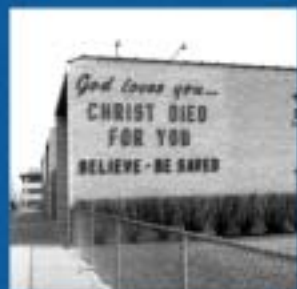


The Berean Searchlight

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

May 2003



C. R. Stam
Memorial
Edition



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Editor: Paul M. Sadler; *Composition and Layout:* Kevin J. Sadler

Questions, comments, orders? You can reach us at:

Berean Bible Society
 N112 W17761 Mequon Road
 PO Box 756
 Germantown, WI 53022

Berean Bible Society Main Office: (262) 255-4750
Berean Bible Society Fax Number: (262) 255-4195

Internet: <www.bereanbiblesociety.org>
 E-mail: <berean@execpc.com>

Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., CST

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From the Editor to You:



Dearly Beloved,

Saved by grace alone! This profound truth launched the ministry of Pastor C. R. Stam, which covered nearly seventy years. God used him mightily to pull down the strongholds of tradition, that we might be brought into a fuller understanding of the Word, rightly divided.

I first met Brother Stam in the spring of 1974 while a student at the *Berean School of Bible and Theology* near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He came out to the school that year to participate in an Ordination Counsel and deliver the Commencement address to the student body. We became good friends shortly thereafter and kept in close contact with one another through the years. In fact, when I was serving as the pastor of *Falls Bible Church*, my wife and I frequently had dinner with Pastor and Mrs. Stam, who would visit Milwaukee to escape Chicago. Those were memorable times of fellowship in the gospel that we shall not soon forget.

In the fall of 1987, it was a great honor to accept Pastor Stam's invitation to join him in the work of the ministry at the *Berean Bible Society*. Although Brother Stam was often misrepresented, he truly loved the Lord and *sincerely* desired that all believers would come to a fuller knowledge of the Mystery. He had his shortcomings and failures, like us all, but I can say before God, he never once wavered in his stand for the gospel of the grace of God.

Pastor Stam and I had our differences from time to time, but we always maintained a mutual respect for one another. I recall a spirited discussion we had once on the "Bride of Christ," which ended with both of us agreeing to disagree. He did, however, have the final word: "Someday you'll see my point, beloved." It is good to remember that Dutchmen always have the last word. Brother Stam became a spiritual father to me, for which I am very, very grateful.

CASTING OFF TO THE SHORE OF ETERNAL LIFE

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (II Tim. 4:6,7).

This testimony of Paul can also be said of Pastor Stam. He was a faithful soldier of the Cross. Interestingly, the apostle borrows a word from the Old Testament to convey his heart's desire—he was ready to be "offered." He desired his death to be a libation. After they offered

the sacrifice in time past, they would pour the drink offering over it as an additional act of worship. Paul wanted the remaining days of his life and even his death to glorify God.

The same was true of Brother Stam. He had planned most of his Memorial Service, and left us specific instructions that all the glory should go to God for the great things He has done. Pastor Stam wanted those present at the service to hear the good news that God loved them and Christ died for their sins. Like Paul, he wanted even his death to be one last act of worship.

The apostle adds, "The time of my departure is at hand." The term *departure* here is a nautical term, which has the idea to remove the rope from the mooring and cast off. Paul was ready to depart to be with Christ, which was far better. Brother Stam loved to sail. As a young boy he often went down to the docks in New York City to watch the great ocean liners as they entered and left port. He shared with me one time that all those passengers on board had one thing in common: they all couldn't wait to get going.

The last two years of Brother Stam's life were difficult, as his health steadily declined. When I would visit with him he would say, "I just can't understand, Paul, why the Lord is leaving me here, but He obviously has a purpose." The Friday before his passing my wife and I spent the afternoon with him. Brother Stam acknowledged us, but he was already beginning to lapse in and out of consciousness. There were times he would gaze heavenward as if he could see the door of heaven through which he would soon pass. He has now cast off to the shores of eternity to be with the Savior he loved and faithfully served.



"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." Pastor Stam was the last of three mighty men of valor from the past era. Those three men are: Pastor J. C. O'Hair, Pastor Charles F. Baker, and Pastor C. R. Stam. All three of these able defenders of the faith had national writing ministries, national radio ministries, and served as pastors of large Grace assemblies. We owe these godly men a great debt of gratitude for the sacrifices they made to recover the truth of Pauline revelation. Therefore, a great responsibility has

been handed down to us to defend the hallowed ground that was won for the cause of Christ.

Through the years, Pastor Stam was engaged in a number of important battles in the preservation of the truth. He stood boldly in defense of the pretribulational Rapture of the Church, the “one Body” and the “one baptism.” He also withstood the inroads of new evangelicalism and the extremes that plague the Grace Movement to this day. With grace and truth as his guide, he stood uncompromisingly in the defense and confirmation of Paul’s gospel. Thankfully, Brother Stam’s legacy will continue through his written ministry, and more importantly, through us, his living legacy.

After Pastor Stam retired in the fall of 1993, we continued to keep in close contact. Perhaps the most touching moment of these latter years came in 1998 when we presented him with his newly published commentary on *Galatians*. It was one of the few times I saw tears come to his eyes. We had transcribed his *Bible Time* radio messages, to which he gave this humorous response, “Just think of it, I’ve produced another commentary and never picked up a pen.”

The tribute and articles that follow all convey how greatly the Lord used Pastor Stam to the praise of His glory in Christ Jesus.

With praise and thanksgiving,
Paul M. Sadler, President

Heaven is My Home

(This hymn-poem was loved and requested by Pastor Stam)

I’m but a stranger here, for Heaven is my home!
Earth is a desert drear, Oh Heaven is my home!
Danger and sorrow stand, round me on every hand,
Heaven is my fatherland, Yes Heaven is my Home.
What though the tempest rage, Heaven is my home!
Short is my pilgrimage, for Heaven is my home!
And time’s wild wintry blast, soon shall me overpass,
I shall reach my home at last, for Heaven is my home.
There at my Savior’s side, Yes Heaven is my home!
I shall be glorified, Oh Heaven is my home!
There are the good and blest, those I have loved the best
And there I too shall rest, for Heaven is my home.
Therefore I murmur not, for Heaven is my home!
Whate’er my earthly lot, Heaven is my home!
And I shall surely stand, there at my Lord’s right hand,
Heaven is my fatherland, Oh Heaven is my home!

