



CONTENDING FOR
FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIANITY

The Voice IN THE Wilderness



"The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight."

Mark 1:3

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Free Subscription



CONTENDING FOR
AMERICAN FREEDOM

February 2003

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S RULES OF CIVILITY AND BEHAVIOR IN COMPANY AND CONVERSATION

Every action done in company ought to be with some sign of respect to those that are present.

When in company, put not your hands to any part of the body, not usually discovered.

If you cough, sneeze, sigh, or yawn, do it not loud but privately; and speak not in your yawning, but put your handkerchief or hand before your face and turn aside.

Sleep not when others speak, sit not when others stand, speak not when you should hold your peace, walk not on when others stop.

Let your countenance be pleasant, but in serious matters somewhat grave.

Show not yourself glad at the misfortune of another, though he were your enemy.

When you see a crime punished, you may be inwardly pleased, but always show pity to the suffering offender.

Do not laugh too much or too loud in public.

Strive not with your superiors in argument, but always submit your judgment to others with modesty.

Be not hasty to believe flying reports to the disparagement of any.

Associate yourself with men of good quality, if you esteem your own reputation; for it is better to be alone than in bad company.

Think before you speak; pronounce not imperfectly nor bring out your words too hastily, but orderly and distinctly.

Undertake not what you cannot perform, but be careful to keep your promise.

Let your recreations be manful not sinful.

Labour to keep alive in your breast that little celestial fire called conscience.



MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends:

George Washington's Rules of Civility and Behavior originally numbered 110. We only included a few of his admonitions, which most of us could benefit from if heeded. In ministering to so many people from various walks of life, I must remind myself of proper manners. Our world today could stand a lesson or two.

We live in a complex world. I wrestle constantly in the proper way to deal with people. "But speaking the truth in love" must be motivation to help others grow in Christ. That has been a real challenge in recent months.

It is December 29, 2002, and we just got in from church. The February material for this issue is due to the printer January 2, 2003, just about four days away. My wife, daughter, and I had planned to spend about three days with the parents and grandparents during the Christmas holidays. But while visiting with family, my wife's uncle passed away on December 23rd. I was asked to preach the funeral, which I gladly did on December 27, and therefore we returned to the office on the 28th. "Uncle Ben" had told me a bit over a year ago that he was saved and ready to meet the Lord. It was a privilege to take part in the service, comfort the family, and share the gospel with a large

gathering of family and friends. One of the funeral directors thanked me for the message. He said, "You don't hear that kind of preaching at funerals very often any more." I pray there were decisions made that will effect eternity for many. Please pray with us toward that end.

Arriving back in the office somewhat behind, it's now catch up time. After we get the February edition of *The Voice in the Wilderness* into the printer, I teach a two week inter-term course on the History of Missions, preach a few times, and then back to Venezuela in February if things calm down in that country. I think there are two Mission Conferences in March and on the schedule goes. The Lord may return before then.

Since it is December 29th as I write, permit me to thank those who sent cards, letters, and gifts during the holidays and New Year season. Your encouragement and prayers are deeply appreciated. For every negative note and criticism received in this office, two-dozen letters and phone calls came in thanking us for this work. God bless you all for helping my wife and me to carry the responsibilities of this wonderful calling. As "laborers together" many around the world are being reached through *The Voice in the Wilderness*, Inc.

Please take time to read the conclusion of "God's Theater of War in the Confederate Camps" in this issue. I have added some additional information that might be of interest. It tends to be controversial and possibly inflammatory for some. It is my prayer that most will give some serious thought. With Trent Lott's comments and the reaction of many, this is an issue in which an element in the media, government, as well as our society will never put to rest. Some are determined to stir up so-called racism, and pick at old wounds to the detriment of any thing good. It just proves that civil rights, equal rights of all kinds, tolerance, political correctness, affirmative action and on and on will not satisfy. Only Jesus can heal, bring peace and forgiveness to those who are tossed to and fro like the sands on the seashore. Neither reparations nor giving the whole cookie jar away will make glad an unregenerated heart. It's not government, but the gospel that changes hearts. Just read and think. Pray for our country. Jesus is coming soon!

For Christ and Souls,
Bro. Ronnie

50 Year Countdown next month!

IS GOD'S WORK IN YOUR WILL?

A bequest in your Will to Voice in the Wilderness can assure that the outreach of this ministry at home and abroad will continue after you have gone to your eternal reward. Prayerfully consider us in your Estate Planning.
Thank you!

The Voice in the Wilderness is a nonprofit, independent incorporation, founded by Rev. Dr. J. Royce Thomason D.P.D. Ph.D., evangelist and medical missionary. The organization is dedicated to the spreading of the whole gospel to the world, especially in foreign lands. The program consists of building mission stations and schools, supporting the American missionaries and native pastors, providing needy students with room and board, administering medical and dental services free, and preaching Christ to the lost. We are supported by the gifts of those who care. All gifts designated by missions will go directly without any deductions. Contributions to The Voice in the Wilderness for projects or to support the ministry of a missionary will be used as indicated by the donor following approved policies and procedures. Gifts are tax deductible and should be made out to The Voice in the Wilderness. *The Voice in the Wilderness Magazine* is a fundamental publication, published each month in behalf of the work of the Lord and the preservation of the liberties of our United States. Printed material from other sources does not necessarily imply an endorsement from this ministry. There is no subscription charge; all interested people of good will may have a copy sent regularly to their address simply by requesting it. Address all correspondence to Voice in the Wilderness, P.O. Box 7037, Asheville, NC 28802.



IMPORTANT ROLES IN AMERICAN HISTORY



"May I give you something to read when you have the opportunity?" The black man on the elevator seemed appreciative when he read the title **"GOD'S SIMPLE PLAN OF SALVATION."** If I remember correctly, he said, "I am a Christian." As we stepped off the elevator at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, I asked him if he had read about George Washington Carver? To my surprise, he told me he had not. Today, it seems we hear a lot about race, civil rights, black history and related issues. Unfortunately, many black Americans know little about truly great black Americans. For example, George

Washington Carver was an accomplished artist, scientist and inventor. In a speech at the Blue Ridge YMCA of North Carolina, Professor Carver in his own descriptive way gave this testimony:

Years ago I went into my laboratory and said, "Dear Mr. Creator, please tell me what the universe was made for?"

The Great Creator answered, "You want to know too much for that little mind of yours. Ask for something more your size, little man."

Then I asked. "Please, Mr. Creator, tell me what man was made for?"

Again the Great Creator replied, "You are still asking too much. Cut down on the extent and improve the intent."

