





My Personal Message To You

Dear Friends:

Now that's the neighborly thing to do! Terry and I have the special treat of two bird feeders just outside the office window. A morning dove landed just beneath the two feeders. This bird is too large to perch on the wire frame to access the variety of seeds inside. But that dilemma was quickly remedied. Two small finches flew in and began to sort the seeds discarding to the ground below that which apparently does not meet a finches discriminating palate. Well, for the morning dove that was drive-up-service as he/she(?) pecks away at the fallen morsels. What a generous partnership - one neighbor bird helping out another neighbor in a doable arrangement. Of course, you know the devil must stir up some trouble. So along comes that overgrown rat (a local squirrel) just looking for the opportunity to spoil a good thing. However, this squirrel does

not need the birdseed. Acorns, nuts, and a forest load of goodies await his picking. That old rat just wants to ruin the bird feeders. Well, the following may not be for the weak, but I had the answer for that ruinous intruder. With a non-lethal persuader, that varmint was sent lickety-split on his way. Then the neighbors could return to doing their neighborly thing.

From time to time, those old devil doers will try to slip in unawares to break up a neighborly thing. That disgusting varmint will try to invade your mind, your home, and even your church. Load up the *dunamis* of God and give that vile intruder a blast. Don't allow him an inch or a second.

I personally like to see folk work together. What a joy to preach in a church where the love of the brethren is so apparent. The world needs to see this biblical truth demonstrated. The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc. is so

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.

blessed to have pastors, churches and brethren around the world that pray and support this missionary effort. Thank you for your monthly support to this ministry. Without faithful partners like you, *The Voice in the Wilderness* paper and missions' efforts would not be possible.

It is now, once again, crunch time for this publication. Terry and I have just returned from a road trip, which we drove through a snow and ice storm for 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Now, the laundry must be done (the woosh of the washing machine keeps time with my steady pen! – an *advantage* or *disadvantage* of living in the same facility as The Voice in the Wilderness office) along with mail, phone calls, letters, and the writing of this edition. We were privileged to be in some wonderful churches this year. I think we have been in about nine churches in the last couple of months. What a joy! But it is always a busy time when we return to the office. After each trip we thank the Lord for our friends, good Bible believing churches, fruitful meetings and safety along the miles.

Once again, it is always a privilege to visit with you each month via this little paper. May God bless as you serve Him faithfully.

Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

For Christ and Souls, Bro. Ronnie



ALWAYS PRAISE THE The night

watch is not the average soldiers choice. On this occasion, Ira David was given the duty. Fatigue and boredom

can be as great an enemy as the threat of surprise attack. The American Civil War pressed on and Ira David, along with thousands,



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served with commitment and hopes that the conflict would soon be over. With darkness gripping the camp, save a flickering light here and there, Ira David lifted his eyes heavenward. A song of praise swelled in his heart, and softly he began to sing. In melody, he magnified the Lord thinking He alone heard.

The war ended and years later Ira David was aboard ship traveling across the Atlantic Ocean. Now a well-known singer, many made requests for songs. As he had done countless times before. Ira David lifted his eyes toward heaven and sang a beautiful hymn.

At the conclusion, a man from the crowd approached him and asked if on a certain night during the Civil War he had performed guard duty for a particular infantry unit. "Yes, I did. Why do you ask?" "Well sir, I fought on the opposite side of the war. On that night I was hiding in the brush near your camp. With my rifle aimed at your head, I was about to kill you. Then you looked toward heaven and began to sing. I thought, 'Well, I like music, and this guy has a nice voice. I'll just sit here, let him sing the song,... and then shoot him. He's not going anywhere.' But then I realized what you were singing. It was the same hymn my mother used to sing at my bedside when I was a child. And it's the same hymn you sang tonight! I tried, but that night during the Civil War, I was powerless to shoot you."

In the Lord's grace and mercy, Ira David Sankey's life was spared and a one time enemy gained eternal life. Mr. Sankey was now able to point the man to Christ. Throughout his ministry as a powerful preacher and famous song leader for Evangelist D.L. Moody, David Sankey pointed Ira thousands to Christ. Along the way, he always lifted heart and voice to the Lord in praise!

In 1876, Ira David Sankey wrote the music for Edgar Page Stites words to "Trusting Jesus That Is All."

Trusting as the moments fly, Trusting as the days go by; Trusting Him what e'er be fall, Trusting Jesus – that is all.

My dear reader - Have you trusted Jesus as Savior and Lord? 3

Special "PRAYER" Emphasis Pray for the financial support of this missionary outreach: Approximately 40 missionaries, 7 ministries, and numerous students receive financial support from The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc. Matthew 7:7,8 "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth: and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

7he Voice IN THE **SERMON** Vilderness of the Month HEBREW, ISRAELITE, AND JEW

MY JEWISH FRIEND

Have you ever known a Jewish person? In my case, I once worked for two Jewish brothers. Actually, there were three Jewish brothers in business together, and I had direct contact with two of them – one of the brothers being my boss. Is that confusing? Well, the answer to my opening question for me personally is, yes.

I will never forget when Mr. Jake asked me if I would be interested in management. Mr. Jake knew I was a Christian and a preacher at that. Not to pat myself on the back, but Mr. Jake also knew I was a good worker. My church was not able to pay a livable salary so I worked outside the church several days per week to put food on the table and keep the bill collectors away.

Now, if you have never had the fascinating experience of standing between two Jewish business men while they discussed an issue of disagreement, well, it may be extremely difficult for you to capture the imagery. Mr. Jake took me over to see his brother Morris. Jake told Morris about the management idea. Quite frankly, Mr. Morris threw a thought in the mix that I had not considered. Morris says to Jake, "Ronnie is a preacher, so should we (Morris and Jake) be offering him a position in management? Would that not take him away from what God has called him to do?"

