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# TAKING THE **WHOLE WORD** TO THE **WHOLE WORLD**

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GOD DID NOT PROMISE  
WE WOULD MISS THE  
STORMS OF LIFE,  
HE ONLY PROMISED  
WE WOULD MAKE  
THE HARBOR AT LAST.

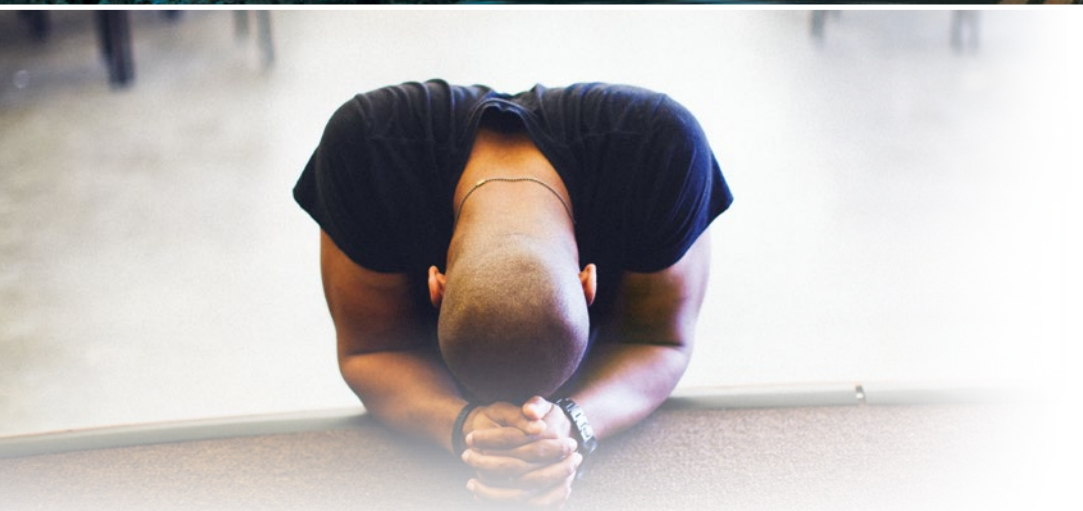
J. VERNON MCGEE



**THRU**the**BIBLE**



# WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD



## ONE WAY GOD USES OUR SUFFERING

Dr. J. Vernon McGee

In this month's free featured booklet, Dr. McGee explores the question "why do God's children suffer?" and gives us seven reasons why we suffer and four benefits that suffering brings when we let God do His work in us. To encourage you today, here is a peek at one of those benefits.

There is joy in the Christian life—and peace—and healing. I know, I've experienced all three. But it is also true that God's children will suffer. We can't escape it. Even the Lord Jesus Himself told His own they would have tribulation. (See John 16:33.)

But even in our suffering, God wants us to be fruitful Christians. He wants us to grow up. He wants to get us off baby formula and out of the spiritual nursery and get us going. He wants to make us

men and women of conviction and courage, stamina and strength. And sometimes that lesson is best learned by suffering.

I was privileged to know the poet, Martha Snell Nicholson, and to be her pastor. She suffered terrible pain whenever her body was touched, so much so she couldn't leave her home. Well, she wanted to be baptized by immersion. So, we went to her home and as I baptized her, lowering her into a bathtub filled with water, she screamed out in pain. It was horrible. But if you read any of her poetry, you'd never dream that she suffered so. It was God's beautiful discipline working in her in order to bless others.



Download your free copy of "Why Do God's Children Suffer?"

**The greatest pulpits are not in churches; they are on beds of pain.** Many wonderful saints of God cannot attend church services. I learned that over the years of radio ministry. Many, many people are bedfast, but by faith they are living for God. I know one woman who writes a volume of letters every month to encourage missionaries on the field, and she is lying on a bed in constant pain. What a message she sends!

### HOW DO YOU ACT WHEN YOU SUFFER?

You can respond to the Lord's chastening in a number of ways. You can despise it. You can ignore it by not accepting that God is trying to get a message to you. You can accept it like a brute beast accepts pain. "Well, it's just my luck." My friend, if you are a child of God, you haven't had hard luck. God is trying to tell you something. Hebrews 12:5 says, "Do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him."



