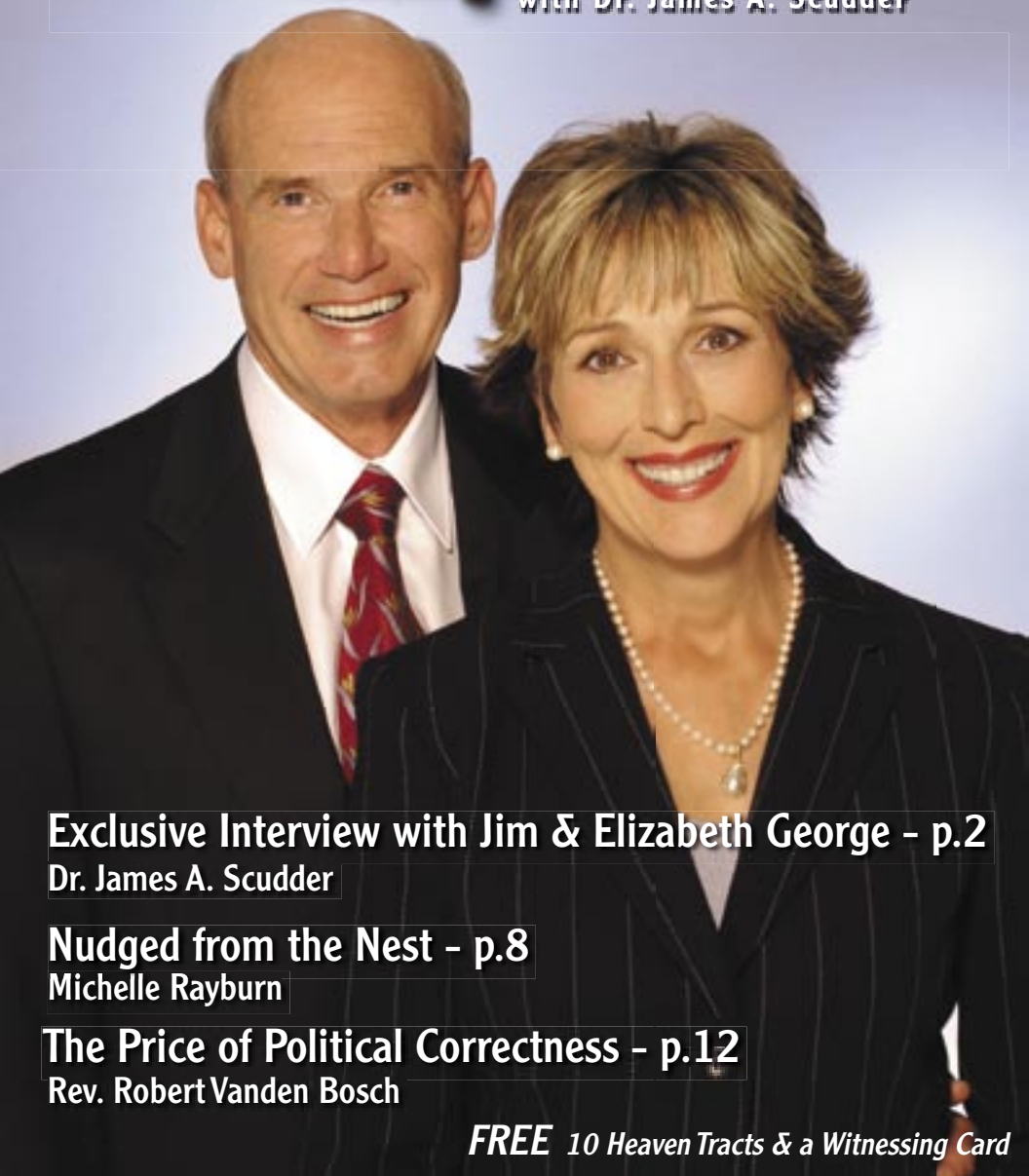


# VICTORY IN GRACE

July 2006  
MAGAZINE

with Dr. James A. Scudder



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Dr. James A. Scudder

**Nudged from the Nest - p.8**  
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Rev. Robert Vanden Bosch

**FREE** 10 Heaven Tracts & a Witnessing Card



## An Interview with authors Jim & Elizabeth George

By Dr. James A. Scudder

Dear Friends, we're in for a special treat today. I'm excited to share an interview with my good friends, the bestselling husband-and-wife team of authors, Jim and Elizabeth George. God has really blessed their ministry—it seems everywhere I go, in the grocery store, the airport, Wal-Mart—their books are displayed.

Linda and I have enjoyed their writing over the years, so we know you'll enjoy this special interview:

**Elizabeth George** is a popular author and conference speaker. Her books for women have sold millions of copies and have landed her on the CBA bestseller list numerous times. You can find more information about Elizabeth at [elizabethgeorge.com](http://elizabethgeorge.com).

**Jim George** is a former pastor, missionary, and seminary professor. He has contributed to numerous Bible study guides and now writes books for men. You can find more information about Jim at [jimgeorge.com](http://jimgeorge.com)

### *Elizabeth George*

**Dr. Scudder:** Elizabeth, the title of your latest book, *Little Changes for a Better Life*, intrigues me. It is really great reading. People might think this is targeted to women, but this is really for everybody, isn't it?

**Elizabeth George:** Well, God

promises us a better life if we follow His ways.

**Dr. Scudder:** I've got a few questions. What do you consider a better life and what led you to write this book?

**EG:** Well, it was the mess that my life was in. I was 28 years old, we'd been married 8 years, and I was not a Christian. We had a young family and we were doing everything wrong. By a miracle of God's grace, I became a Christian, and for the very first time I had some guidelines and principles to build my life on. I remember one day before I got saved. I was in the kitchen and I had a preschooler hanging on both legs and I was dragging them around the kitchen. I yelled at the ceiling, "There's got to be more to life than this!" And God heard the cry of my heart. He began to move and act in our lives and led me to Him. That's when I found out that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life. Right there is the better life. He said He is come that we might live life and that we might live it abundantly. As I got into the scriptures, I started finding out His better plan for my life and what He wanted me to do, what He wanted me to be, and how He wanted me to live.

**Dr. Scudder:** But you didn't title it *Big Changes*, you titled it *Small Changes*. Why?

**EG:** Well, maybe because I had done everything wrong I was very sensitive to anything that the Scriptures said. I had a core of older women who began to show me how to live. It

was just in the small things, like reading your Bible everyday . . .

**Dr. Scudder:** I think if you had offered *Huge Changes for a Better Life*, I'd not want to read it because I'd say, "I can't do that." But I could do a small change.

**EG:** The huge change is God's transformation: the small changes come as we read His Word, see what He has in mind for us, and then seek to obey just one small step at a time.

**Dr. Scudder:** You outline daily steps for living in God's plan. Where do you think the spiritual emphasis for most people should be focused?

**EG:** Reading the Word of God, because that's where God reveals the better plan and gives us the promise of a better life. I encourage women to just start reading and studying the Bible. One time we heard a gentleman tell us he reads a paragraph a day and he gets a nugget that he takes with him the whole day. I thought to myself, "Now there's a very small thing, 5 minutes a day, read a paragraph, take your nugget of wisdom with you through the day."

**Dr. Scudder:** You're right. Often Christians read, study, and even memorize, but don't meditate. Then all of a

"As a wife and a mom, I found that I could make small changes in my life" — Elizabeth George

*continued on page 6*

# YOUR LETTERS

I have been happily impressed with Dr. Scudder since the first time I saw him, here on the INI channel.

Sheba, Libya

I enjoy Dr. Scudder's teaching on TV here in the United Kingdom.

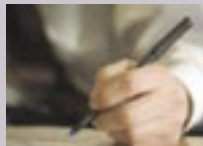
London, England

God bless *Victory In Grace*. Thank you for helping us to learn God's Word in a way we can understand and for helping equip us to bring Christ to those who don't know Him. I have been a believer for many years now and love and trust in Him. I love learning more and more and absorbing the Word of God.

Cairo, Egypt

*Editor's Note: Victory In Grace Television is broadcast in 168 countries on two international satellite networks. For more information, visit [victoryingrace.org](http://victoryingrace.org) and click on "Television."*

## We'd Love to Hear From You!



Did a particular article inspire, encourage, or provoke a thought? Drop us a line and we may put your letter in a future issue of *Victory In Grace*. Send an email to us at [magazine@victoryingrace.org](mailto:magazine@victoryingrace.org). If you prefer traditional mail, here's our address: Dr. James A. Scudder, *Victory In Grace Magazine*, 60 Quentin Road, Lake Zurich, IL 60047.

