

REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

Souls Needing a Savior

By Pastor Brian De Jong

Before we left for our Brazilian adventure, Don DeTroye was telling me about some providential experiences that he has had on his journeys, and how they turned out for the gospel. That was on my mind as we touched down in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Since our flight from Atlanta left almost an hour late, and because of a short layover, I was suspecting that we would miss our connecting flight to Belem in the north.

My suspicions proved correct and we were unable to make it to our gate before the flight left. After wandering around in the airport looking for the Delta office, we finally found a line of people waiting to talk to a Delta agent. Long story short, they booked us on another flight to Belem, but it was leaving from another airport. They kindly put us in a taxi and we sped off through downtown Sao Paulo. Since our driver spoke no English, and we had no skill in Portuguese, it was a quiet ride.

As we drove through a city of 12 million people, I thought about souls needing a Savior. Here are people not unlike us in many ways. They have families, they work at their jobs, they have joys and sorrows. There are some who are wealthy, some who constitute a growing middle class, and many who are poor. They are all sinners, needing a Savior.

Fast forward to Belem, where Robert Davis was waiting to pick us up at the airport. Because we arrived late in the day,

we stayed overnight before attempting the 300 mile drive south to his family's farm.

That evening we went down to the waterfront for dinner and a little sightseeing. Driving through Belem, talking with our waiter, and seeing folks strolling along the waterfront gave me the same impression – souls needing a Savior!

Next morning, we headed out for the drive to the farm. Once we were out of town and into the countryside, we saw the



natural beauty of Brazil. We also saw many roadside stands of people selling local fruits and vegetables, fresh coconut water and assorted other goods. Driving through one little town, girls selling coconuts waved as we drove past –

souls needing a Savior.

The same thing can be seen driving through Adell, Hingham, Plymouth, Sheboygan Falls, Howards Grove, or any other city or town or village in Wisconsin – souls needing a Savior. Though the language, culture, habits, customs and living situations of people may be different in Brazil than they are in Sheboygan county, we all share a fundamental need that no one can meet on their own. We are all souls needing a Savior.

Enter the Gospel. Here is the solution to what no one can provide for themselves. This is the answer to the nagging problem of sin. Because we are guilty of Adam's first transgression, and share in his sin nature, we are accomplished sinners

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Mnemonics...

- **OPC General Assembly, June 1st-6th**
- **Meadowview Manor, June 4th, 3pm**
- **Session Meeting, June 13th, 6:30pm**
- **Mini golf, June 22nd**

Continued on last page...

GOOD NEWS JAIL & PRISON MINISTRY MAY NEWSLETTER



In my ministry as a Chaplain, I've been asked many questions about what I do. On such question has been, "Is it really worth the time and effort you put in?" Some of you may have pondered the same question. I want to share a letter from someone on the "receiving end" of ministry in our correctional facilities. Here are his words... My name is David and I'm currently an inmate at the Sheboygan County Detention Center where Chaplain Rick serves as the chaplain. The purpose of this letter is to thank you for reaching out to people who would otherwise be shunned by society. Through my testimony I want to show you that you do make a difference on behalf of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. For me, coming to faith was a long journey that I started as a child. After years of suffering abuse from my earthly father and seeing him abuse my mother as well, I came to believe there could not really be a God at all. I left home and turned to a life of alcohol and fast living. Through the years, things went from bad to worse, until one night I put a gun to my head and pulled the trigger. The gun misfired, the police were called, and I ended up here to spend the next year of my life. I was lost and confused and I still wanted to die, but after a long conversation with Chaplain Rick, I began to see that I needed this Jesus, he was talking about, in my life. Because of Chaplain Rick's love and compassion, I began to see how God had been at work in my life all along, even on the night when I tried to take my own life. I fell to my knees and cried out to God, knowing I couldn't live any longer and that, somehow, I could live through Jesus Christ. From that moment on, I have no longer been alone. I have found my light in the darkness. I have found my reason to live – my Savior. Even though I am still locked away in this place, I know that Jesus walks beside me. Chaplain Rick never gave up on me. He has shown me how precious God's love is for

even me. He has taught me the importance of forgiveness and how we should forgive others as God forgives us. You do make a difference, Praise God. Your brother in Christ, David. You might be asking, "So does one person make it worth the time?" Let me quote our Lord Himself to answer this question. These words are found in Luke 15:7. "I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent." I'm absolutely certain if you ask all the volunteers who minister to inmates in our facilities, they will tell you, "Yes, it's worth it all!" I want to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers who give of their time and love, week after week, to demonstrate and extend the love of Jesus Christ to those behind the bars of our detention facilities. There truly is rejoicing in heaven as a result of the time you give.