So then I ask, "Please, Mr. Creator, will you tell me why the peanut was made?"

"That's better, but even then it's infinite. What do you want to know about the peanut?"

"Mr. Creator, can I make milk out of the peanut?"

"What kind of milk do you want? Good, Jersey milk or just plain boarding house milk?"

"Good, Jersey milk."

And then the Great Creator taught me to take the peanut apart and put it together again. And out of the process have come forth all these products!

To the amazement of so many, George Washington Carver's discoveries are practically innumerable. His discoveries, from the peanut alone, numbered over 300. Then there was the sweet potato with over 118 different discoveries and the list goes on. Mr. Carver found ways of making such things as cosmetics, lotions, vinegar, printer's ink, rubbing oil, and even instant coffee from some of these items.

George Washington Carver was invited in 1921 to speak to the United States Senate Ways and Means Committee in Washington, D.C. He was asked to talk about the potential uses of the peanut and other new crops to improve the economy of the South. Given only ten minutes to speak, the committee was so amazed at what Mr. Carver was saying that at the end of the allotted time the Chairman said, "Go ahead brother. Your time is unlimited."

Mr. Carver then proceeded to speak for one hour and forty-five minutes. At the conclusion of Mr. Carver's address, the Chairman of the committee asked:

"Dr. Carver, how did you learn all of these things?"

Carver answered: "From an old book."

"What book?" asked the Senator.

Carver replied? "The Bible."

The Senator inquired, "Does the Bible tell about peanuts?"



*For Personal Correspondence,
Contributions, Address Changes,
New Subscriptions,
Write to us*

Dr. Ronnie L. Williamson
Voice in the Wilderness

P.O. Box 7037
Asheville, NC 28802
Voice (828) 649-1043
Fax (828) 649-9784

For Personal Correspondence,

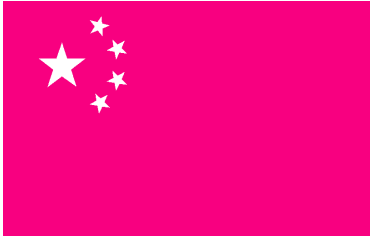
Dr. J. Royce Thomason

P.O. Box 210098
Dallas, TX 75211
(972) 298-5963

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RELIGIOUS NEWS

AND COMMENTS



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM UNSURE IN HONG KONG –

There is cause for alarm in Hong Kong over the implications of the controversial Article 23 Legislation, which is about to be introduced into law. When Hong Kong was handed over to China in 1997, there was a promise of fifty years of religious freedom. Religious persecution has been part of China's history, and should Article 23 come into force, religious persecution could spread. Under Article 23, religious groups will be liable to be deemed a "National Security Risk" and appropriate action taken.

Crosswalk.com 12/30/02

SCHOLASTIC WITHDRAWS ANTI-BIBLICAL BOOK FROM CHRISTIAN

MARKETING – Scholastic, Inc. will no longer distribute a book list to Christian schools containing the book *Conversations with God for Teens* by Neal Walsch. Walsch purports to answer various questions from kids using the "voice of God." For example, when a girl asks why she is a lesbian, his answer is that she was born that way due to genetics. Another girl asked if cheating in class was wrong.

Scholastic's "God" responded: "There is no such thing as 'right' and 'wrong.'" (5/11 *World*) New Age and occultic ideas are present in this best-selling blasphemous book. *Calvary Contender 1/03*

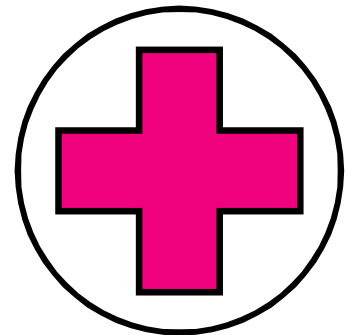


FREE SPEECH AND THE NAME OF "JESUS" –

The Pacific Justice Institute has been asked by a number of Christians to fight back against cities that want to ban sectarian invocations. Brad Dacus, president of Pacific Justice Institute says the Constitution is clear on the issue. Dacus says a federal district court in California has already ruled that local governments are free to have invocations that mention the word "Jesus" or whatever the individual saying the prayer wishes to say. He points out the government must be neutral towards free speech and not discriminatory based upon the religious viewpoint of the person delivering the invocation. The Second District of Appeals recently ruled that an invocation given at a Burbank City Council meeting was unconstitutional because it included a direct reference to Jesus Christ. *Pacific Justice Institute 12/02*

PURITANS ON THE WAY TO CHURCH –

In the 1600 and 1700s as you made your way to the church meeting house, you may be carrying your Bible, but for sure you would be armed with possibly a musket and pistol. From the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Plymouth Colony, to Georgia and South Carolina you possibly faced a stiff fine if not bearing arms to the church meeting house. A 1619 statute of Virginia required everyone to attend church on the Sabbath, "and all such as bear arms shall bring pieces, swords, powder and shot." Those failing to bring their guns were subject to a three-shilling fine. Then in 1770, Georgia passed a similar law requiring every free man to carry a rifle or pistol to church each Sunday. The assault on many of our basic constitutional freedoms would certainly be a shock to our founders.



BRITISH RED CROSS REMOVES CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS –

Christine Banks, who volunteers at a store in the county of Kent south of London, said her manager was ordered to take down

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all Christmas-themed decorations. “We put up a nativity scene in the window and were told to take it out. It seems we can’t have anything that means Christmas. We’re allowed to have some tinsel but that’s it...we were told it is because we must not upset Muslims.” The organizations chief executive denied that the Red Cross was “banning” anything and contended that the removal of the decorations was in accordance with a policy that forbids materials of an “overtly religious nature.” *Cross.com 12/30/02*

NCC LEADERS ATTACK FALWELL, DEFEND MUHAMMAD/FRANKLIN GRAHAM SPEAKS ON ISLAM – The left-wing National Council of Churches’ executive board issued a special resolution against Jerry Falwell’s “hateful and destructive comments” in calling Muhammad a terrorist. The NCC was echoing criticism coming from Islamic clerics. Falwell apologized, but the hypocrisy of the NCC is clearly revealed, in that they do not lash out this way against blasphemers of Christianity. Christians are deprived of their freedoms, and severely persecuted, in Islamic societies. - Franklin Graham has called Islam “a very evil and wicked religion,” and criticized its intolerance. He should know – he’s made about 70 visits to the Muslim world – from Saudi Arabia to Indonesia. He heads up Samaritan’s Purse, a humanitarian relief organization. He’s built hospitals in Sudan and schools in Afghanistan. He says: “My opinions and views are shaped by years of working and seeing Islam up close.” He adds: “There is no religious freedom. I have seen the persecution. It is taught by them, it is in their Koran.”