Morris had a valid point. Management would mean more money, which my wife and I needed. 4 • *Voice in the Wilderness* • March 2004 But it would also mean more hours and responsibility. To make a long story short, I did not accept the offer and not long afterward was able to go full time at my church. Yet, I will never forget that discussion with my two Jewish bosses.

Mr. Jake told me on several occasions how he began to make some significant money. Back during the depression and subsequent lean years his friends would meet for coffee and conversation everyday at the corner soda fountain. While friends wasted hours talking about the times, Mr. Jake would drive around town and the countryside buying a small piece of land here and there. Over the years, he accrued a small fortune. By the time I met these Jewish brothers they were millionaires. It's amazing, but I've seen this millionaire haggle with a customer over a \$10 pair of shoes. Well, I suppose attention to \$10 added up to a lot of money. The sad part of the story is to my knowledge these Jewish brothers gained a lot of this world but never became truly rich. They were Jewish but not true children of Abraham.

Let me ask you another question? Are all Jews Israelites and are all Israelites Jews? Let's put it this way: Can you explain the difference between a Hebrew, Israelite and a Jew? Newspapers, magazines and media reports are constantly covering stories of the Middle East, Israel and the Jewish/Arab conflict. What meaneth this? (See the following - *Israel & India*).

ISRAEL AND INDIA

"On the trade front comes an interesting relationship between Israel and India. According to the Indian embassy in Tel Aviv, bilateral trade reached \$1.3 billion in 2002 and \$750 million in the first half of 2003. The overall figure could nearly double if the two countries conclude a deal for India's \$1 billion purchase of the Phalcon Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS).

"The IAF is also seeking to buy Israeli surface-to-air missiles. Reports that Israel was proposing to sell to India the Arrow antimissile system were dismissed after Washington made it clear to Tel Aviv that this would not be allowed.

"Israel is asking New Delhi to change its traditional pro-Palestinian, pro-Arab voting pattern at the United Nations. Deccah Herald, 2/03

"Israel has become the world's third largest weapon exporter. No doubt, Israel can contribute to India's advantage not only with weapons of war, but also with sophisticated medical systems. India could also take advantage of Israel's technology on agriculture, which is second to none. However, from a biblical perspective, India, too, will befriend Israel only in isolated events and for political

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opportunities. In the end, India will turn against Israel and stand united with the rest of the nations of the world. *News From Israel 1/04*

David Ettinger in Zion's Fire writes: "A recent poll of 15EU member states sponsored by the European Commission asked its citizens to rank the 15 countries they view as the biggest threats to world peace. Not surprisingly, Iran was No. 2 on the list, followed by North Korea, Afghanistan, Iraq, and the United States (we won't even comment about that one.) Do we really need to tell you who topped the list? Israel. That's right, of all 15 nations, Israel garnered an astounding 59 percent of the votes! In other words, Israel is more likely to bring destruction upon the earth - according to the poll - than are Iran, North Korea, Afghanistan, and Iraq combined!

"Satan's attempts to kill Jesus are well chronicled: Matthew 2:16-18 (Herod); Matthew 27:33-50 (the crucifixion): and Revelation 12:1-5 (an overview of Satan's intent). But, when Satan's mission failed (Revelation 12:5) he developed a new one: exterminate the people – Israel – from whom Jesus descended (Revelation 12:6,13).

"The accounts of Jewish suffering since the first century A.D. are well know, from the destruction of the Temple in the year 70, the Inquisition, the Russian Pogroms, the Holocaust, and all the way to the current spate of suicide bombings that are plaguing the land of Israel.

"Satan's intention has always been spiritual. Israel's European opponents desire to tap into the vast resources of Arab oil. The world's hatred for Israel and the Jewish people is fueled by Satan. These spiritually stupefied Europeans – though claiming to be the bastions of sophistication – have absolutely no idea that they are mere pawns in Satan's diabolical chess game." *David Ettinger, Zion's Fire, Nov/ Dec 2003*

THE PARTS OF THE WHOLE

From the Arab/Jew conflict to the religious-political uproar over the Ten Commandments, one cannot dismiss the significance of Israel, the Jews, and a fellow named Abraham. Can world events be understood apart from a grasp of the whole? Without a look at the big picture, can one truly understand the whizzing and whirl of all the complex pieces that often defy daily explanation? The forest is lost amidst the trees. By print and abundant media, individuals are overwhelmed in this information age and all too frequently overcome by bias and prejudice only to draw in error conclusions out of context with the whole. Yes, analysis of the part is important while the relationship of the part to the whole, the event or issue to all of history is absolute. Self-interest and preservation can totally cloud ones judgment of right. Take a moment to look at the "big picture."

Terrorism, the Mid-east conflict, all the debate over world economics, borders, immigration and globalism are parts of the puzzle. There must be a **Key** that unlocks the understanding to this confusion of world affairs. Indeed, there is a **Key**. All are held captive and locked in to bad choices apart from this **Key**. Without the **Key**, history loses perspective and the philosophy of life is severely skewed.

This struggle throughout history with life's simple, daily needs to the

larger life and death issues are at best, dimly viewed. Primitive, backward cultures to the sophisticated, technologically advanced have microscoped their speck of genius to satisfy momentarily, for peace of mind, by means of the religious, political and scientific. Only one **Key** fits and unlocks true perspective to history, and sanity, yea, balance to the philosophy of life. There is a purpose and plan, yet without the **Key** continuity, congruity, and significance cannot be discerned.

THE KEY THAT FITS

Was there one day nothing, and then slowly or suddenly, take your pick, something came from nothing? Then over long periods or even longer periods of time, that "once nothing" then became something. No matter how tiny that nothing to something was it eventually evolved into all the systems and complexities known today - the universe, all the galaxies, stars, planets, our solar system, the earth, land, seas, animals, plants, mankind, a single cell and one day – nothing then everything. Is that the key that fits? Science, is that the key? Just remember, if science is the key, then it must unlock the answers to the various issues not only of science, politics, religion, but all the when, where, hows, and whys of everyday life to the largest of application.

