

# The Voice IN THE Wilderness



CONTENDING FOR  
FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIANITY



*"The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight."*  
Mark 1:3

Published Monthly  
Free Subscription



CONTENDING FOR  
AMERICAN FREEDOM

September 2003

## PATRIOT DAY

### UNDER GOD

"I pledge allegiance  
**UNDER GOD**  
to the flag

### UNDER GOD

of the United States of  
America

### UNDER GOD

and to the Republic

### UNDER GOD

for which it stands,

### UNDER GOD

one nation

### UNDER GOD

Indivisible,

### UNDER GOD

with liberty

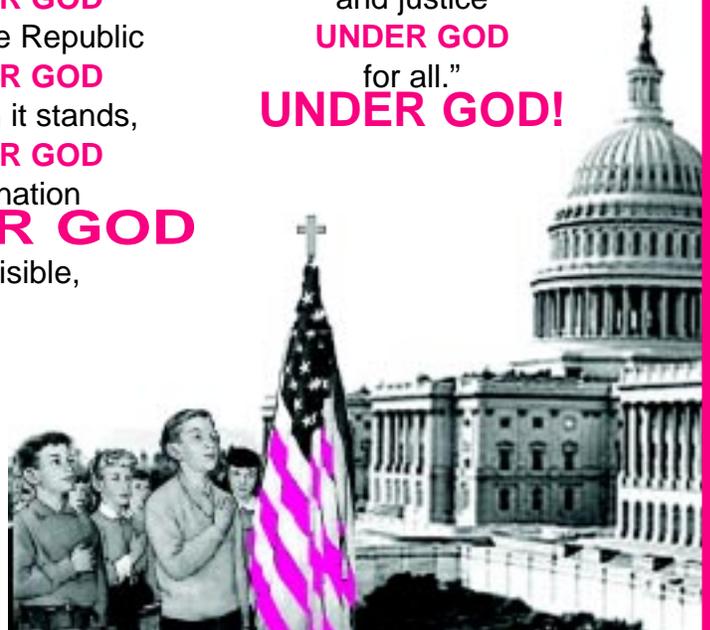
### UNDER GOD

and justice

### UNDER GOD

for all."

### UNDER GOD!



On June 14, 1954, President Eisenhower supported and signed into law the Congressional Act, Joint Resolution 243, which added the phrase "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance: **"In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource in peace and war."** President Eisenhower then stood on the steps of the Capitol Building and recited the "Pledge of Allegiance with the phrase "one nation under God" for the first time.



# MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends:

At our recent Sunday School Class fellowship, one of the newest members was asking about The Voice in the Wilderness. I shared a bit about the missionary work and printing ministry. Then came the obvious question. I cannot recount the number of times family and friends have asked, "What do preachers do all day?" I've asked the same thing about some of you lay people too. So the question is mutual I'm sure.

Well quite frankly, it was interesting to outline our monthly routine even for myself. On the first of each month the material for *The Voice in the Wilderness* publication is due for the following month's edition. For example, you hold in your hand the September edition of *The Voice in the Wilderness*. This material for September was given to Ron, our graphics and layout person, on August

5th, 2003 (our target date is around the first of the month). It took Terry and I several days to organize the research (this research is worked on almost every day throughout the month) for this issue and then type out the approximately 40-page manuscript before emailing the material to graphics on August 5th. Then about two or three days later a proof copy is ready for us to look over. The proofing process takes about two days before going to film.

Sometime after the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month we print out The Voice in the Wilderness missions checks as well as a letter of encouragement to each individual missionary. The exact date in which the checks go in the mail depends primarily on when the money comes in. For seven years now (since I've been serving with The Voice in the Wilderness) never has there been enough money given each month to

meet the monthly goal for missions. I was once asked, "Do you know what faith promise is?" I responded with the question, "Have you ever lived by faith promise?" The Voice in the Wilderness, its missionary outreach, as well as my grocery bill are all operated on faith and free will gifts of those who care. The most grievous time of each month for me personally is when it's time to send money to our missionaries who desperately need that check from The Voice in the Wilderness, and yet the money has not come in. Finally, when funds are available, it takes at least an additional day to ready them for the post office and mailing. But, oh, what a joy it is to help some of our Lord's choicest servants carry the gospel light to a world of darkness.

Then sometime about mid-month my wife prepares and updates the computer mailing list on disk for the Bulk mailer. Shortly thereafter we receive enough copies of the current edition of *The Voice in the Wilderness* to package for our overseas subscribers and church bundles. The bulk mailer handles the domestic mailing and we handle the overseas and church bundles. Terry and I need to be in the office a couple of days around the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month just to take care of this process.

Now in between all that comes the regular mail flow, recording contributions, sending receipts, bookkeeping, phone calls, answering letters, inquiries, questions, research for *The Voice in the Wilderness* publication, (calling, writing,

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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.



# ATTENTION PASTORS

CONDUCT THIS SURVEY IN YOUR CHURCH

## POLITICALLY CORRECT / BIBLICALLY CORRECT

The only way for the spirit filled Christian to be “Politically Correct” is to be “Biblically Correct.” If one does not know ones Bible, how can one be Biblically much less politically correct? Organizations like “Traditional Values” and “The NRCC” and others are challenging Americans to think. Many Christians have not even thought through the issues. Remember there are those in this country that do not want the President to succeed. Liberals have

created an entire campaign based on distorted facts. With all 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives up for election, voters need to “understand the times.” Take time to get it “Biblically Correct.” Think through the issues. Check out the Book and know where you should stand!

How would you answer the following questions?

1. Do you consider yourself to be a Christian?
2. What are the biblical requirements for one to be called a Christian?
3. How often do you attend church services?
4. Are you currently registered to vote?
5. What are the most important issues facing America today?
6. Have lawsuits banning prayers from the public schools and eliminating religious symbols and expressions of faith from many parts of America’s public life damaged our nation?
7. Based on scripture, what should the Christian’s position be on Islam?
8. Was America right to go to war in Afghanistan to defeat the Taliban?
9. Is the war against Saddam Hussein and terrorism Biblically justified?
10. What is the scriptural position on same-sex homosexual couples?
11. Does the Bible speak to parental, school, and government authority?
12. Should government enforce laws

and rules equally and allow people to enjoy the fruits of their honest work even though this will create economic inequality?

