interview with Mrs. Nancy Whytock  
Librarian for Dumisani Theological Institute and Bible  
School,  
King William's Town, South Africa**



**Q. When did you first become interested in libraries?**

My father was a minister and he was a great reader. He had a very fine collection of books, so even as a child, I was surrounded by a theological library. I used to help my father to organize his books. When I was a teenager, I developed a simple system for him to keep track of books that he lent out. Often student ministers and also members of our congregation came to borrow books. Dad was generous in lending but not so good at keeping track of what went out. It was only when he went to use a book that he missed it. I really became his librarian until I left for university!

At university, I applied to work in the faculty of music library to earn some extra money. This was a great part-time job and I learned a lot about library resources and cataloguing systems. I also learned a lot about assisting students and trying to keep their stress levels down!

During my Biblical studies training, I also worked in the library but I simply went in after 11 pm when the library closed and cleaned it for the coming day. You would think a young woman would be nervous to be in a big huge library late at night, but I actually felt very much at home; it was a joy to clean that library and try to maintain a lovely library environment. That was really another vital part of my early training in library work.

**Q. Tell us about a “typical day” in the library at the bible college where you serve.**

Our library is open from 8 am to 5 pm. I typically arrive just before 8 am and I praise God that often students are already waiting to enter the building. Students at our college tend to have little or no prior experience in coming to a library, have fairly poor educational backgrounds and speak English as a second or third language. Each year I teach library skills

courses, computer courses, academic English courses and learning skills courses to our incoming students. These are all very practical, hands-on courses, and year after year I see the benefits of taking the time to teach students basic skills as soon as they come to the college.

Most of my day involves assisting students to find appropriate materials. They can find books, but they find it hard to assess the material and choose the best resources. I also spend a lot of time looking over course assignments with them and helping them to understand what they are being asked to do. Signing out books takes time too as we do not have a computerized system! Each book and book reference number must be recorded.

Our library is expanding, so any spare time that I have, I try to catalogue new books and get them into circulation or into our reference section. By Thursday, a steady stream of library users start to come to ask for assistance with material for their Sunday school lesson, Bible Study group or for their Sunday sermon. Even though we officially close at 5 pm, there are lots of days when we still have many users in the library at that time and I really praise God for this. Some library users travel a long distance to make use of our resources. Remembering this makes it very easy to be flexible with our hours! Praise God for serious students of His Word.

**Q. Let me focus on one thing you said – “By Thursday, a steady stream of library users start to come to ask for assistance with material for their Sunday school lesson, Bible Study group or for their Sunday sermon.” Please expand on this.**

Our college board made the decision to offer private library membership access to our library. This way local ministers, Sunday school teachers, and others can apply to take out a one-year membership for a small fee (less than \$20 US). Many of our private users have told me that their preaching has changed dramatically since coming to the library. Here they have a lovely space in which to study, they have access to excellent commentaries (both online and in our own collection), they are meeting other Christian leaders and also interacting with our college community, and they are learning the value of the regular, systematic study of the Word of God. This is a very encouraging part of the work to me.

**(Continued – page 5)**

**Q. So your work as librarian is directly impacting the advancement of sound preaching. This is wonderful! What other ways can you share with us how you see spiritual benefits from the library?**

Well, the students are learning more about Christianity worldwide both in the present and also in the past. I put up a very large world map on one wall of the library. For some of our students, this is the first time they have seen a world map. When I explain something about where the author of a certain book lived or lives, this really starts to open their eyes to the extent of the Church around the world. Also, the students have been greatly blessed by South African Christians and Christians from the international community who have given us books. I put new books on a table and show the students what is being added to our collection. I want to teach them to be thankful and to be mindful of the sacrifices of others. We also hold book sales and men's ties sales four times a year. These sales attract many people from the community and give us the opportunity to reach beyond our regular library users.

A fairly unseen spiritual benefit is the spontaneous counselling that takes place day-to-day. I get to know the students at the college very well because I am constantly interacting with them. When they come into the library joyful, I know it. When they are sad and discouraged, I also know it. The students are generous in sharing their lives, their stories. I have a lot of opportunity to listen, to pray, to share God's Word, and to be reminded myself of the love of God in Christ Jesus.



**Q. What do you want us to pray about in this ministry?**

Well, it is almost Thanksgiving and I want others to join us in giving thanks to God:

- For a lovely former church building in which to house our library and study centre – the recent commencement of renovations has helped us to provide a healthier study environment – mildew free
- For our students and their diligence and patience in learning to make use of our library resources
- For the donors who have provided books, computers, software, book shelves, and more.
- For four very successful library book sales and men's ties sales this year. Special thanks to all donors who collect items to support our library.

I would also like to ask for prayer for the following:

- For more time to train others in library work. This year I have started to train two of our senior students.
- For our book sales (3-4 times per year) – that the materials that go out will be of great spiritual benefit to many
- For all who prepare sermons and Bible lessons here – that the Word of God will go out with the power of the Holy Spirit and those who deliver that Word will do so in humility.
- For wisdom to order my days effectively in this ministry

We'd love to hear from you. Please write to us or contact us using the information at the bottom of this newsletter. New newsletter subscribers always welcome too!

## A Favourite Old Hymn of Gospel Hope and Fruit

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| <p>1. We've a story to tell to the nations,<br/>That shall turn their hearts to the right,<br/>A story of truth and mercy,<br/>A story of peace and light,<br/>A story of peace and light.</p> <p><b>Refrain:</b><br/><b>For the darkness shall turn to dawning,</b><br/><b>And the dawning to noonday bright;</b><br/><b>And Christ's great kingdom shall come on</b><br/><b>earth,</b><br/><b>The kingdom of love and light.</b></p> | <p>2. We've a song to be sung to the nations,<br/>That shall lift their hearts to the Lord,<br/>A song that shall conquer evil<br/>And shatter the spear and sword,<br/>And shatter the spear and sword.</p> <p>3. We've a message to give to the nations,<br/>That the Lord who reigns up above<br/>Has sent us His Son to save us,<br/>And show us that God is love,<br/>And show us that God is love.</p> <p>4. We've a Savior to show to the nations,<br/>Who the path of sorrow has trod,<br/>That all of the world's great peoples<br/>Might come to the truth of God,<br/>Might come to the truth of God.</p> |
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Happy Thanksgiving. May the Lord truly bless you to see the fruit of your labours as you remember with thanksgiving the hope that we share in Christ Jesus.

Titus 2:11-13

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