



CONTENDING FOR  
FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIANITY

# The Voice

IN THE

# Wilderness

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

Mark 1:3

Published Monthly  
Free Subscription



CONTENDING FOR  
AMERICAN FREEDOM

November 2004

## Thanks to God

*Thanks for prayers that Thou hast answered,  
Thanks for what Thou dost deny!  
Thanks for storms that I have weathered,  
Thanks for all Thou dost supply!  
Thanks for pain, and thanks for pleasure,  
Thanks for comfort in despair!  
Thanks for grace that none can measure,  
Thanks for love beyond compare!*

*Thanks for roses by the wayside,  
Thanks for thorns their stems contain!  
Thanks for home and thanks for fireside,  
Thanks for hope, that sweet refrain!  
Thanks for joy and thanks for sorrow,  
Thanks for heav'nly peace with Thee!  
Thanks for hope in the tomorrow,  
Thanks through all eternity!*

-A. L. Storm (Swedish)



# MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Co-Labourers in Christ, Partners in Mission and Readers of *The Voice in the Wilderness*:

This is a very special “Personal Message” directed to the three groups of individuals addressed in my salutation. If you know Jesus Christ as your precious Lord and Saviour then together we are indeed co-labourers in Christ. The apostle Paul describes us as labourers together with God: One lays the foundation, and another builds on that foundation. All around the world the work of God’s people compliments the whole. I could site many accounts where the Gospel effort in one country benefits the work thousands of miles across the globe. Then even more specific – some have partnered with *The Voice in the Wilderness* to spread the glorious message of our Saviour. Your fervent, steadfast prayers, financial support, and

enlistment of new contributors have made this endeavor possible. The third group in the greeting represents a ministry in its own right. The readers of this publication number in the thousands each month. Readers from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Virgin Islands, seven Canadian Provinces, and 26 countries receive *The Voice in the Wilderness* each month. Many missionaries worldwide are blessed by this printed friend coming to their home and ministry monthly. For fifty-one years, free of charge, *The Voice in the Wilderness* publication has ministered worldwide. Some have taken on the personal opportunity of helping continue this printed missionary. We consider *The Voice in the Wilderness* a gift and tool of support to our missionary subscribers. Also, there are many who are unable financially to

contribute but are blessed to read *The Voice in the Wilderness* each month and include this work in their prayer ministry.

Yet, **there may be others who could help with a year-end gift that is urgently needed at this time. Enclosed is an envelope for your convenience.** Please take time NOW to write a check to *The Voice in the Wilderness*. As of October, only 2.3% of the total subscribership has contributed during 2004. If it were not for a few very generous supporters, it would not have been possible to continue the present missionary commitments. For our “Partners in Mission,” I have a very special request. You may know a brother or sister of like faith and vision who could and would stand with *The Voice in the Wilderness* if they were introduced to our publication. Please share your copy and ask them to prayerfully consider supporting *The Voice in the Wilderness* publication and ministry. There are missionaries and precious souls around the world that need our help. This will be possible only if we keep fresh blood and new supporters flowing into the ranks. Dear reader, you can be the key to this effort. During this THANKSGIVING SEASON may we together express our appreciation for *The Voice in the Wilderness* by doing our part to continue this Gospel ministry.

We have given updates on Bro.

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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.

# Sermon of the Month

ALL OF US, RIGHT NOW, MUST TAKE THE MESSAGE OF JESUS FROM HERE TO THE UTTERMOST!

## How Did They Do That?

- I. The Divine Plan
- II. The Distinctively Different People
- III. The Dynamic Power
- IV. The Determined Path

The Voice in the Wilderness has been involved in Asia for many years – from Damascus Syria, to India, to China, to Korea, to the Philippines... we have seen the great challenges in this region of the world.

Now suppose the Lord was to drop you in the heart of Asia – you preach the Gospel for months – to the Hindu this Jesus, son of a carpenter, can be no Saviour – the low cannot reach high, scavengers never associate with scholars, nor do butchers have any place or purpose with Brahmins. To break Karma is to hinder progress to Nirvana.

Then to say the salvation of the world was accomplished by a criminal

on a cross was utter foolishness; and after hearing you preach, the Chinese said, “We would rather go to hell with our Confucius than go to heaven with your Jesus.” How will you convince them?