Calvary Contender 1/03



A Rich Heritage

On June 1, 1774, when the colonies were seeking God’s will as to whether they should break ties with England, George Washington was at church fasting and praying. It has been the prayers of the founders that continue to procure for America the blessing, grace, and yes the longsuffering of Almighty God.

It was November 11, 1620 when the Mayflower maneuvered into Cape Cod Harbor.

Listen to the Mayflower Compact:

“In the name of God, Amen...Having undertaken, for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith...”

In 1636 the Puritans founded Harvard College with this statement of purpose:

“Let every student be plainly instructed, and earnestly pressed to consider well, the main end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life (John 17:3) and thereby lay Christ in the bottom, as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and learning.”

The founders of Harvard believed that “All knowledge without Christ was vain.” The motto of Harvard was officially “For Christ and the Church.”

When tempers flared at the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin said,

“I have lived a long time, and the longer I live the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire (great country) can rise without His aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings, that ‘except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.’” (Ps. 127:1)

Franklin suggested that they begin each morning with prayer, asking for God’s guidance and wisdom. From that day forward, the convention proceeded smoothly.

Our nation’s first President concludes his oath with the words “so help me God.” Washington’s Inaugural Address was simple and straightforward:

“...it would be peculiarly improper to omit, in this first official act, my fervent supplications to the Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in councils of nations and whose providential aids can supply every human defect...No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than those of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency.”

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GOD'S THEATER OF WAR IN THE CONFEDERATE CAMPS

CHAPTER 4

RELIGIOUS ATMOSPHERE AFTER THE CIVIL WAR

(Continued)

Instead of a loss of faith over the defeat of the war, the revivals prepared them for it. The South would have drowned in the poverty and ashes left to them by Sherman's crusades if it had not of been for their faith found in the revivals of the Civil War. Through this faith, the revival spirit of the Confederate camps continued after the war to make lasting spiritual affects throughout the South.

Denominational Sectionalism After the Civil War

The Civil War greatly affected the churches across the South. The Roman Catholic Church lost its stronghold, while the Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian became even more entrenched in the firm conservativeness of the South and in their convictions in the Bible. The sincerity of the Southern mind simply trust in the Bible as the "standard of all faith."¹ Therefore, Southerners determined even after the war to remain separated from the defining differences of the Northern churches.

The main denominations of the South did not immediately reunite with their Northern counterparts, but decidedly strove to make an impact with the revival affects of the war. The South was determined not to let political liberalism affect their conservative

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Christianity. The Southern Methodists left the war to continue the revival, which led their membership role to pass the one million mark by 1866.² Likewise, by 1906, the Baptists continued their religious efforts and soon grew larger than the Southern Methodist Movement, while becoming leaders against Northern ideologies.³ A Southern Baptist report showed their eagerness to continue the spread of the gospel as it declared:

"God has given to our country a great and growing influence, and the propagation of the Christian religion here must exert a vast reflex influence upon the destinies of mankind. America is the radiating center whence high and ennobling influences beam upon the world; and we are enlightening mankind in brightening the radiance of our piety."⁴

As the South continued its fervent witness, it would be the Northern liberal trends, which would keep the Southern Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Lutheran denominations from rejoining with their Northern counterparts.

Results of the Revival on the South

Since the Southern churches chose to remain separated from their Northern counterparts, they developed a "peculiar variety of evangelical Protestantism."⁵ They earnestly strove to retain the Old-time religion, which they so passionately favored over the Northern orthodoxy; therefore, not long after the war, a "Real distinctiveness of this heritage became manifest."⁶ Sam Jones, a leading

Methodist evangelist in the 1880s continued to develop the Christian standards of "observing the Sabbath, praying, Bible reading, eschewing profanity and strong drink and loose women, and keeping company with fellow Christians," that had been firmly instilled during the revivals of the war.⁷ This unique evangelicalism that had spread from the revivals of the war exploded into the Southern states. According to the statistics of the 1850 census:

...the population of New England was about the same as the free population of the five original slave states. But New England had only 4607 churches with 1,900,000 members, while the corresponding five slave states had 8081 churches with 2,900,000 members. And no fewer than 487 of those New England churches were Unitarian, while those Southern states had only eight Unitarian churches!⁸

By 1890 the three leading denominations—the Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian—contained 95 percent of the membership of Southern Churches.⁹ With this exploding commitment to Christianity immediately seen in the years after the Civil War, it is clearly evident that through the effects of the revivals of the Civil War, the South became a stronghold for Conservative Christianity. This stronghold for Christianity later became known

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throughout the world as the "Bible Belt" of America, when H. L. Mencken coined the term in the early 1900s.¹⁰

CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION

While here on this earth, it will never be known the countless lives changed for Christ due to the Civil War revivals. God was certainly present—in political and religious schisms—yet most importantly He was present in the lives of soldiers. Perhaps, God even sought to be captured by hearts rather than to simply allow one foe to capture the sword of the other.

Was the importance of the war the abolition of slavery, or perchance the redefining of state's rights? While God is interested in the affairs of men, His ultimate desire is to see men come to Christ. Perhaps the pages of history

should have concentrated more on the significance found in one dying Confederate soldier's word to a chaplain: "I have ready my Testament and put all my trust in the Lord. Tell her [mother] to meet me in heaven."¹ For in heaven, all the political issues and religious divisions that men become so consumed with will, in the end, be dust, while eternal victories will receive the reward.

"Meet me in heaven." With this constant spiritual vision of Confederate leaders, chaplains, and soldiers, God won the battle for men's hearts. This flood of God's simple truths not only led many to salvation, but also revived countless believers from their spiritual apathy. "His truth is marching on" even today because of the impact of God's theater in the Confederate camps.

-Rebekah L. Williamson

¹ [CHAPTER 4] Thomas Cuming Hall, The Religious Background of American Culture (New York: Frederick Ungar Publishing Company, 1930), 292.

² [CHAPTER 4] Sidney E. Ahlstrom, A Religious History of the American People (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1972), 718.

³ [CHAPTER 4] Ibid., 725.

⁴ [CHAPTER 4] Robert T. Handy, A Christian America: Protestant Hopes and Historical Realities (New York: Oxford University Press, 1971), 67.

⁵ [CHAPTER 4] Ahlstrom, 717.

⁶ [CHAPTER 4] Ibid.

⁷ [CHAPTER 4] Handy, 81.