Charles Darwin wrote in *The Origin of Species* "No one ought to feel surprised at much remaining as yet unexplained in regard to the origin of species and varieties, if he makes due allowance for our profound ignorance in regard to the mutual relations of all the beings which live around us." Numerous words could be emphasized in this brief statement from the over 400 pages I hold in my hand. However,

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these words I choose to highlight – "unexplained," and "profound ignorance." Mr. Darwin, toward the conclusion of his lengthy exercise states, "Authors of the highest eminence seem to be fully satisfied with the view that each species has been independently created." *The Origin of Species* took Darwin twenty years to publish and shackled the hearts and minds of multitudes to come to a darkness beyond any imaginable unnatural selection.

Steven Jay Gould, evolutionists and Harvard professor said, "Facts do not speak for themselves; they are read in light of theory." In reality, so call facts have been misrepresented repeatedly. Numerous times so-called scientific evidence has been blatant lies. Books have been written exposing the deception and distortion of evolution, e.g., the Piltdown man, the peppered moth, the problems with carbon dating.

Professor of physics at University of Manchester, UK, H.S. Lipson admits "...evolution became in a sense a scientific religion; almost all scientists have accepted it and many are prepared to 'bend' their observations to fit in with it."

The truth is many scientists do not accept evolution. Down through history to this present day some of the most brilliant minds this world has had to offer have rejected evolution. The honest intellectual seeking the truth must confront the deception, and distortion thrust upon science and academia. Each and every individual capable of making choices of right and wrong must within themselves decide this is what I believe and ultimately be willing to live and die with that choice.

Did you know that so-called science once said:

1. There were only 1,100 stars.

2. Light was fixed in place.

3. Air was weightless.

- 4. The wind blew straight.
- 5. The earth was flat.
- 6. Sick people needed to be bled. Now science has changed its position:
- 1. There are innumerable stars.
- 2. Light does indeed move.
- 3. Yes, air has weight.
- 4. Winds blow in different directions and in circular motion.
- 5. The earth is a sphere.
- 6. Blood is the source of life.

Please note that science was wrong even before research and experimentation could prove otherwise. However, even when science was wrong there was an authoritative voice that spoke accurately on subjects that the so-called experts had tragically erred.

The Bible had it right from the start:

- 1. There are innumerable stars Jeremiah 33:22.
- 2. Light does indeed move Job 38:19,20.
- 3. Yes, air has weight Job 28:25.
- 4. Winds blow in different directions and in circular motion – Ecclesiastes 1:6.
- 5. The earth is a sphere Isaiah 40:22.
- 6. Blood is the source of life Leviticus 17:11.

Isn't it amazing? The Bible has not only stood the test of time in terms of accuracy and reliability but has been the object of incredible attempts by minds, militaries, and monarchs determined to obliterate it from existence. Yet, they have passed and the Bible remains. Religions and gurus, rulers and governments, scientist with their test tubes and theories have repeatedly embarked on a common venture – that, to discredit and destroy the Holy Bible. In essence, they endeavored to deny God or be God. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. told one young man, "The secret of my success is that at an early age I discovered I was not God." The Bible describes many a frustrated individual – "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." (II Timothy 3:7) Yes, man is not God, man will never destroy God and man will give account to God!

This world is complex and there are many questions, yet only One Key Fits! The Bible, God's Holy Word, unfolds before our very eyes and for our very hearts the divine purpose and plan. Graham Scroggie said, "The Bible so viewed is a divine progressive revelation made in life, and fixed in literature. Of this Drama of Redemption the Earth is the Stage, Man and Nations are the Dramatis Personae, and Christ, let it be said most reverently, is the Hero." Apart from the Bible we mortals are "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." Just spend a little time studying the Bible. You will then easily understand why some among us want prayer and the Bible out of public schools. Study the Bible and it is clear the motivation behind, "Constitutional Revisionists." Now you will see the uproar over, "Under God,""The Ten Commandments," and "Redefining Marriage." Charles Darwin did not want to be accountable to God. Sorry Charles, you can spend 20 years or 200 years; publish 500 pages or 5 million pages and you now know every man will stand before God and give account!

Is there a **Key** that fits?

During the 2004 Presidential Primary in South Carolina, one devoted Democrat stated concerning her favorite candidate, "I don't care if he's

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a monkey. I'll vote for him if he can beat George Bush." In a recent conversation with a dear Christian friend, the observation was made about her aged grandmother that she would not vote for Jesus if he ran as a Republican.

Listen to this carefully. The Common Market, 25 countries aspiring to be The United States of Europe with their headquarters in Brussels, now wave their own flag, sing their own national Anthem, and are pushing to elect one president. This united front desires power to stand against the U.S.A. Those in the "ever learning" mode but "never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" will soon bow to their one world leader. All this knowledge has been unlocked to those who have the Key. And with this knowledge is power and peace knowing that God has throughout time had faithful men and women He could use to proclaim The Way, The Truth, and The Life.

For those who possess the **Key** – nations, tongues, and land have meaning. Present global struggles can be understood. From Shem to the Hebrew family with Abraham, then Ishmael and Isaac come clarity to the conflict of posterity. A worldview takes on new significance with a Biblical grasp of Jew, Arab and Christian history. God's hand and ultimate plan make these, days of anticipation, and enthusiasm.

"ROAD MAP" TO ARMAGEDDON

The following excerpts were written by Dave Hunt and printed at thebereancall.org:

"The 'Quartet' of Bush, Putin, UN, and EU is determined, through a division of land, to bring a "just and lasting peace" into the Middle East between Israel and her neighbors. Assuming they are sincere and not just working for their own interests, their mental state must be on a par with those who gave the Nobel Peace Prize to Yasser Arafat, a mass murderer, habitual liar, and the world's leading terrorist, who has done more than anyone to destroy world peace....