**Do you know** for certain you are going to Heaven? If not, you can trust in Jesus Christ right now. If you believe you are a sinner, and that He died for your sins and rose from the dead, you can be absolutely sure you will go to Heaven if you put your trust in Him. You cannot earn your way to Heaven; Jesus already paid the price. Friend, won't you trust in Him now? If you have more questions, log on to [www.victoryingrace.org](http://www.victoryingrace.org) and click on our "Salvation" section. Here you'll find answers and resources to help you understand Christianity.

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July 2006

# VICTORY IN GRACE

Helping you find victory in life through God's abundant grace

## 2 **Exclusive Interview**

by Dr. James A. Scudder with  
Jim & Elizabeth George

They helped to strengthen the faith of millions of Christian men and women. Now the best-selling author team of Jim and Elizabeth George sit down with Dr. Scudder for an exclusive one-on-one interview.

## 8 **Nudged from the Nest**

by Michelle Rayburn

Because the Creator wants us to soar like an eagle, sometimes He has to nudge us from the comfort of our nest and onto new challenges which force us to dig deep and trust Him completely.

## 12 **The Price of Political Correctness**

by Rev. Robert Vanden Bosch

Pastors are increasingly being pressured to keep silent about important issues in society. What is the price for political correctness?

### *For Your Information*

- If you would like to receive this magazine or have problems with your delivery, please call us at 1-800-78-GRACE or email us at [contact@victoryingrace.org](mailto:contact@victoryingrace.org)
- If you would like to order bulk copies of this magazine for your church or organization, please call us at 1-800-78-GRACE or contact us at [contact@victoryingrace.org](mailto:contact@victoryingrace.org)

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- Watch or Listen to Victory In Grace Broadcasts.
- Download free e-books on a variety of spiritual topics.
- Browse the Resource Center for books, videos, and more.
- Learn how to share your faith in our special "Salvation" section, including a video presentation by Dr. Scudder.



Whether you're in the grocery store or the airport, the bookstore or the gift shop, it's hard to miss the inspirational titles of bestselling author, Elizabeth George, who, with her husband, Jim, has inspired millions of believers to greater love for God.

Linda and I have known Jim and Elizabeth for many years and count them among our dearest friends. This month we're excited that we finally got together to talk about their latest books and what God is doing through their growing ministry. It's an interview you'll want to read.

We also have a powerful article by Michelle Rayburn, who compares the Christian life to the flight of an eagle.

Lastly, Rev. Vanden Bosch shares a unique column on "political correctness" and how believers are being pressured to speak out less on important issues.

We hope you enjoy this "fully-loaded" edition of *Victory In Grace*.

*James A. Scudder*

sudden they find out their life has no power. But if they learn to meditate a nugget here and a nugget there, it really makes you feel close.

**EG:** It does. I happened to be a wife and a mom and I was finding small changes I could make on a daily basis as a wife and a mom, like how to serve people in the church, wisdom for building character, what it means to be kind, or how to forgive. As you discover it in the Word, and as you pray for God’s grace to help you make the change, you then grow the desire in your heart to grow more Christlike.

## Jim George

**Dr. Scudder:** *What God Wants to Do for You*. Jim, that title, in and of itself, is so exciting to me. I’m going to ask you the same question I asked your wife: why did you write this book?

**Jim George:** Well, you look at Scripture and realize that God has given us a lot of promises. Some estimate that there as many as 30,000 promises in the Bible. The interesting thing is that these promises come from a God who cannot lie, so by the very nature of Who God is, when He says He’s going to do something, then we can count on Him to fulfill that promise.

**Dr. Scudder:** Don’t you think that faith is really trusting the promises?

**JG:** Yes it is! If God says that He is going to give us eternal life and that life is in His Son, that is a promise that we can count on.

**Dr. Scudder:** In *What God Wants to Do For You*, you relate walkie-talkies to the idea of prayer. Explain that a little bit.

**JG:** Well, Elizabeth and I live in the beautiful state of Washington and we live on a hillside, and the house is built in several levels. Elizabeth will be writing in one area and I’ll write in another, and the way we communicate back and forth is through walkie-talkies. One day, several of our grandkids were there and I tried to explain to them how the walkie-talkies work, and they said, “We know how to use them.” So off they went. In about 5 minutes they came back crying and saying, “There’s something wrong with these walkie-talkies, they don’t work.”

We all know that there wasn’t a problem with the walkie-talkies, it was their understanding of how the devices worked. A lot of us have that approach toward prayer—we don’t think it works. Inside we think, “You

“When Jesus Christ came into our lives, I realized that He wanted to take over our family.”

– Jim George

know, I'm not sure God is going to answer this prayer, because if I knew that God was going to answer the prayers that I offer up, then I might be a little more excited and motivated to pray."

**Dr. Scudder:** I think the hardest thing is to "pray without ceasing" even when we're going through a trial.

**JG:** God has promised His love and if we understand that, when the trial comes, we are going to know that a loving God is not going to ask us to go through anything without His direction, without His care, His concern, without His strength energizing us to go through that particular issue.

**Dr. Scudder:** Jim, Elizabeth shared earlier that you both lived a good part of your life without Christ and now you've both experienced great change. What are some of those changes?

**JG:** Well, with Jesus Christ in your life, you have the power of the Holy Spirit working in you and you have the Word of God. It has been so special for us to really get into the Word. The interesting thing in all of this is that, for like 8 years, I was a believer and Elizabeth was not. It was a very difficult time for us because we just couldn't agree on anything. Particularly when it came to going to church or any kind of religious things. So for 8 years we didn't go to church at all.

But when Christ came into our lives, I realized that God wanted to take over our family. That's when I began to look for a church and began to start studying the Bible. I had wasted a lot of my life, so now I wanted to serve

God. The changes were very dramatic simply because we wanted to live for Him. We had seen the other side and realized it didn't work. For the first time, we were seeing the life that was there in Christ. So we committed ourselves to live wholly for Him. It's been just an incredible journey these last 35 years. [VIG](http://VIG)



Order your copies of  
Jim & Elizabeth  
George's new books  
on page 18

# God's Empty Nest



By Michelle Rayburn

I love summer mornings, savoring my cornflakes and strawberries with the windows open, listening to the chorus of birds outside my kitchen window. I often linger a few extra minutes to update my bird journal and to watch yellow finches vie for positions on the thistle seed feeder. I imagine all their twittering is appreciation for their breakfast. I watch orioles, bluebirds, and grosbeaks come and go on the other feeder indulging in fruit and nuts. Living on the edge of a national wildlife reserve has advantages for a bird-lover.

I take delight every time a pair of great white herons or swans rest in the marshy grass in front of my house and I marvel that birds with such mass and wingspan can ascend so gracefully. Often in traveling our dirt road with my husband, one of us will point to another at these stunning creatures. However, I cannot recall a single time in my bird-watching experience

when I have nudged my husband and said, “Look there, honey, at that beautiful chicken up in the sky. See how he soars?”

I wondered why. I had seen flocks of geese in my wilderness front yard, families of cranes and ducks on the reservoir on my way to the mailbox, hawks and eagles soaring over the bluff behind my house, but nary a soaring chicken. Why are chickens more sprinters than long distance flyers even though they possess the same equipment as their feathered relatives?

Dr. Mickey Latour, Associate Professor of Animal Sciences at Purdue University, says, “Domestic chickens have essentially lost their ability to fly.” Dr. Latour explains that chickens do have the “core requirements” for flying, such as wings and feathers, and that they also have pneumatic (hollow) bones that are “lighter to support flying.” So why do they

spend endless days pecking at seeds on the ground when they could fly to new horizons? Dr. Latour says, "...they have been selected over time for growth, primarily meat."

Held hostage by their own body mass, chickens seem content to stay put—protected and close to their nests and their food—until some infrequent alarm sends them flapping for a few yards. I wonder if they ever see the other birds on high, longing to join them as they rise and plummet on the breeze. Selective chicken breeding by humans has produced a caged bird with now almost useless flight equipment.

Contrast the chicken with the eagle that can fly even in the windiest of conditions without fatigue, soaring so high in the heavens that the pecking chickens on the ground are mere specks. God gave the eagle exceptional muscles for enduring long flights.

Sometimes I am the poultry sort of Christian. I am happy to sit in my nest, the comfortable church pew, front row, piano side with the people I know better than I know my own cousins. This is where I like it—not too far from familiarity, where things are routine, predictable. However, I don't have to be a chicken. Unlike these birds, I have no genetic limitations preventing me from departing and rising above. My limitations exist only in my mind.

