



# The Bible Banner

August 2025

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## That they might know Thee...

A certain evangelist tells the following story. "I was standing with a friend at his garden gate one evening when two little children came by. As they approached us, he said to me, 'Watch the difference in these two boys.' Taking one of them in his arms he stood him on the gatepost and, stepping back a few feet, he folded his arms and called to the little fellow to jump. In an instant the boy sprang toward him and was caught in his arms. Then turning to the second boy he tried the same experiment. But in the second case it was different.

The child trembled and refused to move. My friend held out his arms and tried to induce the child to trust to his strength but nothing could move him. At last my friend had to lift him down from the post and let him go. 'What makes the difference in the two?' I asked. My friend smiled and said, 'The first is my own boy and knows me; but the other is a stranger's child whom I have never seen before.' And

there was all the difference. My friend was equally able to prevent both from falling. The difference was in the boys themselves. The first had assurance in his father's ability and acted upon it, while the second boy, although he might have believed in the ability to save him from harm, would not put his belief into action." So it is with many today who give credit to the gospel story but are unwilling to cast themselves into the arms of the Savior. This gives new meaning to John 17:3, *"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."*

### Easy Peanut Butter Popsicles

¾ cup peanut butter      1 pkg. (14 oz./397 g) organic, silken\* tofu  
½ cup honey              Non-dairy carob chips, optional

Blend the first three ingredients and then add carob chips if desired. Pour into molds and freeze overnight. Remove and serve.

\*We have actually made this with regular water-pack tofu also. I think the peanut butter will probably mask the flavor of garbanzo tofu or pumfu (pumpkin-seed tofu) also.



### QUOTABLE QUOTES

**"The reason why the Christians in this day are at such a loss as to some things is that they are contented with what comes from man's mouth, without searching and kneeling before God to know of Him the truth of things."**

--John Bunyan

### Profitable Traditions – Cultivate Love for Jesus

*"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* Proverbs 22:6 What a different world we might see if from birth, and even before, parents trained their children to love and follow Jesus. What if nursery rhymes and songs, instead of being nonsensical (or worse) like "This little piggy" taught principles of truth or scripture? Here's a fun rhyme for counting each of a baby's fingers or toes.

*"One little birdie in a tree Jesus made for you and me.  
Two little birdies say tweet, tweet, happy another bird to meet.  
Three little birdies in a nest, always try to do their best.  
Four little birdies on a line, thankful for the warm sunshine.  
Five little birdies sing a song, praising Jesus all day long."* -- by S. Roberts



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## Missionary “Cutbacks” Ahead?

Editor's Note, Study to Show Thyself Approved and Prophetic News Notes



We don't often hear of missionaries being fired,<sup>1</sup> but recently wng.org or WORLD reported that, *“The Presbyterian Church (USA) is shuttering [closing as with shutters] its foreign mission work. Nearly all its missionaries have been terminated. The stated reasons for this move include a drop in the missionary force over the past 15 years and the financial repercussions of ongoing membership decline.”*<sup>2</sup> One other reason the Presbyterian USA mission is closing *“according to denominational sources”* is *“because many Christians in other countries now consider the United States a mission field in need of evangelism.”*

Now, it doesn't sound like these Presbyterian missionaries were fired for bad behavior. But Jesus told of some other sad and surprising “cutbacks” for careless or double-minded church and mission workers at the end of time. Just after the list of last day events in Matthew 24, we find the parable of the wise and foolish virgins at the beginning of Matthew 25. In verse one, Jesus makes clear that the parable is about “the kingdom of heaven.” The wise and the foolish virgins are those who profess to work for the Bridegroom (Christ). Yet, 50% of these professedly pure (since they are virgins) church workers are not allowed into the wedding. The reason? They have no oil in their vessels. And when they come late to the wedding saying, *“Lord, Lord, open to us,”* the bridegroom answers and says, *“Verily I say unto you, I know you not.”* Matthew 25:11,12 This statement is closely connected with the foolish virgins' lack of oil, representing the Holy Spirit. For John 14:17 says, *“Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”* Those who know the Bridegroom also know the Spirit of Truth, but the world doesn't know Him. The problem in the foolish virgins appears to be a sin of neglect, carelessness or indifference. There is no record of them doing bad things, but they neglected to form a thorough relationship with Jesus.

