

September – October 2004

Dear Fellow Helpers to the truth,

*Psalms 68:19, "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us **with benefits**, even the God of our salvation. Selah."* This verse has become precious to the Widener family over the past couple of months. In the previous verse the ascension of Christ is prophesied of and how He has "*received gifts for men.*" In this report I want to share some of the benefits or gifts that the Lord Jesus Christ has bestowed upon us to the glory of His name!

**Salvation!** These benefits originate with the "*God of our salvation,*" and the greatest gift, of course, is the gift of salvation. I will never forget the day in which the Lord Jesus Christ saved my soul! It is this gift of grace that motivates me to keep pressing on in the deputation trail. What a great privilege it has been to share the news of this gift with many souls across this great country of ours. Yet, my soul longs to be in Ghana where precious souls are waiting to hear about this "*unspeakable gift.*"

**The Ministry!** I heard a song recently entitled, "He called Me." What an honor it is to be called into the ministry of full-time missionary evangelism. I agree with C. H. Spurgeon who said, "If God has called you to be a missionary, do not stoop to be a king!" Recently, while I was conducting an invitation at the close of my message, the pastor came forward to surrender to the call of missions! Blessed be the LORD!

**Daily Provisions!** It never ceases to amaze me how the Lord provides for our large family. A few weeks ago, I went to the dentist only to find out I needed to have a gold crown that would cost \$920.00. As I waited for my wife, who was having her teeth cleaned, I pondered and prayed over how this need would be met. As we paid for the check-up, the secretary said to me, "We can do the crown next Tuesday." I looked at my wife in hesitation. The secretary then informed me that the lab was not going to charge me for the crown, and so the dentist was not going to charge for having it put on. I quickly replied, "I can have it done Tuesday!" Blessed be the LORD!

**Other Blessings!** Since our last report, eight more churches have taken us on for monthly support: Fellowship Baptist, Perryton, TX; Victory Baptist, Stinnett, TX; Gospel Baptist, Carrollton, KY; Bibleway Miss. Baptist, Hamilton, OH; Ellicott Baptist, Ellicott, CO; Metropolitan Baptist, Ft. Worth, TX; Edmond Rd. Baptist, Edmond, OK; and Temple Baptist, Sante Fe, NM. Thank you for your confidence in us! This brings our support level to 45 %. Blessed be the LORD! In closing, a question for all of us to ponder, "*What shall I render unto the LORD for all **his benefits** toward me?*" (Ps. 116:12).

For His Glory,

Johnny Widener

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