Lives Touched by the...

From South Africa:

"The news we received that Pastor C. R. Stam was promoted to higher service has left us with mixed feelings. Whilst we mourn his passing, we celebrate his life. The writings of Pastor C. R. Stam and the ministry of the *Berean Bible Society* have done more for the spreading of the Grace message in South Africa than all the missionaries combined who have visited our shores. Pastor Stam will always be a spiritual icon to believers in South Africa who have been enlightened through his prolific writing skills. To the president, Paul Sadler, and all fellow Grace Bible teachers, we stand with you in solidarity with the sincere prayer that through Brother Stam's passing we should seek to strive toward a unity in the worldwide Grace Movement. Prayers and greetings from South Africa."

From Indiana:

"Pastor Stam was simply amazing. I will be reading his knowledge of the gospel of the grace of God for the rest of my life."

From Pennsylvania:

"Pastor Stam's writings provided immeasurable benefit to my study of God's Word. As is the case with many Grace Believers, the first book I read on right division was *Things That Differ*. After that, I read almost all of his books. It was a very exciting time for me, as the Bible finally made sense."

From Ohio:

"We will ever be grateful for his wonderful ministry to us. We have such pleasant memories of having Pastor Stam as an overnight guest in our home when he addressed our church as it was being organized here in Springfield."

From Connecticut:

"It was with mixed emotions that I received notice of Pastor Stam's death. Knowing that his time was rapidly approaching, I prayed earnestly for the Lord to preserve him unto His coming, so that he could experience without dying that Blessed Hope, which he so diligently held out before us. He will truly be missed, but in actuality he is still with us, for through his writings 'he being dead yet speaketh.' I will always treasure Brother Stam's voluminous works. All of C.R.S.'s books have been on my shelf at one time or another, loaned out or given away, and eventually replaced."

From Wisconsin:

"We really appreciate your informing us of Pastor Stam's promotion to glory. We feel privileged to have known him and we are thankful that he has left a written legacy, with which we hope to become better acquainted. God bless the *Berean Bible Society* as you carry on the work he loved."

From Pennsylvania:

"My grandfather was William Steidel. He was a member of the *Preakness Bible Church* in New Jersey when Pastor Stam was there. I was told that Pastor Stam would have my grandfather put music to different Scriptures so that they could sing them as choruses. My grandfather told me how they would go out on the street corners and Pastor Stam would preach. Then they would mingle among the people who were listening and witness to them. My grandparents have been with the Lord for quite awhile now. Their love for the Lord has reached to their grandchildren and to their great-grandchildren. I praise the Lord for a godly heritage."

Ministry of C. R. Stam

From Kuwait:

“My condolences to you folks at the *Berean Bible Society* for the loss of Pastor Stam. His work provided me with a solid foundation in rightly dividing the Word, and I’m confident that I’m only one of many. Surely wondrous recognition awaits him at the Bema Seat. I encourage anyone reading this who has not read Stam’s *Things That Differ* to order it right away. It is a treasure, as are all of his works. My sincere prayers go out to all of the BBS staff as they continue on in their labor for Christ. May we all be diligent in our work while keeping watch for that Blessed Hope. God bless you all.”

From the Internet:

“I was very sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Stam. He certainly will be missed. His writings have changed my life!”

From Singapore:

“Please convey to Pastor Stam’s surviving family members condolences from the Grace believers in Singapore. We have benefited greatly from studying the Bible from a dispensational point of view, using material from BBS. On the other hand, we rejoice that he has now been relieved of his suffering and gone on to glory.”

From Ontario, Canada:

“Please allow me to convey my sincere and heartfelt condolences on the passing of Pastor Stam. It was his book, *Things That Differ*, that solidified my acceptance of dispensationalism, although I was a Christian at the time....God bless you, your family and associates at this time.”

From California:

“Pastor Stam helped me grow in the truth of dispensationalism.”

From Pennsylvania:

“I was sorry to read about Pastor Stam’s passing away. I am very thankful I heard about him and his books a few years ago. Someday I will have the honor of meeting him and he will know how thankful I am that he remained a faithful teacher and fought the good fight. But most of all that he followed Paul as he followed Christ and taught me how to do the same without apology.”

From Minnesota:

“I was saddened to hear of Pastor Stam’s passing; but, although we believers still here in this present evil world will miss Brother Stam greatly, it is wonderful to know we still have his writings available from Berean...and that he is rejoicing in glory with our precious Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

From Puerto Rico:

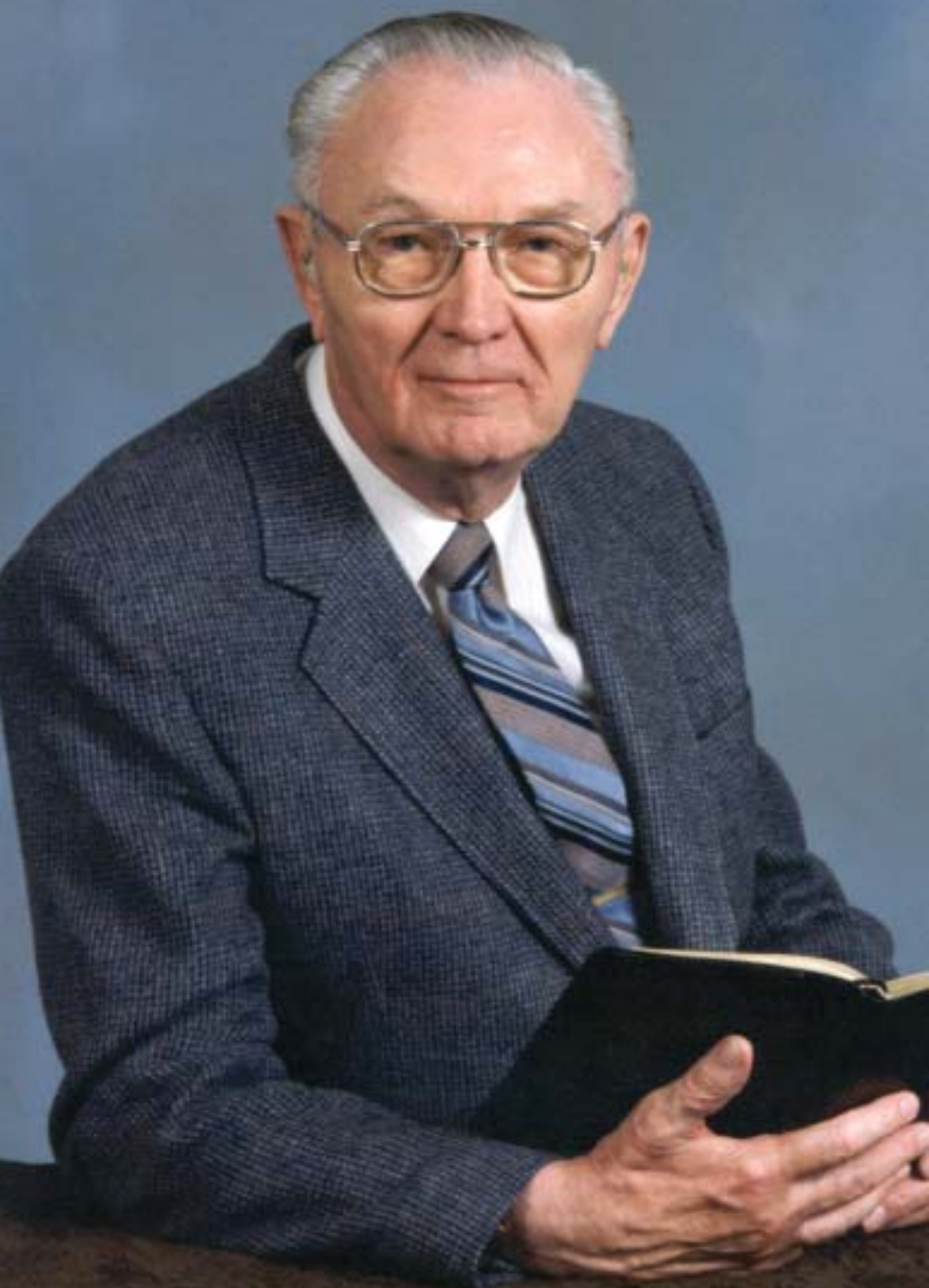
“All of us at the *Juana Diaz Bible Church* in Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico are sad, but at the same time grateful to our Lord because of the excellent testimony and legacy of Pastor Stam. We will meet in the air!!!”

From the Internet:

“I am so sorry to hear about the death of such a beloved person. My prayers and sympathies go out to his family and to BBS. I rejoice that he is now with his beloved Savior and his Heavenly Father.”

From Florida:

“This memorial gift is in honor of Pastor Stam, whose books have brought clarity and understanding to God’s Word for so many of us. What an amazing contribution he made in his lifetime. May God bless the continuation of his efforts through the *Berean Bible Society*.”



Pastor C. R. Stam at age 80

A Full Measure of Devotion

By Paul M. Sadler

“Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful” (I Cor. 4:1,2).

On Sunday, March 9th, Pastor C. R. Stam was promoted to glory at the age of 94. Pastor Stam was born in 1908 to Peter and Amelia Stam who emigrated from Holland shortly before the turn of the last century. Even though times were hard, the Stams managed to raise a family of eight children, all of whom faithfully served the Lord with a full measure of devotion.



In his early years, Mr. Stam worked closely with his father who founded the

Star of Hope Mission in Paterson, New Jersey. Mr. Stam's conversion came in 1922 after hearing a convicting gospel message by the late T. Houston. Shortly thereafter, the Stam family was introduced to Pastor J. C. O'Hair, who was holding meetings at a nearby church. It was under the influence of Pastor O'Hair's ministry that Mr. Stam came to embrace the distinctive apostleship and message of St. Paul, which he ably defended until the day of his homegoing.



As Mr. Stam prepared for full-time ministry, the family received word that his brother, John, and his wife, Betty, who were serving as missionaries in Tsingteh, China, had been summarily executed at the hands of Chinese communist bandits (1934). The family's unspeakable grief quickly turned to concern for John and Betty's 3-month-old daughter, Helen Priscilla Stam, whose whereabouts was unknown after the death of her parents. Thankfully, Helen Priscilla escaped the tragic fate of her mother and father. By the grace of God, she was



rescued from the Stam's residence where she had been hidden by her parents. Pastor Lo, a former co-worker of the couple, transported the little orphan in a rice basket over 100 miles to a Christian Hospital in Wuhu, where she was eventually reunited with her grandparents.

For years after the tragedy, Mr. Stam shared the story of John and Betty's martyrdom up and down the east coast. But it soon became



evident that the Lord had called him to preach Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the Mystery. With a strong desire to make all men see what is the fellowship of the Mystery, Pastor Stam accepted his first pastorate at the *Preakness Community Church* located in Preakness, New Jersey. It was here that a small group of believers saw the importance of Paul's gospel. This gave birth to the *Berean Bible Society* and the nationally acclaimed *Berean Searchlight* magazine under the leadership of Mr. Stam in 1940.

Later, in 1945, Pastor Stam and his first wife, Henrietta, moved to Milwaukee where he joined Pastor Charles F. Baker in establishing the *Milwaukee Bible Institute*. At the Institute, Mr. Stam served as the Academic Dean and Instructor in *Bible Exposition* and *Dispensational Studies*. During this period, the publication of the *Berean Searchlight* continued from a rented office in downtown Milwaukee. Around 1953, the *Berean Bible Society* was moved to Chicago which, at the time, was the heart of Fundamentalism in America. The new headquarters was now the home of the *Berean Searchlight*, *Bible Time Radio Ministry*, *Conference Ministries*, a national newspaper column called *Two Minutes with the Bible*, and a wide array of *Literature* to help believers understand and enjoy the Bible.