Not long ago, my husband and I began to pray about and to consider the idea of serving God together in full-time ministry. Each of us had felt God nudging us. At first, we dismissed the idea whenever God stirred our thoughts because we are in a comfortable place; we like where we live, my husband likes his job, and

our children are happy, well-adjusted players on their little league teams. We both have numerous leadership responsibilities in our local church and following a call to serve God in ministry would mean relocating and leaving so much behind. Our nest is soft and comfortable right now. Why leave it?

We soon realized that God was beginning to stir that nest because He has a better plan for us. How did we know this? A verse here, a sermon on the radio there, and countless other little reminders that our purpose on this earth is to glorify Him. However, our obedience hasn't been without some foot-dragging.

Shortly after we agreed to obey the call to full-time Bible camp ministry, our mini-van's transmission went out. As I lurched into the garage that Saturday afternoon, I rested my head on the steering wheel and asked God, "Is this how it is going to be? We obey and then life wallops us with financial strain?"

God gently whispered from verses committed to memory decades ago, "Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved" (Psalm 55:22).

Once we committed to obedience, I

**Fear often limits my ability to trust, especially when obedience seems so risky.**

**— Michelle Rayburn**

*continued on next page*

knew there were more battles with our resolve to come, and if I was going to survive these skirmishes between faith and doubt, I was going to need more ammunition than what I could recall from memory. I took a book of spiral bound index cards and searched the Scriptures for God's promises, writing a different promise on each card. I have returned to those cards over the past months, whenever faith obstacles intimidate me, and I continue to add cards.

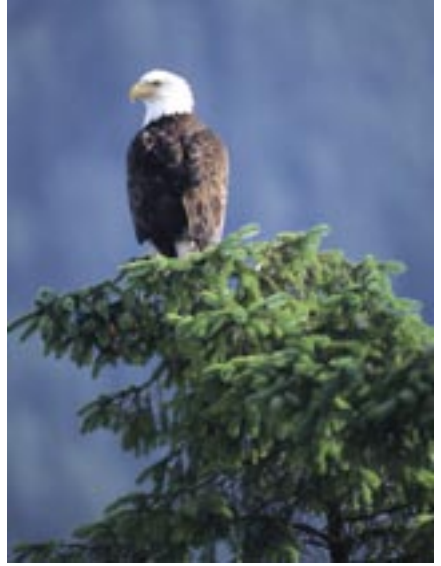
God, Who knows every detail of my future, says, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee..." (Isaiah 41:10). Fear often limits my capacity to trust when obedience appears so risky.

### **Risky But Not Perilous**

Like an eagle that knows when it is time for the eaglets to leave and tosses her young out of the nest, God knows when it is time for us to let go of the safety of familiar things and step into a place where we must wait on Him for every step. However, there are days when trusting Him seems impossible.

What happens when a real test of faith comes along? When we realize the nest is no longer beneath us and it feels like we are free falling? God isn't like traditional empty-nest parents who hold off on converting Bobby's bedroom to a den in case he needs a place to crash for awhile. When God pushes us out of the nest, He expects us to fly, however risky that might be.

I have a habit of exaggerating the cost of obedience, inflating the risks in my mind, forgetting that there is nothing beyond God's protection or capability. I hope for opportunities



to sneak back into the nest in case I fail. I doubt my calling. I doubt God's protection. In the midst of one of these moments of doubt, I came across Isaiah 43:2-3, where God says, "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the LORD thy God..." Unlike parents who send their fledglings off to college on their own, God accompanies us when we leave His nest. He isn't a phone call or an e-mail away; He is there.

Obedience isn't as hazardous as my mind would have me believe. He is God. I am secure in his hand. He oversees the orbit of many moons and planets, knows the needs of billions of people, sends the sun every morning, and keeps the seasons in order. I cannot even balance a check-book on a regular basis. How can I *not* trust Him?

### **Illogical But Not Irrational**

Trusting God doesn't always seem logical, thus I grapple with it

in my mind. It isn't logical to give up a comfortable salary and home, a retirement plan, or health insurance. It isn't logical to leave behind family and friends. It isn't logical to tear our children away from everything familiar. It isn't logical to shove a baby eagle out of a nest either, but the mother eagle knows this is the way her babies will learn to soar. God's ways defy human logic, but His ways are not absurd. For some, it doesn't make sense to go against our affluent culture and choose the simplicity associated with raising financial support for full-time missions work. But God didn't bring us into this world to accumulate stuff. God brought us into this world with nothing, and we will return to Him with nothing, according to Job 1:21. What better way to live out our days than total devotion to God's will, whatever He reveals that to be? I often need to remind myself of Isaiah 55:8-9, where God's Word says, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."


### **Independent But Not Forsaken**

The eagle does not abandon her offspring, expecting them to fend for themselves. They fly alone, but she flies near each fledgling, ready to scoop him up if he should fall too far. God does the same for us and to help us understand, he uses a word picture of the eagle. "As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: So the LORD alone did lead him..." (Deuteronomy 32:11-12).

It is comforting to know this when I am in the middle of wondering and questioning our next move—God is there holding and sustaining me, yet letting me fly.

Right now, I am waiting. Waiting on God for His direction. I am claiming the promise in Isaiah 40:31 that if I wait on the Lord, He will renew my strength, for He says, "they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

What is God nudging you to do? Are you clinging to the edge of His nest when He is saying, "It is time to go"? It may not be as far-reaching as a career change or relocation. It may or may not be full-time ministry. Does your fear of public speaking hold you back from sharing a message God has given you? Maybe God is asking you to love someone who is unlovable. Perhaps you long to return to school but you think it is too late. Possibly God is nudging you to share the gospel with your neighbor but you are hesitant. Will you trust His promises, step out of your comfortable nest and take a risk in His power?

God asks us to trade temporal pursuits for something of lasting value—something that matters in His Kingdom. He calls us to soar like eagles and that makes perfect sense in light of all of the promises in His Word. The chicken knows only the ground, but the eagle knows the heavens. 

Michelle Rayburn is a freelance writer and speaker who makes her nest in rural Wisconsin. [www.michellerayburn.com](http://www.michellerayburn.com)



## Politically Correct? Or Correct?



By Rev. Robert Vanden Bosch


Across America today, there is little will by politicians (and too many times by Christians) to recognize the difference between being politically correct and being correct. Recently a legislator told me he would have to vote for a politically correct, but evil, piece of legislation, or the sponsor, who is the chair over a powerful committee, would not allow his bills to pass out of the committee. Being a seminary graduate, he understands the difference between right and wrong, but for the sake of moving his career forward, is willing to sacrifice that difference.

Proverbs 12:24 tells us, “The hand of the diligent shall bear rule...” There are many diligent politicians who are politically correct, but cater to those who put them in office in the first place. Proverbs 14:34 tells us, “Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.” Proverbs 29:2 says, “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.” In a culture where we have seen more and more political graft and questionable activity (in spite of all the claims of ethics investigations and morality), it is obvious that the wicked can and do bear rule.

When President George W. Bush

announced to the world that the person who had the most influence in his life was Jesus Christ, there was a call from the left that this was unacceptable. Over and over in society, we find judges trying to strike down expressions of religious belief because of “separation between church and state.”

While allegations of corruption are being flung back and forth in Washington and politics across the country, God looks for men and women who live lives which are above reproach. God’s Word is clear, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” (Proverbs 1:7)

It is easy for Christians to fall into the trap of condemning politicians who do such things, but how often are we willing to stand for what is right? Daniel and Joseph were both gracious men upon whom God bestowed favor. Both are men who are above reproach in Scripture, for none of their faults are recorded. It is easy to condemn, but are we willing to stand as they did? Daniel and Joseph both trusted God’s promises. Are you willing to trust those promises? 

# Broadcast Schedule

## Television

**Coast to Coast** Angel One on the Sky Angel satellite system 7:00pm Sunday; 4:00pm Wednesday; 3:30pm Friday (CT)

**Coast to Coast** DirectTV—"The Church Channel" Ch. 371 1:30pm Sunday; 6:30am Tuesday (CT)

**Coast to Coast** INSP 6:30am Friday (CT)

**Europe & Middle East** Inspiration Network International - 7:00am & 4:00pm Sunday; 2:30pm Wednesday (GMT)  
38 countries & 42 million homes on "Eutelesat - HotBird 6" & "EuroBird - B Sky B"

**Alaska, North Pole** KJNP 9:00pm Wednesday

**Alabama, Birmingham** WAY-TV49 9:00am Tuesday; 8:00pm Thursday

**California, San Francisco** KTLN-TV68 12:00pm Sunday

**Illinois, Chicago** TLN 7:00am M-F; 9:00pm Sunday

**Illinois, Rockford** WCFC-TV51 9:00pm Sunday

**Florida, Ft. Myers** WRXY-TV49 6:30am & 10:00pm Sunday; 6:30pm Thursday

**Wisconsin, Milwaukee** WVCY-TV30 8:00am Sunday; 10:00am Tuesday; 8:00pm Wednesday

## Radio

**XM channel 170—Family Talk**  
1:30pm CT M-F

**Illinois, Chicago**  
WYLL 1160 AM; 9:00pm M-F

**Michigan, Flint/Saginaw**  
WSNL 600 AM; 8:30pm M-F

**Michigan, Lansing**  
WLCM 1390 AM; 6:00am M-F

**New York, Albany**  
WJIV 101.9 FM; 11:30am M-F

**Wisconsin, Milwaukee**  
WVCY 107.7 FM; 5:30am M-F



*"It is our desire to help strengthen your faith with each broadcast of Victory In Grace."*

**VICTORY**<sup>TM</sup>  
IN GRACE

# WEEKEND

July 1<sup>st</sup>–2<sup>nd</sup>

## Sowing Seeds Not Seams

Soul-winning is not a gift—it's a command.