13. It now requires thousands of pages to print our nation’s official tax code. What proposal should be made to change the way we pay federal taxes?
14. What is the answer to our nation’s Social Security system?
15. Do you believe we should follow the plans to create a government-run health care system?
16. Are you in favor of an effort to protect the religious heritage and character of our nation?
17. Do you agree with the Bush administration asking the Supreme Court to overturn a lower court’s ruling and keep the words “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance as recited by public school students?
18. Do you support a bill banning partial-birth abortion?
19. An average of more than one million legal and illegal immigrants enter our country each year and overburden our schools, hospitals and other social services. How should America best address the current immigration crisis?
20. Should the U.S. Department of State enter into an agreement with Mexico allowing its citizens to collect U.S. Social Security benefits based on money those citizens earn in the U.S.?
21. Do you support the development of a missile defense shield to

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

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The Voice IN THE Wilderness EDITORIAL  
**SCHOOL DAYS**  
**GOLDEN RULE DAYS**



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Part II

(See the August 2003 Issue for Part I)

The Rev. Jonathan Dickinson, first president of Princeton said: “cursed be all that learning that is contrary to the cross of Christ.” By the way, it is very interesting to note that every president of Princeton was a minister until 1902.

In 1740 Thomas Dilworth published his book, *New Guide to the English Tongue*. Noah Webster used Dilworth’s book along with the Bible in his earliest school here in America. Dilworth stated his objective was to “[Rescue] poor creatures from the slavery of sin and Satan by setting ‘the word of God for a Lantern to our feet and a Light to our Paths.’” The first lesson in Dilworth’s schoolbook started out by teaching words with three letters or less. Note carefully the theme:

No Man may put off the Law of God.  
 The Way of God is no ill way.  
 My Joy is in God all the Day.  
 A bad Man is a Foe to God.

Noah Webster stated: “Education is useless without the Bible. The Bible was America’s basic textbook in all fields. In my view, the Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children, under a free government ought to be instructed....”

The founders and Charter of Yale College made their goal and intentions perfectly clear:

“Every student shall consider the main end of his study to wit to know God in Jesus Christ and answerably

to lead a Godly, sober life.”

Yale’s Charter states “Which has received the favorable benefactions of many liberal [generous] and piously disposed persons, and under the blessing of Almighty God has trained up many worthy persons for the service of God in the state as well as in the church.”

Faculty member Benjamin Silliman wrote this testimony:

“It would delight your heart to see how the trophies of the cross are multiplied in this institution. Yale College is a little temple: prayer and praise seem to be the delight of the greater part of the students.”

Education in America had such a rich heritage deeply rooted in the Bible—God’s Holy, Inspired, and Infallible, Word. How then today is it that many so-called “Christian Schools” employee progressive philosophy, teach from secular textbooks, and have gone the way of the world in dress, music, and standards? Even “Christian Colleges” have moved far from the old paths by teaching students there are errors and contradictions in the Bible. Mom’s and Dad’s have farmed-out their God-given responsibilities while they chase the dollar and pleasures of this age. It seems so simple to me. We can have a happy home. Our children do not have to go to the devil. We must get back to the Book!

For my wife and I, we made the education of our daughter a priority. After prayer and research we made the choice to home school. This would not only be a commitment but

also a lifestyle. Now I am not saying this is the only path that would be right in the sight of the Lord. Yet the God-given responsibility to rear and train our daughter was taken seriously, and we simply tried to follow God’s leadership and direction for our family. Just as we would study, compare, and learn about any product that would have a direct influence on our life, we did the same in searching for an educational curriculum. At the top of our list was to find a Bible-based curriculum. It was to be one that had the Scripture foundational throughout the teaching not just added on to the end. We were looking for the strongest Biblically based in education we could find. Next on the foundational level was a curriculum that covers all the basics beginning with phonics for reading. After research we choose a complete curriculum, organized a schedule for a nine-month school calendar, set the time of school training each day, and then notified all our friends, relatives, and church folk that my wife and daughter would be working at home Monday-Friday. We asked that they respect this designated time and not disturb us until school time was over each day, unless of emergency. You may ask, why be so rigid? Simple. God had blessed us with a child. We had dedicated that child back to Him for His service. It was imperative that we do our very best to educate, train, and direct her to do her best for Him. By having a schedule, set time, and solid curriculum, we were teaching

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*(Continued from page 4)*

her character, obedience, discipline, and hard work, along with the fundamentals of reading, writing, and arithmetic. I know many of you see young people today that are rude, characterless, or cannot follow through on commitments, etc. Somewhere the fundamentals are not being taught. May God help us all to do what is right.

This responsibility must be with the parents. As Christians my wife and I took this very seriously. Repeatedly I have become acquainted with marriages that are a mess. Pastors cannot find men qualified to be deacons due to divorce and remarriage. Dare we ask what's wrong with the kids? Dare we ask what's the problem at school? Dare we ask what's wrong with America? Dr. David C. Gibbs, Jr. explains this sad plight in his article in The Legal Alert July 2003 – www.CHRISTIANLAW.org “When I think of America in 2003”:

“When I think of America, I remember a nation where morality was once defined in the pulpits and was encouraged by the Congress and all fifty state legislatures. I remember a nation where compassionate, committed individuals honored God and cared for each other and their communities. I remember a nation where Americans believed in the Word of God and were committed to following the principles established therein. I remember an America where the church provided the social values to build strong families, communities, and governments.

However, when I look at America today, things appear quite different. Sadly, I see a dramatic decline in our nation's view of morality.

- Over 50% believe that having a baby outside of marriage is morally acceptable.

- Only 34% believe that gambling is morally wrong.
- Nearly six out of ten Americans consider sexual activity between unmarried persons as acceptable behavior.
- While less than 10% consider cloning humans to be acceptable, over 50% of Americans believe that medical research using stem cells obtained from human embryos is morally right.
- 66% of Americans believe that divorce is morally acceptable.
- One out of four Americans believes that abortion should be allowed “under any circumstances.”

### THE BREAKDOWN OF THE FAMILY

The decline that I now see in the basic moral fabric of America is evidenced by a corresponding breakdown in our nation's family structure.

- In the last 20 years, the number of children raised in single-parent homes has gone up 230%.
- Today, over 30% of all children do not live in a two-parent home, and one in four children live with a single parent.
- Last year, one third of all lesbian households had children living with them.
- One-third of all births, including 40% of first births, last year were to unmarried women, and nearly two-thirds of women under age 25 having their first child were not married.
- Nearly 20% of children between the ages of 12 and 14 are sexually active, and approximately 15% (one in seven) of sexually active 14-year-old girls become pregnant.