We get to know someone by communication. And the Bible spends a lot of time repeatedly establishing that communication must be two ways. There are many *“said”*s as well as a lot of *“answered and said.”* There are all those that are “called” and then it is recorded that they “heard.” But as in the story of Samuel, the communication circle is not complete until the answer is given. *“And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.”* 1 Samuel 3:10 Samuel's answer completed the communication loop, and God talked to him. But here is what happens if the circle is not complete. A woman, after returning from a concert in a large auditorium, discovered she had lost a valuable diamond pin. Frantically, the woman telephoned the manager of the auditorium, and asked whether such a pin had been found. The man asked the number of her seat, then told her to hold the line, and he would have a look. He found the pin, but when he got back to the phone, the woman had hung up. He waited hoping she would call again; he even advertised that he had found her treasure, but he never heard from her again. That is the way some of us pray. In a hurry, we call up our heavenly Father and tell Him all our needs; then we grow weary of waiting and hang up. The communication loop is broken and we miss out on the treasure of knowing Jesus.

This is one reason why the Bible emphasizes being *“willing to communicate”* as an essential for the *“man of God”* (1 Timothy 6:11,18). It also lists communication as something that we are to *“forget not”* (Hebrews 13:16). Galatians 6:6 states, *“Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.”* Galatians 6:6 In other words, don't just read the Bible as you would any other book, talk to God, its author. He is the ultimate Tutor. Talking back and forth is how you get to know someone. And no one else can get to know God for you. It is an individual thing. Ezekiel 14:20 says, *“Though Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness.”*

One of the reasons why some persons do not know God, and God says He does not know them is because just like adultery ruins communication and separates a husband and wife, sin separates you from God. Isaiah 59:2 says, *“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”* In Matthew 7:21-23 Jesus tells the sad fact that pseudo-Christians will not make it to heaven. He said, *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”* It is a little unsettling to recognize that this class of people seem to believe that they were doing good missionary-type service work. Apparently, they even appeared successful in casting out demons and other *“wonderful works.”* A good point to remember here is just because something works doesn't mean it is from God. We must study the word of God to see whether it is according to His way or not. Whatever these people were doing, it was evidently not according to God's will. But these people appear to be self-deceived. James 1:22 sheds light on what makes people self-deceived. He warns, *“But*



*be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."* God sent Jesus to save us *"in turning away every one of you from his iniquities."* Acts 3:26 But these pseudo-Christians want to have Jesus AND hold onto sin/iniquity too. However, you cannot be dirty and clean at the same time. Evangelist Billy Sunday had the simplest rule whereby we can tell positively whether we have been converted or not. He said if a sheep falls into a mud hole, it tries to get out as quickly as possible; but if a pig falls into a mud hole, he's just in his glory, and stays there as long as he can. So when a Christian makes a mistake, if he feels miserable and tries at once to make it right, that person has a changed heart, he has been converted. Only a converted heart hates sin. But these spurious Christians in the story *"work iniquity."* They don't hate sin. Perhaps they didn't try to overcome appetite and are habitually intemperate. Maybe they regularly fail on the test of presumption and don't stand up and do what is right when their friends dare them to do wrong. *"For they love... the praise of men more than the praise of God."* John 12:43 Maybe they love the world and its follies and are only working in religious lines to keep a steady paycheck. Whatever is the case, the Bible exposes this kind of hypocritical religion. All the false pretense of religion, prophesying, working miracles, and casting out demons can not save this class in their disobedience. By holding on to sin, they have broken the line of communication with heaven. They show they do not really know Jesus. For to know Him is to love Him, and to love Him is to keep His commandments. The Bible says, *"And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."* 1 John 2:3,4

One other essential element to knowing God is quality time spent together. Because *"knowing about Jesus"* and actually *"knowing Jesus"* are two different things. For example, I grew up in a Christian home. I went to church, youth meetings, a Christian school, Vacation Bible School, etc. I grew up knowing *about* Jesus and His love. But it was not until many years later, as an adult, after I quit watching movies (1 Cor. 10:21), and began to regularly read and study my Bible and talk to God that I developed a real relationship with Him and really knew God. Frankly, it takes practice to talk to someone you cannot see, and to remember in a busy world to talk to God. I have the picture to the right on my computer to remind me throughout the day to take time to spend at Jesus' feet. But as I learned to spend at least a thoughtful hour each morning, plus other times throughout the day, reading my Bible and talking with God, my world opened up. I was telling someone recently, *"Before knowing Jesus, the world was like a coloring book picture, just a line drawing. After getting to know Jesus the picture was colored in. Then it became 3-dimensional, and was lighted up and animated. Now, every good thing in life is more exciting. Languages are engaging because they connect with missions or Bible study. Writing also has a purpose for sharing truth. Geography and social studies is fascinating when connected with world missions. History is fascinating in light of Bible prophecy. Science and nature take on new meaning because God made all this for me to enjoy. Physiology is important as I am to care for my body temple. Music is a beautiful way to praise God and learn scripture texts. Etc., etc. Everything is better since I have Jesus to share it with."* I challenge you to *"taste and see that the LORD is good"* (Psalm 34:8) while you heed Christ's warning and study to do God's will, keep all of His commandments, and learn to know Him today. For it is written, *"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."* John 17:3