⁸ [CHAPTER 4] Jim Hill, How We Got the Bible Belt (n.p.:n.p., 1990) [database online]; available from Internet; assessed on 4 March 2002.

⁹ [CHAPTER 4] Ibid.

¹⁰ [CHAPTER 4] Dictionary of Christianity in America (1990), s.v. "Bible Belt."

¹ [CHAPTER 5] Bennett, 418.



A Rich Heritage

(Continued from page 5)

Did you know in George Washington's Farewell Address he said, "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible"?

How about the 1892 Supreme Court decision, "Our laws and our institutions must necessarily be based upon and embody the teachings of the Redeemer of mankind. It is impossible that it should be otherwise; and in this sense and to this extent our civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian... This is a religious people. This is historically true. From the discovery of this continent to the present hour, there is a single voice making this affirmation... we find everywhere a clear recognition of the same truth... These, and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a Christian nation"?

Charles Malik, one time Ambassador to the United Nations from Lebanon, put it this way. "The good (in the United States) would never have come into being without the blessing and the power of Jesus Christ... I know how embarrassing this matter is to politicians, bureaucrats, businessmen and cynics: but, whatever these honored men think the irrefutable truth is that the soul of America is at its best and highest, Christian."

Once upon a time the top problems in the classroom were running in the halls, chewing gum in class and talking out of turn. Now it's rape, murder, teen pregnancy and drugs (AIDs, etc.). The Bible and prayer are out. America has never been a Christian nation we are told. Where are the true patriots, preachers, pastors and people who know the truth about America's History and Heritage?

Woodrow Wilson said, "A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we came from or what we have been about."

The concept of a secular state was virtually non-existent in 1776 as well as 1787. The founders simply did not want to re-establish that which the colonists had fought against, namely, religious control and establishment by the central government.

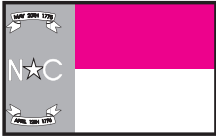
At age 30, George Washington prayed: "...pardon, I beseech Thee, my sins; remove them from thy presence, as far as the east is from the west, and accept me for the merits of Thy Son, Jesus Christ..."

Young Washington concluded that prayer with these words "...Be our God and Guide this day and forever, for His sake who lay down in the grave and rose again for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."



NEWS BITS

FROM HERE AND THERE



WHO IS SELLING US OUT?

The North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles issued as many as 400,000 driver's licenses to people without a valid Social Security card. But since 9/11/01 the DMV has tightened its rules. One side effect was a spurt in the sale of fraudulent Social Security cards, international Driving Licenses and Resident Alien cards to illegal immigrants. Here in my own county there is an ongoing investigation concerning the DMV issuing illegal driver's licenses to Mexicans. All indications are this scam runs all the way to Raleigh and the NC Capitol. Exactly who is it that sold us out? Going back to 9/11 and all the illegals in this nation, our country's security has been compromised, if not deliberately sabotaged, by many in high places. Here are some interesting numbers for you. *Newsweek* 1/6/03 had an article about an interview with Saudi Prince Al-Walid bin Talal, a multi-billionaire investor. Behind the Prince's desk are the emblems of the many U.S. corporations that the Prince owns chunks of. For example: AOL Time Warner (his stake: \$900 million), News Corp. (\$1 billion) and Disney Corp. (\$50 million) or how about his \$10 billion stake in Citi Group, the banking giant. In the interview, the Prince admitted he talks to these top executives regularly telling them not to be biased. From the state level and DMV's Department of Motor Vehicles

to Washington, D.C., the threat is as plain as the nose on your face.



'PRO-OSAMA' REMARKS BY US SENATOR

– Senator Patty Murray of Washington told a group of high-school students recently that Osama bin Laden is a popular man around the world because he has been building schools and roads, along with daycare and hospital facilities. She then went on to suggest that if the U.S. had done that for his followers, they might have a more favorable opinion about America. Gary Bauer asks: "Is feminist Murray unaware of the condition of women in Afghanistan under bin Laden? Has she no knowledge of the billions of dollars the U.S. spends throughout the world to help the poor?" (*Agape Press* 12/30/02) Well, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure this one out!



30th ANNIVERSARY OF ABORTION-ON-DEMAND – January 22, 2003 marked the 30th anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing elective abortion during all nine

months of pregnancy. Randall Terry, founder of Operation Rescue, told reporters recently "We've tried abortion and it doesn't wear well with people. You don't see the fierce support for abortion that you did 15 or 20 years ago." Reduced enthusiasm for abortion, he believes, is a function of both time and experience. "I think that as a nation, we've experimented with abortion and we've found that it's a colossal failure. Slowly the country has been drifting to the pro-life position saying, 'This [abortion] isn't a good idea.' Mothers have been exploited and over 40 million children are dead." Today, Americans who reached voting age in the past decade cannot remember a time when any abortion was illegal for any reason. Terry believes that more Americans need to learn about the realities of abortion. He believes they will choose the moral high ground, just as Americans have done in the past when confronted with choices about the rights of people who were considered less than human. *Crosswalk.com* 12/30/02

INSIDE THE WOMB – *Time* Magazines, "The Best Photos of the Year" 1/13/2003, displayed a series of photos depicting a 54 day old human fetus. Though it was only about the size of a quarter, major organs—including the brain, heart, and stomach—were readily visible.

NEW 'HATE CRIMES' LAW – Pastors in Pennsylvania now face a new state law that could mean they will be charged for simply preaching against homosexuality. Rep. Gov. Mark

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Schweiker signed a law last month giving Pennsylvania what some homosexual groups tout as the broadest-written hate crimes law in the country. The Bill states that the phrase "sexual orientation" be included in their Ethnic Intimidation Act. Hate crimes legislation is redundant because there has never been a "love crime" committed. It is dangerous because it puts the thoughts of a criminal on trial, instead of his actions. Recently in Illinois a woman was murdered for sharing the gospel with a homosexual, which infuriated him to the point of murder. ALL crime, whether concerning homosexuality or not, is an act of hatred. This type of legislation is often the first step that many homosexual groups take in getting their agenda heard in schools and getting their behavior protected by government. In a similar vein, the U.S. Supreme Court has also recently agreed to hear a case that would overturn the sodomy laws of several states. *Calvary Contender 1/03*

nea

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION – The Education Intelligence Agency (EIA) released a study stating that The National Education Association (NEA) gives 95% of its political contributions to the Democratic Party. Family News in Focus reported that the NEA asks for a monthly contribution of \$1 for its members and claims that the money supports issues and political candidates that help teachers. However, EIA says a survey by NEA shows that 30% of its members are registered Republicans and approximately 25% or so are Independents. Tim Wildmon, AFA President, said, "If the NEA is a neutral teachers union, why do 95% of its political contributions go to the Democratic Party when 55% of its constituency are not Democrats?"