### ALCOHOLISM

Rampant abuse of alcohol and drugs also illustrates and corresponds

with the decline of morality in America.

- 10.5 million adults exhibit symptoms of alcohol abuse, while 7.5 million are considered “problem drinkers.”
- Nearly one in five adults lived with an alcoholic as a child.
- Over 25 million Americans drove under the influence of alcohol last year, and 8 million drove under the influence of illicit drugs.
- 47% of high school students reported that they had used alcohol within the last 30 days.
- Over 90% of high school seniors have tried alcohol, and almost one-third of these admitted having more than 5 drinks in a row in the last two weeks.
- Nearly 50,000 newborns suffer each year from Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Alcohol Related Birth Defects, or Alcohol Related Neurobehavioral Disorders.

### DRUGS

- 6% of Americans Abuse illegal drugs, and another 10% are addicted to prescription drugs.
- Use of the drug “ecstasy” increased 71% since 1999, and 1 out of 12 high school seniors have tried it.
- Tobacco use is the number one cause of preventable deaths in the U.S. causing one in five deaths overall.
- Over 100,000 teenagers become regular smokers every year.
- 29% of senior high school students reported being offered drugs at school.
- One in four students admitted using marijuana within the last 30 days.
- 20% of high school seniors smoke daily.

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# RELIGIOUS NEWS

## AND COMMENTS



### **VOODOO DECLARED OFFICIAL RELIGION BY HAITIAN PRESIDENT ARISTIDE**

– Voodoo has been declared an official religion by the government of Haiti. Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide issued an executive decree declaring Voodoo a religion with the same status and rights as others on the island. The religion is a conglomeration of African witchcraft and Catholic practices that developed during the slavery era in the Caribbean. *Word & Way April 2003*. More than 80% of Haiti's population is Roman Catholic. Images, idols, candles and incense that are used during voodoo rituals are closely related with some of the practices that take place in the Catholic Church.

### **IS "DRESS" AN ISSUE FOR CHRISTIANS TODAY?**

– Does our dress have anything to do with our relationship to God? Yes and No. If Hollywood were to dress like the most spiritual Christians, that would not change their standing before God.

But if the most spiritual Christians were to dress like Hollywood, that WOULD change their standing before God. Please read on... In *World* magazine 6/03 they had an article on dress and the Christian. The following are just a few excerpts from that article by Joe Maxwell. "Following careful and very wise instructions by WORLD editors – my wife accompanied me as I approached three young ladies adorned [as other girls - their dress resembles a bikini version of Eden's fig leaves] for the summer sun. After explaining to the young ladies who we were, and that we were doing a story on beachwear, the three young ladies seemed very excited to be included. They gave their names and ages – 13, 13, and 14. "Would someone bother you if you wore your bikinis to school?" The three teen girls laugh at the thought: We'd be suspended!" To a follow-up question—"What do you think boys are thinking when they look at you in your bikinis?" – one of the threesome replies with reluctant candor: "They are probably trying to figure out what we look like underneath." Shortly after this interview, the parents of one of the girls approach my wife and me and accuse us of being "pervert[s]" for asking the children such questions. This, of course, raises another question: If the WORLD reporter and his godly wife are perverts for asking obvious questions, what does that make these parents—consenting

exhibitionists?"

This reporter goes on to write about meeting a church youth group leader with his church's teens also there on the beach for a mix of fun and sun and daily meetings for worship and teaching. The youth leader expressed that it was a challenge to incorporate the world's standards into our expectations, for accomplishing real discipleship. Even the majority of the teen girls in this church group admitted to wearing bikinis on the beach or at the pool, while some admitted to picking their swimwear in hopes of looking sexy for the guys on the trip"..... HELLO, so you tell me – is dress an issue? What are we teaching our young people today? Do we go, do, and dress like the world to reach them?



### **TALLEST BUDDHA STATUE TO BE 250-FOOT HIGH**

– *Times of India March 2003*, reported "We are planning to construct the highest Buddha statue at Lumbini with a view to spreading the message of peace and promote tourism," Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister Kuber Shama said. The statue will

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be between 250 to 300-foot high and would be made at Lumbini to spread the message of Buddha. The 300-400 million dollar project will be completed within five years.” *Midnight Call 8/03* comments: Idols, gods and economy all work hand in hand. When the God of Israel sends judgments upon the nations and one-third of the world’s population is killed, we read these words: ‘And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk’ (Revelation 9:20)”



**UNITED METHODISTS DROP HERESY CHARGES AGAINST BISHOP SPRAGUE** – United Methodist Bishop C. Joseph Sprague of Chicago came under fire last year for a new book where he referred to the “myth of the Virgin Birth.” He also questioned the bodily resurrection, the role of Jesus in salvation, and recently said the god of Islam is the God of the Bible. But church members who side with Sprague said room must be made for different interpretations of Scripture. *Calvary Contender 8/03* This is not different interpretations, but perversion and denial!



**THE NBC AGENDA** – A Bravo cable network show entitled “Queer Eye for the Straight Guy” was picked up by NBC, which aired a half-hour rerun. The show is about gay style specialist makeovers on grooming-challenged straight men. Then the Bravo network will push the envelope again with “Boy Meets Boy”, a dating reality show with a twist: a gay bachelor looks for a mate, not knowing which of the candidates are straight..... **Wal-Mart** has extended employee antidiscrimination protections to gays and lesbians reported *Time* August 2003

**TRUTH ON THE SCAFFOLD** – In a ruling given virtually no media coverage, the court of Queen’s Bench in Saskatchewan, Canada, ruled that a man who placed four references to Bible verses on homosexuality into a newspaper ad was guilty of inciting hatred. The passages: Romans 1, Leviticus 18:22; 20:13 and I Corinthians 6:9-10. Both the man and the newspaper were ordered to pay \$1,500 to three homosexual activists. In the meantime a feminist and lesbian, Patricia Ireland, former president of National Organization of Women has been appointed as the new chief executive of the 145-year old Y.W.C.A. *Christian News 5/03*