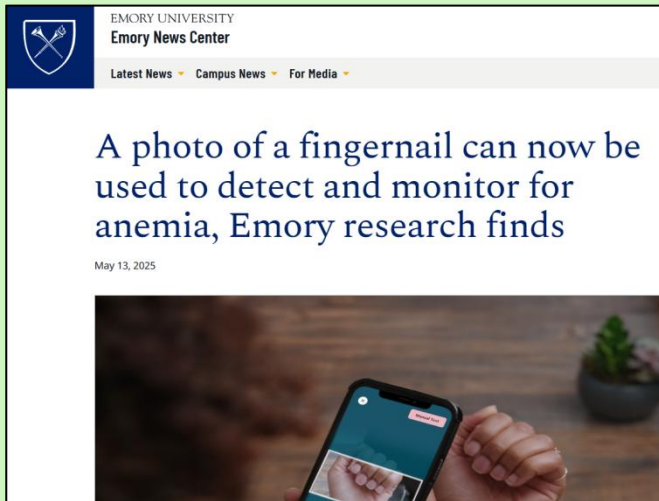
1 -Screenshot -- <https://www.al.com/news/2025/04/presbyterian-church-usa-fires-missionaries-ends-mission-agency.html> 2--<https://wng.org/opinions/a-church-without-a-mission-1745454310>



## Health Warning Light?

Have you ever wished your body had something like a "health warning light?" Actually, there are quite a few visual and other sensory cues. A good mother can realize when her child is sick by whether he has glassy eyes or not. She is often able to gauge the level of a fever just with the palm of her hand or the beating of the heart by the pulse.

Your fingernails also are almost like a health report card. And although we have known for years that pale-colored nail beds or the pale inside of your lower eyelid can indicate anemia (low hemoglobin, often from low iron), now this is being used as a diagnostic tool. In May of 2025, it was published that, *"Biomedical technology developed at Emory University and Georgia Tech is now changing the way people screen and monitor for anemia. Rather than a finger prick and drop of blood, the technology monitors for the disease in a completely non-invasive way with just a photo of a fingernail that can be uploaded to an app. An image of the fingernail is then assessed by the app where an abnormally pale fingernail indicates anemia."*



*"A new paper published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) shows promising results that **the fingernail photo is just as accurate at screening and monitoring anemia as a blood sample.** In real-world use across the U.S., the app amassed over 1.4 million uses of the tool. **For users who compared their app results with blood tests, the app demonstrated strong performance — achieving 89% sensitivity and 93% specificity for anemia detection.**"*

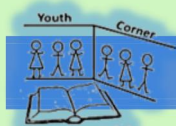
Those are high numbers for a simple fingernail report card. If you are feeling fatigue, weakness and shortness of breath, it would be a good idea to look at your own fingernails and/or the inside of your lower eyelid to see if is pink (healthy) or pale (unhealthy and anemic). It works well to find a healthy young child for color comparison. Note that there are other variations of portions of the nails that are pale that may indicate other health issues such as adrenal exhaustion. But if you

think you may be low on iron, increase your iron with a tablespoon of blackstrap molasses, as well as lentils, tofu, beans, green leafy vegetables, yellow dock herb, and plenty of vitamin C to insure absorption.

Keep an eye on your God-given fingernail health monitor, and thank God for His amazing design!

