



THE SIGNAL

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR SUPPORTERS
OF THE "WHERE GOD IS BLESSING"
BROADCASTING NETWORK

WGIB 91.9 FM | WQEM 101.5 FM | WAY TELEVISION CHANNEL 47 | WWW.GLENIRIS.NET

VOLUME 8

APRIL 2021

NO. 60

In Luke's account of our Lord's sufferings he mentions a man named Simon. The soldiers accosted him to help carry the cross of Christ. What a moving portrait this is! Matthew's account tells us "...as they came out [of Pilate's hall], they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear His cross." [Matt. 27:32]

Cyrene was a city in North Africa. It appears that Simon had made the long journey—some 800 miles—to come observe Passover. Obviously, he was a faithful and observant Jew.

Under Roman practice it was part of the humiliation of a convicted criminal to carry his cross. When Jesus left Pilate, beaten beyond recognition [Isaiah 52:14], His back one huge open wound with the muscles and ligaments showing, He was struggling beneath the heavy cross beam. John writes, "Then delivered he Him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led Him away. And He bearing His cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha." [John 19:16-17]

Carrying a cross was a stigma of guilt, yet our Lord was guiltless. "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." [2 Cor. 5:21] Hebrews 4:15 tells us He "...was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Some think that this experience, meant to be an embarrassment for Simon, actually led to his conversion. "What looked to Simon like a catastrophe turned out to be a wonderful opportunity, for it brought him in contact with Jesus Christ." [Wiersbe, *NT Commentary*, p. 274] Have you thanked the Lord for whatever it was that brought you to Him, even though it might have been a heavy burden or a humiliating circumstance?

Mark's account gives us added information that Simon was father to Alexander and Rufus [see Mark 15:21]. He takes it for granted that these two men were widely known among the churches. Paul closes his letter to the Romans with the admonition to "Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine." [Romans 16:13] It is possible that Paul is referring to the son and wife of Simon of Cyrene. [These are the only places where Rufus is mentioned in the Bible.]

Spurgeon sees this vignette as a picture of the church in the world today. As Simon helped Christ with His cross, we carry on the work of Christ, often under difficult and cumbrous circumstances. Our Lord does not exclude us from suffering. We are to endure hardness as good soldiers. Hardness means tough things, misunderstandings, afflictions, physical infirmities, deprivations and "thorns in the flesh." "Christ exempts us from the penalty of sin, but not from the fellowship of His sufferings." [C. H. Spurgeon]

Beware of the snare of living so that no one will not like you, for you will be found making soft choices, taking the easy path, or never leaving the soft couch at all.

Remember that when you've been summoned to carry the cross, He's right beside you in the struggle. His blood was already on the cross beam when it was placed on Simon's back. Like the shepherd going before the sheep, He goes before us. The way is blood-marked. "And He said unto them all, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me...For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? For whosoever shall be ashamed of Me and My words, of him shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when He shall come in his own glory..." [Luke 9:23-26]



WGIB
Share-a-thon
Thursday & Friday, May 6-7
Call in your pledge! | 205-323-1516

This is a holy partnership. Christ is right beside us in the whole endeavor. Just as Simon was specially chosen for this task, so have we been chosen for ours.

Amy Carmichael, missionary in India for over fifty years wrote this:

No Scar?

*Hast thou no scar:
No hidden scar on foot, or side, or hand?
I hear thee sung as mighty in the land,
I hear them hail thy bright ascendant star,
Hast thou no scar?*

*Hast thou no wound?
Yet I was wounded by the archers, spent,
Leaned me against a tree to die; and rent*

*By ravening wolves that compassed me,
I swooned; hast thou no wound?*

*No wound? No scar?
Yet, as the Master shall the servant be,
And pierced are the feet that follow Me;
But thine are whole; can he have followed far
Who hath no wound nor scar?*

Thank you for joining with us in this joyful burden of getting out the gospel. We depend upon your prayers and support. You help to lighten the load. We enjoy hearing from you and praying over your requests. May He, in turn, supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Your servant,
Chris Lamb

FROM OUR STATION MANAGER

The mission of the Where God Is Blessing Network is to broadcast the gospel of Jesus Christ in obedience to our Lord's command to "go into all the world and preach the gospel" to every nation. [Matthew 28:19] The preaching of the gospel is an integral part of the daily programming of WGIB. Every day through numerous messages and through the biblical lyrics of Christian music, the gospel is proclaimed through this broadcasting ministry. The second part of WGIB's mission statement is given in the second part of the Great Commission: "And teach the things I have commanded you" [Matthew 28:20]. This is an equally important aspect of the daily mission of WGIB. The Apostle Paul encouraged Timothy, his son in the faith, to "continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them...which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." [2 Timothy 3:14-15]. A frequent spiritual diet of ingesting the Word of God through expository preaching and the engagement in verse-by-verse Bible study are essential parts of the sanctification process for the Christian believer. God has ordained that the sanctification process for each believer include sitting under the preaching of a Bible-preaching pastor in your local church. Additionally, a daily time for private personal Bible reading and prayer are essential to his personal spiritual growth.

Christian radio provides additional biblical teaching as a supplement to these sources of truth. The diligent study of God's Word is a life-long pursuit for those who desire to be faithful to Jesus Christ and will, by God's grace, not be found ashamed [2 Timothy 2:15].

Here is a list of a few programs heard daily on WGIB that systematically teach through the Bible with expository preaching and that are designed to equip you with God's wisdom and build your faith:

Truth for Life with Alistair Begg [weekdays, 6:30 AM]. Currently Alistair Begg is teaching through the Gospel

According to Luke. If you miss a broadcast, free audio downloads are available on the *Truth for Life* website. For more information visit: truthforlife.org.

Through the Bible with Dr. J. Vernon McGee [weekdays, 10:00 AM]. Beginning in the book of Genesis, Dr. McGee has recently started another five-year study through the Bible. For a Bible-reading schedule, along with Dr. McGee's notes and other resources, visit the *Through the Bible* website: ttb.org.

Turning Point with Dr. David Jeremiah [weekdays at 11:00 AM]. For information about additional resources or for details about current and upcoming studies, visit davidjeremiah.org.

Grace to You with Dr. John MacArthur [weekdays at 6:30 PM]. During the month of April, Dr. MacArthur is preaching a series from the book of Philemon called "Lessons on Forgiveness." If you miss a broadcast, free audio downloads are available on the *Grace to You* website: gty.org.

Pillars of Preaching [M,T,Th, Fri at 7:00 PM] is currently featuring the expository preaching of the late Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones. Each message systematically examines the biblical doctrines taught in the book of Romans.

There have been some changes in our broadcast schedule since we mailed printed copies. An updated schedule can be viewed and/or downloaded from www.gleniris.net/wgib or on the Glen Iris Ministries mobile app.

With our annual Share-a-thon just a few days away, we would love for you to join us for these two important days when we ask our listeners to help us continue this ministry for another year. Just complete and mail us the enclosed sheet with your monthly or one-time gift, or you can call us with your pledge during our live Share-a-thon event on May 6-7 at 205-323-1516.

Sincerely,
Paul Hancock