### Scripture: Psalm 126:6

Dr. James A. Scudder

The farmer has to get up early to sow the seed. The watering and weeding all combine into a long summer, but finally there is the harvest. Large stalks have replaced the tiny seeds. The farmer joyfully reaps the harvest, almost forgetting all the hardship he had to go through to get that crop. Yet, the next year it all starts again.

In the Christian life, all of us should be sowing and reaping. Maybe you have met someone who has never heard the gospel. Give them the truth—sow a seed. Then you meet someone else who has heard the gospel but has some questions. You answer using the Word of God as water for the thirsty soil. When you find someone who desires to hear the Word and then wants to accept Christ, you have come to the fun part. You will understand that while there is generally some time of sowing in tears, there is time to reap in joy.

All aspects of soul-winning are important. A soul-winning man or woman can't win enough people to Christ. Is there a coworker who needs to hear about the Lord? Why don't you take her out to lunch and share the gospel with her? Perhaps your young son or daughter is ready to receive Christ. Pray that God will give you a burden to sow...and to reap!

# MONDAY

July 3<sup>rd</sup>

## Don't Lose Your Vision

Pray that God will give you a vision of His glory as you read His Word today.

### Scripture: Isaiah 6

Dr. James A. Scudder

When I first trusted Christ as my Savior, I was so excited about the things of God. Several of my friends had trusted Christ at the same time and we were thrilled to serve the Lord. I remember how some people tried to discourage me from serving the Lord. When I decided to go to Bible College, one person I greatly respected told me I was wasting my life.

Thirty years later, I have been blessed with the happiest life there ever could be! Sure, there are times when it is difficult, but it is always worth it.

Several years into my ministry as a Pastor, I received a call from a close friend who was also a Christian. He admonished me to lower my standards. "You have to change with the times, Pastor," he said.

It seems that the believers who say this are really saying they don't have the fervor they used to have to serve the Lord. They want to miss church and not have such a strong burden for souls. You don't need to change with the times to serve the Lord. God never changes. We don't need to become more like the world each year in our Christian life.

Focus on the Lord and what He wants you to do. He deserves every ounce of our devotion.

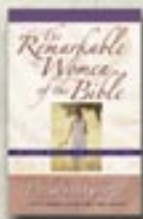
# Spiritual Resources



A teen's guide to friends, faith, family, and the future. As you read along, you'll find yourself caught up in the exciting adventure of a lifetime—that of becoming a man or woman after God's own heart! Once you get started on the journey, you'll never be the same.

**A Young Man After God's Own Heart by Jim George**  
#B218 \$9.00 207pp

**A Young Woman After God's Own Heart by Elizabeth George**  
#B219 \$9.00 220pp



What can 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christian women learn from their biblical sisters? Plenty! Spend time with these ancient models of faith and you'll soon be striving after Deborah's wisdom; Jocebed's selfless motherhood; Ruth and Naomi's devotion; Hannah's sacrifice; Esther's courage—and the list goes on.

**Remarkable Women of the Bible by Elizabeth George**  
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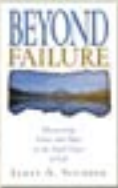


You will be delighted to read and share these precious books with the little boy or girl in your life. Fun-filled rhymes point young and old alike to the qualities found in Proverbs.

**God's Wisdom for Little Boys by Jim & Elizabeth George**  
#B216 \$16.00

**God's Wisdom for Little Girls by Elizabeth George**  
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# Christian Books



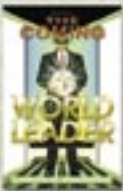
Dr. Scudder's classic book on overcoming failure in the Christian life. Beyond Failure profiles the life of Peter, whose persistence and faith helped him become a victorious Christian leader.

**Beyond Failure #B011 \$15.00**  
207pp



Julie-Allyson Ieron profiles every woman in the Bible, from the popular to the obscure, gleaning important lessons for women today.

**Names of Women of the Bible**  
**#B099 \$8.00**  
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This breathtaking book on Bible prophecy profiles the man who will one day rule the world: the Antichrist. Revised & updated.

**The Coming World Leader by Dr. James A. Scudder**  
**#B143 \$15.00**  
250pp



Discover 31 principles from the parables of Jesus. Dr. Scudder believes these will help you grow in grace.

**Your Secret to Spiritual Success by Dr. James A. Scudder**  
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Share your faith with confidence! Get the classic book on evangelism, the book that has helped thousands of Christians.

**Handbook of Personal Evangelism by Dr. A. Ray Stanford**  
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**Prayer, Asking and Receiving #B152 \$9.00**  
333pp



Powerful secrets from the Scriptures to give us courage to live in these troubled times.

**Fear Not by Dr. James A. Scudder**  
**#A220, #C220 \$12.00**  
2 messages on your choice of Cassette or CD

# Evangelism Aids



Original Tract  
#T058



Quiz Tract  
#T233



Deaf Tract  
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Chinese Tract  
#T199



Spanish Tract  
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The popular and effective soul-winning tool, now available in 5 formats. Choose from the classic original tract, the new Quiz tract, the special deaf tract, a Chinese tract, and a Spanish tract.

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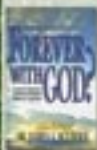
A handy, wallet-sized card with helpful Scripture verses and Bible prophecies that can help you in your witnessing. Another tool to help you share God's love with the world.

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Witnessing Card

## Booklets



Forever With God?  
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Building Blocks of the Faith  
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More Than A Miracle  
#B098



The Lord Is My Shepherd  
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Your Money God's Wisdom  
#B195



The Art of Marriage  
#B138



The End Of Time  
#B144



Standing Tall  
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Handy, easy-to-read booklets on subjects important to your faith. Great to send to that someone special you love, great for gifts, or great for a quick study on a particular area of your spiritual life. Each is written by Dr. Scudder and is filled with practical wisdom.

**Dr. Scudder's Booklets on Christian Living \$4.00 each**



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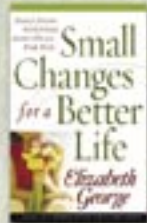
# Victory In Grace Ministries

## Strength for the Journey



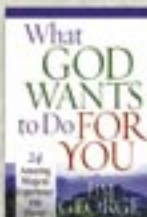
A newly revised and updated look at the rising popularity of legalized gambling and its detrimental effects on individuals and society.

**Gambling, Don't Bet on It** by Rex M. Rogers #B229 \$12.99  
224pp



Women will find dozens of highly practical tips for every area of daily life—in their marriages, families, homes, and places of work and in their friendships, health, finances, and personal growth.

**Small Changes for a Better Life** by Elizabeth George #B232 \$10.00  
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Jim George shares 24 sure promises from the Bible that show just how much God loves us. God has given us many promises tailored perfectly to our needs, yet we seldom call upon them because we don't know what they are.

**What God Wants to Do For You** #B231 \$10.00  
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## Bible Study Aids



Son of Satan chart

The helpful study chart from the Son of Satan series taught by Dr. Scudder. Features the attributes of the future world leader.

**Son of Satan Chart**  
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8"x10" four-color chart



101 Ways to Praise  
a Child

Encouragement builds a child's confidence. Here's a magnet with 101 ways to praise your child.

**101 Ways to Praise a Child** \$2.00 #Z001  
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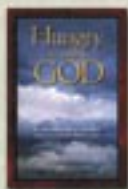


End of Time chart

It can be difficult to understand all the events of the "end times." This timeline, featuring the stunning artwork of Timothy Bowden, puts in chronological order every prophetic event and its corresponding Bible reference.

**The End of Time Chart** #P144 \$5.00  
9"x17" four-color chart

# Powerful Resources



Hungry for More of God was written to whet our appetite and satisfy our desire for the Almighty. Dr. Rob Currie's emphasis is different than most deeper walk books—it's not just on our vertical relationship with God, but also our horizontal relationship with each other.