Praise Reports/Prayer Requests

- Please pray for men & women who are searching for hope.
- Pray that hearts are receptive to the Gospel
- Pray for the Sheriff Department personnel as they serve our community

Blessings,

Chaplain Rick Cawthon
Good News Jail & Prison Ministry
2923 S. 31st St Sheboygan, WI 53081
920.459.1356 - office
920.459.1307 – fax

THE WESTERVELD FAMILY IN QUEBEC, CANADA

Sunday April 9th we rejoiced to hear the profession of faith of Eugenie Catta (pictured) and receive her as a member of Christ's Church through the sign and seal of baptism.

Eugenie was born to a Jewish father and a Roman Catholic mother. While neither parent ever really practiced their faith, belief in the existence of God was part of their family life. During studies at Laval University in Quebec City, Eugenie was part of a group of friends with Luc-Antoine, a member of our Church. **Luc-Antoine** was the only believer in the group, and occasionally bugged by his friends for his faith. Eugenie, however, was intrigued by his quiet persistence.

Two years ago **Eugenie came to our Easter Sunday service. Six months** later she began worshipping regularly with us. This past January she asked to be baptised, and so we went through a series of Bible and confessional studies. With her whole family present, Eugenie professed faith in Christ as her Saviour and Lord, and she received the covenant sign of baptism. (*She is the fourth adult to be baptised during my 16 year ministry!*)

As a follow-up, Eugenie and Luc-Antoine will be marrying this summer. Pray for continued growth in the knowledge of Christ, and in the joy of living the Christian faith as a couple.

Taken from the Westerveld's monthly newsletter "Pray4Quebec."
Write to Ben at b_westerveld@hotmail.com to ask to receive their newsletter.



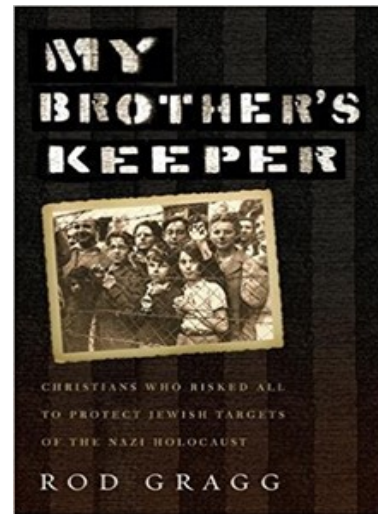
Prayer Requests

- Pray for the 55 kids enrolled in the English Immersion Bible Camps at the end of June.
- Pray for a positive testimony to the Muslim family in whose house our mission team will be staying.
- Pray for our English for Teens camp, in which there are only 7 youth enrolled so far. We would love to see 20 or more attend.
- A young man or woman willing to serve as a missionary associate to assist in the outreach and discipleship ministries of St-Marc's Reformed Church in Quebec City, where Rev. Westerveld serves as Pastor.



Book Review :
My Brother's Keeper:
Christians who risked
all to protect Jewish
targets of the Nazi
Holocaust

By Ron Gragg



“There is a darkness lurking in the soul of man that opens
his heart to the swastika”

-a former SS officer

My Brother's Keeper is a sobering book that tells the powerful stories of 30 Christians from across denominations who gave everything they had to save Jewish people from the evils of the Holocaust. Each chapter in the book is about a different person, family, or church group who professed the name of Christ and refused to remain silent or inactive as the holocaust descended upon Europe. This brave group was made up of people from all walks of life including ordinary teenage girls, pastors, priests, a German army officer, a former Italian fascist, an international spy, and even a princess. Many of these ordinary, everyday heroes perished alongside the very people they were trying to protect.

The book gives an accurate history of the holocaust and WWII telling a disturbing story of the cruelty of man. In contrast, it tells of the incredible bravery of those who stood up to evil. My Brother's Keeper was a difficult book to read at points. It left me wondering what I would do if I were in a similar situation. I pray that I would be able to stand up against such evils in the same way.

This book is available to check out from the library system.

Submitted by Sara TenPas



Return to Haiti: An Update on the Hopp Family

Our family returned to Haiti on April 19th! We were excited that our US immigration paperwork arrived (just as many of you prayed) and we were able to fly back to the mission field.



