
18

FAITH AND PATIENCE IN SERVING

During this year there were circulated 4,115 Bibles, 6,655 New Testaments, 104 copies of the Psalms, and 9,602 other small portions of the Holy Scriptures. There was expended on the circulation of the Holy Scriptures £635. 9s. 3d., and from the beginning of the Institution, up to May 26, 1869, £10,106. 12s. 2d. There were circulated from the beginning up to May 26, 1869, altogether 48,705 Bibles, 47,340 New Testaments, 1,411 copies of the Psalms, and 29,848 other small portions of the Holy Scriptures.

During no previous year, since the formation of this Institution, were so many copies of the Holy Scriptures circulated as during this year; and during no previous year did we circulate so many copies of the Holy Scriptures in foreign languages, as during this year.

The latter was chiefly owing to the fact, that two of the Missionaries, who are assisted by the funds of this Institution, were almost the whole time, while the Havre Exhibition lasted, during the Summer of 1868, labouring among foreigners at Havre, preaching to them, and especially circulating the Holy Scriptures among them. One of these brethren speaks 8 modern languages, and the other three, and through their instrumentality a great number of copies of the Holy Scriptures in various languages, were circulated; and since the Exhibition at Havre, by one of these two brethren and another Missionary, also assisted by the funds of this Institution in Spain. During this year alone we circulated 94 Italian Bibles and 652 Italian Testaments, 67 French Bibles and 1,715 French Testaments, 1,112 Spanish Bibles, 756 Spanish Testaments, and 5,724 Spanish Gospels, besides Bibles and Testaments in many other foreign languages. To the above, however, I especially referred, because those copies of the Holy Scriptures made their way into those countries where so little is known of God's Holy Word.

I received many letters from the two brethren who laboured at the Havre Exhibition for the circulation of the Holy Scriptures, and preached the Gospel to the many Thousands of Foreigners who were assembled there; but as their work was much the same as at the Exhibition in Paris, and as space fails me, I must refer the reader to the Report of 1869, for these deeply interesting details.

Müller, George. A Narrative of Some of the Lord's Dealings with George Müller. Vol. 3. London: J. Nisbet & Co., 1874. Print.

When Pierson states, “*An aggressive spirit is never content with what has been done, but is prompt to enter any new door that is providentially opened,*” what does he mean by an “*aggressive spirit*”? Is that a positive or negative trait in a believer?

Pierson also notes that, “*This wide-awake servant of God watched the signs of the times and, while others slept, followed the Lord’s signals of advance.*” What might be some of the signs of the times in our day? Are you wide-awake to them, or asleep?

Müller served the Lord in ever increasing capacity over the course of multiple decades. At what point did it get easier? How so?

What might we learn from this?

What two characteristics does Pierson say rely on faith as their secret?

Müller stated that if left to himself his faith would falter and he would abandon the path of trust in God which he had walked for many years. What does he credit as the source of his continued faith? Why?

In 1892, due to a significant shortfall in income, it was suggested that the ministry be contracted. How did Müller respond to this suggestion?

What does this demonstrate about his attitude toward and purpose for the ministries of the Scriptural Knowledge Institute?

How did Müller respond to the losses of his beloved daughter Lydia and that of his second wife?

What sustained him through such losses?

When we reflect upon promises like Romans 8:28, to what time period do we often look for such promises to be fulfilled?

Though it is certainly true that all of God's promises will find their ultimate fulfillment at that time, what does such a tendency to relegate the fulfillment of these promises to that period alone cause us to miss?

How long did it take for George Müller to see God's goodness in the taking of his first wife?

To what chapter in Don Whitney's *Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Life* would this chapter most readily correspond?

Why are the traits demonstrated in this chapter and advocated by Whitney in the chapter above so critical to the Christian life?

NEXT LESSON
AT EVENING-TIME — LIGHT
