



The Bible Banner

January 2018



FREELY YE HAVE RECEIVED, FREELY GIVE

One morning a wealthy businessman and an attorney were walking along a country road in Korea when they saw a boy pulling a plow which was steered by an old man. The amused attorney took a picture of the scene with his little pocket camera. Later he showed the picture to a missionary in the next village.

"Yes," said the missionary, "it seems a very strange way to plow a field, but I happen to know the boy and old man well. They are very poor. However, when the little church was built here in the village, they wanted to contribute something. They had no money. They had not grain to spare and winter was coming on, so they sold their ox and gave the money to the church building fund, and now, minus the valuable animal, they have to pull the plow themselves."

For a moment, there was silence. Then the attorney said, "But what a stupendous sacrifice! Why did you allow it?"

"They did not feel that way about it," replied the missionary. They regarded it as a great joy that they had an ox to give to the Lord's work."

Have you given your all for God?

Quick Burger Loaf

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 4 cups (920 g) of Burger Delight (See below.) | 2 cups (120g) bread crumbs |
| 1 ½ Tbsp (7.5mL) beef-like seasoning | 1 Tbsp (15mL) minced onion |
| ¼ cup (30 g) gluten flour* | ½ cup (120mL) soy milk or nut milk |
| 2 tsp (10mL) onion powder | 1 Tbsp (15mL) oil |

Spread in pan. Top with the following sauce.

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|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 (6 oz.) [170 g] can tomato paste | 1 Tbsp (15mL) onion powder |
| 1 tsp (5mL) salt | 1/3 cup (73.3 g) sucanat |
| 1 cup (240mL) water | 3 Tbsp (45mL) lemon juice |
| 3 Tbsp (45mL) oil | |

Mix in saucepan and bring to a boil. Pour over loaf. Bake at 350°F (176 °C) for 30 minutes.

***Gluten-free variation** -- Replace the gluten flour with another binder like potato flour. Make the burger delight with quinoa instead of wheat.

Burger Delight, in case you missed it before--2 cups (360 g) bulgur wheat*, ½ medium onion, in pieces, 1 qt.(950 mL) canned tomatoes [OR 1 can tomato paste (6 oz.) [170 g] and 3 cups (700 mL) water], 2-3 garlic cloves, 1 cup (125 g) walnuts, 1 Tbsp (15 mL) vegetable salt, 2 Tbsp (30 mL) molasses

Place the wheat in a sauce pan. Place the other ingredients in a blender and blend until smooth. Add to wheat. Simmer approximately 20 minutes or until wheat kernels are soft and liquid is absorbed, stirring occasionally. On a cookie sheet, bake at 250-275°F (121-135°C) for 45- 60 minutes or until it is a loose burger-like consistency. Stir occasionally. Do not overcook. Remove from oven while still moist. FREEZES WELL. I usually make a double batch and keep it on hand.



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QUOTABLE QUOTES

I have but one passion - it is He, it is He alone. The world is the field and the field is the world; and henceforth that country shall be my home where I can be most used in winning souls for Christ.

—Nicolaus Zinzendorf



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FAILING GARDEN, ABUNDANT HARVEST?

It was late summer, and yet the tomato plants that should have been thriving (with fruit waiting to be canned for a year's worth of pizza sauce) were only a few inches tall, barely having grown since I planted them four months before. Three months of diligent watering, had yielded nothing. The desolation and lack of fruitfulness around me certainly wasn't limited to the tomato crop either. The corn (that had grown to 9 feet in previous years) grew and tasseled before it was even waist high, withering as it went. The kale wasn't even worth the seed it took to plant it, and the always prosperous pumpkins died back mysteriously, supplying only a few toy sized pumpkins. Even the garden that was still alive was dwarfed. "Lord, is this how you feel when Your field (the world—Matt. 13:38) is desolated by worldliness and fanaticism?" I prayed.