Shortly after the passing of Pastor J. C. O'Hair in 1958, the call was extended to Mr. Stam to pastor the *North Shore Church* in Chicago where Brother O'Hair had served as pastor for over 35 years. This would be quite an undertaking considering that this was one of the largest Grace assemblies in the movement at the time. Pastor Stam agreed to accept the call for a period of two years with the understanding that he would still fulfill his responsibilities at the *Berean Bible Society*.



Another traumatic event entered Mr. Stam's life in 1971 with the death of his beloved wife, Henrietta. He was now without his faithful companion who had labored tirelessly at his side in the things of the Lord. But the Lord is good.





Five years after Henrietta's homegoing, Mr. Stam married Ruth Wahlstrom, who had also lost a spouse five years earlier. Ruth truly loved the Lord, and her radiant personality won her the affectionate nickname, "Sunshine." But she, too, would precede Mr. Stam to glory in September 1998.

Perhaps the greatest contribution Pastor Stam made to the Church was through his prolific writing ministry. During his 70 year ministry, he authored more than 30 books on numerous biblical subjects. Now in its 15th printing, *Things That Differ* was by far Mr. Stam's most popular work. In fact, after 50 years, it continues to be the best-selling volume at the *Berean Bible Society*. Those who have a knowledge of the Word of God, rightly divided, whether directly or indirectly, owe Pastor Stam a great debt of gratitude. With God's help he has brought light and blessing to millions through his insightful writings.



Due to failing health, Mr. Stam retired in 1993 to the *Windsor Park Manor* in Carol Stream, Illinois where he remained active in the Lord's service until he was called home. Of course, Pastor Stam would be the first to say he was merely an instrument in the hand of God. While this is indeed true, God first needs a *willing* heart. This measure of devotion Brother Stam gladly gave, and God used him mightily to make known the riches of His grace.

"For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God" (II Cor. 4:15).

ONE FALLEN SOLDIER

One fallen soldier, one who led the fight;
He battled valiantly, even through the night.
Giving effort endlessly with courage in God's strength;
He engaged the enemy regardless of cost or length.
One fallen soldier, who touched so many lives;
He gave effective tools for all who rightly divide.
He stood for gems so precious, not willing to compromise;
While seeking daily God's glory to aid in Satan's demise.
One fallen soldier, we honor here today;
Realizing he was faithful, there's so much we could say.
We praise the Lord for faithful men who stand unashamed;
Who faint not in adversity that the ministry be not blamed.

—Terri Fredericksen

This brief, sketchy outline on Philippians 1:20-24, was the last commentary penned by Pastor Stam in his own handwriting, several years ago. It was appropriately labeled,

“HOME.”

“According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

“But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I know not.

“For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

“Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.”

—Philippians 1:20-24

Paul's decline...

(Paul is) in a spot between his responsibility to the Lord and the Philippians, AND a deep, long-awaited desire to depart and be with Christ.

Why “to be with Christ”? Need the question be asked?

Here on earth we are “in Christ,” Paul said “to live IS Christ,” Christ in testing, Christ our hope...etc.

Why does Paul long to go and be “with Christ”? He loved Christ!

What (is the) essence of being with Christ?

Why (is it) so to be desired?

It is “FAR BETTER”!

BUT...verse 24...(there is still) present responsibility.

1. Not all (are yet) grown in Grace
2. Not all yet saved

Verse 24...Paul would fulfill that responsibility but it did not change his deep desire and yearning...to depart and to be with Christ.

Note regarding this desire...

It is significant that the sentence concludes with the words “FAR BETTER” in verse 23.

“To depart and be with Christ which is FAR BETTER”!

Far better than what?

Far better than *anything* and *everything*!

Far better than the sorrows and troubles of course.

Yes, even far better than our dearest treasures.

This was Pastor Stam's deep desire and it is now a reality!

The *article* and *personal letter* which follow were written by Pastor Stam about ten years ago. He left specific instructions that I was not to publish them unless he was incapacitated or promoted to glory. Even though Brother Stam's health was failing over the past couple of years, I chose to wait until he was with the Lord before placing them in the *Searchlight*.

—Pastor Sadler

With Him!

A Song of Praise

By Cornelius R. Stam

I shall forever praise God for that day almost 70 years ago when, guilt-ridden and fearful of the consequences of my sins, I trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior.

At that moment a great burden rolled from my shoulders, as it were, for having been taught the Scriptures from childhood, I knew that I was now "*justified freely*" by the grace of God, "through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 3:24), "*accepted in the Beloved*" (Eph. 1:6), and pronounced by God "*complete in Him*" (Col. 2:9,10).

Now it began to dawn on me that my Savior did all this for me *because He loved me and desired my fellowship* through all eternity (Gal. 2:20; Eph. 5:25-27; I Thes. 4:17).

Think of it! He is God the Son, "in whom dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily," and I shall be *with Him!* He is the great Creator and Sustainer of all things, and I shall be *with Him!* He is the ever-blessed One who harbored in His heart such love for sinners that He Himself became man, went to Calvary and there bore for them a load of sin



"that would have sunk a world to hell," pouring out His life's blood to save them, so that today millions of redeemed sinners, in heaven and on earth, exult with Paul: "*He loved me and gave Himself for me*" (Gal. 2:20). I am one of those for whom He suffered and died—and one day I shall be *with Him*, with the One who loves me and actually *desires my fellowship* through all eternity.

But if Jesus tarries, must I now wait for the Rapture and the resurrection of the body to be with Him? No, for with Paul I can heartily say, concerning death, "*I have a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better*" (Phil. 1:23), and that it will be no sorrow but infinite joy to be "*absent from the body and...present with the Lord*" (II Cor. 5:8).

And then, when our blessed Lord comes to catch His own away from this earth, "*the dead in Christ*

shall rise first" (I Thes. 4:16) and this body, which was "sown in corruption...dishonor...weakness... a natural body," shall be raised in "incorruptibility...glory...power... a spiritual body" (I Cor. 15:42-44), "fashioned like unto His glorious body" (Phil. 3:21).

