

# JOTTINGS

*MINISTERING TO THE WORLD'S 42,000,000 SIGHTLESS*

*VOL. LIII, Number 4*

*HOLLY MONTANUS, EDITOR*

*APRIL 2003*

## MEET PATRICIA McDERMOTT

In this photo you will see Patricia McDermott being assisted by one of the many Guides, during a woodworking class at our Annual Summer Camp for the Blind.

Patricia writes to us about her time at camp.

"I so enjoyed my time at camp. It was at camp that I was saved on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1998, in a private meeting with Pastor Bob Rathbun. I enjoy the Bible studies and the woodworking class. Camp is so peaceful and relaxing. Being able to go swimming, walking and exercising with so many nice people to help is wonderful. I have a four year degree in economics at the State University College at Geneseo, N.Y. My hobbies are reading and swimming and I attend The Cathedral of All Saints in Albany, N.Y."

Please remember this blind Christian woman in your prayers.



### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Our Annual Summer Camp for the Blind will be held in New Caney, Texas, which is coming upon us soon. This year, the cost to sponsor one blind man or woman to attend camp is \$200.00.

By sponsoring a blind person to attend camp, you can take joy in knowing that this person, who otherwise could not afford to go, could possibly come to a saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Your sponsorship will be an eternal investment in the Kingdom of our Lord.

What could be better than that?



### EASTER PROGRAM

This month is our Ham Distribution Program. This is a program where we send a spiral-cut ham at Easter (costs range from \$50 to \$65 per family, which includes overnight shipping charges) to needy blind families throughout the United States. If you know of a family which has a blind member (either a blind child, parent, or both) please send us the information so that they can be included in this program. This distribution, once again, gives us a unique opportunity to witness to those blind families who have both physical and spiritual needs. Won't you help us in spreading the Word with this undertaking?

# THAT THEY MIGHT SEE



*By Dr. Ralph Montanus  
(1919 – 1986)*

## Chapter 12 NEW HORIZONS (Final Chapter)

In our ministry to and for the blind, we know that God has been with us. He has opened doors when we needed direction, and He has provided for us financially so that the work could move forward. Yet the way has not always been smooth, and we have had times when we have wondered if it is really possible for us to continue the ministry, leave alone enlarge it.

An unexpected problem occurred in 1962 while Bea and I were in Florida. As we were walking together in Orlando, I noticed that Bea's stride was not regular. The more I concentrated on it, the more I realized she was dragging her feet.

"Bea, is something wrong with your foot?" I asked.

"Why, no," she replied. "What made you ask that?"

"You seem to be dragging your foot," I said. "Almost limping."

"I am?" We had stopped, and when we resumed our walking, there was no longer any indication of the problem. "I don't notice anything," she said.

"Hmm. Maybe you're tired," I said, "or did I just imagine it?"

"Well, I'm not really tired," she said. Then with a laugh she added, "Maybe it's a sign of middle age."

Over the next several days I became aware that Bea's foot would again drag from time to time, but each time I mentioned it, she resumed walking normally. It got to the point that she became self-conscious about it, and finally she admitted that it was happening.

"But when I think about it, it stops," she said.

"Maybe you'd better see our doctor when we get home," I said.

Before we returned to New York, Bea told me, "Ralph, I'm beginning to feel there really is something wrong. Please take my hand."

I took it and felt a slight trembling.

"Why is your hand shaking?" I asked.

"I don't know, Ralph, but I can't make it stop."

Back in New York our family physician examined her and gave us the bad news. The problem that had caused both her foot to drag and her hand to tremble was a neurological problem centered in the brain.

"It could be one of three things," the doctor told us frankly, "but we'll need a complete neurological examination by a specialist to find out for certain. To me it looks like Parkinson's disease, but it could also be an abscess on the brain or it could be a tumor."

It took several days before we had the results of the tests, and the doctor's first suspicion was confirmed. Bea had

Parkinson's disease, a degenerative condition involving a nerve center in the brain. Although we were relieved that she did not have a tumor, the diagnosis was not comforting. There was no cure, but she could take medication to control it somewhat.