1-- [https://news.emory.edu/stories/2025/05/hs-anemia-detection-technology\\_13-05-2025/story.html](https://news.emory.edu/stories/2025/05/hs-anemia-detection-technology_13-05-2025/story.html)

<https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2424677122>



## A 4 o'clock Meeting

*"And when he [the shepherd] putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice." John 10:4*

Eric B. Hare, a missionary to Burma, tells of an experience that happened to him in 1942 when he and a few other missionaries were caught on the eastern side of the Irrawaddy River while fleeing for their lives from the onrushing Japanese Army. He says,

We had two cars loaded with valuable mission equipment, but there was no way to get them across the river. Once across the river, there was a rough bullock-wagon road starting from Pakokku, leading to Ta Mu, three hundred miles north, which was the pass to India. We had succeeded in hiring two country boats about sixty feet long and nine feet wide, and had tied them together with long bamboo poles, but we couldn't get long planks to run the cars onto the boats. We had found some shorter planks and had tied and trussed them up, but an attempt to load one of the cars almost ended disastrously, and as the sun set that night we sank down in despair, not knowing what to do next. There was a sawmill in the city, but the owners and workers had evacuated the mill three weeks before. And where they had gone nobody knew. We were tired, exhausted and discouraged, for we were human.

As we lay on our beds stretched out on our suitcases and luggage, we could hear the boisterous Burmese boatmen laughing as they said, "They're stuck! They're stuck! They'll have to leave their cars and luggage here and walk!"

"I'm going to have a wheel," said one.

"And I need a tire," said another.

"I'm going to have one of those suitcases," added still another.



And thus they talked, till I felt sick all over. I think I know how the children of Israel felt the night before they crossed over the Red Sea.

Sleep was unthinkable and impossible, but as I lay there in the darkness, as soon as I could think, I thought of prayer. Why of course, I could pray. I could tell my Father all about it, and maybe He could find a way out or speak comfort to my tired soul. What could we do without prayer! So I prayed and just told the Lord all about it. Then I waited to see whether any words of comfort would come to my mind. But my mind was too tired; it couldn't think. I prayed again, and waiting, tried to remember other troubles from which the Lord had delivered me. Slowly they



came to my mind. I relived them in thought, and with with the reliving of those experiences came peace and confidence. I prayed again, thanking the Lord for the blessing of the past, and added, "Lord, our prayers need not be answered in our way, but in a way that will bring glory and honor to Thy name. Thou hast never forsaken us yet, and as long as Thou art with us we know it will be all right, even if we do have to leave the cars here!" Thus I prayed, and recalled the blessed experiences I had had with the Lord, hour after hour. As midnight passed I prayed that God would tell me what to do. Oh, that I might hear His voice, telling me how we could find some planks, but no voice or impression came, except the assurance that God was with us and had not forsaken us. Two o'clock, three o'clock, four o'clock--then clearly as if a voice were speaking to me came the impression. "Go to the sawmill in the city, the sawmill that was evacuated three weeks ago. Go now!"

I didn't hesitate for a moment. I thanked the Lord for His answer to my prayer rolled up my bed, walked over to the boats, woke up the head boatman, and said, "I've been talking to my God all night, and he has just told me to go to the sawmill in the city."



We hired a bullock wagon that was tethered nearby and started off over the sandbank to the little town of Myingyan, three miles away. As we entered the town the sky was just becoming gray. "Of course, it's too early," I said to the boatman. "Even if someone did come today, he wouldn't come yet." But when we got to the sawmill the great gates were open. We could see no one around, but drove right in. At the far end of the enclosure we could see some piles of long, heavy planks, and in a few minutes had selected four splendid planks eight and one-half inches wide, two and one-half inches thick, and twenty-one feet long. Just then a Burmese lad about fifteen

years old stood beside me and said in perfect English, "Do you want to buy those planks sir?"

I said, "I certainly do, my boy; what time will the clerk come?"

"The clerk will not come, sir," replied the lad, "but I am the son of the mill owner, and I can sell you that lumber."

"What made you come so early?" I asked as he figured away on the price.

"Sir, it is rather a strange experience. You know, we evacuated to the other side of the river three weeks ago. But this morning quite suddenly at four o'clock my father woke me up and said, 'Son, I've just thought of some important papers that are still in my desk; go now and get them. If you wait till day, people will see you and will want to buy lumber, and you will be detained. So go now, son.' And do you know I had just opened the gates and gone into the office when I heard you drive in."

My eyes were big with wonder as he spoke, and I said, "My boy, it was my God that woke your father up at four o'clock this morning." Then I told him of the experience we had gone through, and told him I was sure it was all God's way of answering prayer. "Maybe so, sir!" he replied, solemnly.

We loaded our planks into our bullock wagon, and drove out of the gate. As we turned south to go to the riverbank where our ferry car was being built, the son of the mill owner came out, shut and locked the gates, and turned in the opposite direction, to take the important papers to his father.