On Sunday we had the delight of worshipping with our brothers and sisters again in Port-au-Prince. What a kind welcome they gave us! There was even a sign outside the church welcoming back the Hopp family! We want to say thank you to those of you who prayed for Octavius and Marie Delfils, associate missionaries on the OPC Haiti Mission, who continued to labor while we were away on furlough. He sustained them and their family, and blessed their labors among the churches. Our God is good and we praise Him! We are thankful to be back and be able to take up our labors alongside the Delfils' family.

Coming back after a year means there is lots to do to get a house back up and running. We are thankful for Don and Jim who flew into Haiti the same afternoon as we did. They worked hard all week to get the equipment running, make some medications and even travel to La Gonâve with Ben on Saturday. We could see God's providential hand at work in many circumstances through the week. It seemed that God need Don and Jim to be here right up to the last moment before their departure to fix things. And praise God they were!



We want to say thank you again for praying for our transition. It has gone well so far and there have been wonderful hellos after the difficult goodbyes of the past month. Continue to pray that the Gospel would go forward here in Haiti.

Taken from the Hopps' monthly newsletter

Prayer Requests for Haiti

1. Ask the Lord to continue to work by His Holy Spirit in the hearts and minds of those in Haiti who hear the call of the Gospel. It is our privilege to preach the Word and to disciple those in the churches.
2. Pray that security conditions would continue to improve in Haiti as the new government gets established. We ask for calm particularly in the neighborhood of Arcahaie, just down the road from the Kaliko Mission Home.
3. Give thanks for the various translation projects ongoing and the hard work of Pastor Octavius who is translating and proofing. Pray that God would give wisdom as the Mission considers which works to print.
4. Pray for preparations for various short-term teams who will visit through the rest of 2017. We are grateful for their willingness to come and help us minister to the people of Haiti through Vacation Bible School, leader training, and construction.

COMMENTS ON FINANCES

By Joel Moody

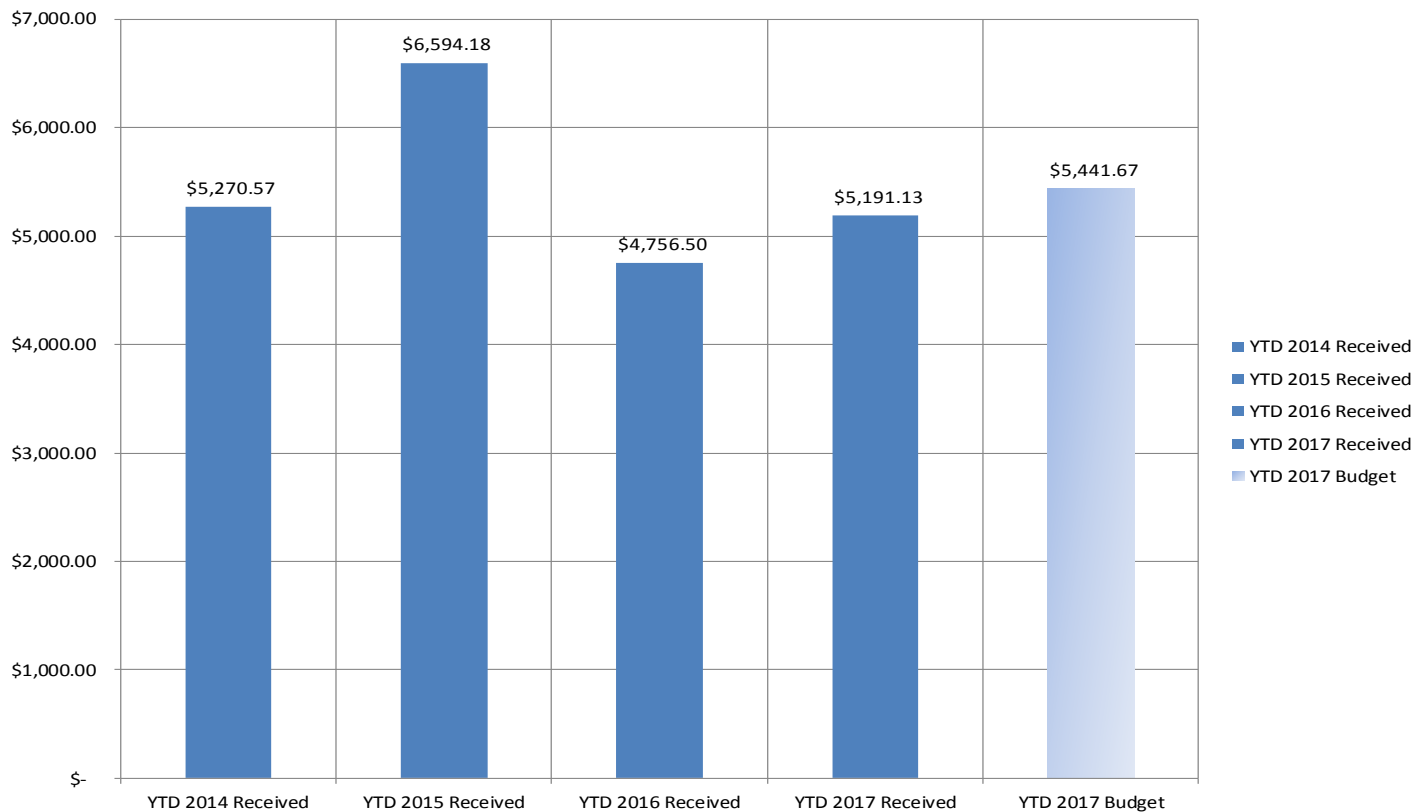
General Fund receipts for April totaled \$16,861.50 as compared to the budget of \$16,740.49, while General Fund disbursements for April totaled \$15,731.85. April year to date General Fund receipts totaled \$55,989.70 as compared to the budget of \$60,265.74 (a shortfall of \$4,276.04), while April year to date disbursements of \$53,027.93 were \$7,237.81 below budget. Through the end of April, the General Fund has increased by \$2,994.67 due to lower than budgeted disbursements. Year to date General Fund receipts for April were 8.8% below last year's total on an average Sunday while disbursements were 3.6% below the prior year.

