

Counting Blessings

Some melodies are momentary; fading into oblivion before ever becoming renowned. Some last a lifetime. Some more. Johnson Oatman, Jr. penned lyrics for 5,000 Gospel songs. Remember Oatman? Probably not. Can you recognize any of his tunes? I think you can. How about this one written in 1897: *“Count your blessings, see what God hath done! Count your blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.”* Lately there has been a new spring in my step and this old song in my heart.

Blessing # 1: When I count blessings, I count souls. Our last annual field reports show that 99,490 received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and 88,812 were baptized in the saving name of Jesus Christ in 180 nations. *“See what God hath done!”*

Blessing #2. Counting blessings includes a heart of gratitude for 557 North American and seventeen regional missionaries. They are our global blessing force.

Blessing #3 Beyond merely counting missionaries one by one, I find myself praying for them one by one. I trust you travel throughout the globe, visiting missionaries—on your knees. What would we do without your prayers?

Blessing #4. The fellowship of ministers and saints in the United Pentecostal Church is a gigantic blessing! I was humbled and honored by the unprecedented affirmation we received during the business sessions at the General Conference in Columbus, Ohio. Several items on the floor had a direct impact on us. Thanks! We will not let you down.

“And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done!” Those words only begin to express the miracle that took place in the Foreign Missions service. Fourteen missionary families were sent back to the field. Funds were raised for 120 crusades. The subsequent harvest will be phenomenal. God did far above our expectations, and He did it with your help. Sacrifice offerings are still pouring in.

I can count higher, I promise. But, I think you get the picture.