I cannot describe the joy that filled my heart. My Lord was so real I could almost feel His presence. I didn't feel like talking, so walked silently along, thanking God every step of the way, and we walked over a mile before the boatman broke the silence. He touched my hand and solemnly said: "Your God did talk to you, didn't He! He told you what to do, didn't He!"

The planks were at the river's edge by nine-thirty. We had them placed and laced [lashed?] down by ten-thirty, the two cars were both loaded by eleven-thirty, and with the cars and all our luggage on board, we pushed out into the current. We arrived at Pakokku, fifty miles south and on the other side of the river, early the next morning, after sleeping part of the the night on a quiet little sandbank. The cars we unloaded, and in ten more days we were at the pass leading into India, out of danger from the Japanese Army. But what if I hadn't prayed? What if we hadn't waited? What if we hadn't trained our hearts to recognize the impressions of the Holy Spirit? What joy we would have lost! Indeed, as Jesus said, "*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*" John 10:27

(Fullness of Joy, pg. 65-68)

## Flutter and the Snake

"What was that in the grass?" the man wondered. "*Squack, squack!*" said a mother bird. As the man looked closer, he saw the mother bird fluttering and squawking at something slithering in the grass. A snake! And there in the snake's mouth was a baby bird it was trying to swallow. The baby bird's head was still sticking out, and it was cheeping for help. "*Cheep, cheep!*" Being an experienced father, the man reacted quickly and grabbed the snake. He squeezed its neck until it decided to let go of the little bird that it was trying to swallow. Then, looking the snake in the eye, the man said with authority, "*You can eat the mice, but don't eat little birds,*" and threw the garter snake off down into a ravine. Thankfully, although it was a little scared, the little bird didn't seem to be hurt. However, it couldn't fly yet, so now the man had to decide what to do with it. It must have fallen out of the Yellow-rumped Warbler nest in the cedar tree. But the nest was far too high up for the man to easily put the little bird back. But on the ground, the man was sure another snake would probably come to eat the little bird for lunch. So the man and his daughter made an improvised nest on the side of a ladder, hoping the mother bird would find it and feed the baby bird. They were happy to see that soon the mother bird found the nest and fed her baby.



But the baby bird wasn't sure he liked the new nest. Every once in a while, "Flutter," as they named the little bird, would jump out and back down to the ground. There was more space down there, and Flutter didn't realize how dangerous it was for him. And so the man or his daughter would go scoop him back up and put him back in the "ladder nest." They also constantly had to be on guard for snakes. So, as he worked, the man tried to position himself where he could see Flutter. Every morning, he would go out and check on Flutter, making sure he was still in the nest. At night, before it got dark, he would check on Flutter again. He did not want to save the little bird just for him to get eaten by another snake. And over the period of a week, at least three snakes had to be picked up or scared away from little Flutter. Day by day, Flutter practiced hopping further and flapping his wings better. After about a week, Flutter was strong enough to hop and fly. He was happy to join his family back up in the cedar tree.



Watching the man so carefully taking care of Flutter reminds me of a verse in the Bible. In the book of Matthew, Jesus says God notices even when one little bird, like a sparrow, falls to the ground. Jesus said, "*Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.*" *Matthew 10:31* Isn't it nice to know when we get lost or hurt, God always notices and comes to our rescue?

But Satan is like the snake, he wants to make us miserable with sin. Like the man in the story squeezed the serpent's neck to make it let go of the bird, the Bible prophesied in Genesis that Jesus would come and "*bruise [the serpent's] head.*" *Genesis 3:15* When Jesus died on the cross for us, it gave us a new chance at life. Like the safe nest the man and his daughter built for Flutter, following God's ten commandment law is the safest place for us. But just like Flutter jumping out of the nest, sometimes we are naughty and do bad things, like lie or steal. Like the man gently picked up Flutter and put him back in the nest saying, "*Stay where I put you, it is the safest place from the snakes,*" when we leave the protective hedge of God's law, our Heavenly Father warns, "*Whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him.*" *Ecclesiastes 10:8* Jesus scoops us back up and says, "*If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.*" *Matthew 19:17* Like the man in the story watched over little Flutter so carefully, Jesus takes care of us. He never forgets about us. He watches to see how we grow. He pays attention to what we do. In the book of Luke, it says, "*Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.*" *Luke 12:6,7*

Remember these lessons we've learned from Flutter the next time you hear the Sabbath School song, "*God sees the little sparrow fall. It meets His tender view. If God so loves the little birds, I know He loves me too.*"