Benevolence Fund Receipts for April totaled \$1,161.00 as compared to the budget of \$1,360.42 (a shortfall of \$199.42). Year to date Benevolence Fund Receipts through April totaled \$5,191.13 and fell short of budget by \$250.54. Please refer to the graph for a historical trend of benevolence receipts as well as the current benevolence budget. During April, \$500.00 was sent to Worldwide Outreach (WWO) for the General Missions

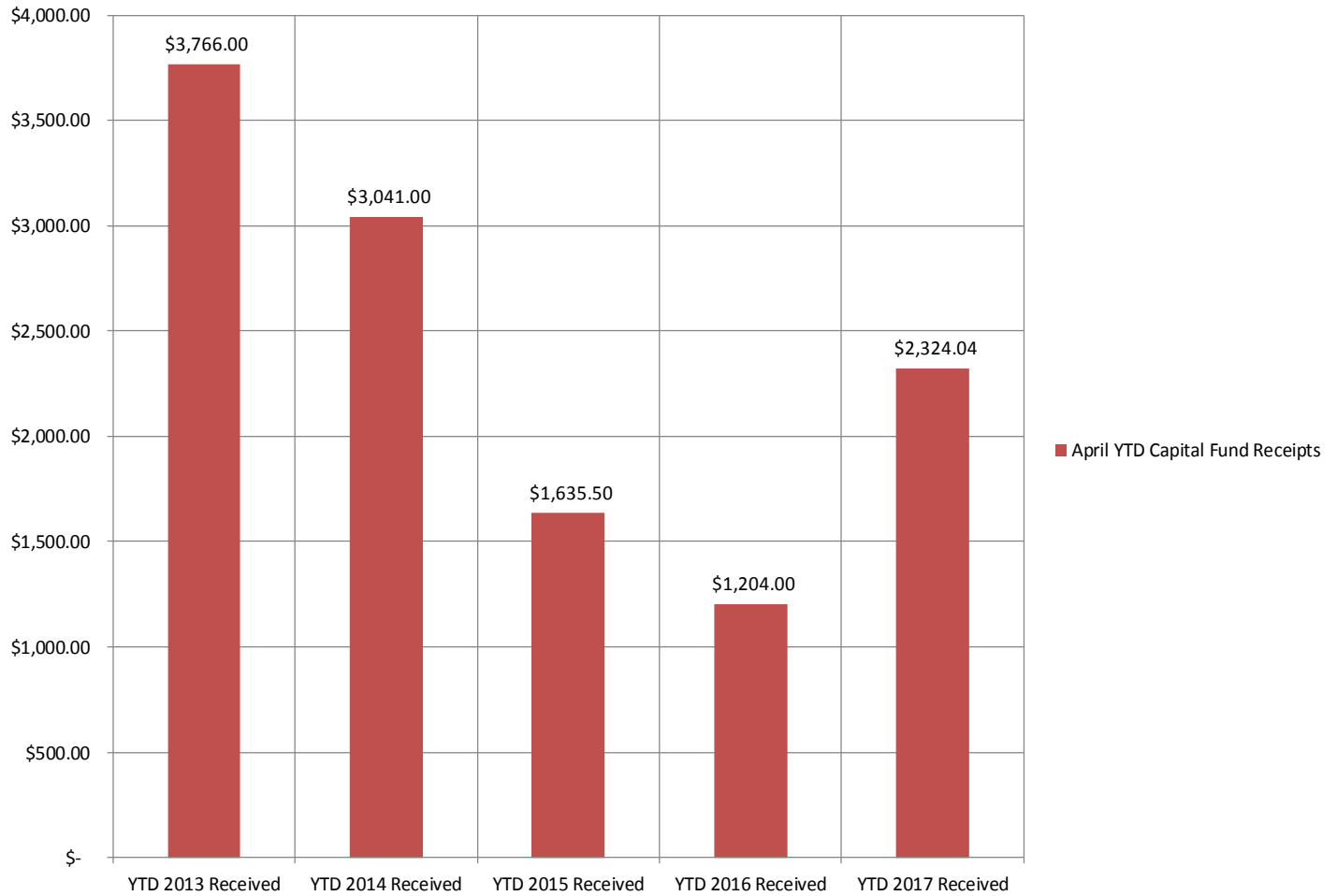
outreach of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and \$200.00 was sent to the Midwest Presbytery's Church Extension Committee (CHEX).