**SAME-SEX MARRIAGE** – Canada’s federal government has

unveiled draft legislation to legalize same-sex marriage. The proposed law would change the definition of marriage from the union of a man and a woman to the union of “two persons to the exclusion of all others.” It also states that religious communities would remain free to define marriage as they see fit. Canada’s justice minister says the draft legislation takes nothing away from traditional marriage, but ensures equal treatment for all Canadians. Same-sex marriage is already legal in Ontario and British Columbia. *Agape Press 7/03*..... MEANWHILE, **BACK ON THE HOMEFRONT** – President Bush said he respects homosexuals but draws the line at gay weddings, and he disclosed government lawyers are exploring measures to legally define marriage as a union between a man and a woman. “I believe in the sanctity of marriage. I believe a marriage is between a man and a woman, and I think we ought to codify that one way or the other.” Bush said, “That is the definition of marriage, and we’ve got lawyers looking at the best way to do that.” President Bush went on to say, “I am mindful that we’re all sinners, and I caution those who may try to take the speck out of the neighbor’s eye when they got a log in their own.” Gay-rights activists took offense at Bush’s comment “we’re all sinners,” interpreting the remark as directed at them. “While we respect President Bush’s religious views, it is unbecoming of the president of the United States to characterize same-sex couples as ‘sinners,’” said Matt Foreman, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force’s executive director. *ACT 7/03*



# NEWS BITS

## FROM HERE AND THERE



**TED TURNER IS A WORRIED MAN** – A 5/26 *Fortune* magazine article lists some of the reasons for his worries. His media career is gone with the wind. His faith in the United Nations looks naive. (He still owes \$627 million on his \$1 billion pledge to the UN). He thinks humanity's on the verge of extinction, and he's down to his last billion. He lists some of the reasons for being "tired, miserable, and worried." (Note the prideful use of the letter "I" which is reminiscent of Lucifer in Isaiah 14:12-15, and Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4:30.) Turner says: "I built a multi-billion-dollar company, and I won the America's Cup. I was the greatest sailor in the world. I ran through three wives and numerous girlfriends, and I wore them all out! I smoked through life..." He calls himself an agnostic and says: "If there is a God, he is not doing a good job of protecting the earth. He's kind of checked out." *Calvary Contender* 7/03

**STEM-CELL RESEARCH CLONING ENDORSED BY AMA** – The American Medical Association (AMA) issued a

statement showing endorsement of cloning and stem-cell research, even though both processes result in killing human embryos. Many doctors are alarmed and dismayed that the organization would take a stance that actually violates the tenet of the Hippocratic Oath that has governed medicine for hundreds of years: "first do no harm." AMA has gone from representing 90% of practicing physicians in the U.S. to currently representing only 40% said Dr. Eugene Rudd of the Christian Medical & Dental Associations. Meanwhile, membership in the CMDA has more than doubled. *Agape Press* 7/03

**COURT HANDS DOWN LANDMARK PARENTAL RIGHTS DECISION** – In California the Ninth Circuit set new precedence for the protection of parents and children from social workers who abuse their discretion. The decision reversed a three-judge panel decision, and strips social workers of the absolute immunity enjoyed by prosecutors. Social workers will now only have limited, qualified immunity for their actions, similar to police officers. "This case is about social workers no longer being given the same immunity as prosecutors. For the last fifteen years, they had unfettered discretion to do what they wanted. They will now be held accountable when they maliciously violate the rights of

parents of their children. This is a landmark case for increasing the accountability of social workers. After all these years, a social worker will now need to think twice before abusing the rights of parents." *Brad Dacus, The Pacific Justice Institute* 7/03



**ONLINE GAMBLING** – Gambling is on the rise among minors, who need not worry about the security guards who would keep them out of local casinos and racetracks. A survey by the Delaware Council on Gambling Problems found that 9 percent of eighth-graders had gambled on Internet sites. *World* 7/26

**THE THRIVING PORN INDUSTRY** – The smut industry now pulls in estimated annual profits of \$10 billion. An estimated 25,000 video stores in the U.S. now rent and sell hard-core films. The U.S. is now by far the world's leading producer of porn, cranking out hard-core videos at the astonishing rate of about 211 new titles each week. *CC* 8/03

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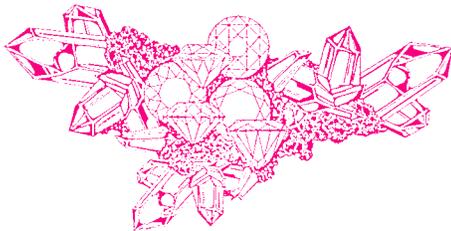
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## THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HAS A GUIDE FOR ELDERLY DRIVERS -

AMA is now offering a new Internet guide to help doctors decide whether their elderly patients are still fit to drive. "It's a lot easier to prevent tragedy than to deal with tragedy once it has occurred. This guide is all about preventing the tragedy," said AMA.

## GUM IS GOOD FOR YOU -

A study from King's College London suggests that chewing gum after a meal fights acid reflux..... Chewing sugarless gum slows cavity growth by lowering acid levels in the mouth..... People who chewed gum while pulling an all-nighter felt less tired in the wee hours than those who didn't. Driving at night? Try chewing gum to be more alert. *Readers Digest*



## DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER

- LifeGem extracts carbon from the cremated remains of the dearly departed, and with heat and pressure makes them into real diamonds. "It isn't in memory of a loved one, it is the loved one," say CEO Greg Herro. LifeGem's business has been brisk, thanks to the popularity of cremation. LifeGems aren't valuable on the diamond market, but they're still pricey. A .25 carat cost \$2,300; a .75 carat costs a hefty \$10,000. *Readers Digest* 7/03

## SURVEY INDICATED LESS HUNGER IN INDIA -

The number of chronically hungry households per 1,000 households declined from 12 to six in rural areas and from seven to two in urban area. The number of seasonally hungry, those getting enough to eat everyday only in some months of the year, per thousand household fell from 26 to 19 in rural areas and from 6 to 4 in urban areas. Despite severe drought and a continual population increase, India has enough food to feed its people. But India must make substantial improvements in the next few decades in order to become an equal member of the industrial family of nations. *Midnight Call*



## INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE -

A two-year old case centers on two former Lucent scientists accused of conspiring to steal computer technology with the intention of marketing it in China. U.S. prosecutors are preparing to interview 12 Chinese citizens after Beijing agreed for the first time to let U.S. law enforcement authorities question witnesses in China. Scott Christie, the assistant U.S. attorney prosecuting the case in New Jersey, said 11 of the 12 Chinese due to be questioned are employees of Datang, the Chinese company alleged to have received the stolen trade secrets. China recently agreed to allow the FBI to station an agent in Beijing as part of the US's extended intelligence-gathering activities in the "war on terror." *Business Standard*, 2/03



## Nuggets of Gold

1. He who angers you, controls you.
2. No one can ruin your day without your permission.
3. It's hard to make a come back when you haven't been anywhere.
4. The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor.
5. The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything.
6. I am too blessed to be stressed!
7. If one is not thankful for what He's got, he isn't likely to be thankful for what he's going to get.
8. The trouble with most of us is that we would rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism.
9. It is better to ask the Lord to direct our paths than to correct our mistakes.
10. Some minds are like concrete: thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

## MOVE IT OR LOSE IT!!

*Transcript of an actual radio conversation between a U.S. naval ship and Canadian authorities off the coast of Newfoundland in October 1995. {\*\*Radio conversation released by the Chief of Naval Operations 10/10/95\*\*}*

Americans: Please divert your course 15 degrees to the north to avoid a collision.