You can also be a crybaby. "Why did God let this happen to me?" You can become a super-pious saint and become a martyr. "Well, this is my cross and I'll bear it," when all the time you wrestle with an inner rebellion going on. Oh, my friend, that is not what God wants you to do. Listen to Him:

*Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. –Hebrews 12:11*

In the moment, no suffering is pleasant. If you want to know the truth, when I'm suffering, I scream at the top of my voice. Of course, it is not joyous—but it's just for a brief moment.

A preacher in the south once asked for favorite Scripture verses. One deacon got up and said, "My favorite verse is, 'And it came to pass.'" Everyone looked puzzled. The preacher asked, "What do you mean your favorite verse is, 'And it came to pass'?" "Well," he said, "when trouble comes to me, I just turn to where it says, 'It came to pass,' and I thank the Lord it came to pass and it didn't come to stay."

This may not be a correct interpretation of that verse, but I tell you, God's Word teaches us a marvelous truth. "No chastening seems to be joyful for the present"—it's terrible. Don't say you are a martyr and you are going to bear it. Say, "I'm going to get out of this as quickly as I can."

When I had surgery for cancer, I asked everybody to pray for me. A woman wrote, "Now, Dr. McGee, you are ready to go so I am going to pray the Lord takes you home." I wrote a reply in a hurry, "Don't you pray that prayer. This is between the Lord and me, and you let Him handle it." I wanted to be cured of cancer. I was prepared to learn the lesson God had for me, but I wanted to *live*.

Don't be passive about what God is doing. Ask Him to show you what He wants to accomplish in your life through this season of suffering. And grab hold of it by faith.

## » MY TURN

### Truths to remind yourself when you're hurting:

- God promises He's not going to leave you. (Hebrews 13:5)
- He will redeem this situation for good. (Romans 8:28)
- He's working a bigger plan. (1 Corinthians 2:9)
- Don't take your view of life only from what you can see. (Hebrews 11:1)
- Instead, continue to talk to Him (Psalm 55:22). Continue to wait on Him (Psalm 37:7). And in the meantime, believe that God is not only better than your fears, He's also better than your hopes (Ephesians 3:20).



# RESPONDING TO WHAT GOD IS DOING IN UGANDA

by Ed Anderson, *Thru the Bible*, Board of Directors

God is at work in Uganda and it is clearly His work. We simply have the joy of going along for the ride.

Four years ago, by pure “coincidence,” a friend of mine invited me over for a BBQ to meet two visiting ministers from Mbale, Uganda, who “just happened” to be visiting my friend’s church that Sunday.

From our first conversation, I could tell God was at work. I met Michael Mataya and Wilburforce Okumu that day. Boldly they said they would love to take *Thru the Bible* to Uganda and would like me to be their liaison. After meeting with Gregg Harris during their visit, we collectively decided to launch *Thru the Bible* in the Luganda language in Uganda.

Soon I was on a plane, headed for Uganda to meet the team and lead the initial training. Michael and Wilburforce had hand-picked their choice team, ready to begin. The man who is the Luganda “voice” of Dr. McGee simply came because his pastor asked him to.

Even now, four years later, the same team is intact—translators, sound engineers, radio station contacts, and administrative personnel. On my last visit they told me they personally and collectively “own” the program and they would not think of quitting until the entire five-year Bible Bus journey is complete.

Thousands of people throughout Uganda are being impacted through the four FM radio stations—either coming to know

Jesus Christ for the first time or believing in Him in a much deeper way. Many pastors write to tell us all they are learning—something new every time they study with *Thru the Bible*.

You know God is involved in the program when less than two weeks into the first broadcast an Imam (a Muslim prayer leader) came into Pastor Michael’s church and said he had been listening to the program that morning and a voice had told him, “Get dressed, go to the Christian church in Mbale, and give your life to Christ.” And he did!

God has been preparing hearts in Uganda to hear and respond to the whole Word just like this man. No man-made program can change lives so dramatically.

