

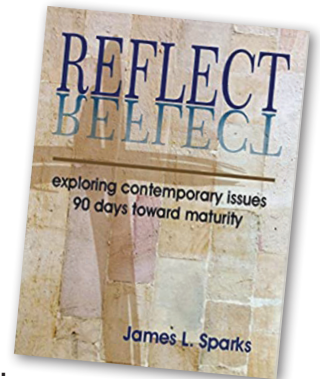
At Home

Summer 2020

Inspiration, advice and resources for God's faithful servants

Do Not Be Afraid

A Devotional from Fellow Mission:Dignity Recipient James L. Sparks



Several times in Scripture, Jesus made a very clear, meaningful and comforting statement: “Do not be afraid” (Matt. 14:27; 17:7; 28:10; Mark 5:36; 6:50).

In our society today, there are many reasons to be fearful. Terrorism, financial difficulties, divorce, disease and moral decay are rampant, to name a few. This is nothing new as these events describe the world for the last many years.

Christ came and gave a clear claim — **“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world”** (John 16:33).

He gave hope that the world created by God is good. The problem is man's

stewardship of the world.

God has chosen to work through willing disciples to reconcile the world back to Himself. Man must walk in faith, rejecting fear to accomplish the purposes of God.

Fear paralyzes many people, making it very difficult to do great things. So much of the time, it can be a feeling that the evil one magnifies. Don't be fooled. Draw near to God's Spirit. Fear can be confronted and victory realized. Accepting God's grace casts out fear. **There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love** (1 John 4:18).

Are you accepting God's perfect love that drives out fear?

James Sparks is a minister and a graduate of Southwestern Seminary, having earned both a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts degree. For over 20 years, he served as the campus minister at Austin Peay State University (from 1963 to 1969) and at Vanderbilt University (from 1969 to 1984). Since then, James has been in private practice as a licensed marriage and family therapist and has worked with churches as a counseling resource. This is an excerpt from his devotional book, **Reflect: Exploring Contemporary Issues**, published in 2015. James lives in Dallas, Texas, and has been a Mission:Dignity® recipient since 2005.





Call for Devotionals

Do you have a devotional or encouraging word you would like to

share with Mission:Dignity recipients and donors? Please send us a copy of your favorite passage of Scripture and a few devotional thoughts — or any devotional words you have already written — so we can include it in an upcoming book! What a gift it would be to hear from your wealth of wisdom and knowledge after many years of

walking with Christ. We would love to pass these on as encouragement to our Mission:Dignity family.

EMAIL:

MissionDignity@GuideStone.org

MAIL:

**P.O. Box 819109
Dallas, TX 75381-9109**

Streamline by Switching to EFT

If you receive a monthly grant (**not an expense grant**) from Mission:Dignity, consider switching to receiving an EFT — a direct deposit into your account — instead of a monthly check. This means you will no longer need to monitor the mail for a check (or make an unnecessary trip to the bank) because the grant amount will go directly into your bank account each month! To find out more about this option, contact our office by calling **1-877-888-9409** and then selecting **Option 2**.



What Donors Are Saying

Though many choose to remain anonymous, those who faithfully give to Mission:Dignity have a heart for you and for this vital ministry. **Hear what they're saying about the honor it is to walk alongside you — especially during this time of uncertainty:**



I asked the Lord to show me who I should give my IRS check to. The check and Mission:Dignity's Guided Giving newsletter came the same day — question answered!"



My dad pastored many small churches over his years in ministry. I know firsthand how my mother watched for the check each month from what was then the Baptist Annuity Board. Wasn't much, but she really needed and appreciated it!"



We can only imagine what Mission:Dignity recipients are going through. During our lean financial periods, God always pulled us through, so we are very happy to help those servants of God who need it."



I made cards for first responders, nurses, doctors and those that were ill, for free; all proceeds are coming to you because some people wanted to donate."



This gift is personal. When my wife and I were discussing tithing on the proceeds from the sale of our home, Mission:Dignity was at the top of the list. As a pastor who has always served in small SBC churches, this ministry is close to my heart."



Since the beginning of March, I have used only three-fourths of a tank of gas — I usually buy one-half a tank a week! Haven't been out to eat in six weeks or gotten takeout. May this little extra gift bless someone as much as the Lord has blessed me!"



I wanted to share some of my stimulus check with you folks. God's grace and blessing on you."

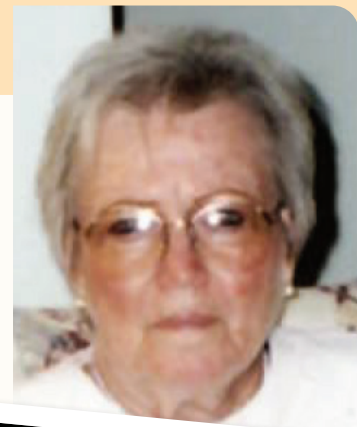


Thank you for the opportunity to participate in furthering God's work through Mission:Dignity. We will continue to be prayerful for your ministry and the precious Mission:Dignity recipients."

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor. 9:7, NJKV).

Coconut Cake

LaFaye Brock and her husband, Huey, ministered all around the South for over 50 years. She now lives in Winder, Georgia, and has been a Mission:Dignity recipient since 2016. She hopes you enjoy this summer cake recipe when you need a sweet pick-me-up.



CAKE:

- 1 package yellow cake mix
- 4 eggs
- ½ cup vegetable shortening
- 1 cup milk

ICING:

- 1 cup sour cream
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 to 6 oz. package of frozen coconut

DIRECTIONS:

- 1 Mix icing first and let stand while baking.
- 2 Mix cake ingredients and pour into four layer cake pans.
- 3 Bake at 350°F for 10–12 minutes.
- 4 Ice when cool and keep in refrigerator to store.



Renewal Application Updates

Good news! We streamlined our renewal application to make it easier for you. Next time you receive your renewal, you will notice that it is now only one page (front and back). Please feel free to attach any other documents as necessary. **We hope this change will make renewal time a little less stressful for you!**

Application for Financial Assistance
Mission:Dignity

Please complete all pages of this form and sign it in blue or black ink, then return it to:
Mission:Dignity
GuideStone
5005 LBJ Freeway, Ste. 2200
Dallas, TX 75244-6152
Questions: Call 1-877-888-9409
Fax: 1-856-692-6327

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Title: Rev. Dr. Mr. Mrs. Ms.

Name: _____

Social Security number (last four digits): _____ Daytime telephone: (____) _____

Home address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Email address: _____

Your health status: Good Fair Poor Disabled

Which church do you currently attend? _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Please provide the name of a relative or friend we can contact if we are unable to reach you.

Contact name: _____ Relationship: _____

Home address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Home telephone: (____) _____ Work telephone: (____) _____

Cell telephone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Would you like your mail to be sent to this alternate contact? Yes No

FAMILY INFORMATION

Marital status: Married Widowed Single Divorced

Spouse name: _____ Social Security number (last four digits): _____

Spouse birth date: _____ Date of marriage: _____

Date of: Spouse's death: _____ Divorce: _____

Spouse health status: Good Fair Poor Disabled

Continued on other side

GuideStone®

MISSION:DIGNITY: I give permission to share my birth date (month and day) with you.