**Acts 1:1 “The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,”** reveals that Acts is a sequel to and continuation of the Evangelic Records. **Verse 3, “To whom also he showed Himself alive after His passion...”** connects with the Resurrection at the end of Matthew’s Gospel; **Verses 9 and 10 “...while they beheld, He was taken up”...** while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, connects with the Ascension at the end of Mark’s Gospel.

**Verse 8 “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you”...** connects with the promise of the Spirit at the end of Luke’s Gospel, and **verse 11 “...this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner...”** anticipates the Second Advent at the end of John’s Gospel.

Jesus began to do and teach. We’ve got the “beginning” and the “continuing”. What Jesus wrought on earth in person, HE continues to do by His Spirit in and through His Church!

Christ’s departure was a sunrise on His Church. Here we have the core, the essence of the MISSION:

The Subject – Christ

The Sphere – “from Jerusalem to the uttermost part of the earth”

The Source – “Ye” His Church

The Secret – His Holy Spirit

This is how! You are deposited

smack dab in the middle of this DARKNESS – the tentacles of darkness have embedded the minds and hearts of these people and to remove – rips out life?

The answer is THE WAY, THE TRUTH, THE LIFE – JESUS!

I hold in my hand the Bible – God’s Holy Word – Inspired, Infallible. I am turning through the pages of life!

Now in the Book of Acts: Find 120 cowering disciples hidden away in an upper room in Jerusalem. This was a fearful bunch with seemingly the whole world as their enemy. Yet during ten days of fasting and prayer, coming forth from the shadows of fear marched the church triumphant. In just a few short years the Gospel fires burn west and east across the Roman Empire. Neither religion nor armies can stop the message of Christ as His disciples endured and with divine power preached their way from Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Into Spain, Britain, India and China the Good News brought eternal light and life to souls in great darkness. They had no automobiles, no trains, no airplanes, no telephones, and no internet. How did they do that?

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For Personal Correspondence,  
Contributions, Address Changes,  
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### IS GOD’S WORK IN YOUR WILL?

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

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## **I. The Divine Plan**

### **A. The Mission**

Notice in Acts 1:6 & 7 the discussion between the disciples and Jesus. **In verse 6 “when they therefore were come together, they ask of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?”** The disciples obviously had other things on their mind. Their perspective was oriented in an entirely different direction. With a firm reply, **Jesus states, “It is not for you to know the times, or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power.”** Then comes the powerful missionary statement and commission found in Acts 1:8. Here we have the mission – the upward, inward, and outward working of God the Holy Spirit in and through His Church, His power and glory in us as His temple and vessel of honour and glory. In Acts 2:41 and Acts 4:4 the miraculous results are seen.

### **B. The Method**

**“Daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.”** The simplicity is so apparent. As we see here in Acts 5:42, these believers simply preached and taught, “Jesus Christ” everyday in the temple and in every house. That is the biblical method.

### **C. The Members**

Clearly each believer was actively recruited and involved in spreading the message of Jesus Christ. The model for the church today is engaging each member in the mission of the church. “...they ceased not...”

### **D. The Message**

It has been said that what you win them with, you win them to. And what you win them to you must keep them with. The biblical message is Jesus Christ. “...teach and preach Jesus....” To

depart from this message is to depart from the biblical model.

### **E. The Mathematics**

**In Acts 6:7 - “The word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.”**

Again, the powerful results are obvious. As the biblical method and message are set forth by the church, the lost are reached with the life-changing Gospel.

### **F. The Missionaries**

In Acts 8:4 the Bible says, **“Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.”** It was intended for the members to go with the Gospel.

Somewhere around the year 200 Tertullian said, “We are only yesterday, but already we fill the world.” A Bit of exaggeration, but the church had exploded in GROWTH!

**Galatians 4:4 “But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son...”** The timing of our Lord was perfect...

1. Men could travel over millions of square miles of geography on water without fear of passing through a “foreign,” enemy’s country.

2. A man who had achieved the coveted prize of Roman citizenship (Acts 22: 27-28) could expect certain legal protection wherever he went.

3. Travel by land was made easier by the extensive and well-built road systems the Romans constructed, and travel by sea was made safe by the Roman fleets, which kept the Mediterranean Sea free of pirates.