"In fact, Muhammad, whose word cannot be changed, imposed upon every Muslim in every age the duty of exterminating all Jews. Only then can the 'Last Day' (the climax of Islam) arrive. The fact makes 'peace' between Israel and Muslims impossible-ever. Any apparent 'peace' agreements signed by Muslim leaders are not worth the ink in their signatures!....

"No Arab/Muslim political or religious leader can contradict Islam's founding prophet. Thus to continue to pursue a negotiated 'peace' in the Middle East is the height of folly! Yet Western political and religious leaders continue to hold out that vain hope and to force concessions upon Israel that pave the road to her destruction!

"Modern Israel occupies a relatively small piece of land. Arabs possess 700 times as much, with vast amounts of oil and minerals. Why are they determined to possess tiny Israel too?"

"A sovereign Jewish state proves that Muhammad was a false prophet, and that Allah is not God. Muslims must destroy Israel!

"Both the Bible and Qur'an agree that 4,000 years ago God gave the Promised Land to Abraham and his Israeli descendants. Yet, the Arabs claim ownership through Ishmael, Abraham's first son. But God declared that not Ishmael, but Isaac, who would be born to Sarah, was the son and heir He had promised (Genesis 17:15-21).

"Like his father, Isaac also had two sons, Esau and Jacob; and again the Lord rejected the firstborn and gave the inheritance to the second-so the inheritance flows from Abraham to Isaac and on to Jacob whose name God changed to Israel. ...

"Muslims claim that the Bible was corrupted by later revisions. However, the Bible's thousands of manuscripts, historical and prophetic accuracy, and the intricate integration of themes from Genesis to Revelation (none of which the Qur'an can boast!) reduce such a claim to nonsense. Futhermore, the Qur'an itself supports what the Bible says concerning Israel's claim to the Promised Land:

'We made a covenant of old with the Children of Israel' (Surah 5:70); 'We brought the children of Israel across the [Red] Sea, and Pharaoh with his hosts pursued them...'(10:91). '...[B]ut we drowned him and those with him all together. And we said unto the Children of Israel...dwell in the land [and] hereafter...we shall bring you...out of various nations' (17:103, 104); '[W]e delivered the children of Israel...from Pharaoh....We chose them, purposely, above all creatures' (44:30-32); 'favored them above all peoples' (45:16); 'Remember Allah's favor to you...He...gave you what he gave no other of his creatures. O my people, go into the Holy Land which Allah hath ordained for you' (95:20, 21); etc.

"The territory God gave to Abram (later renamed Abraham by God) and to his descendants was not 'Palestine,' but Canaan: 'Into the land of Canaan they came' (Genesis 12:5, 6). There were no 'Palestinians' from whom

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RELIGIOUS NEWS AND COMMENTS



ANCIENT CHINESE CHARACTERS – It can be interesting to study some of the ancient Chinese characters. I found this to be quite interesting: The character for 'boat' consists of the characters, vessel, eight and mouth. (Eight mouths to be fed in the ark.) The character for 'evil' consists of two trees, garden, child, whisper and shelter. (The Garden of Eden.) The character for 'come' consists of a cross and man.

THIRSTY FOR GOD – France still appears outwardly post-Christian, but a new groundswell is making itself felt. A new crop of pastors is once again proclaiming the gospel without political frills. Evangelical congregations are starting up at the rate of one every nine days. One Roman Catholic priest said, "Young people are thirsty for God. They are sick to the gills of materialism, broken families, violence. If you can gain their confidence, they are all ears." A 1999 survey found less than 600 million Europeans self-identify as Christian. More telling is the numbers who identify themselves as non-Christian or irreligious: Non-religious - 108 million; Atheists -23.4 million: Muslims – 31.4 million: Jews -2.5 million; Buddhists -1.5million: Hindus 1.4 million.....Ouestion, can we afford not to GO and get the TRUTH to Europe?

PERSPECTIVE ON MID-EAST/

ISRAEL POLICY – We are in the late stage of the awesome fulfillment of Bible prophecy, behind which lies the omnipotent hand of God himself: "I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem..." (Zechariah 12:2, 3).

President Bush wants a "democratic, viable" Palestinian state living in peace with Israel, but no democracy exists, or can exist, in a Muslim society. Bush is trying to create democracy in Afghanistan and Iraq. If that could happen, it would shake the entire Muslim world. Islam cannot survive in Freedom. Muslims hold 80 percent of the world's political prisoners.

America's precipitous withdrawal from Lebanon 20 years ago, fleeing from known Syrian/Iranian-sponsored terrorists instead of pursing them, encouraged the terrorism rampant today worldwide. Can Bush really, with terrorist partners, stand up against the evil of terrorism? When will he admit that it is endemic to Islam? Will the strategic (politically correct?) time ever come for telling the truth? It remains to be seen whether the U.S. can eliminate terrorism, when our State Department secretly opposes Israel and favors Arabs.

The Bible foretells a false peace, by which antichrist will "destroy many" (Daniel 8:24, 25). Tragically, Israel will be deceived, tear down the security wall now being built, and drop its guard, opening the door to "the time of Jacob's trouble" (Jeremiah 30:7) and Armageddon (Ezekiel 38:11, 12, 14, 16). Two-thirds of all Jews worldwide will be killed (Zechariah 13:8, 9). Those who survive will believe in Christ and be saved when He rescues them and they recognize the crucified, resurrected Lord as their Messiah and God (Zechariah 12:10; Matthew 24:13; Romans 11:25,26).

We must not abandon Afghanistan or Iraq. I received letters from missionaries there who say, "The minute the American and British troops pull out, we are dead!" It is time for Christians to pray as never before-and to do all they can to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to both Muslims and Jews.-*Dave Hunt, The Berean Call* 1/2004



THE ALCOHOL INDUSTRY AND CONGRESS - In Congress, the alcohol industry can be as intimidating as anybody in Washington. The energetic leader of the beer wholesalers, David Rehr, is closely connected to members of the House Republican leadership. Since joining the beer wholesalers a decade ago, Rehr has transformed the association into a cohesive network of local distributors who donate heavily to, and lean heavily on, their members on Congress. *The National Statesman via Hites Outreach Letter*

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Religious News and Comments

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HOW WORLDVIEWS AFFECT

THE CHURCH - The church's worldview will define its purpose, which in turn defines its mission. Fifty seven percent of members say the purpose of the church is to provide a place for members to show love "to each other." More than 40% of churchgoers said that they relied on their own good works for eternal life. More than 60% of church members stated that ministry and the fulfillment of the Great Commission is the work of paid pastors. Only 44% said they volunteered regularly to serve in their church; 8% never volunteered. (A survey by Church Growth Center of 15,000 church members over 15 years.)

