

# THE

# SOWER'S JOURNAL



*Chronicling the Ministry of Douglas & Sally Blanc*

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## Year End Reflections

The apostle Paul begins his letter to the believers in Ephesus with a deluge of praise and adoration to God for all the spiritual blessings belonging to the saints. Like Peter, Paul notes that these blessings are reserved in the heavenly realms (Eph 1:3; 1 Pet 1:4-5). Paul had his times of material abundance (Phil 4:12), but those times were few and the abundance transitory. As we ponder the gift of God's Son, the Lord Jesus, it is possible to be overcome at times at the measure of grace extended to desperate souls lost in sin. He came into this sin-darkened world as a light (John 1:9-12). Expelling the pervading darkness, our Lord demonstrated the incontrovertible power of His kingdom and welcomed the unworthy to come into the realm of His love, forgiveness, and care. I have always loved the refrain, *Out of the ivory palaces into a world of woe, only His great eternal love, made my Savior go.* No doubt, during his composing of the hymn in 1951, Henry Barraclough pondered Ps 45:8 and perhaps 2 Cor 8:9. Such inspiration, drawn from our Savior's selfless act of supreme devotion to His Father's will (John 6:38; 17:4), gives us pause to offer our own refrain in gratitude for the privilege of being a child of God (1 John 3:1).

Beyond this, it is imperative for us to extend a word of "thanks" to each of you who pray daily for us, who sacrificially give to support this ministry, and who pass on encouraging words via email, card, and Facebook. By the way, is Facebook a noun or a verb? I'm sure one of you will Facebook me with an answer! Simply put, we could not function without God's sustaining grace and abiding provision through each of you.

## Great Expectations: 2012 on the Horizon

I often think of William Carey's familiar dictum, *Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God.* As we look ahead to 2012, we do so in light of James' counsel regarding making plans according to and on the basis of *the will of God* (Jas 4:15). When we plan according to the will of God we are searching His Word to determine if a chosen course is approved or prohibited. To plan on the basis of God's will is to remain open to His intervention, perhaps even preventing a course of action in concert with His Word. The apostle Paul yielded his plans prayerfully to the Lord in this manner. He was on a path consistent with His call and Scripture, but remained sensitive to the Spirit who halted him in his tracks and changed his course (Acts 16:6-10).

### Springfield, MA

If you visit [www.sent2all.com](http://www.sent2all.com) and click on the "schedule" tab to the left, you can view our updated schedule for 2012. Each meeting, each trip, and each class taught is a demonstration of

expectation. You will note an exciting opportunity in Springfield (MA) from February 7-9. The venue is the Salvation Army Recovery Center. Scott Jacobs, a dear brother and co-laborer, has invited me to join him in a three-day revival and counseling ministry to a group of men enrolled in the recovery program. Scott is a seasoned veteran of recovery and prison ministry. He is a gifted instrumentalist and vocalist. You can hear him by going to his website, <http://commandment11.com>. There is a widget on his homepage and you can click on a song and be blessed. **Please pray for this three-day ministry in Springfield. Pray that lives will be changed by the power of God. Pray that the Spirit will take the Word and transform lives. Pray that our one-to-one sessions with the men will be fruitful.**

## Binghamton, NY

**Please pray regarding the January 9-13 winterim course offering at Davis College.** I'm waiting to hear news about enrollment and whether the course will run. Again, *expect...attempt*. It is a blessing that Dr. Parker has extended the invitation and the prospect of partnering with this historic ministry is genuine and anticipated.

## Itinerary

January 9-13, 2012 <i>Adjunct</i>	Teaching Christian Ethics Davis College (Binghamton, NY).
January 24-May 12, 2012 <i>Adjunct</i>	Teaching Ethics and Comparative Religion at Fulton-Montgomery Community College (Johnstown, NY).
January 22, 2012	People's Regular Baptist Church (Maybrook, NY)
January 29, 2012	Grace Baptist Church (Guilderland, NY)
February 5, 2012	First Baptist Church (Little Falls, NY)
February 19, 2012	First Baptist Church (Hempstead, NY)
March 11, 2012	Christian Church of Rural Grove (Rural Grove, NY)
March 18, 2011	Calvary Baptist Church (Wilmington, NY)
Late June-Early August, 2012	International Ministry: Kenya, Rwanda, Germany, Poland

August 13-16, 2012	IGM Leadership Conference (Rochester, NY)
August 16-23	IGM Missionary Training School (Rochester, NY)
September 23, 2012	Harvest Baptist Church (Bath, NY)
October 14, 2012	Tuscarora Baptist Church (Addison, NY)

## Prayer & Praise

- Please pray regarding the Lord's direction for **international ministry** during 2012.
- Pray for the upcoming meetings at the **Salvation Army Recover Center** in Springfield, MA.
- Please pray for opportunities to **present our ministry** in local churches.
- Please pray for the Lord's **abundant provision** of the needed ministry and personal resources.
- Please pray for **students to enroll** in the Christian Ethics course at Davis College.



Tax-deductible contributions may be made by check and payable to **Independent Gospel Missions**. Please write Doug & Sally Blanc support (or travel) in the memo and send to:

### Independent Gospel Missions

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