

Dear Family,

I have been praying this week for a man named Jeff Pollard. He is the minister of a church in Florida that has a worldwide ministry of publishing and distributing excellent teaching and sermons from godly ministers who belong to bygone eras. The quarterly magazine is called **Free Grace Broadcaster** and its *free!* The publishers scan volumes of great works and then select out portions of just 4 -6 pages of each for the rest of us to read, and grow. It is truly an excellent work and ministry. I am praying that God will supply their needs and keep them committed to the Christ-exalting, man-debasing message that glorifies our good God. As I prayed, I thought I would quickly see if I could find some bio on Mr. Pollard. I found some info, but was amazed to find the description of the ministry that follows, written by Mr. Pollard:

“L. R. Shelton, Jr, founded Mount Zion Baptist Church in 1978. He began in 1972, what would become a worldwide, Christ-centered **literature ministry** with a mere **200** on the mailing list. Two friends sponsored a radio outreach in 1974, which grew to **257 stations** across the country. Desiring to get Christ-centered, grace exalting literature into people’s hands **free of charge**, he began publishing sermons copied on a mimeograph machine, praying that if the Lord would provide the funds, he would **give** the literature away.

The Lord Jesus has blessed these efforts and MZBC now has **six ministries**: 1) Chapel Library, which reprints about 800 titles by writers and preachers from the past, such as Charles **Spurgeon**, A. W. **Pink**, J. C. **Ryle**, Horatius **Bonar**, the **Puritans**, and many others. We distribute these tracts, booklets, and paperbacks **free of charge**. 2) We print two quarterly magazines: 1. Pink’s Studies in the Scriptures 2. The **Free Grace Broadcaster**, which is a quarterly magazine that I edit. Subscriptions to both of these are free of charge in the US. 3) MZ Bible Institute. My fellow elder Steven Frakes is the head of the Bible Institute, which offers free Bible courses. 4) a Prison Ministry. We reach into more than **3000 prisons** and jails with our literature and Bible institute courses. 5) Chapel Library Audio, which offers more than **6500 recorded sermons** by preachers such as A. N. Martin, John Piper, John MacArthur, and numerous others. Finally, 6) our web site [www.mountzion.org](http://www.mountzion.org) <<http://www.mountzion.org/>> ”

WOW! That’s quite a lot going on. ***But just how big is this church after thirty years?*** Mr. Pollard continues,

“MZBC **has grown** to a local church of approximately 40 members with a regular attendance of 50-70 people. Our doctrinal positional is most accurately expressed by the London Baptist Confession of 1677, a.k.a., the “1689.” [note: *very* similar to the Westminster Confession of 1647]

I simply stand amazed at what God has done and is doing through these faithful saints. Brothers and sisters, ***let us plead*** with our great God for just such a faith-borne ministry and service here in Wilmington that will extend far beyond our immediate area.

There is need everywhere you look, desperate need. And how do the Christians at Mount Zion do this international work? Again, Mr. Pollard,

“Brother Shelton was a great man of *prayer and faith*. He was strongly influenced by **George Mueller**. He never wanted to ask anyone for financial support and believed that if God had indeed given him the vision for this ministry, that God Himself would support it. . . . *The backbone of this ministry is our morning prayer meeting* in which we bring the needs of the ministry before the Lord. He has answered our prayers for 30 years now. God’s people support us by prayer and giving as the Lord leads.”

I truly long to see God being glorified here in Wilmington in just this Gideon-like way.

*Some boast in horses, some boast in chariots, but we will boast in the name of the LORD our God. Please pray for River City and all other churches where God’s Word is being preached. Is anything too difficult for the LORD?*

We welcome you all to **morning worship** at 10:30 at St. Thomas, downtown, and **Bible Study** at 6:00 at Windemere Presbyterian, Eastwood Road. It was great to have James back, and Craig and Marilyn Hales visiting. Please remember one another by name as you pray for vibrant devotions. Husbands, please be sure to be praying with your wives at some time each day, especially before bed. And let us all sleep well (and early) on Saturday night so that we may wake truly refreshed and eager for the blessings of the Lord’s day.

Finally, I want to praise our covenant keeping God for His faithfulness to our dear family members, **Bob and Betsy Caudle** as they celebrate FIFTY YEARS OF WEDDED BLISS on Saturday. God is good, and He has been good to Bob and Betsy. I praise His name and thank Bob and Betsy for letting their lights so shine before the rest of us that we may see their good works and glorify our Father in heaven. Congratulations you lovebirds!

Please pray for me; pray that the Spirit of God would come upon me mightily in the preaching, teaching, and worship of our awesome Creator Redeemer – may we settle for nothing less.

With much love and thanksgiving,

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