A servant's heart, stewardship, and a biblical worldview are clouded by consumption with personal comfort and pleasure. Pastor – examine your congregations worldview, and teach what the Bible says about the issues and attitudes faced today.



VENEZUELA – Venezuelan politics are still making headlines. A recent email from one missionary reports that the situation gets very tense at times and you never know what to expect. The instability has wreaked havoc on the economy. There is now close to 30% inflation and 25% unemployment. The economic situation has led many to stealing to support their families. The situation is so bad that the government is considering creating a new law that would make stealing, because of economic necessity a non-penalty crime! Let's keep our Venezuelan missionaries in prayer for their safety, wisdom, family, and ability to witness for Christ.



CALIFORNIA'S 9TH CIRCUIT, AGAIN - The San Francisco-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit upheld that Hewlett-Packard Company did not violate the rights of a devout Christian employee when it fired him for posting Biblical quotes on his cubicle in response to company posters featuring gay employees.

WHAT'S THE REAL LINK BETWEEN RELIGION AND

MORALITY? – The statement that 'without religion, there's no morality' was actually made by the pagan philosopher Nietzsche. He's the one, many decades ago, who made the statement 'God is dead.'In writing about morality, Nietzsche was really mocking people who held to Christian ethics, such as one man for one woman for life in marriage, do not steal, do not murder, and so on. Yet these same people didn't accept Christianity. This pagan philosopher understood that if one didn't have Christianity and the Bible as foundational to one's thinking, then there was no basis at all for Christian morality. What are many times called 'family values' are really Christian morals, and you really can't have these unless you have Christianity. Answersingenesis.org

THE SEDUCTION OF CHRISTIANITY – Modern medicine has taken the same blind leap of faith into mysticism. With its deceptive and seductive claim that it involves the treatment of "mind, body, and spirit," Holistic medicine is growing in popularity and acceptability. In fact the new concern for "spirit" in health and education has come about as part of the astonishing transformation of Western society through its acceptance of Eastern mysticism.

Modern Christians are usually only too eager to assume that anyone using such words as "God," "Christ," or "spirit" agrees with their own understanding of these terms, especially if such an assumption would appear to put "science" on their side. Obviously, however, "spirit" is not a scientific or medical term, but a religious one. Yet how many Christians ask their doctor or psychologist what religion involving "spirit" is he passing off on his patients in the name of the latest medical science? Dave Hunt & T.A. McMahon. "The Seduction of Christianity," Harvest House Publishers 1985, p.119

LATE-NIGHT TV INSPIRES CHURCH'S WEDNESDAY

SERVICE – Wednesday Night Live (WNL) with Pastor Rodney is "hosted" by Rodney McKinley, associate pastor at Abundant Life Ministries. "If we're honest, most Wednesday night church services need a shot in the arm," McKinley, 37, said. "I call this sermon with a twist." Instead of three points and a prayer, McKinley opens WNL at 7 p.m. with a monologue and some lighthearted banter with his co-host, followed by a Top Ten List with some religious connection (for example, Reasons Why God Made Eve). They then welcome the guests; costumed characters straight out of the Bible. "The Bible may never look the same again." The Tampa Tribune observed. WNL-which started as a fourweek experiment in June – is a big hit, tripling attendance from 50 parishioners to about 150, and about 35 people have received Jesus and rededicated their lives to Christ. "No matter how much fun we have, Jesus is still the center of the show. We never end it without giving someone the opportunity to receive Christ, " McKinley said. [Beware – the end does not justify the means!]

NEWS BITS FROM HERE AND THERE

CITIZENSHIP AND THE LAWS OF AMERICA - Mark Hyman of News Central. TV/The Point states it this way: "A 'temporary worker program' for 'undocumented men and women.' The fact remains that this is a plan that rewards the estimated 8-11 million illegal aliens who broke the law in entering this country. And it gives an advantage to illegal aliens over those who've followed the law and are awaiting approval to enter the U.S...According to the Federation for American Immigration Reform, 45 million immigrants will enter the country in the next decade. President Bush said, 'America is a welcoming country, but citizenship must not be the automatic reward for violating the laws of America.' But that's just what his plan does. It puts illegal aliens on the fast track to permanent citizenship and it makes a mockery of our immigration laws."

HOMELAND SECURITY AT THE BORDERS - VIRTUALLY NO ENFORCEMENT. T h e

following are some excerpts from an interview between Tom Fitton, President of *Judicial Watch* and Rick Oltman, Western Field Director for *The Federation for American Immigration Reform*: "Elected officials continue to ignore the will of the voter concerning illegal aliens. Our borders are out of control. There have been estimates about the numbers of illegal aliens in the country for years and now the number has gone up to 10 million... [Some estimates are much higher. Where is the breaking point? But criticism still comes – Mexican officials have complained that the Bush administration has used post-Sept. 11 security concerns as an excuse to better protect, rather than allow freer movement over the U.S.-Mexican border.]... What we are experiencing is a vertically integrated failure on the government's part – a failure to rein in legal immigration, which brings in over a million people a year legally into this country, far more than what we need for any good reason.

This is about a failure at the border to prevent, not just illegal aliens, but criminals and drug traffickers and potential terrorist from coming in across the border.

This is about the failure of law enforcement. We have virtually no interior enforcement going on right now which is why so many illegal aliens are employed in so many different businesses in the country.