Canadians: Recommend you divert YOUR course 15 degrees to the south to avoid a collision.

Americans: This is the captain of a U.S. Navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.

Canadians: No. I say again, you divert YOUR course.

Americans: THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER U.S.S. LINCOLN, THE SECOND LARGEST SHIP IN THE UNITED STATES FLEET. 3 DESTROYERS, 3 CRUISERS, AND NUMEROUS SUPPORT VESSELS ACCOMPANY US. I DEMAND THAT YOU CHANGE YOUR COURSE 15 DEGREES NORTH, THAT'S ONE FIVE DEGREES NORTH, OR COUNTER MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THIS SHIP

Canadians: THIS is a lighthouse. Your call. (Well, that's how it was reported. Could this possibly be true?????)

# NATIONAL AND WORLD NEWS



## SHIPPING OUT AND SELLING OUT AMERICA

– In the August 2003 *Time* magazine the following story was reported. “ U.S. companies are expected to send 3.3 million jobs overseas in the next 12 years, primarily to India, according to a study by Forrester Research. If you’ve ever called Dell about a sick PC or American Express about an error on your bill, you have already bumped the tip of this “offshore outsourcing” iceberg. The friendly voice that answered your questions was probably a customer-service rep in Bangalore or New Delhi. Those relatively low-skilled jobs were the first to go, starting in 1997.... By taking advantage of lower wages overseas, U.S. managers believe they can cut their overall costs 25% to 40% while building a more secure, more focused work force in the U.S.... On the other side of the world, educated Indian workers are quickly adjusting to their new status as the world’s most sought-after employees.... Financial-services companies in the U.S. are expected to move more than 500,000 jobs overseas in the next five years, according to a survey by management consultant A.T. Kearney, and India is by far the top destination. U.S. banks, insurance firms and mortgage companies have been using outsourcing to handle tech support for years. Now these firms are using Indian workers to handle the business operations – say, assessing loan applications and credit checks – that the technology supports.... In April, J.P. Morgan Chase said it would hire about 40 stock-research analysts in Bombay – about 5% of its total

research staff. Novartis employs 40 statisticians in Bombay who process data from the drug company’s clinical research.... Outsourcing lower costs by playing the savings game:

<b>Software Programmer</b>	<b>U.S. \$66,100 INDIA \$10,000</b>
<b>Mechanical Engineer</b>	<b>U.S. \$55,600 INDIA \$5,900</b>
<b>IT Manager</b>	<b>U.S. \$55,000 INDIA \$8,500</b>
<b>Accountant</b>	<b>U.S. \$41,000 INDIA \$5,000</b>
<b>Financial Operations</b>	<b>U.S. \$37,625 INDIA \$5,500</b>

Osama, stand in line. America has been under attack!

## HISPANICS HOPE FEDERAL BILL EXPANDS OPPORTUNITIES

– Tomas graduated high school with honors and now attends college. He hopes to be either an architect or a computer programmer someday, but admits it seems like a dream. Tomas isn’t a U.S. Citizen though he’s lived here for 10 years. His parents came to the U.S. illegally. His father has legal residency, but the rest of the family is still waiting to obtain their own. Tomas is counting on the passage of the federal Student Adjustment Act (H.R. 1684). It would allow students like him, who have lived in the country for more than five years and demonstrate “good moral character,” to pay in-state college tuition, rather than the more expensive out-of-state rates given to students who don’t have legal residency. However, the bill probably will not be voted on for another year or two. North Carolina now has the fastest-growing Hispanic population of any state, having seen a rise from 76,726 in 1990 to 378,963 in 2000. Now consider

this – Would a bill that offers in-state tuition rates to illegal aliens reduce opportunities for U.S. citizens and deserving legal immigrants? Do all our school systems have adequate and abundant classroom facilities and staffing at present or would we need to build larger, bigger schools?..... OPEN BORDERS – According to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, at least 78,000 illegal aliens from terror-supporting or terror-friendly countries live in the U.S. They are among an estimated seven to eleven million illegal aliens who have crossed our borders illegally, overstayed visas illegally, jumped ship illegally and evaded deportation orders illegally. More than 300,000 illegal alien fugitives, including 6,000 from the Middle East, remain on the loose despite deportation orders. As many as 1,000 illegal aliens a day trample across the border at Organ Pipe National Monument in southern Arizona. Some 200,000 illegal border-crossers and 700,000 pounds of drugs were intercepted at Organ Pipe last year alone. *Imprimis* 4/03..... Immigration will account for 96 percent of the increase in the school-age population over the next 50 years. Take a look at the following chart:

Growth with immigration	15,845,895
Growth without immigration	621,768
Growth due to immigration	15,224,127
Percent of growth due to immigration	<b>96.1%</b>

(Facts were taken from *The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR)*)

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If we are serious about meeting the needs of children already living in the U.S. – immigrants and native-born alike – then it is imperative that we take a real look at how mass immigration is affecting the schools, job employment, health care, etc.

### CDC REPORTS TOO MANY POCKETS OF LATE-VACCINATED TODDLERS –

About 75 percent of the nation's toddlers get vaccinated on time, protecting them from getting and spreading – nine diseases. But coverage varies widely among states and major cities, with pockets of the country where far too few youngsters are up-to-date on their shots, federal health officials recently warned. Getting shots late or not at all does not just endanger the unvaccinated child. He or she in turn can spread disease to people with weakened immune systems like elderly grandparents, friends with cancer, pregnant neighbors or younger children — a reason that so-called community immunity is vital to public health. Also many of those who enter this country illegally are coming from countries where no vaccination effort was given and therefore are living here without proper immunization. But since they are here illegally, they will not go and take care of health needs. Much of the U.S. health care system such as hospitals, clinics, health departments, are overburdened even now with those who need financial assistance, or perhaps have no insurance. Again, if we are concerned about those who are here legally in the U.S. and need financial assistance with health care, we must attempt to control the ever-increasing flow of immigration.