4. Greek was widely spoken, read, and understood as a second language, vernacular Latin was also becoming prominent as a common language.

5. By the beginning of the first century A.D., the old pagan religions

were dying, and Rome and its emperor were the only hope for many people.

6. By the time of Jesus’ birth, many Jews were scattered throughout the Roman Empire. There Jews gathered at the local place of worship known as synagogues, where they read Old Testament scriptures in Hebrew and Aramaic and sometimes even from the Greek Septuagint.

7. For centuries, pious Jews had poured over the prophecies of the Old Testament in which God promised that a Saviour would come to set his people free from sin and death. Even some Gentiles heard the Word of God and joined the Jews as proselytes in longing for the “Anointed One” Messiah. By A.D. 100 all 27 books of the New Testament had been written.

### **The Testimony**

Writing to Trajan around A.D. 111, Pliny, the Roman governor of Bithynia, informed the emperor: “The [Christians] affirmed that the sum of their crime or their error, whichever it was, was this: they used to meet on a stated day before light, and to sing among themselves, in turn, a hymn to Christ, as to a god, and to bind themselves by an oath, not to any wickedness, but that they would never commit theft, or robbery, nor adultery; that they would never break their word, that they would never deny a trust when called to give it up, and after these performances, their way was to separate, and then meet again to partake of ordinary food.”

When the fullness of time came and the fiery power of the Holy Spirit burned in the hearts of His Church, Satan unleashed a vile, hideous attack upon any who dare preach the truth of Jesus Christ. Yet the martyrs for Christ (Greek for witness) could not be

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silenced. Tertullian stated, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church."

By the early A.D. 300's, intense persecution of Christians had arisen in the Roman Empire. Nearly three centuries of Martyrdom and brutalities, atrocities were poured out upon the Church.

Ten periods of intense persecution only marked dynamic growth for the church and decline for the Roman Empire.

How such Growth?

## II. The Distinctively Different People

**"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and thy neighbor as thyself."**

JOY Missions – Jesus  
Others  
Yourself

God's people are to be different. That difference is obvious in: confession, character, and conduct. Our manners, motives, and morals are distinctively different from this world. We are to be salt and light, Matt. 5:13-16.

Let's make this very clear: **The Divine Plan** is to teach and preach Jesus Christ from Jerusalem, Judaea, and unto the uttermost. God's people from the birth of His Church to this present day are to be a **Distinctively Different People**. In the early Church the Romans noticed the difference. The Jews noticed the difference. The pagans noticed the difference. The world noticed the difference. Today, we must vigilantly maintain this distinctive. Across America some of the largest Bible preaching churches are finding it difficult to secure qualified men to ordain as deacons and leaders in offices of the local church. Divorce and remarriage is rampant. It has touched good people, core people of churches

across this country. Separation and standards are topics of neglect in our pulpits. Yet, God's Word has not changed. The Apostolic Church was a **Distinctively Different People**. Their example and model exists for the Church today.

## III. The Dynamic Power

**"Ye shall receive power...."** The "*dunamis*" of God is promised for the mission of the Church. Paul Harvey, in reporting on the largest power outage in U.S. history, told about the Amish people. Millions without power - billions in dollars loss, but the Amish kept going like nothing happened. One little boy remarked, "Man, them Amish know how to live!"

What does POWER have to do with it? The promise was the power of the Holy Spirit, **"But ye shall receive power...."** **"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."** His power is part and parcel to His presence and promise for each believer in His Church and mission. Remember that we are a **Distinctively Different People**.

**SIN will DULL** the cutting edge of the Church

**SIN will DIM** the visionary eye of the Church

**SIN will DETER** the momentum of the Church

## IV. The Determined Path

Finally, **The Determined Path** – **Acts 28:31 "Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him."**

The book of Acts deals with the history of the Church and its

expansion in ever-widening circles. Acts also shows the mighty miracles and testimonies of the heroes and martyrs of the early Church—Peter, Stephen, James, Paul. The entire ministry was prompted and held together by the Holy Spirit working in the lives of ordinary people—merchants, travelers, slaves, jailers, church leaders, males, females, Gentiles, Jews, rich, poor. Many unsung heroes of the faith continued the work through the Holy Spirit in succeeding generations, changing the world with a changeless message—that Jesus Christ is Saviour and Lord for all who call upon Him. It is that same message that we Christians are to take to our world so that many more may hear and believe.