"The attack from the other side is that we conservatives are racists when it comes to this issue. [By the way, I personally heard this week that the term "illegal immigrants" has become a racial slur. We should now say, "undocumented men and women."] However, Americans are the most generous people in the world. We give all the time. We are almost at 300 million people in the country now. By the year 2050, at this rate, we're going to be close to half a billion people in the country. And where is this half a billion people going to live? They are going to live where people are living now, which means that cities will be bursting with people, resources will be short, and government services are going to have to increase to deal with it. This is the kind of legacy we want to leave for our children just so that business can continue to take advantage of cheap foreign labor?

"Ten years ago, it was pretty much confined to California, Arizona, Texas, Florida, New York, Illinois and the Chicago area. But about the mid-1990s, as the economy continued to expand, businesses learned that there was virtually no interior enforcement going on in the country. Even though it is against the law for businesses to hire illegal aliens, there is virtually no enforcement.

"WWW.FAIRUS.ORG noted The Center for Immigration Studies estimated in 1995 that immigration costs the American taxpayer a net \$29 billion a years - more than the combined budgets of the Departments of State, Justice and Interior.

These costs include both programs targeted toward immigrants, as well as the increased costs of education, health care, and welfare programs that are used by immigrants. According to the bureau of Justice Statistics, 29 percent of the inmates in federal prisons are aliens. In a study comparing high immigration cities to low immigration cities, the high immigration cities were found to have twice as much violent crime as low immigration cities. The current rate of immigration has jumped significantly over the historically high 1990s level, according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates. Immigrants are

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News Bits

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estimated to be pouring into the country at a rate that increases the population by about 1.4 million each year."

The article continued with this, "In 1965, the number of aliens apprehended by the Border Patrol coming across the border was 110,000. Now that number is more than one million annually. Data for recent years indicate that most of the apprehensions by the Border Patrol are along the U.S.-Mexican border.

"The best system in the world will not work if we will not work." *The Judical Watch 2/04*



THE SCIENTIFIC AGE – THE ONE WORLD AGE – It has been a shock – the proliferation of cell phones around the world – not just the U.S., but Venezuela, India, literally around the world.

ASIA LEADS THE WAY TO PAY BY PHONE: In Japan, telcom NTT Docolfo and financial firms Nippon Shinpan and Visa International are rolling out the second test phase of an infrared-enabled payment system, which will include 1,000 merchants and 10,000 consumers. Peddlers of the technology have gained an even greater foothold in South Korea, a cell-phoneobsessed society in which wireless providers are competing for market share with hot technology. The leader, SK Telecom, has already sold 370,000 enabled handsets and should have reader technology installed at 400,000 stores soon. "M-finance is still in its infancy," say Natasha Tan, research manager at consulting firm IDC in Singapore. "But turning cell phones into electronic wallets is here to stay." -TIME 12/03 The solution to the lost. stolen or damaged phone is in the works; complete identity of each

person on planet Earth is only a step away.

EUROPEAN BAR CODES: In 1999, the Postal Service established the first barcode discount for mailed parcels, rewarding package shippers for helping in the shift to automated processing of parcels, and in the process improving service consistency and postal efficiency. A year later, it set a four-year transition period for customers to convert to one standard barcode symbology. However, many of vou that are now familiar with barcodes might be surprised to know that the universal barcode has been issued from the European Uniform Code Council. One by one, countries are following in line and marching toward the new World Order of Rome.

IN BRITAIN, ARE YOU A FIRST OR SECOND CLASS CONSUMER? A study has revealed that more than 500 call centers in Britain have installed sophisticated technology that automatically "recognizes" consumers when they call and diverts their inquiry to specially trained workers authorized to give better deals to wealthier clients. Poorer customers are made to wait in queues and may have their calls answered by automated computer systems. Banks assign a "lifetime" value to each, which is based on their social class, education and income. Other companies, including telecom firms, tour operators and utilities, employ marketing firms to place consumers in social groups. [Again, the end-time technology coming to your home.] Midnight Call 2/04

JOBS HEADED OVERSEAS -

Two stories recently in the *Asheville Citizen Times* stated the following: "Ambergris Solutions is a company among 45 Filipino and foreign players in the Philippines' booming call center business, which has generated 30,000 jobs in just five years. From "almost unexplored territory" five years ago, the industry projects on employing

100,000 Filipinos by 2005. Meanwhile, the United States has lost 250,000 call center jobs to India and the Philippines since 2001. Forrester Research estimated last year that 3.3 million service industry jobs, including call centers, and \$136 billion in wages, will move to countries like India, Russia, China and the Philippines. The Philippines's chief competitor in attracting call-center business is India, but the government and industry leaders say the Philippines has some advantages: a cultural affinity with the United States, its former colonial master, and its relatively cheap labor and modern telecommunication infrastructure. Another difference is that Filipinos speak Americanized English as a second language, "while the Indians may speak the Oueen's English." [So the next time you call a business to check on your account or a credit card company to check on your statement, you might want to ask where that person is located that you are talking to. Could be interesting!] Also in a related matter, here's a note concerning employment or should I say unemployment in just one state. Western North Carolina has relied over the years on manufacturing jobs for much of its employment. However, due what is termed "foreign competition" many plants have closed, creating jobs lost. The ACT reported in January 2004 that more than 4,400 jobs have been lost in Western North Carolina since January 2003.



LABOR SECRETARY CHAO: U.N. A THREAT TO U.S. – Labor Secretary Elaine Chao warned that Americans must pay more attention to the United Nations and its

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those who take that name today claim to be descended: 'the Canaanite and Perizzite dwelled then in the land' (13:7).

"Abram remained there the rest of his life: '...Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan' (13:12). God told him, 'For all the land...to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever' (13:15); '...all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession" (Genesis 17:8).