"At that day" I shall stand before the *Judgment Seat of Christ* to answer for my conduct and service as a *Christian* (II Cor. 5:10; II Tim. 4:8). But solemn though this occasion will surely be, I would want to have it so, and cannot lose sight of the fact that I will be "caught up" with all the other members of the Body of Christ "to meet the Lord...and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (I Thes. 4:17). What a "blessed hope" with which to "comfort one another!" (I Thes. 4:18).

"Forever with the Lord!" As the day draws nearer, I apply this phrase to myself with unspeakable joy, for it is *He* who wished it so, and shed His precious blood to have it so! Here I quote once more those blessed words of Frances Bevan:

"I shall be *with Him*,
with the One who
loves me and actually
desires my fellowship
through all eternity."

*He and I in that bright glory
One deep joy shall share;
Mine, to be forever with Him;
His that I am there.*

And this is only the beginning. Years ago I received a greeting card from Dr. H. A. Ironside. On it he had written a verse of poetry along with his signature. To this day I do not know whether he was the author or not, but this verse has always been a special blessing to me. It reads:

*What a prospect, child of glory,
Does the future hold in store!*

*By the wildest flight of fancy,
Thou couldst never ask for more!*

*Heir of God; joint-heir forever,
With His own beloved Son:*

*God could not to you have promised
More of bliss than He has done.*

Christian Stewardship

The believer's prayers are vital to the work of the Lord, but his gifts, as the fruit of the Spirit, are equally necessary. Indeed, every Christian must one day give an account of his stewardship. This is why it is so important to *plan* our giving so that it may prove most effective in the work of the Lord and bring the most glory to Him. This may take the form of Wills, Estates, Life Insurance Policies, Living Trust, Stocks, Charitable Remainder Trust, etc.

If you would like to follow the example of Pastor Stam who wrote these words, simply drop us your request for a free copy of: *To Prove the Sincerity of Your Love*.

The Passing of the Torch of Grace

*A Personal Letter to Our Readers
from Pastor C. R. Stam*



Spring of 1992

“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”

—II Tim. 2:1-3

Beloved in the Lord:

I trust you will give this letter your thoughtful and prayerful consideration since it will be the last you will receive from me.

First, I thank God with all my heart for you, our readers and supporters. I truly question that any editor of our times has been blessed with more thoughtful and gracious readers than I. Unkind responses to the *Searchlight* have been few indeed while, as a whole, our daily mail has revealed a sensitive, even affectionate understanding of our problems, burdens and needs. This, along with your

eager reception of light on the Word and, in some cases, fellowship in the Word, has made my task, if sometimes heavy, a truly rewarding experience—all 50 years of it. I appreciate this more than I can say, and be assured that you have often been the subject of my daily prayers.

Again and again I have needed to ask my heavenly Father for His forgiveness for failures, shortcomings and sins, but by His grace I can say with Paul: *“I have coveted no man’s silver, or gold, or apparel,”* and can confidently ask any person or group: *“Have I made a gain of you?”* This fact, in spite of the failures mentioned above, has always supported me in my efforts. No one has ever “bought” me, except Christ, so that it has been with unrestricted liberty, joy and gratitude that I have proclaimed the Word and have received rich blessings from the hand of Him whom I have loved and whom I have daily implored to help me to serve Him well.

And now our beloved Paul Sadler will be assuming the full leadership in this ministry, a ministry which has come to be a greater responsibility than ever. I pray, therefore, that you will remember him fervently and often in your prayers, standing behind the work financially as well, *“to prove the sincerity of your love.”*

Brother Sadler stands approximately where I stood in the early



years of the *Searchlight*, except that this *particular* part of my ministry had not yet grown to its present proportions. Thus there will be much for him to learn. As he does, I pray that you will give him at least the love and understanding that you have so generously and consistently extended to me, for “*he worketh the work of the Lord as I also do.*”

Pray for his health, his family, and most especially for his *spiritual* needs—these are always the greatest—that God may give him spiritual *insight* into the Word and all the *wisdom* that will be needed to conduct this work to the glory of God. Pray that he may ever be true to *God*, who searches our hearts, and to *others*, and to *himself*.

Pray also that God will help him in his writing for the *Searchlight* and other published material. Writing well is by no means easy—certainly not for *this* writer—but it pays rich dividends as it helps us to express ourselves more *carefully*. This is *profoundly*

important in teaching the Word of God.

Finally, please pray that the Word may continue to “have free course and be glorified” through the writings I now leave behind and which—under God and wholly by His grace—have brought light and blessing to many, and from which all the other ministries of *Berean Bible Society* have sprung. *Berean Bible Society* and the *Berean Literature Fund* will work together to this end, God willing, as the BLF, from interest received from special contributions made to it, will be enabled indefinitely to supply additional funds needed by *Berean Bible Society* to keep these



BBS Board of Directors

books in print and promote their circulation.

God bless Brother Sadler and our tried and trusted *Board of Directors*. God bless our faithful *staff of employees and volunteer helpers*. And God bless *you our readers*, every one. I bid you farewell, rejoicing with a grateful heart that God has permitted us to toil together for Him—some of us for many years. Soon enough the Lord will come for us, and “*together*” we shall be caught up in glorified bodies to be “*forever with the Lord.*” *Blessed hope!*

Yours in His love and service,

Pastor Stam requested that Memorial Gifts be sent to the *Berean Bible Society*, *Berean Literature Fund* (preservation of Pastor Stam’s writings), or *Berean Bible Institute* at P.O. Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022. —Ed.

A Family Tribute

Read by Grace Frizane (Step-Daughter)
at the Memorial Service

Many years ago, when I was a student at the Moody Bible Institute, I was assigned to write a paper for a class in Christian Education on “The Spiritual Influence of the Stam Family on the early years of John Stam.” Little did I realize just how much the Stam family would influence my life in the years ahead.

My mother began working for the *Berean Bible Society* while I was still in high school. Our home was located just two blocks from the office in Elmwood Park.

On the day of Christmas Eve, 1958, my mother, father and I were invited to the Stams for a little pre-Christmas luncheon. Stanley and Virginia Bengston were also there along with Pastor Stam and his wife, Henrietta. As we enjoyed that gathering together, little could **any** imagine what the following 15-20 years would hold for each of us.