Several months before, I had noticed that, due to environmental factors outside of my control, things in the garden just weren't growing. I really felt it was a waste of time to continue to keep watering, but two factors made me persevere despite pressure from other family members who pronounced it useless. The first was, I knew that the field represents the world, so I didn't want to leave off "missionary efforts" just because there was no apparent fruit, for Paul wrote in Gal. 6:9 *"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."* So I determined to persevere in watering. The second factor that encouraged me to keep going was that for years our garden had been a large portion of our sustenance, and from a human perspective, without it, hunger lurked at our door. "God, You told us to get out in the country and grow our own provisions. You promised that *"He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread:"* (Prov.12:11) I'm obeying to the best of my ability, and I've paid my tithe that's my part, but You are going to have to make up the difference, pleeeeee." I prayed earnestly. I really don't know what I expected God to do; I kind of wondered if at the end of the season, God would cause at least the most important of the unpromising plants to suddenly grow and produce. I determined that my job was to water and have faith that somehow God would provide. After all, this



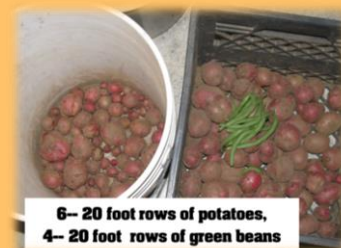
situation definitely fit the Hebrews 11:1 definition. *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."*



As the summer passed, one by one, I sadly decided a few plants were too dead to continue watering. I thought, *this must be how God works for our salvation. He never gives up as long as there is any possible sign of life, even when others would have given up on us years before, he keeps working, but when death comes to the wicked, even God tearfully quits "watering".*

One night as I watered in the dusk, I spotted a grasshopper sitting among my withering, unprosperous corn plants. Although it never spoke, I knew it had a message for me. Tears welled up in my eyes, as I recounted the grasshopper promise. *"And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten..."* Joel 2:25 Although I didn't know how, I left the field that night knowing that somehow God was going to supply our needs and replace the dying garden.

But for a while nothing happened, so we harvested what we could. We dug potatoes row after row, realizing we were getting back little more than we had planted. The green beans too were failing—the pods mysteriously drying up empty instead of growing plump and green, only a few survived. In the meantime we decided to help a few folks with pressing winter preparation projects.



But then God had a big surprise planned for us for He had promised, *"And it shall come to pass, if*



thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments... Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store.:The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses..." Deut. 28:1,5,8 One by one, God used other appointed means to replace what hadn't grown in our garden. We were given bushels of corn and tomatoes, and boxes of grapes. We were invited to pick peaches, apples and pears. We were given potatoes and other staples. So much came in at harvest time, that we spent days canning, drying, juicing, freezing, preserving until the cabinets were full. The house was covered in more produce than the garden in its best year had ever grown. Malachi 3:10 automatically came to our minds, *"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, ..., and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."* As I looked at my once empty pantry, now full for the winter, the words of a good friend rang in my ears, *"God is faithful. He is so faithful."*

Study to Shew Thyself Approved

GUESS THE VERSE

Can you guess which Bible verses these are and what they are saying?

1. *Im Anfang schuf Gott den Himmel und die Erde.*
2. 神爱世人，甚至将他的独生子赐给他们，叫一切信他的，不至灭亡，反得永生。
3. *Want die loon van die sonde is die dood, maar die genadegawe van God is die ewige lewe in Christus Jesus, onse Here.*
4. *Si nous confessons nos péchés, il est fidèle et juste pour nous pardonner nos péchés, et nous nettoyer de toute iniquité.*
5. *Yesus berkata kepadanya, Aku adalah jalan, kebenaran, dan hidup: tak seorangpun datang kepada Bapa, kecuali melalui Aku.*
6. *Ol heven i tokaut long glori bilong God. Na spes i soim wok bilong han bilong Em.*
7. *Así alumbre vuestra luz delante de los hombres, para que vean vuestras buenas obras, y glorifiquen a vuestro Padre que está en el cielo.*

Having trouble understanding the Bible verses? Perhaps you can now sympathize better with the one billion plus people who do not have a Bible in their first language. Despite the fact that 72% of Americans believe every language in the world has a Bible¹, out of the 7,000+ languages spoken in the world today, only 670 have a full Bible available in the language.² The other languages only have the New Testament or other portions available in the language. In some places, the lack of religious materials available in the local language has driven missionaries to try to teach the people English. But would you want to learn a foreign language in order to understand the Bible?



