



GREETINGS TO YOU ALL IN THE WONDERFUL AND POWERFUL NAME OF JESUS! I hope this update finds you all doing well - looking forward to Spring, rejoicing in the Hope we have in Christ.

This year we have been studying through the Gospel of Luke together in our classes. This is a study that I have put off for a long time. *Luke's Gospel is intimidating to say the least.* Even many scholars who have studied this Book for years are still baffled by the way in which Luke organizes the flow of Jesus' story. Nevertheless, this Gospel gives such a *powerful* presentation of the Truth and Grace of our Lord Jesus.

As I have been teaching and thinking about this Gospel, I have been challenged by Jesus' direct, yet gracious call to love Him and give our allegiance to Him above everyone and everything else. We also see the great mercy and grace of our Heavenly Father *who is well pleased to give us the Kingdom* (Luke 12:32).

In Luke 11:2-4, we find "The Disciples Prayer" - the prayer that Jesus teaches His disciples to pray. I wrote about

the line, "Father, let your name be sanctified..." in a previous newsletter. Recently, I have been thinking on the line, "*Give us this day our daily bread...*" in the context of our Father's gracious provision.

For years, translators were not sure of the exact sense of the word translated as "daily," since it is used only twice in the New Testament—in Luke's and Matthew's version of this prayer. Also, it did not appear in any other available writings from the time. Many tried to *spiritualize* the word to say that Jesus was instructing us to ask for "spiritual, heavenly bread." Surely, Jesus would not have us praying for such down-to-earth, common things like *actual bread*, they reasoned. But then, a discovery comes.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s while excavating a dump site in Oxyrhynchus Egypt, archaeologists found a treasure trove of ancient manuscripts, some of them dating to the time of Jesus. There were copies and fragments of the Old and New Testaments and other major literary works. But most of the pieces contained down-to-earth, everyday records: private letters, wills, bills, shopping lists.

Continued...

UPDATE: Mission Uganda

Many of you have donated to, and prayed for, Pastor Kaleb Kagabo and our brothers and sisters at Village Church in Kampala, Uganda. We felt it was time for an update! Pastor Kaleb continues to take Stacy's Thursday evening Zoom class on the Gospel of Luke. (7:00 pm for those of us in Central Standard Time, 4:00 am for Kaleb in Kampala!) He is hungry for the word of God to share with his congregation, and Stacy has been excited to be a resource for the church.

Thanks to modern technology, we have started translating the Milk to Meat workbooks to Uganda's native language of Luganda (using Google Translate). Pastor Kaleb is then able to edit them into a usable form for the church. He wrote to Stacy: "Pastor, this will make a very big difference in our

church and in the body of Christ in Uganda. This material will change our ministry setting to maturity!"

Kaleb now has about seventy people enrolled in a Friday class to go through this MilktoMeat material. These students have been placed into twelve "families" who meet together each week for further discussion, song, and prayer. Pastor Kaleb has been so encouraged to see the people "love so much to study" and "respond positively" to the class!

While exciting, these developments have increased the need for Village Church to have its own computer and printer. The goal has been to supply each member of the church with free MilktoMeat workbooks. Unfortunately, without their own resources, this was nearly impossible to do.

However, Father God has been at work! TSF received

Daily Bread...

In *Eat This Book*, Eugene Peterson tells the story of one small linguistic discovery. One of the fragments was a shopping list written by a mother for her teenage son with the note, “Don’t let that baker sell you any stale, day-old bread, make sure it’s **fresh** (“*daily*”) bread!” And there is the word that Jesus uses in his prayer!

When we pray for “daily bread,” we are asking the Father to give us *fresh provision for the day*. Just like fresh baked bread, we need the new, fresh mercies everyday! *And our Father, who is good, gives us what we need.*

At the end of 2022 I wrote that giving had been down for the year. ***In November and December we were humbled and blessed by the incredible amount of donations we received! Fresh Bread at the time for our needs!*** Your generosity allows us to continue to lift up Christ and teach the Truth that is found only in Him. Your generosity also allows us to be a blessing to other brothers and sisters in Uganda where the Lord is working in a mighty way.

We are so thankful for all of you who support us not only financially but also with your prayers and involvement with the ministry. As I have said many times before, but also

Uganda Update...

over \$2500 in donations in the past months to go toward Village Church. God then paired Stacy up with a local missionary, by the name of Steve Happ, who makes regular trips to Uganda. Steve was able to walk Stacy through the best and safest way to purchase the necessary equipment for the church. He also delivered some of the equipment to Kaleb personally, and then helped him buy the rest locally in Kampala.

After Pastor Kaleb received the computer and printer, he called Stacy. He was thrilled, humbled, and so thankful for *your* generosity. It was hard for him to fathom why strangers, who live thousands of miles away, would give to Village Church. Stacy reminded Kaleb what you already know - that we are merely the hands and feet of Christ. And what a privilege it is to be used by Him!

Truth Seekers has enough in reserves to help Village Church cover the costs of printing supplies in the months ahead. And our MilktoMeat workbooks are going into the hands of our brothers and sisters in Kampala, Uganda. Little did he know, when Tom Murray first started writing Milkto-

Have you been to the TSF website lately?

www.tsfmemphis.org is the best place to keep in touch with us and find all of our available resources.

Each week we are posting updates to our classes this year. On the site you can find audio and notes for the study of the **Gospel of Luke** that Stacy has been teaching and the **Romans** study that Dr. Jim Allman has been teaching.

We also have a great collection of studies on various Bible Books and topics in our “Study” section. Someone recently told us, “I can’t believe all the resources that you have on your site for free!”

Scan the QR code on the right to go to the site. ***Please check in with us there and keep in touch!***



want to remind you, ***you are our partners in ministry***—TSF is OUR ministry that we share together. WE would not be able to do what we do without you! ***May the Lord bless you as you have been a blessing to us!*** [ST]

Meat in the 1990’s that, 30 years later, its reach would extend across the ocean, into a new continent and new language! *We pray that the Lord would use this curriculum for His good purpose.*

Stacy and Kaleb continue to communicate weekly, and their friendship and mutual respect have grown apace. After discussing the church’s needs with Kaleb, Stacy has realized how little Kaleb’s flock knows about the Bible as a whole. He is now working on a 12-part series for Pastor Kaleb to teach, in order for the church to get a big picture view of Scripture. His relationship with Kaleb Kagabo has been the very essence of what Truth Seekers was designed to do—“*equipping the faithful to be fruitful.*”

Above all, it is both thrilling and humbling to see how God has used a small ministry in Memphis, Tennessee, to minister to a pastor and a church halfway across the world. God’s hand has been evident every step of the way, putting the right people in place to answer each need. And you are a HUGE part of that. We thank you for your giving and your prayers in the past months. *And stay tuned... there will be more updates to come.* [JT]