

Who turned off the tap? We are down to a trickle, drip, drip.

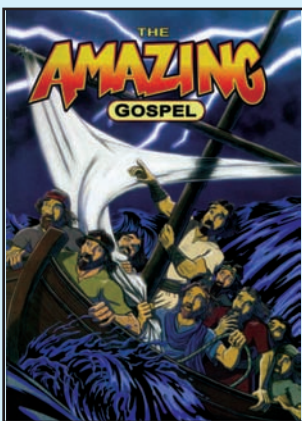


Dear Family Member:

You have allowed me the wonderful opportunity to set the pace and direction for our ministry to the lost world by providing MILLIONS of scripture and Bible tract messages, but like the advertisement for Hebrew National hot dogs, “we answer to a higher authority,” and we do likewise. This outreach is very unique, because unlike the pulpit based message, ours reaches into the nooks and crannies of this world where the preacher can never go. Of course, the preacher is vital, just as is the evangelist. Our literature reaches into most every nation in the world and in many languages. Just today I have had phone calls or e-mails from Nepal, Liberia, and India—looking for tracts. Our reach is into the prison, school room and lonely places of retreat. We can be compared to sign boards and print advertisements, verses voice advertisement such as radio and television, because we are there day and night, working 24/7.

Just now, we have completed the printing of 10,000 Amazing Gospel Comics to be distributed to school children in Namibia. Today, the missionary we are working with, Mark Gardner is traveling to Ondangwa and it’s outlying districts, which is in the dry bush country where little grows and for that reason, Namibia is referred to as the Skeleton Coast. The well made comic will be given to very poor children in school, as Mark has been granted permission to share the Gospel with groups in all the schools. Judging from what I have found and from Mark’s report, the gift of The Amazing Gospel Comic will most probably be the nicest and most treasured possession these young people will ever own. As it is read for years, even generations—the Saving message is cast. The cost of printing in Namibia is little more than the expense of shipping and duty to reach the missionary. I stepped out in faith to pay half of the cost of printing, while Mark found the rest in the budget allotted him for materials. Today, I need to wire the printer \$4,000.00 for our obligation, but I don’t have that money.

It has been three years since we introduced this Amazing Gospel comic and while many of you resisted using the “comic” for the presentation of the Gospel, the results have been remarkable, and wholly a blessing. For our general stock here, we need to order another 20,000 copies as we are down to the last 500 now. People have sent contributions for many orders, but our expenses to operate go beyond the “cost of printing.” Our tracts are in high demand, as more and more churches and mission teams are seeking the lost and seeking revival. We don’t charge or set prices of donation for the Gospel, but offer freely that which is freely given.



"Since the October *Harvester* is already printed, I want to make this reminder that the Amazing Gospel Comic is the best thing you can provide for those children who come to your house at Halloween. Order one for each sack thrust in front of you. Also, since many of you assemble boxes for Angel Tree, or Christmas Child or other Christmas programs, what better way to give something of value and treasure, than to include a Gospel Comic. I know that you have no idea of what language the recipient receiving it will speak, but rest assured that someone nearby will know and speak English. English will be an asset to these Gospels, because as the story tells itself by the illustrations, the text lends itself as an aid to learning English and most underprivileged peoples seek that. Also, as someone interprets it, the audience is usually somewhat large. Give the Amazing Gospel for Halloween treats and Christmas treasures and order early so we will have enough.

While providing the Gospel Tract *Harvester* on a monthly basis is such a blessing to us and to many who receive it, it represents one of the greater expenses we have. Continually, we hear of people who when receive it, sit and read it from front to back without stopping. Many are incarcerated and many others are truly living from hand to mouth, like Evelyn who just wrote me today:

“Dear Tom: In reading your Sept. Newsletter, want you to know I thoroughly understand your “position.” Financially, the present economy has hit most everyone badly. You have to depend on tithes and donations to keep going. So I think you shouldn’t send me any more material and the Harvester magazine in the future. Sorry to say I can’t help you, I am 85 yrs. old and on a very low income and live in a subsidized apt...

I know the Lord will provide—somehow. He knows that there is more to what we do than “the cost of the printing,” which many offer to pay when ordering tracts. There is more at work here than what most stop to realize and it is huge. We send bundles of tracts and *Harvesters* to many of the chaplains of this nation’s 1100 prisons containing nearly 2.5 million men and women. They have no money in their budgets for religious materials, so we just have to take advantage of the opportunity to exercise the Great Commission in this way. Additionally, those incarcerated write to us concerning their spiritual needs. Many are confused, deceived, abused and addicted, but they are our sons and our daughters. We write to as many as possible, serving as counselor, and pastor.

Just yesterday, Pastor Ben called me with an order of tracts, because his church was a designated stop for a local bike-a-thon honoring those lost at war. Without question, we rushed the tracts to him because we know that when much seed is sown, some will germinate and grow. Our order desk is piled high on a daily basis, yet seldom does it take more than two days to process an order. My nephew Rob grows a red face daily, from the pressure of getting the orders filled, keeping the shelves stocked and meeting deadlines.

We like to think of the *Harvester Magazine* as a teaching tool and send it to many people who are still seekers, yet have not found the faith or urgency to call upon the Master for their deliverance from sin. It also helps many to grow and deepen their faith and find courage to share this message with others. The world we live in today is desperately evil and is on a collision course with it’s fate. That message is also on our shoulders and we are honored to have been chosen for this calling. **HOWEVER**, we can’t do this as we have been doing it, because we just come up short with the funds to buy postage and pay other bills. For example, we just received a bill for \$4,500.00 for a required USPS computer software that helps us handle and manage our mailing list of family members, for three years of service, and of all times to come, it’s today when we need to be mailing the October *Harvester*. This service pays for itself just in the accurate management of “undeliverable mail” due to deaths and relocations, but it is still an expense. Of course, the \$4,500.00 monthly payment on our press remains, with a \$92,000.00 balance. I won’t list



and moan about the many other expenses to you, but will in short, tell you that while we were ready yesterday to mail the October *Harvester*, **WE SIMPLY DIDN’T HAVE MONEY FOR POSTAGE**. Knowing that most members don’t respond financially to the *Harvester*, I decided to use our remaining credit to send this letter to you. The thought came to me about Jesus’ teaching: Where two or more of you agree touching a thing, there I am in the midst of you. Using that thought, I don’t want you to write to me asking to be removed from our family tree, but where you can, I am asking you to do what you can do to help us serve HIM together, by mailing out the October *Harvester* and ministering The Immaculate Christ to all who come before us. Perhaps, you didn’t ask to be on our list, or you are still on the journey—well, just stay with us.

Perhaps 4,000 of the 19,000 people in our family contribute to our shared needs and they are faithful—today I am asking if it is in your heart to travel in twos as we make the first number more like the second, I am asking if you will, find two dollars, twenty, two-hundred or two-thousand and put it in the enclosed envelope. I asked Scott to quickly print return envelopes—leaving off the “postage-paid business-reply indicia,” because having to pay the postage for the mail coming back just puts us further in the hole. No coach will ask his team to do something that he won’t do himself, likewise—I have taken the first stride to set the pace in giving. As soon as we have the funds, we will send out the *Harvester* for October.

Would someone help us turn on the supply of Life-Giving water? Together, we can fix it!

You know I wouldn’t come to you like this, if there was another way.

Tom Buttram and Staff at GTS