April Year to Date giving for the **Capital Fund** was \$2,324.04. Please refer to the Capital Fund Graph that shows the historical giving for the years indicated in the graph. You may contribute to the Capital Fund by marking your gift as "Capital Fund" and placing it in the offering plate. Please note that the Capital Fund is used to pay for current and future needs that may exist to purchase additional equipment (such as computers, the sound system, tables and chairs, etc.) or building-type items (such as a parking lot, driveway, furnace boiler, etc.). Since some capital needs are quite substantial in nature, resources to finance and pay for these projects can take years to pay for them. Even though capital needs may not be large in the current year, we should wisely allocate our giving not only to current needs, but also to these future needs as well.

April YTD Benevolence Receipts Actual vs. Current Budget



April YTD Capital Fund Receipts



Mini Golf Outing

The social fellowship committee has planned an mini golfing outing at Tom and Jerry's in Plymouth for June 22nd. Invite your friends to this evening of fun and fellowship! More details to follow.



June Birthdays

Anna TenPas	1st
Olivia Boss	3rd
Cameron De Jong	8th
Jonah Mamazza	8th
Pam Schlernitzauer	8th
Susan Bingham	9th
Lynn Jensema	14th
Harlan Harmelink	15th
Sandy Kaeiser	19th
Griffin Froh	22nd
Leila Ver Velde	22nd



Wedding Anniversaries

James and Susan Bingham
June 1st ~ 4 years

Howard and Audrey Voskuil
June 22nd ~ 55 years

Bob and Debbie Boss
June 12th ~ 41 years

Dan and Sara TenPas
June 18th ~ 23 years



Mission to Lesbos, Greece

Dear friends at Grace Church,

You may have heard of the refugee crisis that is currently impacting millions of lives around the world. I have heard of the great hardships that families are enduring as they flee their home and country, and am humbled and excited for the opportunity to be part of a team to serve refugees living on the island of Lesbos, Greece in July. Along with other volunteers, our team will daily be serving refugees within the camp. Although we will not know specifically how we will serve until we arrive, we may be serving food, delivering laundry supplies and clothing, and helping new arrivals get acclimated, taking census, among other roles. We will be working under the umbrella of Greater Europe Mission who partners with Euro Relief, a registered Christian NGO on the Island.

Our team consists of 12 individuals from College Church in Wheaton, and the anticipated dates of our trip are from July 11-22. Above all, we would very much appreciate your prayers. Would you pray that as we interact with and get to know individuals in the camp, that God would be preparing many opportunities for us to share the message of God's love to them? Please pray that our team would serve with humility, compassion, and an open mind, and that the message of the Gospel will be evident as we love and serve the refugees. I'm looking forward to sharing more about this ministry opportunity in the next few months.