Over the next couple of years, Bea's condition continued to worsen. The cold weather in winter was especially troublesome, because she felt she could not keep warm, and it was increasingly difficult for her to get around. The doctors said that if she was to continue to be mobile, she would have to live in a warmer climate. She simply could no longer handle cold weather.

Thus, in 1967 Bea and I moved to Florida. That meant being separated from the offices of The Gospel Association for the Blind, which remained in the converted bank building in New York, but we were able to keep up with most of our part of the work by telephone and mail. Ralph Jr. put the weekly broadcasts together in New York from tapes I made in Florida. He would take my sermon tape and dub in the music before making copies to send to the radio stations. All the finances and mail continued to be handled in New York, except for letters that required my personal attention. Those were forwarded to me in Florida.

After a year of carrying on the ministry by long-distance telephone and mail, I decided it would be better for Ralph Jr. to be with me. I needed him to help

JOTTINGS is published monthly by The Gospel Association for the Blind, Inc. Subscription is free of charge. Address all correspondence to:

The Gospel Association for the Blind  
P.O. Box 1162  
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me with the broadcasts. He agreed to move his family to Florida. The rest of the staff remained in New York, where they handled donations, answered mail, and produced *The Gospel Messenger*, *The Braille Pilot*, and my newsletter to donors, *Jottings*.

Over the next few years, however, we decided that arrangement was not efficient. Our expenses were climbing rapidly, because we were operating what amounted to two headquarters. Either Bea and I and Ralph and his family would have to move back to New York or the rest of the staff would have to move to Florida. Since Bea could not stand the winters, I knew what the answer would have to be. We began to look for property.

The move was not accomplished quickly. In fact, it was not until 1978 that the whole operation was finally in Florida. We began by purchasing ten acres in Delray Beach and constructing an office building to house our studio and Braille library. Gradually, as more land became available, we increased our holdings to thirty-two acres and broadened our plans to include a complete Christian Conference Center that would be used not only by the Gospel Association for the Blind, but also by other Christian groups.

By the time the move was completed, all our staff but one came to Florida. The one who did not want to move decided to retire and remain in New York.

Today, we have divided our property into two planned developments: one, a five-acre office complex to house our expanded headquarters, and the second, a twenty-seven acre Christian Conference Center and planned residential community for Christians.

The conference center and residential community will serve both blind and sighted Christians year-round. When completed, it will comprise a 650-seat auditorium, a 250-seat dining hall, an activities/classroom building and housing for 120 persons. We will have annual camping sessions for the blind, identical to the camps we continue to hold each summer at Jaffrey Center, New Hampshire.

I always look forward to those camping sessions, for it is there that the greatest one-to-one contact occurs. It is a real growing experience, both for the blind campers and for their sighted guides. I have found that the younger blind people are the most enthusiastic, especially after they meet the Lord and desire that their lives count for something, both here and in eternity.

Over the years, our fellowship meetings for the blind have grown. The original New York meetings, which began in Child's Restaurant, were then held in a Baptist Church in New York City, and that annual Thanksgiving dinner that supplements those regular meetings attracts up to two hundred blind people each year.

Ten years ago we started Fellowship Meetings for the blind at a Lions Club in Boca Raton, Florida, and we have a good regular attendance there. The Thanksgiving Dinners attract about a hundred blind people. Other Fellowship Meetings are being held in Providence, Rhode Island, and Miami, Florida.

The printed version of *The Gospel Messenger* now contains fifty pages in Braille, and each issue is mailed to several hundred subscribers, including libraries both in the United States and abroad. I have no idea how many people it may reach, for the copies are passed along, and library copies are frequently read. Recently, we have also begun to record the *Messenger* on cassette tape. We send the tapes to more than three hundred people who have requested them. All of these subscriptions, both the printed version and the tapes, are provided free of charge to the blind.

In addition, we mail out hundreds of copies of *The Braille Pilot*, which is intended for a young audience. Written in Braille, it allows blind children to read stories in Braille on their own level, and it permits blind parents to read the stories aloud to the young sighted children.