Here are a couple of trivia questions in English for you.

1. **What has to happen before the end comes?** Matthew 24:14 “*And this gospel of the _____ shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end _____.*”
2. **What is it that plays a major role in the preaching of the gospel?** 1 Peter 1:25 “*But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is _____ which by the gospel is _____ unto you.*”
3. **Are other languages besides English to be used in preaching the gospel?** Revelation 14:6 “*And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the _____ gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every _____, and kindred, and _____, and people,*”

“The greatest missionary is the Bible in the mother tongue. It needs no furlough and is never considered a foreigner.”—William Townsend

¹Barna Group, 2015 *State of the Bible Report* Pg. 10

²<https://www.wycliffe.org.uk/about/our-impact/>

English Answers: 1. kingdom, come 2. the word, preached 3. everlasting, nation, tongue
 5. Indonesian—John 14:6 6. Tok Pisin—Psalm 19:1 7. Spanish—Matthew 5:16
 Answers: 1. German—Genesis 1:1 2. Chinese—John 3:16 3. Afrikaans—Romans 6:23 4. French—1 John 1:9



April Nobile_ © AntWeb.org_CC BY-SA 3.0

GOD'S AMAZING CREATURES

The High Noon Ant is a hardworking ant that lives in the deserts of the United States. During the day, the tiny worker ants take out of their nest anything that they don't want and dump it outside the entrance hole. Close to sunset, some of the worker ants start closing the nests' entrance hole with sand. When the hole is almost closed, most of the worker ants go inside. But some must stay outside and finish closing the hole to protect the other ants so that they will be safe during the night. By the next morning most of the ants that stayed outside to finish closing the hole the night before will have died. They were willing to die so that the other ants could live. These ants remind us of Jesus who was willing to come and die for us, to keep us safe from sin.



Patience's grandma gave her the last large red apple she had. So Patience's little sister didn't get an apple. Patience's sister was sad. Patience wanted her little sister to be happy so she had her grandma cut the apple in half. Patience gave one-half to her sister. Her sister was happy to get part of the apple. Jesus was happy Patience shared with her sister.

Passion's aunt gave Passion two oranges, one for Passion and one for her little brother. But Passion wouldn't share with her little brother. Passion told him he had to pay her money for his orange. Jesus was sad Passion was selfish and wouldn't share with her brother unless he paid her.



Memory Text

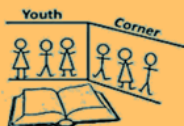
Matthew 10:8

"... freely ye have received, freely give."

PROFITABLE TRADITIONS

Cultivate a Bible Knowledge—What if you were stranded on a deserted island with no Bible? See how much of the Bible you and your family or friends can reconstruct from memory. One variation of this game is to see if you can come up with a memory verse for each book of the Old Testament or the New Testament or both together. *"Keep your Bible with you. As you have opportunity, read it; fix the texts in your memory. Even while you are walking the streets, you may read a passage, and meditate upon it, thus fixing it in the mind."*

{Christian Education p. 58}



Rich Cat. Poor Man. Who Is The Thief?

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation." Malachi 3:8, 9

Little Tommaso was very poor. He had no home and wandered alone on the streets until Maria found him in an alley. The wealthy childless widow took him into her home and cared for him. A few years later, when she died Maria left her entire \$13 million estate to four-year-old Tommaso. It was an amazing story of from rags to riches. And what a great story of charity to a homeless... well in actuality Tommaso was a stray house cat.

While it may seem ridiculous to many to leave such a fortune to an animal when there are thousands starving for food in our world, do many Christians do any better? One person stated, *"Today Christians spend more money on dog food than missions."* And most would agree that pet food is one of the worthier things Christians often spend money on, since plenty of money is also spent on unhealthful food, extravagant clothing, unnecessary electronics and the list could go on and on. Are Christians who use their money for self any better than a millionaire who left her fortune to a stray cat? Are we robbing God in tithes and offerings? A survey on giving found that the majority of Christians don't give very much of their income. The top three religious denominations who gave the highest percent of their income on average were the Latter-day Saints (LDS), the Assemblies of God, and the Seventh-day Adventists (SDAs). Thirty to forty-five percent of LDS gave 10% of their income (the amount of tithe—Lev. 27:30, 32), the Assemblies of God members gave over 5% and SDAs gave over 4%.¹ This would lead to the conclusion that the majority in the Christian world are robbing God in tithes and offerings.