**Hungry for More of God #V140 \$12.00**

*192pp*



With so many translations, which one is the best for my personal study? Is the King James version of the Bible inspired? Dr. Scudder answers a host of controversial questions, digging deep into historical fact and myth in this special video presentation.

**The Best Bible Video #V140 \$10.00**

*Available on VHS*



There is a lot of good marriage advice out there, but there is one essential ingredient that it all misses, the very glue that holds a husband and wife together: Christ. Dr. Scudder shares what happens when God enters the marriage and the blessings that follow.

**Marriage Needs Superglue #V097, #D097 \$10.00**

*Available on your choice of VHS or DVD*

## Information

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Honoring God With Your Will Brochure	#I062 FREE
Guide to Planning Your Estate	#I054 FREE
Dayspring Bible College catalog	#I034 FREE

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*"Please don't hesitate to call, write, or email with any question you may have. We love to hear from you."*

*— Dr. James and Linda Scudder*

# Series by Dr. James A. Scudder



The experts say we evolved over millions of years—but is this theory true? Dr. Scudder shares the latest developments in this ongoing debate in a four-part series.

**The Latest Developments on Creation Science**  
**#A150, #C150, #D150 \$18.00**

*4 Messages on your choice of Cassette, CD, or DVD*



There is so much advice out there on raising children. Who's right? Get straight talk from the original expert: God Himself. In this eight-part series, Dr. Scudder explores the Bible's time-tested advice for parents in a warm and encouraging manner.

**Raising Great Kids #A114, #C114 \$25.00**

*8 Messages on your choice of Cassette or CD*



Learn and understand the very basic bedrock values of our faith in this four-part series. Dr. Scudder shares what he

believes are the “non-negotiables”—those biblical issues upon which we as Christians must stand.

**Core Values #A032, #C032, #D032**

**\$18.00** *4 Messages on your choice of Cassette, CD, or DVD*



Get the answers to your prophecy questions in Dr. Scudder's helpful guide to the events of the “end times.”

**The End of Time Kit**

**#Q144(cassette), #W144(CD) \$30.00**

*12 Messages on your choice of Cassette or CD, 80pp booklet & illustrated chart*



Is it just a job or can it be a divine calling? Dr. Scudder shares biblical insights and practical tips on becoming a light in your workplace.

**How to Deal With a Hostile Work Environment #A068, #C068, #D068**

**\$18.00** *4 Messages on your choice of Cassette, CD, or DVD*



You can live . . . or you can really live. It is God's will for you to experience His best. Discover a new sense of purpose and peace in Dr. Scudder's all-new four-part series. You can experience the abundant life now!

**How to Abide and Thrive**  
**#A065, #C065, #D065 \$18.00**

*4 Messages on your choice of Cassette, CD,*



There is an enemy out there that wishes to see you defeated and discouraged. In a powerful new series, Dr.

Scudder addresses four areas of life where the devil wants to bring you down.

**When the Enemy Attacks \$18.00**

**#A185, #C185, #D185**

*4 Messages on your choice of Cassette, CD, or DVD*



Dr. Scudder profiles the prayers of seven figures in Scripture, sharing insights on their communications with God. This is the series that may just kick your prayer life “up a notch.”

**The Seven Secrets of a Prayer Warrior**

**#A164, #C164 \$30.00** *7 Messages on your choice of Cassette or CD*

# the Clear Gospel

If you've read, listened to, or watched *Victory In Grace* for any length of time, you'll hear us talk about "the clear gospel." You might be thinking, "What exactly is that?"

It is a commitment to grace—that we cannot, in any way, reach Heaven by our own good works. That Christ did it all and that by simply trusting Him, we can have eternal life.

It is a commitment to communicating this message in a way people understand—avoiding terminology that makes it seem that a person would have to work their way to Heaven.

It is a commitment to share this message on every broadcast of radio and television.

Dr. Scudder loves to share the gospel by using a simple illustration—using his wallet and his hands to simply tell the gospel message. You can watch this by visiting [victoryingrace.org](http://victoryingrace.org) and clicking on the bottom graphic that says, "*Am I Going to Heaven?*"

We also have a desire to bring the message to the ends of the earth—through broadcast, internet, literature and whatever means God allows us to use.

If you have any questions about what we believe, you may call 1-800-78-GRACE and request our free booklet, *Forever With God?*



For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9



## **We'll help with the design of your will**

History well remembers Patrick Henry. He was involved in the Revolutionary War, and became famous for his statement, "Give me liberty or give me death."

We also can assume that Patrick Henry believed in Jesus Christ. He made a statement to that effect in his will.

He told his heirs in his last will and testament, which is on public record today, that if he had left them no worldly riches but had given them a faith in Jesus Christ, they would be of all people most wealthy.

And he added that if he had left them all the wealth of the world and had not left them a faith in Jesus Christ, they would be of all people most destitute.

Another man, not quite so well known, left his wife something much more valuable than his estimated \$200,000 estate when he died. He left her his love, publicly declared in a probate court filing. According to a will signed 45 years earlier, all of his property went to his "dearly beloved wife and companion."

The will read: "The above bequest is so made by me for the reason that it was through her untiring efforts that I

achieved whatever success I have and for her comforting aid in time of sickness, trouble and sorrow, and also to make more apparent and public the ardent love and deep admiration that I bear for the sweetest and dearest wife and pal in the world."

If you were to die and 200 years from now one of your descendants wanted to find out if you were a man or woman of faith, could that fact be determined from an examination of official records and documents you left behind, as it was from the will of Patrick Henry?

If your will does not contain a personal testimony or an expression of love, you might want to consider this addition.

Or if you do not have a will, this will serve as a reminder that this important document needs to be prepared.

We have available for you a **Guide to Planning Your Estate** that can serve as an important tool in the design or review of your will. We will be happy to make it available to you at no cost or obligation.



Neal Dearyan, Estate Design Specialist  
Victory In Grace Ministries • 60 Quentin Road  
Lake Zurich, IL • 60047  
Neal Dearyan: 1-800-479-1124  
Email: [neal@victoryingrace.org](mailto:neal@victoryingrace.org)

# TUESDAY

July 4<sup>th</sup>

## Service Check

If Christ is the Way, why waste time traveling some other way?

### Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8

Dr. James A. Scudder

Why is it that there are some who can't get enough of the things of God while there are other Christians who are living for the life that is right now? Is it because some believers are more prone to service than others? Are some people more outgoing so they witness more? Are some people quieter by nature so they pray more?

The Bible teaches that all believers should serve. Many people would like to blame their personalities for their lack of service. The difference really boils down to vision. Isaiah saw a vision of Heaven and he was never the same after he saw it. His own unholiness was his first thought as he fell on his face before the true and the living God.

Isaiah saw the real world. He saw the worldly system around him as it really was—a facade that changes with the wind. The truth of life is that Heaven is real. When Isaiah saw it, all he wanted to do was serve his Creator.

How do you view the world around you? Do you see it as it really is? Is the world more important to you than you realize? Get a pair of Isaiah's eternal glasses and put them on—look at the “real world” and catch a vision of Christ. Nothing else really matters.

# WEDNESDAY

July 5<sup>th</sup>

## Heavenly Binoculars

Heaven is the best hope in the world.

### Scripture: Isaiah 6

Dr. James A. Scudder

Can you imagine if you were given a pair of Heavenly binoculars that permitted you to see God's glory?

This is what Isaiah saw. Isaiah saw God's power and where He dwelt. The seraphim that sat around the throne were equipped with six wings for service to the Lord. Even they could not look on the Lord, but bowed and worshipped saying, “Holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts.”

Isaiah was not only overwhelmed at the vision but also at his own unworthiness. When he fell on his face, the seraphim took a hot coal and brought it to his mouth. This symbolized that Isaiah's sin was forgiven him. Later on, Jesus Christ Himself would pay for the sins of the world. The coal was a symbol of that future time.

Think about what it would be like to see God; now live as if you just saw Him. Just because we haven't actually seen God doesn't mean He is any less real. We have the whole Bible and every page is filled with words direct from God Himself. These words direct and guide us and are our Heavenly binoculars. When we understand Isaiah's vision, our excitement will renew. For one day we too shall see in living color, this fabulous place called Heaven. Use your Heavenly binoculars today. They will make living on this earth a whole lot easier.

# THURSDAY

July 6<sup>th</sup>

## The Pressure Cooker

Fear not tomorrow, God is already there.

### Scripture: Job 1

Dr. James A. Scudder

Job was a righteous man of God who went through more stress than anyone in the Bible except the Lord Jesus Christ. Not only did he lose his great wealth, but his children also died. When his money was gone, his health broke down. His wife did not comfort him. His self-righteous friends caused him grief. Job went from total comfort to total calamity in a matter of days.

