

1

God's Precious Word

*Norma Plank
Rewritten by permission*

Though the enemy hinders, God always increases the boundaries of His Kingdom.

In late July of 2002, I was traveling with an intercessory team in China. Stopping by a small house church, we asked if we could join the Chinese Christians during their worship service. They replied that, since we were foreigners, we could not. They were afraid that the Public Security Bureau would discover their gathering.

“If that’s the case,” we replied, “could we use your home and worship by ourselves?”

They just looked at us and shook their heads.

As we turned to leave, one of our team said, “We brought Bibles. Do you need any?”

The leader’s eyes suddenly grew large. “Chinese Bibles?” he asked.

“Yes,” we replied.

Then an old man, who looked to be seventy years old, stood up. “We have been praying for Bibles for twenty years,” he said, with tears streaming down his face. “We have only one Bible, which we share among the thirty of us who meet here.”

You should have seen their faces as we went through our sacks and presented them with thirty Chinese Bibles. They were more joyful than children on Christmas morning. We cried with them as they reverently took the precious Word of God into their hands.

So, we worshiped with them after all! What a blessed fellowship it was! What a privilege!

2

Not My Will, But Thine

Wilma Hofer

At the doctor's office I met a woman who is blind because of diabetes. It caused me to think, *Lord, forgive me when I complain; I have two good eyes.* Others were there in wheelchairs. Again I thought, *I'm in my seventies, but I can walk as much as two miles for my daily exercise. How blessed I am! Thank You, Lord.*

I came home with a grateful heart, so I should have been better prepared for what followed that evening—an opportunity to gracefully adjust my plans in order to help a bedfast sister.

Earlier I had agreed to go with Verna to help Bertha the next week. Bertha is a dear bedfast sister in our church. Her husband was recently reinstated as a member, which brings her great joy. They have ten children, but none live nearby. Sometimes they come and help care for

their mother. Bertha could move closer to them, but for her spiritual well-being, she wants to live near her church family.

The phone rang. Julia wondered if I would go with her to help Bertha *this* week. I thought, *This week and next week too?*

I said, "I can't; that's my shopping day."

Unknown to me, Julia called the preacher's wife, but she had a full schedule and wasn't available. Then the preacher's wife called me. "Will you go with Julia to care for Bertha?" she asked. "I just can't go this time."

By this time, I wasn't feeling very happy. I didn't want my shopping plans spoiled, but God was speaking to me through His Word. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these . . . , ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40).

"Yes, Lord," I answered Him, "I do want to do that, but not tomorrow morning."

I'm happy to say I repented of my wrong feelings and for wondering why others couldn't do more for this dear sister.

Home-care nurses come and bathe Bertha, but she also has other needs, and she enjoys the fellowship of her Christian sisters. Bertha's mind is very good. She's a blessing to visit with. I can't imagine what it would be like to be in her place, unable to move in bed, unable even to wipe my own tears.

So, Julia will come soon to pick me up, and I can say that I go willingly and the Lord has graciously forgiven

me. Yes, some of my plans, including my daily nap, are placed on the back burner. But that's all right, for I know the Lord will give me grace as I willingly and lovingly submit to His will. I need to learn to focus more on what the Lord wants me to do today and not to be disturbed when my carefully planned days are interrupted.

*O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself:
it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.*

Jeremiah 10:23