Our mission is to preach Jesus!  
Who – All of us (HIS CHURCH)  
When – Now (TODAY IS THE DAY OF SALVATION)

Where – "both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

I first met Raj about eight years ago in Calcutta, India—a city of 12-13 million souls of whom only a small percent know the Saviour. I've been to his home where Raj had an altar. He once had several Hindu gods on that altar. Strangely enough there was a crucifix with Jesus there on the cross, just another god on the altar. But thank God, the One True and Living God, that the light of His mercy, love, and grace did gloriously shine into Raj's heart and mind revealing that Jesus is the ONE TRUE and LIVING GOD. Not a god among many gods.

All of us, right now must take the message of Jesus from here to the uttermost!

RLW



# NEWS BITS

## FROM HERE AND THERE



### ARAFAT USED KORAN TO CALL FOR TERROR –

Invoking the Koran, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat called on Palestinians to “terrorize” their enemy. In a televised speech on the 56 anniversary of the “nakba” (the catastrophe of the establishment of Israel), Arafat quoted a phrase from the Koran that tells Muslims to “find what strength you have to terrorize your enemy and the enemy of God.” Arafat, however, also signaled that he was ready for peace when he referred to another phrase reading: “If they want peace, then let’s have it.... The right of the Palestinian refugees to return to their homes is a sacred right that is internationally protected and endorsed.” Isn’t it interesting that Yasser Arafat was born in Egypt and Arabs are occupying Israeli territory? *The Jerusalem Post* 5/16/04 P.2

### DAN RATHER FAILS HIS OWN BIAS TEST –

Do you remember Bill O’Reilly’s interview with Dan Rather in May 2001? **O’Reilly:** *I want to ask you flat out, do you think President Clinton’s an honest man?* **Rather:** *Yes, I think he’s an honest man.* **O’Reilly:** *Do you,*

*really?* **Rather:** *I do.* **O’Reilly:** *Even though he lied to Jim Lehrer’s face about the Lewinsky case?* **Rather:** *Who among us has not lied about something?* **O’Reilly:** *Well, I didn’t lie to anybody’s face on national television. I don’t think you have, have you?* **Rather:** *I don’t think I ever have. I hope I never have. But, look, it’s one thing—* **O’Reilly:** *How can you say he’s an honest guy then?* **Rather:** *Well, because I think he is. I think at core he’s an honest person. I know that you have a different view. I know that you consider it sort of astonishing anybody would say so, but I think you can be an honest person and lie about any number of things.*

Then Dan Rather to Tim Russert on 9/20/97 **Rather:** *I do believe in what’s become an archaic word for journalists, objectivity. You know my job is to be accurate, be fair, and insofar as it’s humanly possible, to keep my feeling out of every story.... I do agree that one test of a reporter is how often he or she is able to keep their emotions out of what they are doing and keep their own biases and agendas out of it.*

Dan Rather defending his May 15, 2001 comment on the O’Reilly Factor: **Rather:** *I think the fact that someone has told a lie, even a big lie or maybe several big lies over a lifetime, does not mean that they’re an inherently dishonest person....*

Finally, Dan Rather’s response to former CBS correspondent Bernard

Goldberg’s charge that the networks have a liberal bias, 3/6/96 – **Rather:** *The test is not the names people call you or accusation by political activists inside or outside your own organization. The test is what goes up on the screen and what comes out of the speaker.* – *Human Events* 9/27/04 [Editor: Dan Rather continued Walter Cronkite’s tradition of liberal bias on CBS. With the forged anti-Bush records, Dan Rather and team attempted to manipulate a presidential election. Apparently, he felt his candidate of choice was crashing and burning and needed his assistance. Nothing is beyond the criminally treasonous minds of those bent on destroying the America that brave men and women have fought and died to preserve.]