Q. If one takes a very strong stand concerning such things as the six literal days of Creation, a young earth and the global flood, isn't this being 'divisive'?

A: Many pastors refuse to take a stand on these issues. They say it would create too much division or that it might offend some of the academics in their church. Just because something is divisive, doesn't mean it's wrong. We're told in the Bible that there's division because of what Jesus taught! In fact, in a world where 'men love darkness rather than light,' there'll be division when Scripture shines on this dark world. Really, if you're not causing division (for the right reasons), you may not be teaching the truth of Scripture! If a pastor doesn't discuss the first chapters of Genesis, he'll also have to avoid much of Paul's teachings in the New Testament. Many passages are dependent on a literal Genesis! Christians should take a stand on six literal days, a young earth, and global Flood even if it causes division. Either God means what He says, or we may as well not believe any of the Bible. *Answers in Genesis Ministries International*



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

A young boy ran up to his teacher with tears in his eyes. The teacher asked, "What's wrong, dear?" The boy said, "I just found out I'll be in school until I'm eighteen." The teacher said, "That's not a problem. I have to stay here until I'm sixty-five!"

A Texas lad rushed home from kindergarten class and insisted his mother buy him a set of pistols, holsters, and a gun belt. "Whatever for, dear?" his mother asked. "You're not going to tell me you need them for school?" "Yes, I do," he replied. "Teacher said that tomorrow she's going to teach us how to draw."



Nuggets of Gold

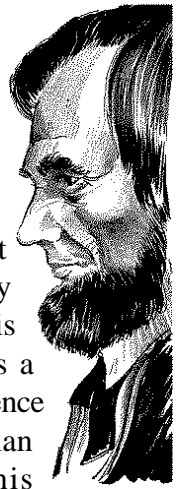


1. Generosity will always leave a more pleasant memory than stinginess.
2. Too many people are like buttons—always popping off at the wrong time.
3. After the government takes enough to balance the budget, the taxpayer has the job of budgeting the balance.
4. The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.
5. Service is nothing but love in work clothes.
6. A long life is a gift of God; a full and fruitful life is your own doing.
7. Knowledge can be memorized. Wisdom must think things through.
8. A small house will hold as much happiness as a big one.
9. Everybody wants to live a long time, but nobody wants to get old.
10. Blessed is the man who can hear his alarm clock on Sunday as well as on Monday.





Presidents Day



In many school classrooms, two portraits hang. This was true when I was in school. Nobody could mistake the first president of the United States. He was described as “First in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen.” When only 14 or 15 years of age, George Washington copied from an English translation of a French book of maxims “110 Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation.” He exhibited noble manners throughout his life. Rule #108 states, “When you speak of God, or His attributes, let it be seriously and with reverence. Honor and obey your parents although they be poor.” His mother admonished young George to “Remember that God is our only sure trust. To Him, I commend you... My son, neglect not the duty of secret prayer.” Later, General Washington of the Continental Army appointed chaplains to every regiment with hope and trust “that every officer and man, will endeavor so to live, and act as becomes a Christian soldier...” Washington held high the standard of morality and good behavior for his officers and men. Gambling, intemperance and profanity received swift punishment. “Any soldier found drunk shall receive one hundred lashes, without benefit of a court-martial,” were his orders in 1756. Revisionists along with Hollywood have attempted to pervert the character of Washington. Ample documentation and testimony is available to prove the man “true to

himself, true to his country, true to his God?”

In my classroom opposite the portrait of George Washington would be a classic pose of Abraham Lincoln the 16th president of the United States of America. Now keep in mind, I’m southern born and southern bred. Northerners have written most of what I’ve been taught and read about the Civil War and Lincoln. Typically in brief, I’ve seen Mr. Lincoln as “Honest Abe” who through courageous leadership freed the slaves and saved the “United States.” The great Emancipator was assassinated just five days after freeing millions of slaves. What you are about to read may be shocking. Many will vehemently disagree. I just encourage you to do some research that may lead you away from the mainline, mainstream or mainstay of public opinion, public education and with risk to “offending” our Northern readers, research done without a Northern bias.

While running for Congress from the seventh district of Illinois in 1846, a rumor arose that Lincoln was not a Christian. Read carefully his response published in the *Illinois Gazette* on August 15, 1846:

“That I am not a member of any Christian church, is true: but I have never denied the truth of the Scriptures; and I have never spoken with intentional disrespect of religion in general, or of any denomination of Christians in particular...”

Could Mr. Lincoln have been a religious man, yet not a Christian? He never denied the Scriptures and never personally embraced by faith the Lord

and Savior Jesus Christ set forth in those Holy Scriptures. The truth is Abraham Lincoln was a religious man and evidence is he became a Christian shortly before his assassination. That would account for some obvious inconsistencies. Yes, he said much about liberty, freedom and slavery. He spoke out saying “those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves...” However, Lincoln had previously stated in a 1958 debate:

“I will say, then, that I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and black races – that I am not, or ever have been, in favor of making voters or jurors of Negroes, nor of qualifying them to hold office, nor to intermarry with white people; and I will say in addition to this that there is a physical difference between the white and black races... I, as much as any other man, am in favor of having the superior position assigned to the white race.”

Must I point out the inconsistencies, let alone the sin of such a statement? Comparatively, Trent Lott’s ill chosen words would seem utterly harmless.

Lincoln also spoke of geographical segregation in a debate with Stephen A. Douglas. This segregation or separation of the African would be effected by “colonization” to a more “native clime” which would be “morally right” and in the best interests of whites.

These obvious prejudices are

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shocking for most to read. No, this is not what you were taught. Abraham Lincoln was not only persuasive with words, but his powers in office became very evident as he silenced his critics. Some writers estimate the number of Lincoln's political prisoners as high as forty thousand. *The Raleigh (NC) News and Observer* wrote, "It is to the honor of the confederate government that no confederate secretary ever could touch a bell and send a citizen to prison."

President Lincoln not only said these things, he not only imprisoned his political critics, but take time to look at his brutal treatment and yes execution of native Americans due to the imposition of cruel United States government policies. This is history you can read about if you so choose. History will also show the uniting of states is not by forced conquest through war. The North was not out to save the American government nor was the noble cause of emancipation the heartbeat of compassion that moved the Lincoln presidency. Within the constitution,

sovereign states were permitted to maintain a voluntary union. Was this blood bath to produce a cooperative consent of the governed? Or how many nations in history have abolished slavery through the conquest of war?

