

Melvyn & Carol Brown

Missionaries in His
service 'til He comes

April 29, 2016



Taken 2005

Dear Partners in the Faith,

FORTY NINE YEARS AGO - Yes, it was 49 years ago I was invited to teach a class of students at Southeastern Bible College, B'ham, AL, how to use the Wordless Book.

(This book was first used by Charles Spurgeon in 1866, the Wordless Book has become a very popular tool used all over the world to present the gospel to children. This book of colored pages is not only extremely easy to use, it's also very effective in communicating the message of salvation through Jesus Christ.) The meaning of each color: **GOLD** - **Love** John 3:16 God loves you, **BLACK** (Dark) - **Sin** Romans 3:23 All have sinned, **RED** - **Blood** John 1:7 Jesus' blood covers all sin, **WHITE** - **Pure** Psalm 51:7 Jesus washes away confessed sin, **GOLD** - **Heaven** John 14:2 Believe on Jesus and receive Eternal Life, **GREEN** - **Grow** 2 Peter 3:18 Grow in the knowledge of the Lord. *It still works today. Let's use it!*

Back to my story. While I was teaching these students, a teacher, Jan Langford, accidentally walked into the room. I stopped and handed him a Wordless Book and proceeded with my lecture. What I am about to tell you I did not know until yesterday 4/26/16.

Professor Langford on his way home stopped for gas and found the pumps were cut off for the day. He entered the station and asked the manager if he could get \$5 worth of gas and the manager with a gun on his belt turned the pumps back on. After Jan got his gas he went back in to pay the man.

The Lord impressed Jan to show the Wordless Book to the manager. The man said he never reads any books and Jan perceived the man could not read so Jan asked the man if he could read it to him. As Jan was reading the manager noticed there were no words on the pages and that triggered his interest in what Jan was saying. After Jan was finished the manager told Jan to read it again to him. After the second

reading the manager asked Jan if he could buy the "book without words" but Jan told him he would give it to him.

Jan told me yesterday that he could only tell the manager the wonderful story of salvation before he left the station. Only God knows if that manager ever got saved but one thing for sure is, the seed of the gospel of Jesus Christ was sown and the Holy Spirit's job is to convince and convict the hearer. Our job is to sow the seed and the rest of it is up to God. We cannot save anybody. Our job is to get the Word of God to every person we can by word, tracts, videos, radio, TV, internet and preaching.

The reason for Bro. Langford's call was to encourage me. He knew I had broken my back last September and had eye surgery in March and three stints placed in my arteries April 21st. His story did encourage me and it was a reminder of I Cor. 15:58 "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

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A lot has happened in our lives since our last letter. We asked you to pray for the upcoming surgery on my left eye. This was done in March and we praise God for a successful procedure. After a month of recovery I was fitted with new lens and I can see much, much better.

In March I was experiencing some waves of pain in my left chest area so I had my primary doctor check things out but he could not find anything wrong. However he did suggest that I go to the Birmingham Heart Clinic for further test. They put me through around 3 hours of stress tests with many x-rays. After a week they called me in and told me they could see some blockage around the "Widow Maker" artery. So on April 21st they went in and installed three stints in two arteries. I was in the hospital for three days and released. All went well except for the head cold I brought home with me.

Before each of these surgeries I spread the word to my e-mail list and asked for their prayers for these two events. Many of you prayed for successful operations and God answered your and our prayers. Thank you for your prayers. God is so good!

In the past I have been one to do a great deal of worrying about anything and everything especially when it comes to surgeries and air travel. I finally learned from the Scriptures that fear and worry are sins against God.

Before the heart procedure, I began to set things in order in case this was God's time to take me home. At the beginning there was some fear but then I began to claim some of God's promises like Romans 8:28 and 1 Thess. 5:18.

Once I ran these verses through my mind I trusted these promises and God gave me complete rest and peace. Those promises were for me as well as they were for Carol. The Great Shepherd always takes care of His sheep. Psa. 23

The "All things" in Romans 8:28 means all things. In every event spoken of in this letter plus all the different people that enter our home daily that help Carol offers me an opportunity to set down with my Bible and share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Sowing!

I have been asking this question to those I deal with: "Has anyone ever taken a Bible and showed you how you can go to Heaven when you die?" I have yet to hear the word "Yes." I also ask: "In your personal opinion, what does a person have to do in order to go to heaven when they die?" Their answers are most always "a works salvation." Answers like: "Do the best you can", "Help others", "Keep the 10 Commandments". Most of these people attend church regularly.

Time and space does not allow me to continue on this subject. I have a section on my website that will assist you to be a witness for Christ. Make it your business to become a witness. People are not saved by the good life you live. They are saved by hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Please copy this web address into your web browser:

www.bama4u.org/EVANGELISM/0.%20SOU%20WINNING.htm

Carol and I want to thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support. You are a blessing to us. We have a life time commitment to serve Him until He takes us home.



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