My father died suddenly on New Years Day, 1973. Stanley and Virginia retired and moved to Florida. During that time Henrietta also passed away and little could **I** have imagined that I would become Matron of Honor at my own mother’s wedding to Pastor Cornelius R. Stam.

I recall a Valentine’s Day, prior to their marriage, when we stopped by my mother’s house and there was a beautiful heart-shaped box of candy in the middle of the dining room table. Our little red-headed daughter, who was about 7 at the time, looked at my mother and said, “O Nanny, where did you get that candy?” With a sheepish smile my mother said, “O, that’s from Pastor Stam.” And isn’t it amazing how quickly the mind of a 7 year old can put two and two together! Kathy said, “O, Nanny has a boyfriend!” And that she did....

During their first eight plus years of marriage, Mother and Neil had some good years together. They traveled, enjoyed speaking at conferences, working at *Berean* and simply spending time with each other.

Our family has such good memories of our annual Thanksgiving dinners at *Nielsen’s Restaurant*. It was Mother and Neil’s annual treat to the family! After dinner we would all go back to their *Berean* apartment for an array of desserts, and the cousins: Eric, Amy and Kathy, would disappear in a make believe world down in the BBS offices.

I guess we have seen Cornelius R. Stam in settings that very few others have seen him. I remember the day that Mother and Neil



came over to our house to drop off Neil's old baritone horn. Our daughter had just come in from high school with her new marching band uniform. The hat was a tall, fur Grenadier Guard style, such as you see the royal guards of England wear. Neil placed the helmet on his head and marched all around our house playing his horn. There was also the time when Mother and Neil showed up at our front door with clown masks. But by the early 1990s, Neil's health was beginning to fail.

I think most any full-time Christian worker has a little desire in the back of their heart and mind to someday be transported into the Lord's presence directly from their ministry. This surely was Neil's desire. As my husband once said, "Neil would love to be called to heaven right from his study, surrounded by his books, at his desk and with the Book of Romans open in front of him!" But this was not to be...

The family and staff began to see a great need for additional care, and we began to visit various Christian retirement communities around the Chicagoland area with them. This was not an easy time for the family or staff. Major change becomes more and more difficult the older we grow!



Windsor Park Manor in the Wheaton area, with its 3 levels of care, was the choice almost from the beginning, but Neil would need to pass the physical entrance exam. To prepare for this, we arranged to have 3 weeks of therapy at an *Americana Health Center* prior to the *Windsor* exam. After the therapy, Neil and Mother were able to enter *Windsor* as independent residents with their own lovely apartment. However, just 2 months later, Neil suffered a series of small strokes that left him in a wheelchair and in need of another level of care. We were so glad that they were there! Mother continued in the apartment but would visit Neil daily.

No one ever thought that Neil would outlive my healthy, active mother, but, in 1997, my mother was diagnosed with a malignancy and passed away in September of 1998. One of her last instructions to me was "Gracie, take good care of Grandpa!"

Neil's hearing had begun to fail back in the early 90s, but now his eyesight was failing also. He so wanted to continue to write, but it became impossible.

We as a family, and I'm sure the BBS staff also, are so very grateful for the wonderful care given at *Windsor Manor* and the *Johnson Health Center*. Not long before his passing we sat with Neil at *Windsor*

and, just prior to leaving for Haiti, Ken played Neil's old baritone horn for the residents. Ken handed the horn to Neil and asked if he would like to try it once again. Neil knew how to hold the instrument, but just couldn't get up enough steam to blow a note.



Grace and Pastor Stam

That same week I received a call from his nurse suggesting that we set up hospice for him as the end was in sight. The kindness of the hospice staff was wonderful as we simply opted for "comfort care" and nothing more. Neil slipped into his Lord's presence at about 1:00 a.m., Sunday morning, March 9th. A long, full life, well-lived for his great God!

I close by telling you a little story that took place about a year ago. Neil was seated at his table in the *Johnson Center* dining room at *Windsor*. With him at the table were two other elderly men. All 3 were former pastors. As I sat down next to Neil, and identified myself in his good ear, he came alive and said, "Oh Gracie...sit down here...see that man next to me," and he pointed to who I knew as the venerable Pastor Walter Olson, who had pastored for many years a large church of over 1000 up in Waukegan, IL, but now Pastor Olson was stone deaf. "See that man," Neil said, "I want you to give him the gospel!"

Ken and I have chuckled over that scene many times, but there is a much deeper meaning beyond that scene. Here were 3 elderly pastors who had each given out the gospel for so many years of their lives; it was so ingrained in them that even in their current state of health and mind, they were still concerned about the eternal destiny of another man's soul.

That was Pastor Cornelius R. Stam. My mother's husband, my stepfather, our daughter's grandpa and Pastor to so many of you.

Life at its longest is still so very short and the older we grow the more meaningful an old little verse becomes, that says...

Only one life 'twill soon be past...

Only what's done for Christ will last!!!



OUR GLORIOUS HOPE

"For the believer, the grave is not the end; nor is death a calamity, for he has a glorious hope—the hope of Heaven."

Pastor Stam's Memorial Service

Pastor Cornelius R. Stam is now with the Lord he loved and faithfully served for more than seventy years. He departed this life at 1:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 9th at Windsor Park Manor located in Carol Stream, Illinois. The Memorial Service for Pastor Stam was held Saturday, March 15th, at the *Grace Gospel Center* just outside of Chicago. Well over 300 attended the service to commemorate what God accomplished through Brother Stam's ministry.



Some of the Pastors who attended



Congregational Singing



Pastor Sadler's Eulogy



Solo—It is Well with My Soul



Grace Frizane—Family Moments



Pastor Kiszona's Challenge

Remembering Pastor Stam

By Pastor Ricky Kurth

When I began working for *Berean Bible Society* in the mid 1970's, the major portion of Pastor Stam's life and ministry were already behind him, but you wouldn't know it from the workload that he was carrying. At an age when most men are thinking of retirement, Pastor Stam was still thinking of ways to get the blessed message of grace out to others. A spiritual workaholic, he never slept well at night, and when he couldn't sleep, he worked. Often I would get to my office in the morning and find a cassette tape on my desk containing an article for the *Searchlight* that he had dictated in the sleepless hours of the previous night.