Dr. Walter E. Williams, Professor of Economics at George Mason University and nationally syndicated columnists wrote the Forward for DiLorenzos *The Real Lincoln* stating that the more "appropriate title for Abraham Lincoln is not the Great Emancipator, but the Great Centralizer." Williams continues with "Lincoln's intentions, as well as those of many Northern politicians, were summarized by Stephen Douglas during the senatorial debates. Douglas accused Lincoln of wanting to "impose on the nation a uniformity of local laws and institutions and a moral homogeneity dictated by the central government" that would "place at defiance the intentions of the republic's founders." Douglas was right, and Lincoln's vision for our nation has now been accomplished beyond anything he could have possibly dreamed."

How could godly men like Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson take up arms the way they did? These men and many others firmly believed they fought for the same freedoms established by the war for American Independence. As the years of illegal brutalization of the South continued, Robert E. Lee stated "...there would have been no surrender at Appomattox Courthouse; no sir, not by me. Had I foreseen these results of subjugation, I would have preferred to die at Appomattox with my brave men, my sword in this right hand."

For several months now we have examined the revival and conversion of many among the confederate troops. The South "became a stronghold for conservative Christianity and ultimately known as the "Bible Belt" of America. Clearly 95 percent of church membership in the South belonged to the Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian by 1890. Out of war had come the salvation of men's souls and a renewal of faith that would reach beyond the scars of a wounded nation.



FEBRUARY FOCUS...♥ Month...FEBRUARY FOCUS...♥ Month...FEBRUARY FOCUS

This is to encourage Christians not to be faint of ♥, but to persevere in the cause. Often we become weary in well doing. Yet, there is a day of rest and reward still to come. Therefore, we must press on for the cause of Christ and for the sake of souls.

Do you grow weary with the constant drum of "racism?" This truly is a ♥ issue. February 24th marks the anniversary of England's abolition of slavery. William Wilberforce did not grow faint of ♥. For 20 years he pressed the battle until victory came. On February 24, 1807, at 4:00am the decisive vote was cast and the slave trade became illegal.

Abortion is a ♥ issue. The daily murder of the innocent should tear at the ♥ of every Christian in America. We must continue to speak out and stand up against this hideous national sin. Victory can come if our ♥s will remain steadfast to the cause.

Sin does abound, but are we growing weary of preaching the truth of God's Word? Do we faint at the task of reaching the multitude of lost souls for Christ?

Recently while in India, seeing the almost innumerable mass of humanity crowding the dusty streets, I asked Missionary Patel how we would ever reach these people with the Gospel? His simple reply was: "One at a time, brother, one at a time." That's a committed ♥.

May this February – ♥ Month – be a time of recommitment. May our ♥s beat with the passion of Christ for a lost world!



THE ORIGINS OF ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

The First Valentine's Day

It began on the eve of February 14th, but under a different name. It was a “love feast,” based—not on any Christian principle of true love—but on free sex. The Romans were well noted for their sexual immorality on their festive occasions, especially so on this particular night in February. It was a religious festival dedicated to the goddess of love. The Romans called it their *Lupercalia*.

The superstitions associated with this Roman love festival were numerous. The priests, the Luperci, would clothe themselves with strips of skin from sacrificed goats and run through the streets in Rome. “They bore whips in their hands, which were made of strips of goatskin. With these, they struck the women who got in their way who were wanting to escape from the reproach of barrenness. The thongs bore the name of *februai*, a word connected...with purificatory ritual” (*Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics*, James Hastings, Vol. XII, p.812).

Being one's valentine on this day was indulged in by all. It was about the middle of the month that the names, of willing young ladies, were put in a box and well shaken up. Then each young man would draw out a name at random. The girl thus won was to remain his companion while the gaities lasted (*The English Festivals*, Whistler, p.90).

This festival was dedicated to the goddess Venus and the feast was “characterized in the later Roman period by wanton raillery and unkindled freedom...” (*Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics*, James Hastings, Vol. III, p. 226). In Roman mythology, this goddess of sexual immorality had sons, called “Cupids,” who attended her on this festival. They were believed to cause love and also make it cease—a sort of love potion (*Roman Antiquities*, Alexander Adam, p. 279). This was done by shooting arrows at

the hearts of the victims. Cupid was generally represented as a winged boy, with bow and arrow, often shooting at a young man's or a young woman's heart. These cupids were naked, winged, blinded and were armed with a bow, arrows and a torch. Any resemblance to the little nude boys on Valentine's Day cards? The cupids are often used as decorative symbolism in theaters, on cards and on signs at inns, etc.

Who was this Cupid? In later Roman times, he was only one of many Roman gods. The Greeks knew him as *Eros*. But his history goes farther back than Greek or Roman times. In Egypt, “this infant divinity was frequently represented with a heart, or the heart-shaped fruit of the Persea, in one of his hands” (*The Two Babylons*, Alexander Hislop, p. 189). “Thus the boy-god came to be regarded as their ‘god of the heart,’ in other words, as Cupid, the god of love” (*ibid*).

First “Christian” Valentine

Seeing that the Roman love feast of Lupercalia was outright pagan, why then did the Christian-professing church accept and keep such a day, but of course, under a different name? Whatever possessed the leaders of the church to approve this heathen fertility feast and keep it as a “Christian” festival under the name of St. Valentine's Day?

It all began at the time of Constantine the Great in the fourth century. It was this emperor who, it will be remembered, accepted orthodox Christianity. No longer considering himself a pagan, Constantine was encouraged to break with this pagan past; and one of several heathen feasts that had to go was the Lupercalia. But this produced problems.

It was one thing for the Christianized emperor to forego what the church considered a purely pagan festival. But to get the Roman populace at large to cease observing this love feast was another matter. In fact, it

proved impossible. The Roman populace would not hear of it.

It was hoped by church circles that the pagan populace would, *in due time*, be willing to give up this festival; but this proved to be a false hope.

The Christian-professing church then decided that the only way this matter could be resolved was to let the great masses of the empire (now members of the church) keep the Lupercalia feast, but *by another name* and for another purpose.

It was in the year A.D. 496 that Pope Gelasius I “Christianized” the festival and renamed it “*St. Valentine's Day*.” Here is why.

Church's Main Interest

Once the Roman emperor became Christian, the Orthodox Church grew in numbers. Since her main concern was to convert the pagan populace within the empire as quickly as possible, she felt justified in making it easy on them. Church leaders “clearly perceived that if Christianity was to conquer the world, it could do so only by relaxing the too-rigid principles of its Founder” (*Studies in the History of Oriental Religions*, James Frazer, Book II, p. 202).