How did Job deal with these pressures? He was honest about the situations he faced. He didn't say, "I love it that my children died and I have this pus running down my back from these boils. They feel so good!" He wasn't afraid to cry out in distress before the Lord.

I try to be honest with how I am doing in the ministry. There is nothing wrong with being honest if you do the next thing Job did. He looked to God. He still knew that God was in charge. Since he couldn't change his circumstances, he rested in God's omniscient power. His statement in Job 13:15 says it all, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him."

Be honest with God and seek His face. He is there. He will never leave you. You have His promise.

# FRIDAY

July 7<sup>th</sup>

## How to React to Stress

As sure as God puts His children into the furnace of affliction, He will be with them there.

### Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:11

Dr. James A. Scudder

The Apostle Paul was whipped, stoned and left for dead, persecuted by the religious leaders and eventually executed in Rome for his faith. Paul knew that tribulation brought patience, experience, and hope into his life. He knew that the trials in his life made him a better Christian.

An Olympic athlete punishes his body by working his muscles so they can develop. He doesn't always enjoy the training, yet he knows there is a reason for it. When he wins the gold, it is a moment of supreme triumph backed up by hours and hours of difficult training.

It is the same way in the Christian life. Paul knew that if he handled his suffering in the right way, he would become more like Christ. Paul gloried and rejoiced in tribulations not with a stoic grin-and-bear-it attitude. Instead, he understood that suffering was the path of the believer. Paul teaches you and me today to rejoice in every situation. He wants us to understand that stressful suffering is productive.

When we are under stress, we are taught more about our own weaknesses. We learn how the Lord works to show Himself faithful. Are you under stress right now? Consider its value in your life and pray that you will react to it as Paul did.

# WEEKEND

June 8<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup>

## Held Captive

Our liberty in Christ does not mean we have liberty to sin.

### Scripture: John 8:31-36

Dr. James A. Scudder

Being under captivity to sin is a lot like an animal that is born in a zoo. The creature doesn't know what true freedom is because it has been behind bars. A cage is a way of life. Unfortunately, that is the way it is with many Christians. They are saved and on the way to Heaven but they crave the world. Although he should see this world as it really is, he wants what it will give him. Even though she has the Holy Spirit to guide her and help her stay away from "Slave Master Sin", she willingly puts herself in a cage that keeps her from performing the will of God.

Until the Christian who is living in the world wakes up and realizes the tremendous riches that are in Jesus Christ, he will continue to be a slave to sin. Christians are in the world, but they should never be part of the world.

Friends and neighbors should look and want to know Christ because of your example and testimony to them. Pray today that you won't be like a caged zoo animal that has never known freedom. Get in church, read the Word of God, pray, and witness to others. All of these things will help you realize the freedom that is in Jesus Christ!

# MONDAY

July 10<sup>th</sup>

## The Great Catch

Surrender isn't easy but it is the only way for you to receive God's full blessing.

### Scripture: Luke 5:1-7

Dr. James A. Scudder

Several years ago, my son, son-in-law, daughter, and I were fishing off the coast of Florida. I was astonished when a fish bit as soon as I let down my line. Pulling it in was a struggle, but then I noticed that everyone on the boat was pulling a fish in. I have never caught so many fish as I caught that day! In fact, none of us have. After awhile my arms got tired and we had to rest before we could catch more.

Imagine the disciples' surprise when the net they let down couldn't hold the fish they caught. Jesus told them to let down their "nets," but they only let down one net. If they had let down all of their nets, the boat would have been more balanced and wouldn't have started to sink. They thought they would humor Jesus by obeying Him, but not all the way. The Lord must have smiled as He watched His disciples. Simple obedience would have made the whole situation easier.

In just one moment, the Creator of the Universe gave them more fish than they would need. God cares for you just as He cared for the disciples. Is there some area of your life that you need to completely surrender to the Lord? Don't hold anything back. When you completely give of yourself to the Lord, you are only opening yourself up to His full blessing.



# TUESDAY

July 11<sup>th</sup>

## In Love Again

True service is love for Christ in working clothes.

**Scripture: 2 Corinthians 1:5-7**

Dr. James A. Scudder

I know that God is a God of consolation. Though we may suffer for Him, it is for His eternal glory.

Many years ago, I read today's verses in the midst of a terrible trial. I had been hit from all sides spiritually. Because I had been up many nights studying, I felt tired physically as well.

A baby was sick in the hospital and as I readied myself to visit them, I asked God to help me with my discouragement. When I got there and saw the love the parents had for their little one, I felt encouraged. I remembered how much God cared for me. The baby pulled through his severe illness thanks to the everlasting mercy of our God.

Just as a father or mother's love for their children expresses to us the love of God, so we also see God's love demonstrated in marriage. When you first fall in love, you think that nothing you do for the other person is drudgery. In time, it is easy to lose that spirit of self-sacrifice. Thinking about the devotion you once had can renew a marriage but it can also renew our walk with the Lord. Do you need to renew your commitment to the Lord? He has promised to draw near to those who draw near to Him.

# WEDNESDAY

July 12<sup>th</sup>

## The Spiritual Cloak

Although the tongue weighs very little, few people are able to hold it.

**Scripture: 1 Timothy 5:13**

Dr. James A. Scudder

Those who gossip have little to say that is good. They tear others down many times in a cloak of spirituality. How many times has a dear Christian been slandered in the form of a prayer request, "Would you pray for so-and-so? I think they are having marriage problems." This might sound innocent, but if it doesn't meet up with the criteria of being pure, true, honest, and just found in Philippians 4:8, then it doesn't need to be heard.

I heard a preacher once describe people who sit, walk, and run. Now I believe in exercising as much as possible but this preacher wasn't describing physical activity. He was talking about how people react to gossip. The one who is sitting spiritually has all the time in the world to listen to slander. The one who is doing a little for the Lord by "walking" has some time to listen but not a lot.

Then there is the runner. This person is so busy for the Lord that he doesn't have time to do anything else. If you have ever seen a track meet, you sure don't see the runners running around the track gossiping to each other! We should all desire to be runners for Christ. Don't forget, there is an important side benefit to this. Your tongue will be much easier to control.

# THURSDAY

July 13<sup>th</sup>

## Why Didn't You Come?

It is better to be with Christ in the storm than on the smooth water without Him.

### Scripture: John 11:1-45

Dr. James A. Scudder

Of all the dark moments described in the Bible, this had to be one of the darkest. Mary and Martha sat watching their brother die. Even though they sent word to Jesus, He hadn't come. Feeling lost and forsaken, they laid their brother in the tomb.

What they didn't know was that Lazarus had to die for God's will to be performed. Jesus was going to raise him up physically and as a result of His miracle, many would believe. Mary and Martha didn't know this in the darkness of their night.

Are you feeling that way about a trial in your life? Have you prayed many times for an answer but none has come? The loneliness and sorrow you feel is indescribable and yet I ask you to take hope.

The disciples were concerned with Jesus' inaction. To them Jesus should have immediately gone to Lazarus. I imagine them talking. John might have told Peter, "He better hurry. Maybe James should talk to Him about it." Judas might have said, "I thought Jesus loved Mary and Martha. Why hasn't He gone to heal their brother?"

Jesus came through with His perfect timing and He will do the same for you. He has never forsaken you in the past, and He won't forsake you now.

# FRIDAY

July 14<sup>th</sup>

## Are you number 25?

God is never early and He is never late.

### Scripture: Colossians 3:24

Dr. James A. Scudder

Some time ago, I was preaching a series of meetings in a new church that met in a school building. Before the last service, the pastor and I prayed for 25 people to come that night. I believed with my whole heart that God would answer my prayer but only eight showed up. As I began to preach, several football players and two new families walked in. I counted everyone, but the total was just 24.

Later on, the preacher ran into a lady who usually never missed a service. She explained to the pastor, "I knew I should have come, but I had something else I had to do." She would have been number 25 and a part of seeing God answer prayer.

Mary and Martha thought God wasn't going to answer their prayer. Their reproachful words to the Lord when He came showed their disappointment. Their dissatisfaction turned into ecstatic joy when Jesus commanded Lazarus to come forth out of the grave. Their astonishment turned to understanding, as they finally realized why Jesus had not come.

Maybe you feel like Mary and Martha did before they understood Jesus' plan. Hang on to this truth—God will answer your prayer. Maybe not the way you expect Him to, but He will respond in His perfect timing.