I recently read a story of a man who had a disturbing dream. He dreamed that God had taken his weekly offering he gave at church and multiplied it by ten. This amount then became his weekly income. He said, "In no time I lost my color TV, had to give up my new car and couldn't make my house payment. After all, what can a fellow do on \$10 a week?"

This story leaves a very thought provoking question for each one of us. If God took your offerings, multiplied them by ten, and made that your income, how much would you make? Could you survive on such an income?

¹<http://www.adherents.com/misc/giving.html>



Deadly Addiction?

BBC's news headline startled me, *"The Addiction that is Worse than Alcohol or Drug Abuse"*. Below, an explanation read *"If you can't turn away from Facebook, Snapchat or other social media you are not alone..."*¹ I thought back to the group of teenagers I had seen years ago in town at a fast food restaurant. They were so interested in texting on their cell phones that they were ignoring their friends to text. At least I thought so, until I realized that instead of talking and interacting normally, they were actually texting each other throughout the whole meal. Social media is equally stale and fake. A friend shared with me that when they posted a certain video on social media they got multitudinous "likes" on it. They were elated, until they realized that only about 5 people had actually watched the video, apparently all the other "likes" were just the push of a button.

Unfortunately, the problem has spread and now therapists are actually offering detox retreats and counseling to help people overcome addictions to electronic devices. The article states, *"In some ways, the psychological impact caused by Facebook, Snapchat and other digital platforms can be more difficult to treat than other recognised addictions, Driskell says. 'It's worse than alcohol or drug abuse because it's much more engaging and there's no stigma behind it,' he says."*¹

Media addiction has become so bad that it is actually affecting people's health as well as the health of their family and friends. A Fox News article citing 5 reasons why we will outlive our kids lists social media as one cause of the "Down in the Dumps" which is one of the 5 reasons children may not live as long as their parents. It states, *"The influence of social media on the pressures of current youth cannot be underestimated either. There have been many reports that question whether Facebook is doing more harm than good, and whether it has undermined the ability for adolescents to adequately communicate with each other."*²

Time Magazine reveals one reason, "Why Facebook makes you feel Bad about Yourself" stating, *"skimming through photos of friends' life successes can trigger feelings of envy, misery and loneliness ... according to researchers from two German universities. The scientists studied 600 people who logged time on the social network and discovered that one in three felt worse after visiting*

the site—especially if they viewed vacation photos. Facebook frequenters who spent time on the site without posting their own content were also more likely to feel dissatisfied.”

Reader’s Digest expounds yet another reason that social media can cause potential problems stating, *“One study from HP Labs found that people were more open to peer pressure within social networks. Subjects were more likely to change their minds about ‘liking’ certain things (one cute baby over another, for instance) if enough time had passed and they could see the other side was more popular.”*³

In another article, entitled *“This is How the Internet is Rewiring our Brains”*, the first fact listed is, *“The Internet may give you an addict’s brain. MRI research has shown that the brains of Internet users who have trouble controlling their craving to be constantly plugged-in exhibit changes similar to those seen in people addicted to drugs and alcohol. A 2011 study showed that unplugging from technology for one day gave some users physical and mental withdrawal symptoms...”*⁴

Here’s why—*“Each time we receive a notification or a ‘like’ on social media, an area of our brain called the nucleus accumbens lights up to give us a sense of gratification which goes a long way to explain why social media is so appealing and why it can become all-consuming. The danger, explains Michael, is that people are opting for this online gratification at the expense of the real world.*