Our radio program, "That They Might See," continues to air on more than thirty radio stations across the United States and in Bermuda, bringing the Gospel to blind and sighted listeners alike. And, finally, we continue to publish our monthly four-page newsletter, *Jottings*, for distribution to tens of thousands of friends and supporters. It provided news and information about

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## INTERESTING MAIL

You will find below some of the letters that have been received at our Missionary Headquarters from blind and deaf-blind friends who receive THE GOSPEL MESSENGER cassette magazine and borrow Braille books and cassettes from our Free Circulating Library.

W.T., Stockton, MO –

*"What a surprise when we answered the door a few days before Easter Sunday. A delicious ham was delivered to us from your wonderful organization. I had not been up to cooking a big meal and this worked out perfect. Thank you for such a blessing."*

R.P., Albany, NY –

*"We enjoyed the ham you sent us for Easter dinner. We shared the ham and fellowship with our neighbors."*

## THE BIBLE IN VERSE by Alvy E. Ford

### JOSHUA (Cont.)

#### CHAPTER 6

Israel compasses Jericho's walls,  
Lets out a shout, and the battlement falls.  
Natives are smitten; the city is bared;  
Household of Rahab, the harlot, is spared.

#### CHAPTER 7

People are beaten at Ai, and flee.  
Joshua prays what the matter might be.  
Achan is tried, and found guilty of theft.  
He and his family are beaten to death.

#### CHAPTER 8

Once more, at Ai, in battle they meet.  
This time, the city is crushed in defeat.  
People are gathered together, in awe.  
Joshua reads them the words of the law.

#### CHAPTER 9

Natives of Gibeon practice deceit,  
Binding a bargain both simple and neat,  
Making a league with the host of the Lord,  
Being delivered, thereby, from the sword.

#### CHAPTER 10

Five kings make war on the host of the Lord,  
More die from hailstones than facing the sword.  
Joshua orders the sun to remain.  
Cities are taken, and multitudes slain.

### THAT THEY MIGHT SEE....cont'd from page 3

the blind. A free copy of this publication is available to all who write to us at the address given at the end of this chapter.

I pray that each person who reads this book will be moved by God's grace to become involved as an integral part of the ministry to the blind. Mention it to your pastor or board of elders. And write to The Gospel Association for the Blind for further information on various aids we have for such ministry.

Also, as you pray for missionaries all over the world, please add me and this ministry to your prayer list. We need your prayers as we seek to present the Gospel clearly to the world's darkest mission field, forty-two million blind men, women, boys, and girls across the face of the earth.

For further information, and a free copy of the printed newsletter, *Jottings*, please write to: The Gospel Association for the Blind, P.O. Box 1162, Bunnell, FL 32110.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** A copy of the book, THAT THEY MIGHT SEE, can be obtained by sending \$3.00 to The Gospel Association for the Blind, P.O. Box 1162, Bunnell, FL 32110. For orders from outside the United States, please add \$1.00 extra for postage.

## EASTER

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### "Go Ye Therefore...."

(Matthew 28:19)

He is risen! Tell the story,  
Spread His triumph far and wide;  
Christ has burst the gates of Glory—  
Man may enter at His side!  
Let creation joy with singing  
As the victor enters in,  
Many sons to glory bringing—  
Souls whom He has died to win!

He is risen! Every nation,  
Every soul of every race,  
Has a share in His salvation,  
In His victory has a place:  
While today His Church rejoices,  
Raising hallelujahs high,  
Hear we not uncounted voices  
Weeping, hopeless, as they die?

We who know Him, we who bless Him,  
Shall we bring Him but our praise?  
Shall our lips alone confess Him  
While our hearts heed not His ways?  
No! Before His triumph falling,  
Let us yield Him up our all;  
"Go ye therefore!" hear Him calling,  
Hear, and answer that dear call.

He is risen! Let us tell it  
Till the farthest isles have heard,  
Till the tribes in worship swell it,  
And adore their Risen Lord;  
Let us rest not till the nations  
Far and near to Him belong;  
Till in Easter exultations  
All the world shall join our song!

*Margaret Clarkson*

## INSPIRATIONAL MUSINGS

*Salvation is a free gift, but we must receive it.*

\* \* \*

*To know lasting happiness, we must  
get to know Jesus.*

\* \* \*

*Leaders who serve will serve as good leaders.*