# WEEKEND

July 15<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup>

## Joy: A Command or Suggestion?

Joy is the gigantic secret of the Christian  
— G.K. Chesterton

### Scripture: Philippians 4:4

Dr. James A. Scudder

Is joy just a good idea in the Christian life or is it something that is necessary for success? Sometimes I get the feeling that believers feel the book of Philippians and its incessant theme of rejoicing, rejoicing, and more rejoicing a nice touch to your personality, but not that important.

But to rejoice is not merely a suggestion by God. Writing from a half-way house, chained to a hostile Roman guard, and betrayed by people he had led to the Lord, the Apostle Paul commanded Christians everywhere to make a choice to rejoice. And he was writing under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Does that mean we're always happy-go-lucky? No. God doesn't want us to be smiling robots. In fact, God Himself grieves, especially when He sees us suffering. What it means is that in the midst of our toughest trials, we have a joy that springs from an abiding faith in God.

Rejoicing isn't easy—that's why Paul had to repeat it over and over again in Philippians. But, joy is an essential part of our spiritual lives and a pillar of our faith. That's why it's important we make a conscious decision to daily choose to walk with the Lord, so that joy begins to come more naturally.

# MONDAY

July 17<sup>th</sup>

## A Life Wasted?

There is more joy in Jesus in twenty-four hours than there is in the world in 365 days. I have tried them both. — R. A. Torrey

### Scripture: Psalm 1

Dr. James A. Scudder

I remember a conversation I had with a close friend and family member when I told him of my decision to spend my life in ministry. A look of shock and horror spread across his face. "You're wasting your life. You'll never have anything." He went on to say that I would never own a house or a car or anything in my name.

Ah, but how wrong he was. Really I have everything and more. I have a beautiful wife and two children who love the Lord. I have grandchildren who bring me tremendous joy and pleasure. Most of all, I have been able to see God work through my ministry. Oh, and by the way, I do have a house and a car. Not that these material possessions were motivating factors in my decision thirty years ago, but, God does provide when we follow Him.

Perhaps you're faced with what seems a huge sacrifice. Is God calling you to serve Him? Are there voices in your ear saying that you won't ever have anything? Let my life and thousands of other lives down through the centuries prove God's provision.

It all comes down to a simple question of trust. Do we believe God will take care of us?

Come join the effort to enlarge God's Kingdom. You'll be amazed at how much He will bless your life.

# TUESDAY

June 18<sup>th</sup>

## Super Christian

In confession ... we open ourselves up to healing, reconciling, restoring, uplifting grace of Him who loves us in spite of what we are. — Louis Cassels

**Scripture: 1 John 1:8-10**

Dr. James A. Scudder

There was a Christian movie put out some years ago entitled, “Super Christian.” It portrayed a churchgoing family who argued, bickered, and ignored God during the week, but put on a false sense of stability when they went to church. Each family member literally wore a “happy mask.”

A.W. Tozer said, “I can offer no worship wholly pleasing to God if I know that I am harboring elements in my life that are displeasing to Him. I cannot truly and joyfully worship God on Sunday and not worship Him on Monday.”

It’s easy to “play church,” gamely going through the motions, mouthing the words to the choruses, daydreaming during the sermon. But worship is more than a Sunday ritual.

In order to experience true worship, we must prepare our hearts throughout the week, constantly seeking God, asking for forgiveness of our sin, and pleading for wisdom in our daily walk. If we come to church with hidden sins or a hard heart, we shut the door to experiencing growth.

What we do on Sunday is important—but just as crucial is how we treat God the other days of the week. Do we quickly discard Him on Monday for the life of the flesh or do we allow the Spirit to work in us?

# WEDNESDAY

July 19<sup>th</sup>

## It’s Not Knowing But Trusting

For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. — Proverbs 2:6

**Scripture: Proverbs 3:5-6**

Dr. James A. Scudder

We’ve talked quite a bit this month about wisdom. We learned what wisdom is and what it isn’t. Sometimes, sincere Christians can confuse wisdom with foreknowledge. We look at verses in Scripture like Romans 8:28 and we try to figure out all of the “Whys” about what God is doing in our lives, especially in the face of tragedy. We see a good friend afflicted with cancer or perhaps we even experience it ourselves and immediately our minds begin racing with reasons.

But, having wisdom doesn’t necessarily mean that we know all the purposes of God. In fact, wisdom trusts God precisely when we don’t know why. I like what Dr. Jim Berg says in his fantastic book, *Changed Into His Image*. He says, “Wisdom is not having God’s perspective of the whole matter before us, but having God’s perspective about what next response will honor Him while keeping us still usable to Him.”

Most times we don’t know why God chooses to allow things or why He acts in certain ways. It may be many years later or we may never understand. But that’s okay. All He asks us to do is trust Him. That is the heart of faith. And wisdom is built on faith. It helps us do the right thing at the right time, pleasing God.

# THURSDAY

July 20<sup>th</sup>

## What is Our Job?

The first and only requirement for a Christian is to please God. If a man pleases God, everything else in his life will fall into place.

### Scripture: Ecclesiastes 12:13

Dr. James A. Scudder

If I were to ask you what our main job as Christians is, what would you say? Probably the first thing that comes to your mind is sharing the Gospel with the lost. But while that is an important and essential part of our spiritual lives, would you believe that there is something that is even more important?

What is our main purpose? Honoring God. One of the main ways we do this is by sharing our faith at every opportunity, but too often people feel that this is the *only* responsibility of a Christian. Sadly, they use evangelistic zeal as a cover-up of other areas in their lives God wants them to address.

In fact, our testimony is undermined if we follow up our witnessing with gossip in the workplace, anger at our spouse or children, unethical behaviors or habits, or other sinful behaviors.

What God wants first and foremost is our hearts. If we seek Him and do His will, it will have a trickle-down effect on every other area.

That's the total package God desires. It's part of the process of sanctification—gradually becoming more and more like Jesus Christ.

So, let me assure you that witnessing should be a priority in your life—but make sure that it is only one of many areas in which you are seeking the Holy Spirit's power to change your life.

# FRIDAY

July 21<sup>st</sup>

## Packing Light

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.  
Matthew 11:30

### Scripture: Philippians 3:13

Dr. James A. Scudder

There is always at least one on every plane. The rookie traveler. His inexperience causes all of us to wait in line as we try to get to our seat on the plane. He doesn't have just one carry-on, he has two. And even though he's just visiting family for the weekend, he has packed all of his earthly possessions in each bag, testing the strength of the seams and the strength of the zipper. One more sock and it will pop! And while you wait, he tries every which way to force his luggage into the overhead compartment.

Packing light is the mark of a seasoned traveler. This is true both in the real world and in the Christian life. I've found that only those who put aside unnecessary baggage experience the freedom of a peaceful journey with the Lord.

Too many travelers drag their guilts, sins, and failures. It keeps them from going where God wants them to. Thanks to the cross, we don't have to live heavy.

Why not take a moment today and read about one "traveler" who shed his baggage? Paul, a former murderer, enemy of the cross, and serial sinner, encourages us to "forget those things which are behind." (Philippians 3:13). Maybe it's time you became a seasoned traveler and started packing light.

# WEEKEND

July 22<sup>nd</sup>–23<sup>rd</sup>

## A God Who Gives

Seek to cultivate a buoyant, joyous sense of the crowded kindnesses of God in your daily life.

**Scripture: Philippians 4:19**

Dr. James A. Scudder

I recently talked to a friend of mine who told me a story about how God miraculously provided a desperate need in his life. He's a preacher who lives on a fixed income. One particular month an unplanned "extra expense" came up, leaving him short a few hundred dollars. Worried he wouldn't be able to pay his bills, he prayed and asked the Lord for help.

A few days later, he got a call from the church secretary who said that an anonymous person left a check in the office. It was exactly the amount he needed. I rejoice at stories like this, because it just demonstrates the provision of God when we put Him first.

You could probably share stories yourself of the times that God provided just what you needed when you needed it. Now, He expects us to be responsible stewards of our money and generous givers. But, all of the balance sheets and budgets won't get us anywhere without faith in God. And sometimes when we're at the end of our financial means, He steps in and helps us with a gift from a friend, or a new job opportunity, or a raise.

Do you have faith that God will provide? Take a moment and inventory the many times God has delivered what you needed just when you needed it and thank Him.

# MONDAY

July 24<sup>th</sup>

## Good Versus Best

Our greatest danger in life is permitting the urgent things to crowd out the important.  
— Charles Hummel

**Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11**

Dr. James A. Scudder

We often complain about how depraved our entertainment media has become. But it is not always the "bad" that keeps us from a growing relationship with Christ. Sometimes good can be an enemy of the best.

Spending too much time watching even a wholesome show can steal away precious moments from more important things. Or if you happen to be an avid reader, you can easily get hooked so much on books that you begin neglecting your time in the all-important Book.

