



God's Faithfulness

Blessings Bestowed by the Local Church

For over 150 years, **Ramoth Baptist Church** has faithfully preached God's Word, influencing many lives. That teaching, coupled with the Ramoth church family, began to influence Joe Pearson's life early in his childhood. In addition to attending services regularly with his grandmother, he also attended Vacation Bible School. Pearson had heard the Gospel many times, but it wasn't until 1997 in his adulthood, while lying in a hospital bed after a heart attack, that he "responded by faith in the shed blood of Jesus on the cross to wash him clean" from his sin. That summer, he received a new physical heart and a new spiritual heart.

The folks at Ramoth Baptist Church ministered to Pearson by visiting him while he recovered at home. He was baptized as soon as he was able. Since then, Pearson has served several terms as a deacon and enjoys visiting others in the hospital. When he can't visit, he calls them on the phone.

In 2004, during one of his terms as a deacon, Pearson started an encouragement ministry known as the Birthday Ministry. He calls church members on their birthdays and shares at least one Scripture verse with them. These verses most often come from a resource first made available to him through Ramoth.

Most of us have seen the literature racks in church foyers. In 1997 or 1998, Pearson began availing himself of the *Our Daily Bread* devotional booklets offered there—the large print version. By 2015, it became harder for him to read, and by 2017, he could no longer read it.

That hospital stay in 1997 wasn't Pearson's first. At birth, he had 20/400 vision in his left eye and was completely blind in

his right. He has had four corneal transplants and now has glaucoma. Although he still has some light perception, he says, "It's as though I'm looking through shadowy glass."

In the summer of 2020, the leader of Pearson's men's group added him to a list to receive an audio version of *Our Daily Bread* from the Braille Circulating Library in Richmond. He now listens to the devotionals and reads the referenced Scriptures from the braille Bible another deacon helped him obtain. In 2021, he began receiving Braille books to further his study of God's Word.

Pearson calls the Braille Circulating Library and *Our Daily Bread* tremendous blessings. Those blessings came to him by God working through Ramoth Baptist Church and its leaders. His story illustrates God's faithfulness to continue His work in His people. Recognizing this, Pearson refers to Philippians 1:5-7 as "an illustration of how we can be confident when we plant and water Truth."

"I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6, HCSB). ■

RESOURCES:

For more information about the Braille Circulating Library, visit:

braillecirculatinglibrary.org

There are several ways to receive *Our Daily Bread*. It is available by print (monthly or quarterly), app, Facebook, and email. For information, visit:

odb.org