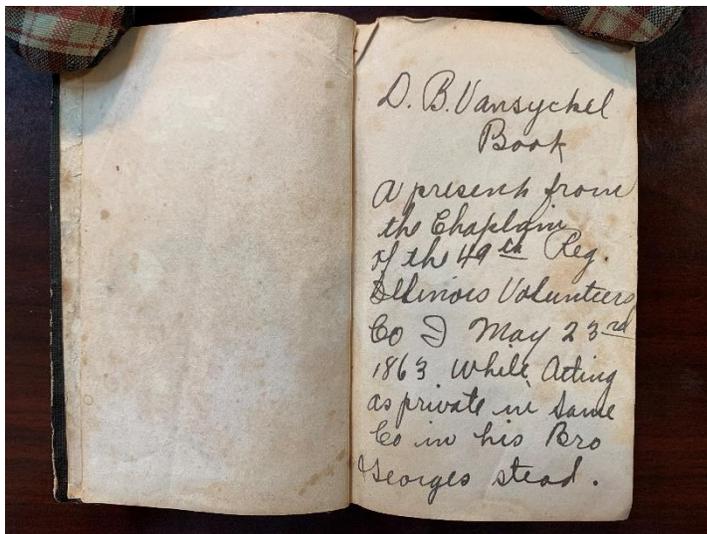
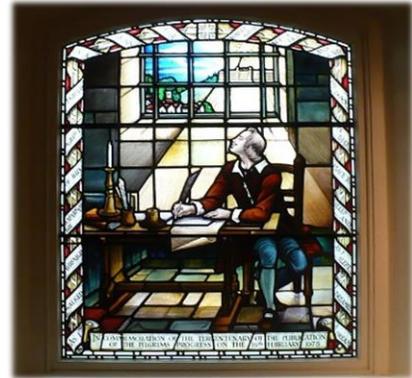


May 28, 2020

Good morning, Everybody.

I thought I'd include today one of the pictures from the devotional last night. You'll recall that this is the inscription in the front of an 1862 American Bible Society New Testament. These testaments were provided freely by the Society for all combatants, Confederate and Union, during the Civil War. By war's end, over 3 million of them had been distributed.



I told you most of what I know of the story of Daniel Vansyckel; especially of his presentation of this New Testament to a Margaret Craig Crawford, of Eden, Illinois, and their subsequent marriage in 1868. He'd just turned twenty-five. She was a month short of twenty-one.

In the next twelve years the young husband established himself in Girard, Kansas, as a successful attorney. But during that same time the couple buried four of the five children to whom Margaret gave birth. Only a little girl, Viola May, aged eight, was still living in 1880. So there were many sorrows for this couple.

It would be a great joy to discover in Heaven that this couple knew (knows) the Lord. What we know for sure right now is that there was a day after Daniel had returned home from the War unscathed, when something significant was shared between them. It took place at a church known for its earnest gospel minister (Samuel Wylie), and was important enough to include Daniel's giving Margaret his Civil War New Testament, and dating the event (April 9, 1867). Eight months later they were married. Perhaps Daniel presented her with his testament on the day of their engagement. I'd like someday to hear the whole story. If I do, maybe the Lord will let us get back together so that I can share it with you (smile). And what

it will include, for certain, is that even in their bitter earthly sorrows they came to know the truth printed up in a little devotional that someone sent this week.

I have learned to see a need of everything God gives me, and want nothing that He denies me. There is no dispensation, though afflictive, but either in it or after it, I find that I could not be without it.

For Now

Meanwhile . . . we're looking forward to getting back together ***much sooner!*** Last night Pastor Rush's overview of the arrangements for services this coming Lord's Day was exciting. Many thanks to him and to the other staff and volunteers who've been planning and providing for a successful transition. It's a happy relief to anticipate regathering for our regular services. But even before those, some of our families are going to have the delight of meeting in a private ceremony for the homeschoolers' graduation tomorrow night. So actually, a limited number of our families are looking forward to a small foretaste of gathering in the auditorium together, but the rest of us will get to join them on livestream. I know our other graduates this year faced the same kinds of challenges with their circumstances. We look forward to rejoicing with this group of graduates tomorrow night!

Praying for You Today,

Pastor Minnick