**IF YOU PLACE YOURSELF IN THE PUBLIC EYE, THEN BE PREPARED TO BE IN THE MORNING NEWS:** Sen. John Edwards acknowledged recently he was late in paying property taxes on his homes

here and in North Carolina. The tax bill, sent out in February and due March 31, might have been lost in the mail. Edwards might not have received it because he sold one house, moved into a rental, then bought his current \$3.8 million home in the Georgetown neighborhood. Wake County, NC, records show Edwards has been tardy paying property taxes every year but one between 1994 and 2002. The 2003 bill for \$9,782 was just sent; Edwards' Raleigh home is worth \$987,091. He also has been late making some yearly car tax payments in North Carolina. "People pay late when they are short of cash," said Thad Beyle, a political scientist at UNC-Chapel Hill, "but that likely wasn't a problem with Edwards. Sen. Edwards is seeking the Democrat nomination for President. *ACT 8/03* – [The "poor" Democrats certainly have an elected official in John Edwards who understands poverty!]

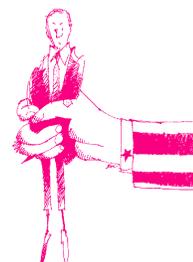
**JUDGES WANT TO KEEP PARENTS OUT OF THEIR CHILDREN'S AFFAIRS –** The Florida Supreme Court in a 5-1 decision, struck down a 1999 law signed by Gov. Jeb Bush that requires parents to be notified at least 48 hours before their children under 18 can obtain abortions. Their reasoning; The privacy guarantee under the Florida constitution applies to everyone, including minors, **and is stronger than such rights provided under the U.S. Constitution.**

**ONE-WAY TICKET –** A Republican who wants to replace Rep. Bernard Sanders as Vermont's sole member of the U.S. House, is offering the avowed socialist a one-way ticket to Scandinavia. *The Washington Times* reported on 7/03 that Mr. Sanders, an independent, interrupted Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan when Mr. Greenspan told a House committee that the U.S. had the world's highest standard of living. Mr. Sanders said that honor belongs to "Scandinavia." Greg Parke, a Republican who wants to replace Mr. Sanders said, "I suppose if you are a socialist and believe that half of your income should be confiscated by the government,

Scandinavia would truly be heaven on Earth. Therefore, I am hereby offering Bernie Sanders a one-way ticket to Scandinavia. What might surprise my socialist opponent is how outdated his views truly are. Even most countries in Scandinavia, bowing under the oppressive weight of bloated welfare states, are making some attempts to implement free-market policies and tax reform."

### PETA SPEAKS "INTELLIGENTLY?" AGAIN –

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals sued KFC Corp claiming the fast food giant is misleading the public by denying it mistreats chickens headed for its restaurants. They want to force the fast food giant to adopt standards designed to improve the lives of the chickens and slaughter them more humanely. KFC said, "We stand by our information as truthful and accurate. KFC is committed to the well-being and humane treatment of poultry." Can you believe our court systems are tied up with this kind of erroneous lawsuits?



### YOUR TAX DOLLARS HARD AT WORK –

Our Senators and Congress men and women do not pay into Social Security and, of course, do not collect from it. Their plan works like this: When they retire, they continue to draw the same pay until they die, except it may increase from time to time for cost of living adjustments. For example, former Sen. Byrd and Congressman White and their wives may expect to draw \$7,800,000 with their wives drawing \$275,000 during the last years of their lives, calculated on an average life span for each. Their cost for this plan? \$00.00 Nada? You and I pay for this by our taxes.

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### **SEXUAL ABUSE**

- 67% of victims of sexual assault are under age 18.
- 34% of sexual assault victims are under age 12. One out of every seven victims of sexual assault is under age 6.
- 40% of offenders who victimize children under age 6 are under age 18.
- An estimated 325,000 children under 18 are victims of “commercial sexual exploitation” such as prostitution and Internet exploitation.

### **VIOLENCE**

- Students commit 14,000 violent crimes against teachers every year.
- 10% of all teachers have been threatened with injury by their students.
- Over 800,000 children, ages 12-17, carried a handgun last year.
- Approximately 3 million youths were at risk for suicide during the past year.
- In the last 20 years, reports of missing children have increased 468%.
- Every 40 seconds, another child is reported missing in America.
- For every three babies born, one child is aborted.
- Homosexual advocates promote the idea that same-sex relationships are normal, while a staggering 39% of women and 23% of men in homosexual relationships reported physical abuse.

### **SEXUAL CONTENT**

“Our failure as Christians to continue to influence public morality has allowed our culture to become saturated with sexually explicit content.

- 20% of adults admit to visiting a sexually oriented website, and

such websites had 27.5 million visitors last year.

- One in three children, ages 10 to 17, from households with computers have experienced unwanted exposure to sexually explicit material online.
- In a study of time spent online during one month, children spent nearly 65% more time on Internet pornography sites than they did on Internet game sites.
- The average American will view 14,000 sexual references on TV each year.
- The “family hour” of prime time television now contains an average of more than 8 sexual incidents.
- Nearly one-third of television “family” shows contain sexual references.
- Two-thirds of all TV shows last year contained sexual content.

“When we read these statistics and remember that the majority of Americans still identify themselves as Christians, we must ask ourselves some difficult questions. What is being preached today from America’s pulpits? Are Bible-believing Christians striving to influence our communities for Christ? Are we regularly involved in winning others to the Lord, or are we content to watch America become a secularized nation that value other “diverse” religions (or no religion) more than it values the Biblical Christianity on which it was founded?

“A closer examination of how Americans view homosexuality and abortion reveals a growing trend among Americans, and even among some Christians, to separate their own personal moral convictions from the shared morals convictions that should guide society.

- 60% of Americans think that homosexual acts should be legal. Yet 29% of those who think

homosexual conduct should be legal still believe that homosexuality is morally wrong.

- Only 37% believe that abortion is morally acceptable. However, nearly 80% believe that abortion should be legal in at least “some circumstances.”
- Even 15% of those who think abortion should be legal under any circumstances still believe that abortion is morally wrong.