And it doesn't just apply to entertainment. Sometimes we can overbook ourselves with social occasions, which in and of themselves may be good, even beneficial, but if they take us away from what is most important, then we're in trouble.

Life is about priorities, and the crowded calendar is constantly forcing us to make tough choices about what we will value and what we will eliminate. It's really not easy all the time. Sometimes it involves saying no to people and things we enjoy.

Here's a good test. For every occasion or activity about which you are unsure, ask yourself, "Is this a case of good triumphing over the best?" If so, then eliminate it. If not, then enjoy yourself.

# TUESDAY

July 25<sup>th</sup>

## Adorning the Gospel

A man who lives right and is right has more power in his silence than another does in his words. — Phillips Brooks

**Scripture: Titus 2:9-14**

Dr. James A. Scudder

A quote from Cyprian to Donatus in the third century sums up the message of today's Scripture verse: "This seems a cheerful world, Donatus, when I view it from this fair garden under the shadow of these vines. But if I climbed some great mountain and looked out over the wide lands, you know very well what I would see. Brigands on the high road; pirates on the seas; in the amphitheater men murdered to please the applauding crowds; under all roofs misery and selfishness. It is really a bad world, Donatus, an incredibly bad world. Yet in the midst of it I have found a quiet and holy people. They have discovered a joy which is a thousand times better than any pleasure of this sinful life. They are despised and persecuted, but they care not. They have overcome the world. These people, Donatus, are the Christians ... and I am one of them."

Did you know that our lives are supposed to adorn the Gospel of Christ? What does that mean? It means people should see in us something real. Peace, stability, faith, hope, love, compassion, tenderness, maturity. These are just some of the traits of a believer who has allowed the Holy Spirit to transform his life. How well do you adorn the Gospel of Christ?

# WEDNESDAY

July 26<sup>th</sup>

## Mr. and Mrs. Right

A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and of course, as long as you are looking down you cannot see something that is above you. — C. S. Lewis

**Scripture: Proverbs 8:13**

Dr. James A. Scudder

There is a famous quote that I just love. It goes something like this, "Lord, help us to be willing to admit when we are wrong and easy to live with when we are right." I think we all struggle with this.

Peter was one who was always putting his foot in his mouth, trying to show how much he knew. But Jesus had patience and showed through His own life the example of humility.

Think about this for a moment. Here was the King of Kings, the Creator of the Universe, the Son of God, and He subjected himself to the laws, the ways, and the humility of lowly mankind. In Philippians 2:6-8, the Apostle Paul says that God didn't think His deity was something to be grasped, instead, He humbled himself and became a man. So here was the all-knowing God living with a bunch of fishermen and yet He wasn't a pain to be with. He didn't try to impress the world with His smarts and His intellect, which He could have done.

Jesus is the perfect example. Sometimes it is better not to tell everything we know and try to sound educated and knowledgeable. There are times we need to listen.

Jesus's life and death are the epitome of humility, sacrifice, and service, three qualities He wants to establish in your life as well.

# THURSDAY

July 27<sup>th</sup>

## Finishing Well

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.

2 Timothy 4:7

**Scripture: John 19:30; Hebrews 12:2**

Dr. James A. Scudder

The crucifixion account contains perhaps the three most powerful words ever spoken in history: It is finished. Let's take a moment to consider this simple, yet profound utterance by the Son of God.

On the cross, Jesus completed the work He had come to do—take upon Himself the sins of all of mankind, from the most egregious to corporate white lies to teenage tantrums. He didn't waver. He didn't back out for lack of courage. He didn't shift a responsibility only He could bear. Jesus did what He was sent to do.

Beyond the eternal majesty of salvation, in Jesus' life we have an example for us to follow. We need to finish what God put us on earth to do. What is our purpose in life and are we still on that course?

It's not a coincidence that Paul had finishing strong as his main objective. He knew that much of the work he accomplished for the Lord could be destroyed if he slipped up in the final years. (Philippians 3:14) We may retire from public duty, but we never retire from the Lord's work.

Are you on track with His purpose for your life? Look to Jesus, Who is not only the Author, but also the Finisher of our faith.

# FRIDAY

July 28<sup>th</sup>

## The Giving Challenge

There was never a person who did anything worth doing who did not receive more than he gave. — Henry Ward Beecher

**Scripture: Malachi 3:10**

Dr. James A. Scudder

Throughout my years in ministry, when the subject of giving comes up, I've often heard the refrain, "I just can't afford to give." Every time I hear this, my heart grieves, not because I know the needs of our own church, but because I feel sorry for anyone who hasn't established a healthy habit of giving. Why? Because they miss out on the rich blessings of a generous life.

Those who give, receive. I'm not only talking about money. I'm talking about time and energy and heart. Givers don't give to receive; they give out of a willing heart. Yet these are the people who always "seem" to have their needs met.

I always say, "Why don't you test God?" Establish a pattern of tithing and see if He doesn't stretch your 90%. What about your time? See how God grants you wisdom with your priorities when you sacrifice for others. There is a reason that the busiest always seem to be the go-to people with a job to be done.

When you become a giver in the body of Christ, you plug yourself into a network of support, prayer, and accountability that will heap upon you rich blessings.

Ask God to help you become a giver and see it benefit your own life.

# WEEKEND

July 29<sup>th</sup>–30<sup>th</sup>

## The Heart of a Rebel

Rebellion against God can never be met with success as there is no safety outside of the protective custody of God's will.

**Scripture:** Jonah 1:1-3; Romans 13:1

Dr. James A. Scudder

In his current ministry, Jonah was a very happy prophet. But, God called him to a special mission: to evangelize the heathen in Nineveh. These were the sworn enemies of Israel, the worst of the worst. Imagine being a missionary to Iran. Jonah hated the Ninevites and didn't really wish to see them turn to God.

Jonah had the heart of a rebel, an attitude that is never blessed by God. A Christian out of God's will can never be successful.

The way of the Lord is the way of submission. Now you may say, "You don't know my boss or my pastor." But, unless they tell you to disobey God, God expects you to follow them, even if they make mistakes, even if they aren't the easiest people to get along with.

God always blesses obedience. Always. He never blesses rebellion, in any form. Ever. He compares it to the sin of witchcraft, because to not serve God is to serve the devil. There is no in between.

The good news in the life of Jonah and in the life of any rebel is that God will pursue and chasten you until you turn back to Him.

Ask the Lord to give you an obedient spirit, for that is the way of blessing.

# MONDAY

July 31<sup>st</sup>

## Woodpecker Evangelism

There is nothing God will not do through one who does not care to whom the credit goes.

**Scripture:** Matthew 28:19

Dr. James A. Scudder

A woodpecker tapped his beak against the stem of a tree just as lightning struck the tree and destroyed it. He flew away and said, "I didn't know there was so much power in my beak."

When we bring the gospel, there is a danger that we will think or say, "I have done a good job." Don't be a silly woodpecker. Know where your strength comes from. It is only the Holy Spirit who can make a message good and fruitful.

Corrie Ten Boom told the previous story and brought out the message. It is important we continue to renew ourselves in God's Word. This is the only way we will have His power to do His work. Our eyes have to stay focused on God and His power rather than on our own frail resources.

How do we do this? First, read a portion of the Bible every day. Read a chapter of the Epistles as well as one of the Psalms or a Proverb. Meditate upon the words you read as you pray for God to help you apply that passage to your particular problems of the day. Then go into your day with renewed energy, seeking out those who need to hear the gospel.

Living each day in the hope of Christ will keep you from pride in your own accomplishments and will help you focus on His power.

# The Last Word



Neal Dearyan  
Estate Design Specialist

Dear Friends,

Julie asked two things of me recently before she left to speak at two writers' conferences. She said since she was going to be gone for four days each time, she was worried I wouldn't do the following two things:

1. Ask our daughter to comb her hair every morning.
2. Feed the dog.

I told Julie that I was slightly offended. I wouldn't forget such trivial things.

But then Julie asked when the last time was that I fed the dog or asked Amanda to comb her hair?

I answered, "I haven't. That's your job."

She smiled and said, "Exactly."

I'm happy to report that while Julie was gone, the dog didn't die and Amanda looked beautiful every day. How's that for running a household?

I'm excited about our upcoming Grace Conference. I'm especially thrilled about those of you who are coming to our special *Victory In Grace* luncheon on Thursday afternoon. What a blessing all of you are to our ministry and to the Lord!

If you haven't made plans to attend this exciting conference with speakers like Dr. Charles Ryrie, Dr. Joe Jordan, Dr. Robert Lightner, Dr. James Scudder, and even Julie and myself, go online or call us right away. We would love to see you there!

And when you come, make an appointment with me to talk about your estate. I would love to be a help and blessing in your life in this way.

Yours in Grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neal".

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