One way of gaining an ever-increasing influx of members was to blend and incorporate pagan beliefs and practices with Christian ones. “Thus, at the first promulgation of Christianity to the Gentile nations...they could not be persuaded to relinquish many of their superstitions, which, rather than forego altogether, they chose to *blend and incorporate* with the new faith” (*Popular Antiquities of Great Britain*, John Brand, p. xi).

Thus, “for almost every pagan ceremony, some Christian rite was introduced” (*Claris Calendaria*, John Brady, Vol. I, p. 196).

So beginning with A.D. 496, the Roman populace could still come to

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their love feast (no longer dedicated to Venus, the goddess of love) but to the Virgin Mary. They could still draw lots for their valentines, but with the names of saints written on them. The attention of the populace on each February 14th was now to be centered on Christian saints instead of pagan deities.

St. Valentine Chosen

The church, in deciding to slightly alter the festival by giving it an acceptable name, went back to the third century. There she came upon a tradition about a certain presbyter who had married couples secretly against the edict of Emperor Claudius II. He was caught and beheaded in A.D. 270. To honor this bishop, it was decided to call the February festival of love and purification after his name—Saint Valentine.

Later, the Protestant churches rejected the Catholic concept of the Virgin Mary and the saints' association with St. Valentine's Day. Instead, the people went back to drawing the name of ordinary young men and women. It became a less religious ceremony—but *still retaining* all the pagan embellishments of the Romans, and then some.

All the pagan trappings were maintained—Cupid was still there, the decorative “hearts” continued to be displayed, lots were still drawn as chance directed and the day was still the original Roman day. It was also believed that birds were said to mate on this day. It was further a widely held tradition that the first person of the opposite sex, one encountered on the morning of St. Valentine's Day was to become the future spouse. And love potions were considered to be very potent on February 14th. People would let themselves go at parties, often disregarding the inevitable consequences of such revelry.

Both in England and Scotland, St. Valentine's Day was a welcome diversion from the otherwise dull, cold winter season. Referring to a traveler to these areas in the last century, we

read, “‘On the eve of St. Valentine's Day,’ he says ‘the young folks in England and Scotland, by a very ancient custom, celebrate a little festival. An equal number of maids and bachelors get together; each writes their true or some feigned name upon separate billets, which they roll up and draw by way of lots...*Fortune* (the name of yet *another* pagan god!) having thus divided the company into so many couples, the valentines give balls and treats to their mistresses, wear their billets several days upon their bosoms or sleeves, and *this little sport often ends in love*’” (*Book of Days*, Robert Chambers, Vol. I, part 1, p. 255). — *Reprint from Dr. J. Royce Thomason February 2000*



Important Roles in American History (Continued from page 3)

“No, sir” Dr. Carver replied, “But it tells about the God who made the peanut. I asked him to show me what to do with the peanut, and he did.”

In another speech George Washington Carver gave these words:

God is going to reveal to us things he never revealed before if we put our hands in His. No books ever go into my laboratory. The things I am to do and the way of doing it are revealed to me. I never grope for methods. The method is revealed to me the moment I am inspired to create something new. Without God to draw aside the curtain I would be helpless. Only alone can I draw close enough to God to discover His secrets.

George Washington Carver made this comment about his successes:

“The secret of my success? It is simple. It is found in the Bible, ‘In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths.’”

Amazing are the stories of African slaves that used trials to step up to triumph. One example is Phillis Wheatley. Brought to America when she was only eight years old, Phillis was allowed to study and developed an amazing talent for writing poetry. Incredibly, she became the second American woman to publish a book of poems. She was greatly influenced by the preaching of George Whitefield; and in her poetry, she thanked the Lord for allowing her to come to America where she accepted Jesus as her Savior.

Did you know that America's first foreign missionary was a former black slave named George Liele? Liele's master was a deacon, and together they worshipped in the Baptist Church. George was gifted in expounding the scriptures and was ordained possibly as the first black preacher in America. George was freed by his master and founded what may have been the first black Baptist church in America. From his church in Savannah, Liele went to Jamaica to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ in Kingston starting Jamaica's first Baptist church. In order to fund his missionary endeavor, Liele became an indentured servant. Incredibly he started the work of winning Jamaicans to Christ fifteen years before William Carey went to India and thirty-three years before Adoniram Judson sailed to Burma. George Liele's pioneer church of four grew to 500 members in just eight years. God richly blessed his ministry with the organization of a missionary society. From that endeavor, fifty Jamaican missionaries were sent to

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MISSION SPOTLIGHT

On behalf of all our missionaries and the many co-laborers around the world assisted by The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc., may we extend to you (Voice in the Wilderness supporters) our deep appreciation for your financial gifts and prayers throughout the year. We've received good Field Reports, and thank the Lord for the many salvation decisions. There have been numerous reports of baptisms, as well as other decisions made on the mission field.

From India, Bro. Rajamalik recently wrote: "I have visited a Hindu/sick man who is on the bed and shared about Christ crucified, and he accepted Jesus as his personal Savior. Praise the Lord! But, after one week he passed away." Bro. Abednego sent a photo of a recent baptism that they held at their church. Last month I reported on my trip to India and the results of the Pastors' Conference. The following is a thank-you letter from Bro. Nirmal to Bro. Hemant in Agra:

...The revival meetings were a great blessing to me, and I thank Bro. Ronnie for giving this opportunity to me. I was richly blessed and spiritually lifted. The messages of Rev. Dann Patrick and Bro. Ronnie were very inspiring and touching. Your church is indeed lively, where members are accepting Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. The testimonies bare witness to this. The life and witness of Sri Baba is a solid proof. I can say with confidence that the Lord is working there, and precious souls are being saved. Your songs are meaningful and inspiring which is not seen in other churches. The church fellowship which I saw there is rarely seen elsewhere. I am

upholding you and your congregation in my prayers. Kindly convey my Christian greetings to everyone in the congregation. If the Lord gives me another opportunity like this, I will surely not like to miss.

All of the pastors and workers who attended expressed their appreciation for the warm hospitality extended by Faith Church in Agra. It was a tremendous time of fellowship and encouragement for everyone. There are many difficult mission points throughout the world and certainly India is included. Please pray for our brothers and sisters who faithfully serve our Lord in this country.



Praise the Lord for the many precious souls around the world coming to Christ for salvation. This dear Hindu lady was recently saved and Bro. Abednego had the privilege of baptizing her as she took this wonderful step of obedience.

