



INTERNATIONAL *Bible* ASSOCIATION

Originally Founded as: The VOICE of MIRACLES & MISSIONS



4740 S BUCKNER BLVD, DALLAS, TEXAS 75227

PHONE/FAX: 214-388-5111

A Non-Profit Church/Missionary Organization Dedicated to Providing the Pure Word of God Unchanged to All People
Mailing address: International Bible Association, PO BOX 225646 DALLAS TX 75222-5646

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“Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”
(Hebrews 13:2) **(Don’t forget: It is more blessed to give than to receive.)** Acts 20:35

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

Each of you has ministered to countless individuals unknowingly including prisoners in many states, homebound saints with no church to attend and the masses in Madagascar. Your contributions to IBA (Miracles & Missions) have been invested in providing the Word of God to the saved and the lost.

Most of the time we, as children of God, do not realize what our sharing accomplishes in God’s kingdom. The poor widow woman was uninformed of what her two mites meant to Jesus (God). Matthew 12:42 Only His disciples were informed of the magnitude of her giving. Also those mentioned in Matthew 25 were only informed of their ministry to God at their reckoning day. *“And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”* (Matthew 25:40)

On January 22, I received a letter (enclosed) from a woman who I met in 1989. At the time I was at work in my electronic repair shop. It was located inside a building owned by another company that sold electronic equipment and parts. Vanita Davis, a total stranger to me, came to my service window requesting me to tutor her youngest son in electronics. My immediate response was, “No, I cannot, this is not my building and I do not have the authority to make decisions like this.” She was very persistent and to put her off, I said: “I will have to check with the owners and see what they say.” She kept returning until finally I agreed to do what I could. This was one of those strangers unawares that God had sent our way. (Not an angel though)

Later I learned what you will read in the enclosed letter. There were two girls and two boys but no father in this home. They were in fanatical need having just returned from a mission field and although they were of a different religious doctrine than mine, God sent them my way. I ended up not only tutoring 10 year old Isaiah in electronics but also stood in as a father for one of the girls at her wedding. Sister Skinner made both wedding cakes for the girls and Isaiah spent time at our home with our two sons. As I look back, the only regret I have is not doing more for this fatherless household!!! *“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”* (Mark 8:36) (Or someone else loses their soul as we gather wealth!)

When starting the Prison Ministry in 2007 my computer program would not search the “ship to field”, leaving no means to check if a prisoner had already received a Bible. Not everyone in prison is honest! Isaiah came to Dallas and wrote a computer program which allowed us to do so, saving IBA the expense of a second Bible Packet. What a blessing he was to this ministry!

Jack, 2 wks ago someone called me & said I won a prize in Publishers Clearing & deserved it if it was so 100% would go to Bibles. It was not so, and that dream went by but you have been on my mind ever since & your ministry to give Bibles to those who cannot get them - God bless you my Brother! *done what you do!* Vanita

"What Happened to your Hand?"

My mother, Maxine Fream Gash, wrote an article in the December issue of the Restoration Herald about a poor Christian farmer named Nelson King who preached for pennies at a small rural church. He often played chess with my Dad, Don Fream, for several years when my parents taught at OCC. The interesting thing about Nelson was that he had no fingers. When we asked him "What happened to your hands?" He said his fingers froze when he saved the life of a fellow soldier in an airplane in World War II, and they all had to be cut off. The Dr. had cut the bottom of the thumb joint from the hand so he could grasp things, like chess pieces. All of us children loved him.

I got married, moved to Brazil, and had four children of my own. Nelson faithfully kept track of us and sent us a few dollars every month. Eighteen years later my husband left us and we moved back to Joplin. I worked for minimum wage as a nurse's aide, and the children got jobs after school to pay for clothes and school bills. We were poor like Nelson was, and got no food stamps etc., but Nelson continued to send us his \$50 a month tithe until he died.

We visited Nelson several times as a family. He never complained about his loss, was always willing to help a neighbor, and carefully lived within his meager means with a happy, grateful attitude that encouraged us to do the same. I determined not to ask for money, but to rely on God to provide our needs (not our wants), and God always did in very surprising ways. Instead of buying a car, my oldest son Abe bought a house for us to live in, then rode to work and college on his bike. One year an insurance paid my school tuition when someone ran into the back of my car, so we banged out the bumps and thanked the Lord for His provision. Those kind of things happened to all of us, all the time.

When I finally got my divorce, the judge ordered my ex to pay \$50 a month in child support for our youngest child which he never paid. Looking back years later I was amazed that I NEVER lacked a single month when somebody somewhere (like Nelson) did not send me \$50, clear up to the year that Isaiah graduated from High School! God is indeed the father to the fatherless, the widow and the divorcee who dare to trust in Him. All my children except one went through college without taking out a single loan, living at home, working with their hands, and depending on God to provide.

There is a painting by Harry Anderson showing Jesus with several modern day children around him, and a little girl in his lap is asking him, "What happened to your hand?" Oh how we love to retell that story of how Jesus came from Glory to be born in a manger, so he could live poor among us and die for our sins. Today Jesus is alive in heaven, preparing for us an eternal home, and still says to each of us, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Today I look at my sun-spotted wrinkled whole hands and agree. Yes, Jesus, your yoke has been easy because you were right there beside me, carrying it with me all of the way. What a pleasure it has been to live with You beside me! What wonderful times we have shared together! How much I long for all of my friends and my families to have the same kind of experiences day Jesus will make an end of this old world all of us, "What happened to your hands?"

I have had because of You and of Your love. One and give us a new one, and then HE will ask of

A true Child of God will bear the fruit of the Spirit and allow this cruel world an opportunity to view the Father of the fatherless and Judge of the windows. "Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful." (Luke 6:36)



I am your sister in Jesus Christ forever

Vanita Davis

Vanita Davis

As each of you has learned in your walk with our Father, He sends "people" into your life for you to minister to. This is how He has chosen to work; through humans! I do not know how God directed you to support this ministry but I thank God for each of you who have contributed to "others" as we journey towards home descending into life's ditches being Good Samaritans.

Brother Jack M. Skinner