“Allowing this dichotomy between what is legally permissible and what is morally acceptable denies the fact that every society needs to have a shared set of moral principles that it enforces. Those that claim government cannot or should not legislate morality forget that even in secular societies, government legislation still indicates to the nation what that society believes is morally acceptable.

“Today, there is an increasing advocacy for a “diverse” society that not only encourages immoral behavior but also seeks to quiet all Christian opposition to such immorality. While claiming in the name of “tolerance” to respect the beliefs of all, many Americans are now critical of any opinions that contradict the secularization of society, particularly those that arise from Christian beliefs. Sadly, these statistics show that many Christians have allowed such criticism to deter them from defending their faith in the public arena. However, we Christians should never allow ourselves to embrace the secular definition of “tolerance” in order to excuse our own complacency. We abandon moral principles to our own detriment, to the detriment of our children, and to the detriment of society as a whole.

“As Christians, we cannot allow hostility toward Christianity to silence us. Rather, such criticism

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should give us even more boldness to proclaim the truth of God's Word. 1 Peter 4:16 exhorts us to not be ashamed, but to glorify God when we are persecuted for taking a stand for Christ.

"It is more important than ever for Bible-believing Christians to commit themselves to the following:

- Pray that God will bless us again in America with a true revival;
- Do all that we can to win others to Christ;
- Strongly hold to our Biblical standards and values in our churches and pulpits;
- Stay involved and informed in our national, state and local governments as an influence for good and for God.
- Raise and educate our own children and our church's children to honor and revere God and His Holy Word.

"God promised the nation of Israel in 2 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." As Christians, we also can rely on this promise as we submit our lives to God's leading and pray for boldness to stand firmly for the principles in God's Word in our modern American culture."

[Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." "...Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Parents, we have not been left to our own devices. God's Word is our training manual and He has promised to "guide you into all truth" John 16:13. Our children are such a joy and blessing if we only follow the Master's plan.]



# PATRIOT DAY

John Wycliffe was known as the "Morning Star of the Reformation." He was the first to translate the Bible into English. In the General Prologue of Wycliffe's 1384 Bible he wrote these words:

*"The Bible is for the Government of the People, by the People, and for the People."*

Returning from India, the Lord placed me beside two Sikhs. With almost a strange mix of Hinduism and Islam we had a very interesting conversation. Keep in mind this was after 9-11-01. I presented the Gospel to these men. One read my tract completely and then stated something to this effect, "I like Christian people. You are kind and enjoy freedom. I do not like Muslims, they are evil and want to murder."

It has been my privilege to travel around the world meeting people from many religions, languages, and countries. I have been shocked. Repeatedly, no not everyone, but I would say the majority have expressed appreciation for America.

Freedom loving people around the world are looking to and hoping for America. No, they do not all want to come to America. They love their homeland. But they pray, yes pray, that America will stay free and strong. No, their prayer may not be in the name of Jesus Christ, but for many, they see America as the last hope for the enslaved.

How can it be that so many around this world see America as a place of hope? Yes, even the last stronghold against the evil that seeks to enslave and destroy.

God has blessed America and the world watches. I received letters from as far away as Africa and India expressing sorrow after the terrorists attacks of September 11, 2001 – from far away places expressions of sympathy for those who died at the Pentagon and World Trade Center. Some seem to remember better than we that along the road that leads to freedom are the stains of blood and tears given by those who paved the way.

John Quincy Adams said: "Posterity – you will never know how

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## The Voice IN THE Wilderness

# MISSION SPOTLIGHT



### MISSION UPDATE

#### **THERESE HAVELL'S HOME GOING**—

“Dear Rev. Williamson: It is with sadness that I inform you of my mother, Therese Havell’s death last Tuesday, June 24, 2003. Mother died peacefully in her sleep of congestive heart failure, never experiencing any pain at any time. The day before, Monday, I had been to see her (visiting her every other day), and we went outside in the lovely courtyard for our visit. When it was almost suppertime, we went down to the dining room where I played her favorite hymns on the piano while waiting to be served. Mother sang along in her still lovely voice, even with an oxygen clip in her nose and an oxygen tank hooked onto the back of her assistance chair. Everyone was inspired and loved to hear her sing. (That’s why I played there once a week.) Mother never complained about anything, and always said, “I’m alright, no complaints,” when asked how she was. At 99 years, the memorial service was a celebration of her life. A medley of all her favorite hymns was played on the piano, and her two daughters (Carolyn and I) along with each grandchild gave eulogies in her honor. The service ended with everyone singing mother’s favorite hymn, “How Great Thou Art,” it being the last piece she played by ear on the piano only a few months ago. Now my mother is “in the church triumphant” with my father, George, her sister, **Sophie Muller**, and those family members who had gone before. Alleluia!” *Barbara Kiefer* .....[This past June, my wife and I had the privilege to take a mission team to New York City. However, we did not realize that the Woodhaven Baptist Church where we ministered had been a place of worship for Sophie Muller and her sister, Therese Havell. What a joy it was to hear Pastor McCardle tell of these two precious ladies

visiting the services. Now along with Sis. Kiefer we look forward to a glad reunion day with some of our Lord’s choicest servants.]

**VENEZUELA:** Please be praying with The Voice in the Wilderness as we are making plans to assist one of our missionaries beginning the first of the 2004 year. We will personally schedule time to travel to Venezuela and teach a segment in this Bible Institute. It will be a time of teaching, edifying, training, and discipling nationals in the doctrines of the Scripture. Many arrangements will need to be made and organized to make this endeavor a success. Also, another critical area will be the political turmoil that has overshadowed this country for some time now. One missionary report received in this office stated, “There is a real possibility of civil war in Venezuela. Those who oppose the government have gathered signatures to call for a vote to have the President removed from office..... I think the next four months will determine the future of Venezuela. Please pray for Venezuela and for continued freedom to preach the Gospel.”

**NEEDS** – As we are preparing this September edition, you have just received the August edition in the mail. On page 6 of that August edition we listed under “NEEDS” some projects that we have an urgent burden for. (VHS projector, travel to India and Venezuela, students in third world countries training for the ministry, assistance with church on Indian reservation that was destroyed by fire, and of course our monthly support to all our mission points.) It is too early at this writing to know if any responded with financial help. As Bro. Royce stated in the August edition, we are just a small organization.

In order to assist those faithful servants around the world with the spreading of the Gospel, we must have financial help to do so. So we must present the needs to you our dear readers and trust the Lord to burden your hearts to help. All we ask is that you pray and seek His leadership. We know ‘HE OWNS THE CATTLE ON A THOUSAND HILLS.’