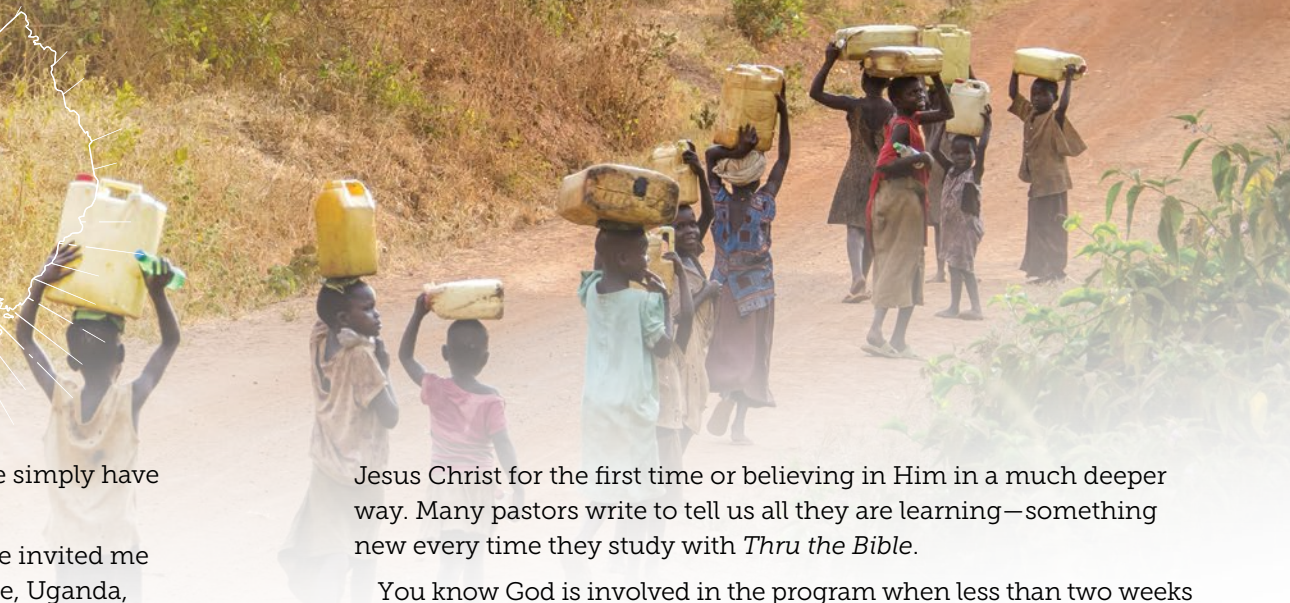
It is a joy to be a part of something so much bigger than yourself. The opportunities never end and when God is at work, just stand back and watch His love and power prevail!

**If you’re on the  WorldPrayerToday Team, please pray specifically for the new team in Western Uganda who are going to translate *Thru the Bible* in their language—Runyakatara.**

It will air on two radio stations and the new translator and “voice” would covet the prayers. It is not an easy task to translate and record almost 1300 programs. Fortunately, some of the experienced team from Mbale will help train and guide the new production.



**Ed Anderson, Michael Mataya, and Wilburforce Okumu with TTB president, Gregg Harris**







ALL THIS HAPPENED 100 YEARS AGO IN 1920:

- The first passenger airline took off (KLM flew four customers from London to Amsterdam).
- The National Football League was established.
- Our sweet tooth was first satisfied with Baby Ruth candy bars and Good Humor ice cream bars.
- Band-aids covered their first scratch.
- The first three-signal, four-way traffic light regulated traffic.
- And on November 2, 1920, radio station KDKA produced the world's first commercial broadcast, from inventor Frank Conrad's garage in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

AND 20 YEARS LATER . . .

- In 1941, Dr. McGee began the "Open Bible Hour" radio program, airing once a week.
- In 1949, the program was renamed "High Noon Bible Class" and began airing every weekday.
- In 1967, *Thru the Bible* began with a systematic study of each book of the Bible. Dr. McGee took his listeners from Genesis to Revelation in 2 ½ years.

After retiring from the pastorate in 1970, Dr. McGee realized 2 ½ years was not enough time to teach the whole Bible, so he retaught the study in a five-year version. When he was done, he asked the Lord for the strength and the breath to do it again. This third version is the Bible Bus we engage with today.

When you ride the Bible Bus, you join a long train of faithful Bible students on their way to glory. We're sure glad for your company and we're saving you a seat.

*Gregg Harris*

Gregg Harris  
President, *Thru the Bible*



— An early radio advertiser for Dr. McGee's "High Noon Bible Class" circa 1950.



— Dr. and Mrs. McGee with a Church of the Open Door Sunday School class in the 1940's. (Dr. McGee sitting, front, far right. Mrs. Ruth McGee, standing, far right.)





# WHY STUDY 1 & 2 PETER?

Join in the studies on *Thru the Bible* (1 Peter airs **MARCH 17 – APRIL 6** and 2 Peter airs **APRIL 29 – MAY 18**) or anytime online, by podcast, or by mobile app.