*“Researchers have said the internet gives us more of a dopamine kick than having chocolate, than having sex, than achieving high results, than winning a medal, these things we used to strive for that were so important to us [as] a society,” she says. “Even contact between two people, the most intimate thing in the world, gets superceded, because people get more of a fix from friends or even strangers ‘liking’ them, than the person sitting next to them in the bed with a similar device. Even a cuddle now, is not the same as, ‘Oh, 50 people just liked my photo.’” Michael adds that this can be problematic because people are starting to miss out on the true, physical sensations of needing cuddles or eye contact.”*⁵

In 2008, China became the first nation to declare this a clinical disorder. It has even set up boot camps for those who are internet addicted. *“There are 632 million internet users in China—and 24 million of its children are thought to be addicted.”*⁶ Just that portion,



which only considers addicted children and not adults, is roughly four percent! This statistic shows that internet addiction is the newest rival for drugs, tobacco and alcohol and no wonder. *“‘Internet addiction leads to problems in the brain similar to those derived from heroin consumption,’ Tao says in his office at the centre’s headquarters... ‘But, generally, it is even more damaging. It destroys relationships and deteriorates the body without the person knowing. All of them have eyesight and back problems and suffer from eating disorders. In addition, we have discovered that their brain capacity is reduced by eight per cent, and the psychological afflictions are serious. If someone is spending six hours or more on the internet, we consider that to be an addiction.’”*⁷

Eleven signs of internet addiction include--heightened euphoria while on the internet, spending more and more time on the internet, failure to control behavior –less self-control, neglecting family and friends so that you can get your obsessive fill of the web, withdrawal from other activities, lying about your usage, the internet interfering with your job and school responsibilities, craving more time online and being restless when away from a computer, feeling guilty or ashamed about how much you go online, a change in your sleep pattern, as well as a weight change, backaches, headaches, or carpal tunnel syndrome.⁸

A PBS News Hour reinforced the danger of *“The drug-like effect of screen time on the teenage brain”*⁹ by sharing a research study on the effect when they exposed young mice to switching sounds and light. Researchers studied especially what multitasking, switching rapidly back and forth between digital devices, does to the brain function of mice. Here is their stated result *“We looked at the effect on learning and found that the ability of these young mice to learn new things was very much compromised. It took them three times longer or more to learn how to go through a maze than the non-exposed young mice. We are exposing a whole generation of children to this rapid-paced media, and we have no clue what it does to the brain. And if it’s the same as we see in the mice, then this is very shocking news.”* They suggest at least four measures to curb media use: #1. No phone use in the car {except for navigation}, #2. No screen during mealtime, #3. No screens in bedrooms at night and #4. Weekly discussions about tech use.

Despite all the evidence, there will always be some who say, *“You’re over exaggerating, it is not really that bad.”* Unfortunately, you might be surprised how many marriages end or are unhealthy due to media use, how many parent-child relationships are ruined, how many friendships are ended, but more than one story demonstrates the fact that media is really a deadly addiction. The headlines ring out, *“South Korean Couple let their Baby Starve to death (as they played online game bringing up a VIRTUAL child)”*¹⁰

I believe the more we heed the Word of God in Jeremiah 6:16. *“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls...”* the better our mental, physical, social and spiritual health will be.

¹ <http://www.bbc.com/capital/story/20170417-the-addiction-thats-worse-than-alcohol-or-drug-abuse> ² <http://www.foxnews.com/health/2013/09/05/five-reasons-why-may-outlive-our-kids.html>

³ <http://www.rd.com/health/wellness/negative-effects-of-social-media/> ⁴ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/30/shocking-ways-internet-rewires-brain_n_4136942.html

⁵ <http://www.stuff.co.nz/life-style/well-good/teach-me/79507363/what-social-media-is-really-doing-to-our-brains> ⁶ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/health/11345412/Inside-the-Chinese-boot-camp-treating-Internet-addiction.html> ⁷ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/health/11345412/Inside-the-Chinese-boot-camp-treating-Internet-addiction.html>

⁸ http://archive.boston.com/news/health/Gallery/090409_internet_addiction?pg=2 ⁹ <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/the-drug-like-effect-of-screen-time-on-the-teenage-brain/>

¹⁰ <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1282217/South-Korean-couple-let-baby-starve-death-played-online-game-bringing-VIRTUAL-child.html>