### IS THERE REALLY MEDIA BIAS? –

After the first presidential debate 9/30/04 the moderator, PBS host Jim Lehrer, was criticized for questions directed to President Bush focusing on negative aspects of decisions to go to war in Iraq while avoiding Sen. Kerry’s waffling on the issue. Well, what did you think? Here’s an interesting note: In 1999, the president of Lehrer’s network had to resign after admitting that 53 PBS affiliates had been sharing their donor lists with the Democratic National Committee for years. Hmmmmmm. 10/1/04 *newsmax.com*

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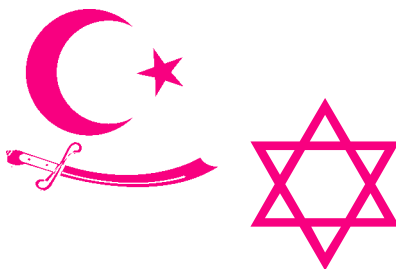
## 12 MILLION ALIENS ARE IN THE U.S. ILLEGALLY –

Why would anyone think we stand a chance of keeping even a single terrorist out of this country when we can't get rid of 400,000 that we have in our custody and the immigration courts have ordered to be deported, yet are turned free on our streets? A month long investigation of the *Washington Times* found that 320,000 illegal aliens, ordered to be deported from the U.S. still remain. Another 80,000 are criminal aliens – many of whom were found guilty of felonies including violent crimes. *NewsCentral/point 9/30/2004*

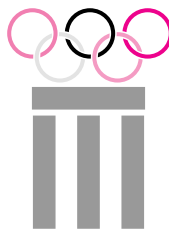
## MOCK TERRORISM DRILL USES FICTITIOUS GROUP CALLED “WACKOS AGAINST SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION” –

Michelle Malkin wrote in *Human Events* 9/27/04 about the following: “The story about a mock terrorism drill involving a local school district in the Muskegon (Mich.) *Chronicle* starts out innocently enough: “Local school district transportation directors instigated the exercise because they wanted to test their abilities to respond to emergencies,” said Tom Spoelman. “The exercise will test not only school transportation directors, but also the Muskegon County Emergency Operations Plan.... the exercise will simulate an attack by a fictitious radical group called Wackos Against Schools and Education who believe everyone should be home schooled.”

This is not a joke. Under the guise of preparing students for a violent terrorist attack, educators in one public school district are casting home schoolers in the role of bomb-detonating militants.



**ISLAM AND ISRAEL –** Twice in three days, PA religious leaders have openly called for the genocide of Jews. Broadcast on official PA TV, both called for the murder of Jews until the Jewish people are annihilated. Both presented the killing of Jews not merely as the will of Allah, but also as a necessary stage in history that should be carried out now. To support these mandatory killings, both cited the same Hadith – Islamic tradition attributed to Mohammed – expressing Allah's will that Muslims will kill Jews, before the Hour of Resurrection. *The Berean Call* 9/2004



## THE PAGAN OPENING OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES –

In the opening ceremonies of this year's Olympic Games in Athens, pagan gods and goddesses were featured. A half-man, half-horse centaur waded into the man-made lake in the center of the stadium and thrust a javelin skyward. A Cycladic head emerged from the lake. Eros, the god of love, also made an appearance. The Olympian mascots are Phevos and Athena, the pagan gods of light and music. We observed that the modern Olympic Games are as pagan as they were when Zeus was the focus 2,000 years ago. When Emperor

Theodosius banned the games in 393 because they were “too pagan,” he was right. The human body is an amazing creation capable of wonderful feats, but the Olympic Games do not glorify a holy Creator. *Friday Church News Notes*, 8/20/02, By David Cloud, *Fundamental Baptist*

## 10,000 SIGN UP FOR IRANIAN SUICIDE SQUAD –

Iran has registered at least 10,000 young volunteers for “martyrdom operations” against Israel and US forces in Iraq, according to the recruitment group. The closer Israel is to unilateral separation from the Palestinians, said the Israeli intelligence official, the more incentive Iran and its many Hizbullah will have to stir the pot. With many other schemes uncovered, Hizbullah

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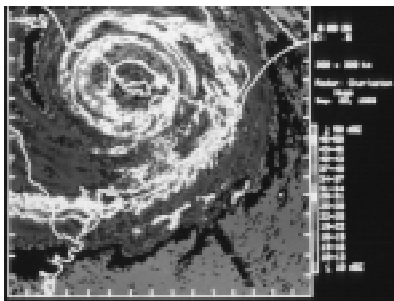
## Nuggets of Gold

1. Praying will make us leave sinning, or sinning will make us leave praying.
2. Our weaknesses and inability break not the bond of our duties.
3. What we are afraid to speak before men, we should be afraid to think before GOD.
4. Have communion with few, be intimate with ONE, deal justly with all, speak evil of none. *All the above taken from The New England Primer*
5. The cardiologist's diet: If it tastes good... spit it out.
6. Maybe it's true that life begins at fifty. But... everything else starts to wear out, fall out, or spread out.
7. Youth would be an ideal state if it came a little later in life.