## GOD'S WORD FEEDS A HUNGRY SOUL IN QUEBEC

With its cobblestoned streets lined with quaint shops and bistros, the charm of Quebec lures travelers from all over the world.

As we begin our prayer trek through this lovely city, we're joined by a local named Renee. She says:

*"I was curious about the Bible but couldn't understand it. I was becoming a bit frustrated until I found your programs in French. Your teachings are a rich feast for a hungry soul. I learned about what Jesus has offered me through His death on the cross and called your office. I was surprised to talk with someone who offered to pray with me on the phone.*

*"Now, I am completely satisfied. At work, at home, visiting with friends ... wherever I find myself, I am content and at peace. Knowing God and understanding His Word has made all the difference. Those*

*closest to me have recognized this change. It is my pleasure to tell them about Jesus and direct them to your programs."*

Praise God for His work in the life of Renee and all those who study with us on the Bible Bus. Pray that as the Holy Spirit moves, more Canadians recognize their spiritual hunger and ultimately are satisfied by the peace and joy found in a relationship with our Savior, Jesus Christ.

This is an example of the email our World Prayer Team receives every weekday. Together, we are traveling the world on our knees, interceding for one country at a time. We invite you to join us in covering the entire earth with prayer every year.

**GO TO [TTB.ORG/PRAY](https://www.ttb.org/pray) TO SIGN UP.**

### 1 PETER

*"Peter's letters reveal his three years in Jesus' school changed him. When he first met Jesus, Peter was bungling, fumbling, and stumbling. He had been impetuous, but now as we meet him in his letters, 30 years later, Peter is a patient pastor."* –Dr. J. Vernon McGee

Peter doesn't give us his theory of suffering. He speaks to us out of his own tremendous experience, and it will become very wonderful to us as it becomes our experience.

#### TEACHING POINTS IN 1 PETER:

- How (and why) to live daily, holy lives
- Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith
- Suffering tests our faith to see if it's real
- The Holy Spirit leads us to the truth

#### LOOK HOW MUCH DOCTRINE CROWDS JUST THE FIRST VERSE OF 1 PETER 1:

Peter deals with election, foreknowledge, sanctification, obedience, the blood of Christ, the Trinity, the grace of God, salvation, revelation, glory, faith, and hope.

### 2 PETER

You will not be able to live for God in these days of apostasy unless you have a knowledge of the Word of God.

The Christian life is more than just a birth. It is a growth, and it is a development. The key to this entire epistle is the last verse: "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen" (2 Peter 3:18).

#### What growing in grace looks like from 2 Peter 1:5-7:


Make every effort to add to your faith—*virtue*  
 And to virtue—*knowledge*  
 And to knowledge—*self-control*  
 And to self-control—*perseverance*  
 And to perseverance—*godliness*  
 And to godliness—brotherly *kindness*  
 And to brotherly kindness—*love*.





# I Love to Tell *the Story*


## CAROL | from Idaho

“The  **WorldPrayerToday** team has changed the way I pray. The stories from around the world give specific needs and, best of all, specific people to pray for. It is no longer a vague request to our great God but a real need that I can take before Him.

“But what gives my heart wings is to hear from sweet brothers and sisters all over the world! When I read their letters I say, ‘This is my brother!’ or, ‘This is my sister!’ I hear their hearts and recognize them as family! My prayers are more important and precious to me. Thank you for keeping us in touch with our family in Christ!”



## DAVE | from Huntsville, Alabama

“An anticipated corner of my morning prayer time is to open the  **WorldPrayerToday** email for the day to see how God is bringing glory to Himself and to lift up in prayer the requests being made. After morning prayers, I delight in going over to maps on my wall and I pinpoint (as best as possible) the prayer target of the day and mark it with a red dot. I use a permanent marker because once a prayer request is made, it can’t be erased. Over the years I can hardly see India anymore for all the red dots.

“On another subject, I must tell you that my learning and blessing from the daily and weekend podcasts has increased multifold. On the day I retired four months ago, I started the habit of reading the Scriptures for the day prior to listening to the broadcasts. What a way to energize the Spirit’s teaching as Dr. McGee sets the table with milk, cookies, and with Hebrews, steak! I can just kick myself for not starting that discipline earlier.

“Thank you for daily faithfulness in encouraging us on the Bible Bus.”



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