But there was more to Pastor Stam than just work. By the time I began working for BBS, a couple of heart attacks had convinced him to at least moderate his pace, and so coffee break time would sometimes find the two of us playing dominoes in the office kitchen. He would enter my office with the dominoes in hand and ask: "Wanna fight?" At other times he would turn off the kitchen lights and invite the staff to view slides of pictures he had taken in places all across the country. (He once explained that photography was a natural choice for a hobby, considering the extensive traveling he did in the early days to speaking engagements for the *Worldwide Grace Testimony*). In the years after he lost his wife Henrietta, and before he married Ruth, he would often invite me to his apartment in the evening where we would play chess or another of his favorites, "skittle-pool."



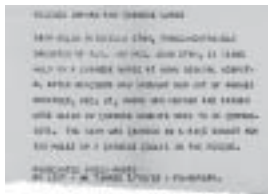
Although Pastor Stam was a busy man with a demanding schedule, he was never too busy to take a personal interest in me and my spiritual life. When he learned that I had taken a doctrinal position that he felt to be extreme, he sat down with me on numerous occasions with an open Bible to discuss it. He then made sure that any correspondence on that subject was dictated to me rather than to his secretary, so that we could discuss the issue further. When *Faith Bible Church* of Steger, Illinois, called me to be their pastor in 1979, I asked Pastor Stam what advice he would give me as a young man just starting out in the ministry. Without hesitation he told me, "Teach a book." Then he paused, and said, "Teach Romans."

As an employer, Pastor Stam was firm but fair. I was impressed with how he always said "please" when asking me to do something.

As my boss, he could have simply *ordered* me, but it speaks to the greatness of the man that he instead always *asked*. I think of this every time I read the Apostle Paul “beseeching” us to live for Christ, for I know that it is actually *God Himself* who is beseeching us through the apostle’s pen. As our God, He certainly could *order* us, but it speaks to His greatness that He rather *begs* us to serve Him.

One day I needed Pastor Stam to look at something that I was working on, and so I caught his eye from across the main office and *nodded my head* to indicate that I wanted him to come to my desk. He graciously complied, but afterward mentioned to me that this was not an appropriate manner in which to summon one’s boss! I felt badly; how could I have treated him with such familiarity? It wasn’t until years later that I realized that it was because *he* always treated *me* more as a friend than as a subordinate, and I had come to think of him in the same way.

Perhaps the best testimony to the kind of man he was can be found in the fact that the two people who knew him best respected him most. Russ and Bunny Miller were his friends and neighbors for well over twenty years, and yet always held him in the highest regard. Since it is often true that familiarity breeds contempt, whenever it doesn’t, when it rather garners respect and admiration, we understand that we are talking about someone of remarkable character.



Cable Dispatch telling of Helen Priscilla's rescue

That character was forged very early in life, and manifested itself at a turning point in Pastor Stam's life that came in the mid-1930's. After his brother John and wife Betty, missionaries in China, were brutally executed by the Communists in 1934, he received numerous invitations to speaking engagements from all across the country. The death of John and Betty Stam was the biggest story in Christendom of that era, and everyone wanted to hear about them from the mouth of the martyr's own brother. While he never expressed it to me in these terms, I believe that his brother's death could have catapulted Pastor Stam to the forefront of Christian speakers and writers of the day. All he would have had to do was stop preaching Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the Mystery, and he could easily have enjoyed the popularity and renown later experienced by Elizabeth Elliott two decades later when her missionary husband was killed in Ecuador. But as Pastor Stam remained true to the message of grace, the invitations to speak from churches interested only in the sensationalism of his brother's death soon dwindled, and Pastor Stam walked away from fame and possible fortune without thinking twice, and without looking back.

This indifference to riches may have cost him in yet another more personal area of his life. He and Henrietta were never able to have

children, and their efforts to adopt proved unsuccessful. While he couldn't be sure why, he suspected that it was because he never made much money, and never even owned a home of his own. He once told me that he had invented a popular board game that is still on the market to this day. But after paying a lawyer to patent it, he never heard from the man, and later saw the game in stores and knew that he had been defrauded. While others invent things hoping for riches and a life of ease, Pastor Stam told me he had hoped to become financially independent so that he could labor in the Lord's work without charge to the ministry.

But while he had no *physical* children he could call his own, his *spiritual* children are legion. Over sixty years of *Searchlight* "Mailbag Excerpts" attest to the light and blessing that his writings brought to many, many thousands of Christians. And since "he being dead yet speaketh" through his writings, his spiritual legacy will continue to grow as new generations discover how he was able to make deep spiritual truths simple and easy to understand.

In his correspondence, Pastor Stam signed each letter he wrote in the same manner: "Yours in His blessed service." He never forgot what a *privilege* it is to be able to serve the Lord, and neither should we. He once told me that if he died and learned that Christianity was all a hoax, he wouldn't regret the life that he had spent serving the Lord, for it was the most rewarding, fulfilling and satisfying life that anyone could hope to live, and he recommended it to young people whenever he could. I too have found it to be so, and in his stead I now recommend it to you, for it truly *is a blessed service*.



As the leaders in Israel began to dwindle, the prophet Ezekiel challenged his countrymen:

"Ye have not *gone up into the gaps*, neither *made up the hedge* for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord" (Ezekiel 13:5).

Similarly, now in our own day, a great voice has been silenced, and a mighty pen has been laid down for the last time. Who will step up to fill the gap in our own day? To those already logging long hours each week in the Lord's work, it may encourage you to know that Pastor Stam wrote *Things That Differ*, perhaps his best work, during what he called the busiest time in his life. God will surely bless the efforts of all those who are literally overextended for Him. But if these words are being read by someone considering the Lord's work, why not determine *right now* in your heart that you will join the ranks of those men and women who have dedicated their lives to the propagation of the message that Pastor Stam loved and held so dear. I can think of no more fitting way to honor this faithful servant of the Lord who is now at home with Him.