"Arabs can't claim a pure descent from Ishmael. Ishmaelites intermarried with Midianites (Judges 8:5, 12, 22, 24), Edomites (Genesis 28:9), and Hittites (26:34; 36:1-4). In contrast, during 400 years as slaves in Egypt, the Israelites became an identifiable ethnic people who were led en masse into Canaan. We know who they are today....

"It was not Arabs but Hebrews who settled in ancient Hebron and all of Canaan, creating Israel....

"The Arabs never lived in Canaan, but settled in the Arabian Peninsula. Not until the seventh century A.D., through the Islamic invasions, did Arabs come in any significant numbers into the land of Israel, which, in A.D. 135, the Romans had angrily renamed Syria-Palestina, after Israel's chief enemy, the Philistines.

"The so-called Palestinians of today are Arabs whose ancestors came from Arabia....It is a blatant lie that today's 'Palestinians' (who at the same time claim descent from Ishmael) are descended from the original inhabitants of the land of Canaan, which God promised to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their heirs...

"Today Muslims are attempting to force out the few remaining Jews. They claim all of 'Palestine' and state that Israelis are occupying land that belongs to them! And this fraud is the foundation for a so-called road map to peace!

"President Bush, as a Christian, ought to tremble at God's solemn

warning that He will destroy all who divide His land (Joel 3:2). Yes, His land: 'the land shall not be sold [or traded] for ever: for the land is mine' (Leviticus 25:23)!...

"[A]ll that burden themselves with it [Jerusalem] shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it" (Zechariah 12:3).

"American presidents, one after another, have cajoled Israel into compromise after compromise with Arab/Muslim leaders that could only have been uproarious jokes as far as the latter were concerned. Always, the good intentions of Israel and the West have led only to their further humiliation." *Dave Hunt, The Berean Call*

THE PURPOSE AND PLAN UNDERSTOOD

The Bible records, the apostle Paul speaking "...I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God to salvation to every one that believes; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. (Romans 1:16) Then Romans 2:9 & 10 says, "Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that does evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honor, and peace, to every man that works good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile."

As the clock ticks down upon this earthly scene, the historical unfolding of God's divine plan in detail is more apparent to this present generation than any before. The fundamental truth and message of God's redeeming purpose must be paramount for those who hold the Key. The mission is to all the world - Jew first and to every one everywhere. From Shem descended Abraham and the Hebrew family with the Hebrew name derived from Eber, which means crossing as Abram crossed the Euphrates. Jacob whose name was changed to Israel fathered the Israelites. Then the Jews were descendants of Judah. Some have made these distinctions:

Abram – Hebrew – linguistic (family/race)

Israel – Israelite – National (Nation)

Judah – Jew – Tribal (religious) The **Key** unlocks the realization of God's eternal design in and through man or in spite of him.

Now the following requires your undivided attention. Read this section in its entirety and then take your Bible and read these references in context. This is certain to be a very powerful experience.

JERUSALEM

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. – Matthew 23:37-39.

If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! But now they are hid from thine eyes.

For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side.

And shall lay thee even with the ground and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation. – Luke 19:42-44.

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would

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not!

Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. – Luke 13:34,35.

See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. – Matthew 24:2

Seest thou these great buildings? There shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. – Mark 13:2.

Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children.

For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bear, and the paps which never gave suck.

Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us.

For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry? – Luke 23:28-31.

Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. – John 4:21.

And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.

Then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.

For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people.

And they shall fall by the edge of

the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. – Luke 21:20-24.

But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:

Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. – Matthew 5:34,35.

THE JEWS

I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. – Matthew 15:24.

But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. – Matthew. 10:6.

It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. - Matthew 15:26.

Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it unto the dogs. – Mark 7:27.

Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship; for salvation is of the Jews. – John 4:22.

And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven:

But the children of the Kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. – Matthew 8:11,12.

And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. – Luke 21:24.

Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me? – John 7:19.

I have done one work, and ye all marvel. – John 7:21.

I know that ye are Abraham's

seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. – John 8:37

Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? – John. 10:32

I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.

But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

Ye do the deeds of your father.

If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God: neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

Why do ye not understand my speech? Even because ye cannot hear my word.

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do: he was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

Which of you convince th me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God. – John 8:38-47.

I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me. – John 8:49.

If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth. – John 9:41.

But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. – John 10:26.

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Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.

For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not; but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him. – Matthew 21:31, 32.

If I tell you, ye will not believe:

And if I also ask you, ye will not answer me, nor let me go. – Luke 22:67, 68.

But whereunto shall I liken this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows,

And saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented.

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil.

The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children. – Matthew 11:16-19.

Whereunto then shall I liken the men of this generation? And to what are they like?

They are like unto children sitting in the marketplace, and calling one to another, and saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned to you, and ye have not wept.

For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil.

The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners!

But wisdom is justified of all her children. – Luke 7:31-35.

My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. – John 18:36.

I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing. – John 18:20.

The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,

And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.

Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.

But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:

And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.

But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. – Matthew 22:2-7.

Did you hear the powerful words of Christ?

The wheels of A New World Order or One World Government are moving ever more rapidly. Emissary Publications outlines the following goals of World Bankers and Globalists.

- 1. The destruction of Christianity;
- 2. The abolition of private property;
- 3. The abolition of inheritance;
- 4. The breakup of the family unit (promotion of same-sex unions);
- 5. The destruction of nationalism and patriotism;
- 6. The abolition of all ordered, national governments, and
- 7. The creation of a New World Order, or One World Government. It doesn't take a lot of brainpower to see how these goals are being

advanced by the judicial system, Congress, and the media.

Keep in mind that Europe has bequeathed to the world in the last few centuries: Marxism, Nazism, Existentialism, Theological Liberalism, and Post-Modernism, to name some.

Two pastors lectured on the differences between Christianity and Islam, and quoted information about Islam directly from the Koran. Now they have been charged with "inciting hatred against Muslims." Todd Nettleton of "Voice of the Martyrs" says the pastors are on trial for telling the truth.