From Moldova, Shanna Newman writes: "Thank you for your prayers this semester. The Lord has done a lot for me at school. My students are learning better, I'm much more comfortable teaching, and some are showing a little interest in the Truth. Please do continue your prayers. It seems to be so hard to get them interested in church or in personalizing what we discuss in class. They know all the answers about Jesus dying on the cross for our sins, the necessity of receiving Him into our

hearts in order to go to heaven, etc., but they do not want to apply it to their own lives. Their Greek Orthodox religion is similar enough that they feel "safe"—they do worship Jesus (along with Mary), they do believe He was born and died and rose again, and they do pray to Him (although through a priest). Whenever we begin talking about how to go to Heaven, they still insist that they just have to try to be good. At times, I feel so frustrated and wonder if it would be easier to convince them of their lostness and need of the Savior if they'd never even heard of Jesus in the first place!"

From Venezuela, Bro. Tim Carte reports that he and Sis. Laura arrived safely, but that the situation in the country is very tense. They experienced many delays, cancelled flights, etc., in route from the states to Venezuela. Upon arriving, the banks, shops, restaurants, gas stations, and malls were all closed. It took him six hours in line to purchase a half-tank of gasoline for his car. Oil companies and powerful business leaders have called for a strike until President Chavez resigns. The military seems to be split down the middle and some generals have been arrested. According to the Constitution, an election is not scheduled until July. However, there are two-million signatures now calling for a vote to see if the majority would have Chavez resign. Bro. Carte said there are minimal services available in the city, and thus far, they have been able to maintain some semblance of normalcy. He reported sixty in attendance for their Christmas Service and many decisions for Christ. They are able to remain in the house where they are meeting, at least for another year, which is an answer to prayer. Soon they will need to relocate. Pastor Ramos received our gift for the property in Sabana de Para. He still needs a little less than \$1000 to pay off the property before plans can

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be made to construct their church building. Pray for this need along with a better and larger location for Bro. Tim's church. Please continue to pray for the political situation and unrest in Venezuela. Also, I received thank you notes from Pablo's wife Zoila and Bro. Lino for our continued financial assistance. As you know, we have had some difficulty in communication with them. I appreciate Bro. Bruce Peterson for helping us get money down to Zoila and Bro. Lino. **Urgent:** Some are using the words "Civil War" to describe the potential situation in Venezuela. We need to be praying about this need. Has the crisis reached this level of severity? The next few days may reveal how critical things are there.

Pastor Gary May phoned over the holidays expressing his appreciation for our continued support. Bro. May works with the Indians on a reservation in **South Dakota**. He also has a radio ministry and other areas of outreach. This is a challenging work, and these folks have faced a resurgence of native religion and rituals among the Indian groups. Pray for these dear missionaries as they continue to preach Jesus among these precious people.



The Voice in the Wilderness continues financial support for Bro. Lino and Sis. Zoila (Pablo's widow) who were longtime faithful workers with Sophie Muller. For many years Bruce Peterson has raised funds to help continue Sophie's work at the Jungle Bible Institute. Bruce recently took some money to Zoila and Lino for The Voice in the Wilderness. Thank you for the help Bruce, and thank you Zoila and Lino for your faithfulness.



(Continued from page 13)

Africa and twenty missionaries to the United States.

"Blame it" theology has become quite popular. "I was abused as a child so all my problems are not my fault – it was my parents." "It's my husband" or "it's my wife." "If I only had the money they've got." "Don't blame me, it's so and so's fault!"

Just suppose you were born a Negro slave. Certainly there's no hope or expectations there. Then at age four your slave mama dies. That did it. You poor slave boy – you ain't got a chance. The next year of life separates you from your papa and now, slave boy, you are all alone. No mama, no papa, no money, no education, no nothing but loneliness and hopelessness – is that not right? Well think about it. That poor orphaned slave boy learned by sheer determination to read and write by age seventeen. Then a move to Philadelphia landed him a job as a hod carrier. Next he became the janitor of a church. He enrolled in night school, took some correspondence courses and mastered both Hebrew and Greek. The church where he worked as janitor called him to serve as Pastor. That congregation grew under his ministry to a membership of 12,500. This poor orphaned slave boy preached weekly to huge throngs of Negroes, Whites, Jews, Italians, Germans, Norwegians, Mexicans and Danes. Along with his powerful preaching, Charles A. Tindley wrote the words and music for many gospel songs. Some of the favorites are "Nothing Between," "By and By," and "Stand by Me."

When a troubled church member came by to seek Pastor Tindley's counsel this was his advice: "Put all your troubles in a sack, take 'em to the Lord, and leave 'em there." Out of that

homespun comfort came the song "Leave It There."

If the world from you with-hold
Of its silver and its gold,
And you have to get along with
meager fare,
Just remember, in His Word,
How He feeds the little bird—
Take your burden to the Lord
And leave it there.

If your body suffers pain
And your health you can't regain,
And your soul is almost sinking in
despair,
Jesus knows the pain you feel.
He can save and He can heal—
Take your burden to the Lord
And leave it there.

When your enemies assail
And your heart begins to fail,
Don't forget that God in heaven
answers prayer;
He will make a way for you
And will lead you safely thru—
Take your burden to the Lord
And leave it there.

When your youthful days are gone
And old age is stealing on,
And your body bends beneath the
weight of care,
He will never leave you then,
He'll go with you to the end—
Take your burden to the Lord
And leave it there.

Poor old orphaned slave boy Charles Albert Tindley. He could have taken up "Blame it Theology." However, I guess he didn't know any better. He lived by "Leave It There" theology. By the way, it works every time!



A CLOSER LOOK AT LOVE - 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8

LOVE suffereth long = **PATIENCE**

LOVE is kind = **KINDNESS**

LOVE envieth not = **GENEROSITY**

LOVE vaunteth not itself = **SELFLESSNESS**

LOVE is not puffed up = **HUMILITY**

LOVE doth not behave itself unseemly = **COURTESY**

LOVE seeketh not her own = **GIVING**

LOVE is not easily provoked = **GOOD TEMPER**

LOVE thinketh no evil = **GUILELESSNESS**

LOVE rejoiceth not in iniquity = **PURITY**

LOVE rejoiceth in truth = **SINCERITY**

LOVE beareth all things = **STRENGTH**

LOVE believeth all things = **TRUST**

LOVE hopeth all things = **ENDURANCE**

LOVE endureth all things = **PERSEVERENCE**

LOVE never faileth = **SUCCESS**

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