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Location: Cedar Lake Conference Center
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Dates: June 14-19, 2003

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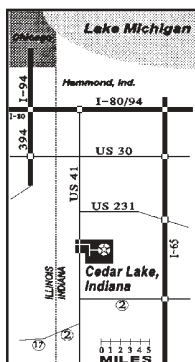
At the Piano: Mrs. Virginia Shriver

Accommodations: BBF recommends that reservations be made early, although accommodations are often available for latecomers. For reservations, write or phone: *Cedar Lake Conference Center*, Reservations Manager, PO Box 665, Cedar Lake, IN 46303, or phone: (219) 374-5941.

Facilities for travel trailers, motor homes, and tent camping include electric/water hook-ups, dump station, showers, etc.

For additional information or to receive a brochure, please contact:

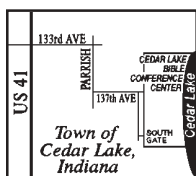
Pastor Ivan Burgener at (618) 344-6741 or
Berean Bible Society at (262) 255-4750



Cedar Lake Conference Center is located in the town of Cedar Lake, in northwest Indiana, twenty miles south of Chicago.

By Auto: US 41 to Cedar Lake, Indiana:

- At the traffic signal in Cedar Lake, turn east on 133rd Ave. 3/4 mile to the traffic signal at Parrish.
- Right on Parrish for 1/2 mile to 137th Ave.
- Left on 137th Ave. for 1/2 mile to the Conference grounds. Enter at the South Gate for parking and registration.



If traveling by air into Chicago's O'Hare or Midway airports, call the Conference Center to arrange pickup.

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Dates: May 16-18, 2003

Location: *Grace Life Fellowship*
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Paducah, Kentucky

Guest Speakers:

Paul M. Sadler, President of *Berean Bible Society*
Tim Stonecipher, Pastor of *Grace Life Fellowship*

For directions and additional information, please contact:

Pastor Tim Stonecipher at (270) 554-0808
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THE BBI BYLINE

A Legacy of Faithfulness

By W. Edward Bedore, Th.D.

Executive Director, *Berean Bible Institute*

The “home going” of Pastor Cornelius R. Stam has caused me to sit back and reflect on how God used this man to make Jesus Christ known “*according to the revelation of the mystery.*” It is impossible to estimate the full impact of Brother Stam’s long and fruitful ministry on the Grace Movement. Most of the Grace churches around the world owe their existence to him in the sense that their founders came into an understanding of the Word of God “rightly divided” through his writings. This is certainly true of the **Berean Bible Institute**.

He founded the *Berean Bible Society* and was instrumental in the founding of *Milwaukee Bible Institute*. His desire was to see individuals established in the Word of God and men trained for the work of the ministry. He knew that the Grace Movement could only grow if existing Grace Churches were strengthened and new Grace Churches were planted. His articles in the *Berean Searchlight* and his many books have been uniquely used towards this end.

Having learned from Pastor Stam’s generation, **BBI** is involved in the training of faithful men from today’s generation, who will be able to teach the next generation, that they might teach the generation that will follow, as we are admonished in Scripture to do (see II Tim. 2:1-2). The *Berean*

Bible Society Board of Directors founded **BBI** as a training school for Grace pastors in 1996. Even though it became independent of *BBS* in 1999, it is still an important part of the legacy of the ministry of Brother Stam.

While we come from different backgrounds and followed different paths in coming to an understanding of Paul’s distinct apostleship and message, everyone involved in the operation of **BBI** has been helped in some way through Pastor Stam’s work. Personally, I was first introduced to the Grace Message by a dear couple who had learned it through Pastor Stam’s writings. They in turn gave me copies of his books “Things That Differ” and “Our Great Commission” to help me. We thank the Lord for this faithful servant and for the blessing he has been to so many. We pray that in the future Pastor Stam’s writings will continue to bring men and women to an understanding of God’s Word “rightly divided.” One thing that has impressed me is Pastor Stam’s emphasis on the faithfulness of Christ rather than our faithfulness, pointing out that our confidence must always be in the Lord and not in man. “*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord*” (I Cor. 15:58).

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLE STUDY: The *Searchlight* articles posted on the BBS website can be printed from the site for personal Bible study or to pass along to others. Simply go to the BBS Homepage, click on the *Berean Searchlight* link, then click on the “Bible Study Articles” selection.

LITERATURE: It has been about four years since the last price increase on our literature. While we have sought to absorb the rising cost of printing, the time has come to raise the price of our hardcover and paperback books by 10% beginning this month. We are happy to be able to say that our literature still remains quite reasonable by today’s standard.

POSTAGE RATES: We have also experienced dramatic increases in postage and packaging materials. Therefore, beginning this month our postage and handling rates will increase accordingly: Orders up to \$20.00, **please add \$3.00**—orders over \$20.00, **please add 15%** to the total price of your order. Even with this modest increase, we are well within what most businesses charge for these services.

ADDITIONS: A large percentage of additions to the *Berean Searchlight* mailing list are requests from our readers to add a friend or loved one—sometimes as many as fifteen or twenty at a time. Of course, we are more than happy to comply, but please inquire before sending their name(s) to make sure they would like to receive the magazine. Recently we have been getting angry letters wanting to know who sent us their name and address. Needless to say, it takes a lot of time and the Lord’s money to add and remove them from the mailing list, especially when so many are involved. Our staff would like to convey their eternal gratitude for your compliance to the above!

FELLOWSHIP FILE: It has been a couple of years since we’ve updated our *Fellowship File*, so it may be a good idea to contact us to confirm that the information under your listing is current, especially with all the area code and zip code changes. Please send the name of your church or Bible study group, contact person, current address, and phone number to BBS—ATTENTION: Russ Miller.

If your local assembly or Bible study is in *full agreement* with the doctrinal position of the *Berean Bible Society*, we will be more than happy to add you to our *Fellowship File*. Simply send us all the applicable information noted above, along with a brief “statement of faith,” and we’ll make sure that other Grace believers in your area who write us looking for fellowship are placed in contact with you. Doctrinal Statements are available upon request.

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but you cannot be too small!”**

—Mats R. Sullenroc

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