

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH
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From The
Pastor's Desk
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World Missions

The HIGH CALLING of our DAILY WORK

Don't let yourself miss the BIG picture

An old Jewish story, which does sound logical, says that when the Israelites fled Egypt, they followed each other so closely, so diligently that they never noticed the miracle happening around them. The waters of the Red Sea parted before them in a great spectacle, but the Israelites were so caught up with following each other and the urgency of the moment—they failed to notice God's bigger drama unfolding before their very eyes.

Life can be like that. We get so busy doing the next thing that we fail to notice how God is working in and around us now.

Here's a question: As we travel through the day, will we lock our gazes on the mile markers, or see the scenes around us and before us. Don't miss the bigger picture—the high calling of our daily work.

... "take heed to thyself...lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart..." Deut. 4:9

Francis Scott Key

In 1814 an American lawyer was held captive on a Royal Navy vessel where he viewed Britain's assault on Baltimore. From the ship, he watched the English rockets' glare as they sailed against the dark sky. Fighting continued all night, but at dawn the American flag still waved.

Although Francis Scott Key was an attorney, history remembers him as the writer of the American national anthem. Key wrote no songs before or after writing the anthem. He made his money as an attorney, but he seized the moment, and allowed God to use an unknown gift in writing some lyrics sung by many across our nation, and around the world. Don't forget the high calling of our daily work.

"With good will, doing service as to the Lord, and not to men." Eph. 6:7

Bill Hathaway ministering to the
Japanese in Springfield, Mo.

The Japanese ministry is doing very well. With some of our people in Japan during the summer, attendance is slightly down, but services go on as usual. This includes various Bible studies in homes and the Japanese Children's Meetings. The **SOS Soulwinning Ministry** continues reaching souls for Christ. I have been involved in this ministry since 1982. Presently, the SOS soulwinning cards are used around the world. **The Precious Memories Support Ministry** is going strong. Many who have lost a spouse attend and have received encouragement and comfort from others. I am soon publishing a book titled, "And God Shall Wipe Away All Tears." Besides these, there is the radio ministry. My announcements regarding the Japanese ministry and the Precious Memories Support Ministry are heard on the B.B.C. station every day.

My knee is doing much better now. It takes a long time to recover from surgery. I was not hospitalized over-night for which I am glad. At age 76, I have never been a patient over-night in a hospital. I'm grateful for that.

Our Japanese pastors in Japan have been extremely faithful in preaching the Gospel. I am praying that I will be able to return to Japan once again; perhaps next year. I was asked by Pastor Rounsaville of Baptist Temple Church, to head up a group to take on a missions trip to Japan. It will not be a sight-seeing trip, but rather a time to work with the Japanese churches in getting the Gospel out. Pray that it will all work out.

Thanks for your prayers and financial support.

Bill Hathaway