# RELIGIOUS NEWS

## AND COMMENTS



**PRAYER ITEM** – Pray for the many that have been devastated by the recent rash of hurricanes. The loss of life and property damage has been enormous. Here in the U.S. many states including the Carolinas and Florida, along with Grenada, Jamaica, as well as other Caribbean countries have been hit hard. Up and down the paths of Charlie, Frances, and Ivan thousands are wrestling with the loss and clean up. Many brothers and sisters as well as church properties were damaged. Please keep these needs in prayer.

**BAPTIST AND LUTHERANS UNITING** – Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, S.C., welcomed a large contingent of Baptists to an Aug. 26 worship service in the seminary's Christ Chapel to open the academic year. The two groups entered an agreement in February to provide seminary education opportunities for Baptist students. "Having the opportunity to lead an innovative and cooperative effort of this kind is an extremely exciting venture," said Rev. Virginia C. Barfield director for Baptist studies. "Lutherans and Baptists can

remain Lutheran and Baptists, even while challenging each other and cooperating in mission for the good of the wider Church," Said Dr. Michael Root, Southern's vice president for academic affairs and dean. [Editor: The move from the subtle, now to more of the open, ecumenical yoking. On through the fog!]

**IRAQI CHRISTIANS** – The Assyrian American National Federation (AANF) is trying to get the word out in the United States about the dangers faced by Christian Assyrians (or Chaldeans) in Iraq. "Since 2002, nearly a year before the toppling of Saddam Hussein, the Christian Assyrians in Iraq have been under threat, due largely to their non-Muslim status," says the group. "Beheadings, kidnappings, and assassinations have escalated in proportion to how vocal the large Diaspora community became in support of its long-persecuted people. On Aug. 1, 2004, the attacks on Christians culminated in the bombing of six churches in Mosul and Baghdad during worship services, and several people including children were killed in the Assyrian town of Baghdeda on the Nineveh Plains on Sept. 10, 2004." AANF claims that 40,000 Assyrians have fled Iraq since July. Says the group, "Iraq, once the center of the earliest Christian churches in the world, may soon be cleared of its

Assyrian population, the only indigenous people of that country." *Human Events* 9/27/04



**CHRISTIANS AND POLITICS** – I read the following in *The Sword of the Lord* and thought it was worthy of sharing with our readers: "It is a volatile mix these days. Some Christians think the subject of politics should never be mentioned. Others think we should vote but exert no influence otherwise.

"The pagan element in the country keeps flogging us with "church-and-state" warnings in an attempt to intimidate and silence us.

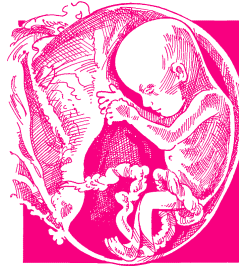
"So many folks in the pews have (by and large) adopted the philosophy of the A.C.L.U. That is—they think Christians should keep quiet on anything political and let someone else do the talking! But we strongly disagree! We believe (1) Christians should care enough and be courageous enough to speak out on all the issues, including those with political connections. (2) Pastors should not be expected to be silent either. Almost all of today's issues

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have moral and spiritual elements to them. If we do not speak out about them and do not seek to influence our citizenry, then the liberal voices from the media and the universities will steal the day. (3) Churches should do all that the law allows. As we have often said, we believe the laws which restrict pastors and churches from saying whatever they believe are unjust laws. We believe they are morally wrong as well as unconstitutional. Those laws may someday soon be changed. In the meantime, be careful to obey the law—but don't fail to do all you can do. (4) Churches should offer the opportunity for their people to register every election year. Registration forms can be secured at your local courthouse, and your people can register in your church lobby anytime. This must be done (according to the law) in a non-partisan way. (5) We must not "play dead." To do so permits the ungodly elements of society to have charge and run things. Our founding fathers never intended for us not to be involved. (6) We must put on a huge push to win millions of souls in the years ahead. The wicked elements will win them to their cause if we don't win them to Christ. With our nation as divided as it is today, the handwriting is on the wall. We had better get with it, or the nation as we have known it will perish. (7) The election of November 2 is vital to the future of all of us. Whoever wins, our task remains unchanged. We must go after the hearts and minds of our citizens. We must win souls! We must preach the Bible! We must! Amen!" [Editor: I trust we will all do what we must and go to the polls on November 2]