Islam has a long and bloody history. Today Muslim clerics continue to urge their followers to exterminate Jews, and they are quoting the Koran to encourage obedience. Millions of radical Muslims believe that the only answer for the problems faced by the Ummah (the worldwide Islamic community) is to establish a Khalifah (a righteous Muslim state governed by Koranic law).

Unbelievably, Muslim suicide bombers deny that they are terrorists, but rather assert that they are martyrs. A terrorist says: "You will die for what I believe," but a martyr says, "I will die for what I believe." By this depraved logic, terrorists glorify murder by the dozens.

Current events read like biblical prophecy. The Word of God holds the Key to understanding the times as well as gives the compass to stay the course. Anti-Semitism and Anti-Zionism propagandize efforts to destroy not just individual Jews but Israel as well. Shem to Abram to Isaac to Jacob to Judah to Christ is God's business and He has made my business clear as well. To be His witness from Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Pray, pray, pray that Christians will lift up their eyes and see the present opportunities to win Muslims and Jews to Christ. Thy will be done.

-RLW

www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org

Nuggets of Gold

News Bits

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related organizations, which she noted were chipping away at U.S. sovereignty and threatening freedoms. She explained that powerful taxexempt organizations were applying pressure through the U.N. to have the world body make decisions for Americans' lives without any input from U.S. citizens. *1/04 NewsMax*

EDUCATION FUNDING – DO WE NEED MORE? – President

Bush will ask Congress for another \$1 billion each for the Title I program for disadvantage youth, currently funded at about \$12 billion, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, now running at \$10 billion annually. However, the U.S. Education Department just released a report that there are states, which have not touched some \$5.8 billion in federal education funds available since 2000, and another \$84 million has been reverted back to the U.S. Treasury unused. Some in Washington have even called for as much as an additional \$6 billion for the Title I program for disadvantage youth. The unspent \$5.8 billion falls under six federal programs, including Title I. World 1/04 [As Bro. Royce would say, "On through the fog!"]



MASSACHUSETTS COURT VIOLATES LAW IN RECOGNITION OF HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGES

- "The Massachusetts court decision now forces the people of Massachusetts recognize to homosexual marriages. This misguided decision flows directly from this year's Supreme Court Lawrence decision, which granted constitutional protections of the right to engage in sodomy. Now that this right has been established by the Supreme Court, it www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org

was inevitable that another court would mandate recognition of homosexual marriages. The November 18, 2003, ruling is on a collision with the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which protects states from being forced to recognize homosexual marriages permitted by other states. It is likely the U.S. Supreme Court will now have to decide the controversy-whether states and the federal government are constitutionally required to recognize same sex marriages." Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton, February *2004*.....Many same-sex proponents simply do not have an understanding of marriage.

- 1. Marriage is not a lust/love relationship between people.
- 2. Marriage is not for the purpose of accessing legal and health benefits.
- 3. Marriage is not an emotional relationship to accommodate loving adults.
- 4. Marriage is not two men or two women.
- 5. Marriage is not about people who are nice or good citizens.
- 6. Marriage is not about homosexuals forming loving relationships.
- 7. Marriage is not about homosexuals loving children and rearing children.
- Marriage is not about homosexuals treated with dignity and respect.
 Taken in part from *Focus on the Family Feb/Mar 2004*



IDENTITY THEFT – The Federal Trade Commission says 9.9 million Americans were victims last year. In addition to losses of more than \$47 billion for businesses and financial institutions, identity theft cost consumer victims \$5 billion in out-ofpocket expenses.





- 1. Egotism is the worlds most poorly kept secret.
- **2.** Some proud folks are always letting off esteem.
- An efficiency expert's idea of lowering costs is to cut the other fellow's salary.
- **4.** The man who borrows trouble is always in debt.
- 5. I am in shape round is a shape!
- 6. It seems the only thing that has not increased in cost is free advice.
- A mule makes no headway while he's kicking; neither does a man.



L a d y Astor quite frankly said to W i n s t o n Churchill, "Sir, if you were my husband, I would poison your coffee."

Mr. Churchill responded, "Madam, if you were my wife, I'd drink it."

The Irish Explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton (1874-1922) gave this advertisement in the London newspapers with "deadly frankness," for his expedition to the Antarctic. Men wanted for hazardous journey. Small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, and safe return doubtful. Honor and recognition in case of success. Shackleton had so many volunteers the advertisement may never have ran in the newspapers.

Parting Thoughts

WE NEED A CHURCH!

Several subscribers have written asking what to do if their church has taken serious departure from the scripture. Apparently, no other church in their area offers an improvement. The time has come, and they can no longer tolerate the persistent compromise.

Last month I printed the article, "Some Churches I Have Known." Terry and I have been blessed through the years to be part of some biblically strong, separated, soul-winning churches. Yet, I know from my travels many do not have the blessing of a solid local church in their town or even county. Without making a doctrinal statement or conducting a Bible study, which we often do in this publication, please permit me to give some very simple suggestions. Assuming a "good" church does not exist in your area:

1. Consider starting a church. There are local church ministries across this country looking for opportunities to establish new works. Contact a pastor you have confidence in and ask him if he knows of a church planter that would like to pioneer a work in your location. Are you willing to sacrifice

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financially, win souls personally and do what it takes to see a solid ministry established? It will take earnest prayer, sacrificial time, generous giving, unwavering faith, commitment to the Book, and a lot of hard work. Often folk want their church to be what it ought to be, but they don't want to be what they ought to be.

2. Are you willing to move in order to join a local church that is true to God's Word? I personally know numerous individuals who have relocated to be part of a church ministry the Lord had raised up, or perhaps you may even help pioneer a new church. Is being part of such a local church a conviction of your heart? If so, a move may be in the order.

3. Finally, have you respectfully, prayerfully sat down with your former pastor and discussed your scriptural concerns, not personal peculiarities. We all have our "drothers" but does that constitute Bible? Resolution and reconciliation may yet be possible. Regardless the choice, commitment and sacrifice will be required.

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