### ATTENTION PASTORS

*(Continued from page 3)*

- protect American from rogue nations like North Korea, Iran and terrorist groups who could purchase nuclear missiles from America’s enemies?
22. Do you support policy of nominating conservative federal judges who respect the Constitution?
  23. Should steps be taken to stop the trend toward multi-lingualism in drivers’ license testing, voter ballots and citizenship ceremonies by making English the official language of America?
  24. Should a temporary “Immigration Moratorium” be declared to give the current immigrant population time to assimilate and the Border patrol the opportunity to regain control over our borders?

The Word of God is our final authority. Search the Scriptures. Our Lord has spoken and gives us guidance for the issues of life. These are critical days and we must be Biblically correct!



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encouraging, assisting, perhaps even traveling to mission fields or different works of The Voice missionaries: I've traveled to Mexico, Venezuela, India, and throughout the U.S. contacting many missionaries. It is a privilege just to be a part of what the Lord is doing!) Then we must also squeeze in preaching and road time to churches and those that request us to come and share what The Voice in the Wilderness is doing around the world. By the way, if you would be interested in having us come and share this ministry with your local church, please contact our office in Asheville. The Voice in the Wilderness needs new churches to take this work on in monthly support. Reports indicate that Christian tithes and offerings are down 62% this year from 2002. The Voice in the Wilderness missionary support and general fund gifts are down approximately 25%. Please pray for this **urgent need**.

For **50 years** now this publication has endeavored to keep you informed. From the *National and World Scene* to *Religious News*, *The Voice in the Wilderness* has contended for American freedom and contended for Fundamental Christianity. "Following the path of least resistance is what makes rivers and men crooked." We have not chosen that path and as a result have no shortage of critics and detractors. It may not always win friends, but I pray it pleases God. The apostle said, "Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?" (Galatians 4:16) Abraham Lincoln put it this way, "I do the best I know how, the very best I can; and I mean to keep on doing it to the end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me will not amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, then angels swearing I was right would make no difference." Would you pray for us that I Corinthians 10:31 would be our testimony.

For Christ and Souls,  
Bro. Ronnie



(Continued from page 13)

much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it." This startling exclamation comes from Thomas Jefferson, "My God! How little do my countrymen know what precious blessings they are in possession of, and which no other people on earth enjoy!"

There are those within the borders of this nation that desire to destroy everything that has been foundational to this nation. They promote perversion, ordain homosexuality, murder babies, rape our youth, institutions, and education of all that is absolute and godly, seeking to overthrow the Biblical principles America was founded upon.

This September, we salute those who have given the full measure to pursue and ensure freedom in the land of the free and the home of the brave. Patriot Day stands as a reminder of great trust vested in this great land of ours, and the price that so many paid. Freedom is not free!

I personally know a lot of hard working Americans. The good Ol' USA has offered to many the opportunity to work hard and be rewarded for their effort. This month we not only remember Patriot Day, but also pause to be thankful on Labor Day for the jobs and financial prosperity afforded this country. Agree with its complete wording or not, the point is well taken. *The AG Bulletin* of Kansas City, MO wrote:

#### WHO AM I?

"I am the foundation of all prosperity – national and personal. I am the fount from which all blessings flow. Everything that is of value in this world springs from me. I am the

salt that gives life its savor. I am the sole support of the poor, and the rich who think they can do without me live futile lives and very often fill premature graves. I have made America. I have built her matchless industries, laid her incomparable railroads and highways, created her cities, built her great bridges and skyscrapers. I am the friend of every worthy youth. If he makes my acquaintance while he is young, and keeps me by his side throughout his life, I can do more for him than the richest parental inheritance. I keep bodies' lean and fit, minds alert, and when neglected, both bodies and minds grow fat and sluggish. I am even the parent of genius itself. I am represented in every publication that flies from the press, in every loaf of bread that springs from the oven. Fools hate me; wise men love me. The man who shirks me and scorns my aid, never lives, never really lives, even though he may continue to breathe.

Who am I? What am I?  
My name is W-O-R-K!"

We salute our Patriots. We salute those hard working, God fearing, Bible believing individuals that still make this "Nation" – Of the People, by the People, and for the People – a bastion of hope to a sin-cursed world.

In 1954 President Dwight David Eisenhower said: "The purpose of a devout and united people was set forth in the pages of the Bible... (1) to live in freedom (2) to work in a prosperous land... and (3) to obey the commandments of God.... This Biblical story of the promised land inspired the founders of America. It continues to inspire us...."



Francis Scott Key's Other Song:

# LET MY LIFE SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE!



Francis Scott Key was born in Maryland in 1779. It is said that his grandmother lost her eyesight while attempting to rescue some of her father's slaves from a tragic fire. Francis would read the Bible to her, and the words must have found a good "lodging-place" in his heart, for it is stated that he

became a dedicated Christian. He once explained to a searching congressman friend: "If you are convinced you are a sinner, that Christ alone can save you from the sentence of condemnation; if you make an unconditional surrender of yourself to His service, He will in no wise cast you out."

Francis Scott Key became a lawyer, a district attorney for the District of Columbia, and was considered a "devout and exemplary man." He often taught a Bible class, and had Bible reading and prayers twice a day in his home. He was very busy as a prosperous lawyer, and in his own family, for he had eleven children.

One statesman had often scoffed at Christianity and studied other religions, but he watched the life of Francis Scott Key, and the Lord used Key's witness to bring the man to the Lord.

He was thirty-five years old when he boarded the British ship

to intercede for some prisoners. Key was told he would be detained because of the attack that was soon to take place. He paced the floor and watched as the early light of day would dawn. The flag was still there! He pulled out a letter from his pocket and began to write words down to express his feelings. Little did he realize he was writing the national anthem of the United States.

I have often wished his other hymns were as well-known, for they express his faith in the Saviour and the atoning blood. Here is one great evangelical hymn with wonderful words of praise to God. Mediate on this hymn!

*Lord, with glowing heart I'd praise Thee  
For the bliss Thy love bestows,  
For the pardoning grace that saves me,  
And the peace that from it flows....  
Praise, with love's devoutest feeling,  
Him who saw thy guilt-born fear,  
And the light of hope revealing  
Bade the bloodstained Cross appear....  
Let Thy love, my soul's chief treasure,  
Love's pure flame within me raise  
And since words can never measure,  
Let my life show forth Thy praise.*

*-The Burning Bush/The Flaming Sword, Gary Bowell*



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