Sincerely,

Kristin Berenschot

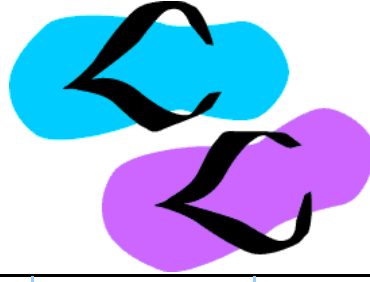




Grace OPC

June 2017

Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 OPC General Assembly	2 OPC General Assembly	3 OPC General Assembly
4 Rev. Danny Olinger Meadowview Manor 3:00pm	5 OPC General Assembly	6 OPC General Assembly	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Session meeting 6:30pm	14	15 OPC Deacons' Summit	16 OPC Deacons' Summit	17 OPC Deacons' Summit
18	19	20	21	22 Mini Golf	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Baked Buffalo Chicken Dip

Ingredients:

- 3 cups diced cooked rotisserie chicken
- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 3/4 cup hot pepper sauce
- 1/2 cup blue cheese dressing
- 1/2 cup crumbled blue cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon seafood seasoning
- 1 pinch cayenne pepper, or to taste
- 2 tablespoons shredded pepper Jack cheese
- 1 pinch cayenne pepper, for garnish

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C).

Combine chicken, cream cheese, hot pepper sauce, 1/2 cup pepper Jack cheese, blue cheese dressing, crumbled blue cheese, seafood seasoning, and cayenne pepper in a large bowl.

Transfer chicken mixture to a 9-inch round baking dish and sprinkle with 2 tablespoons pepper Jack cheese.

Bake until lightly browned, 15 to 20 minutes. Remove from oven and garnish with cayenne pepper. Serve with chips or crackers.



*“For He
has satisfied
the thirsty soul,
and the
hungry soul
He has filled
with what
is good.”*

*“I gave up all for Christ, and what
have I found? Everything in Christ”*

-John Calvin



Showing forth the
excellencies of Jesus
Christ

Grace OPC

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Spurgeon Corner

“Surely he shall deliver thee from the
snare of the fowler.”
Psalm 91:3

God delivers his people from the snare of the fowler in two senses. *From*, and *out of*. First, he delivers them *from* the snare—does not let them enter it; and secondly, if they should be caught therein, he delivers them *out of* it. The first promise is the most precious to some; the second is the best to others.

“He shall deliver thee *from* the snare.” How? Trouble is often the means whereby God delivers us. God knows that our backsliding will soon end in our destruction, and he in mercy sends the rod. We say, “Lord, why is this?” not knowing that our trouble has been the means of delivering us from far greater evil. Many have been thus saved from ruin by their sorrows and their crosses; these have frightened the birds from the net. At other times, God keeps his people *from* the snare of the fowler by giving them great spiritual strength, so that when they are tempted to do evil they say, “How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” But what a blessed thing it is that if the believer shall, in an evil hour, come into the net, yet God will bring him out of it! O backslider, be cast down, but do not despair. Wanderer though thou hast been, hear what thy Redeemer saith—“Return, O backsliding children; I will have mercy upon you.” But you say you cannot return, for you are a captive. Then listen to the promise—“Surely he shall deliver thee out of the snare of the fowler.” Thou shalt yet be brought out of all evil into which thou hast fallen, and though thou shalt never cease to repent of thy ways, yet he that hath loved thee will not cast thee away; he will receive thee, and give thee joy and gladness, that the bones which he has broken may rejoice. No bird of paradise shall die in the fowler’s net.

CHECK OUT THE AUDIO:

**SERMONAUDIO.COM/
GRACESHEBOYGAN**

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE:

GRACEOPCSHEBOYGAN.COM



Evening, January 24th, C.H. Spurgeon

Front Page Continued...

ourselves. Our sins separate us from the God who created and sustains us. If left in that condition, we must certainly be condemned and consigned to hell. We need a Savior. So does the girl at the roadside stand selling coconuts in rural Brazil. So does the successful stock broker living in Sao Paulo, or the University Professor in Chicago. So do we all. We need a Savior.

I am happy to know that there are Presbyterian churches in Brazil who are sharing the good news of Christ to their lost neighbors. I am spurred on to pray for my brethren in Brazil, that they would be diligent in sowing the good seed. May it produce a 100-fold crop for God’s kingdom.

I’m also reminded of the mission that God has given to us at Grace OPC – to evangelize our area for Christ. Yes, we love and we support foreign missions. But we must also remember our mission to our neighbors in Sheboygan county! For there are many among us who need a Savior as well.