## HUMAN LIFE - IT BEGINS AT CONCEPTION

- From a biological perspective, human life obviously begins at conception—right when the sperm fertilizes the egg. The fertilized egg has all the information in the genes that make a human being—all the information that makes you. In fact, for the rest of your life, no new information is ever added. Therefore, it should be obvious that human life begins right at conception.

If everyone knew this, would they stop aborting babies? The answer is 'No.' In fact, I think most evolutionists accept that human life begins at conception, but because they believe in evolution, and thus believe that we're all just animals—to them abortion would be no different than getting rid of rats. The only way for them to change their minds is to accept the first verse of Genesis—"In the beginning God created"—and hear the Creator's words in Psalm 51—"in sin did my mother conceive me." Thus we're sinful humans right from conception. God created us, so abortion is wrong. *AnswersinGenesis.org*

## DAVID CLOUD VISITS SADDLEBACK CHURCH

— Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California, pastored by Rick Warren, is one of the most influential churches in the world.... That impact is not encouraging strict faithfulness to God's Word.

Saddleback is associated with the Southern Baptist Convention... Warren's influence is vast. He has taught 300,000 pastors through his church growth seminars and far more through his books and videos. His influence reaches into every sphere of Christianity today, from Catholicism, to liberal Protestantism, to evangelicalism, to fundamentalist Bible and Baptist Churches....

The main auditorium seats many thousands, and there are dozens of other buildings for various ministries. The overall mood of the services is casual in the extreme. The people dress much as they would for a secular sporting event. Women are dressed in shorts, short skirts, tight pants, and other types of immodest attire. The church bulletin for that Sunday was patterned after the cover to the TV Guide. The words "TV Guide" were replaced with "SC Guide" for Saddleback Church. Television was mentioned several times in the message, but there was not a hint of warning about its dangers.

The Music – The music was pure rock and roll. There were five singers, two electric guitars, a drum kit, an electric keyboard, 2 saxophones, a piano, trumpet, trombone, and flute. Three special numbers were performed with a pure nightclub effect, complete with swirling lights in the background and attractive female singers swaying and dancing to the music. It appeared to me that not many of the people were actually participating in the worship service. Most were merely watching the show up front.

The Message - The message, which was titled "The Potential of a Single Life," was a witty,

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

motivational challenge to single people to dedicate themselves to God.... Mother Teresa was used as an example with no warning about her false gospel. There was no specific mention of the hard things of God's Word such as sin, separation, judgment, hell, or repentance....

Bible Versions – An outline of the sermon was handed out with the bulletin, and six or seven versions were quoted, most of them paraphrases such as the Living Bible, and New Living Translation, The Message, the Today's English Version, and the contemporary English....

Avoiding Doctrinal Controversy - ...Warren says: "I'm not going to get into a debate over the non-essentials. I won't try to change other denominations. Why be divisive?" ...God has commanded us not only to believe sound doctrine but also to earnestly contend for it. (Jude 3).... The Holy Spirit warned that "evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" (2 Tim. 3:13)....

Conclusion – Our day is described plainly in Bible prophecy: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

This generation has itching ears, and it will not hear the preaching of God's Word that plainly rebukes its sin and forthrightly condemns its heresies; but it eagerly hears – yea, flocks in droves to hear – those soft-speaking teachers that are willing to

be non-divisive and tickle ears with a positive-only, non-offensive message. The same generation that hates the uncompromising, plain-spoken, "old time" fundamentalist-style preaching, dearly loves the preaching of the Billy Grahams and the Rick Warrens and the Robert Schullers.

Rick Warren claims that he has not compromised the Word of God with his principles and methods, that he has only modernized them; but when I look into the book of Acts and the Epistles I see a different kind of Christianity, a different kind of church there, than the one that Rick Warren has devised. Thus I must reject Warren's Purpose Driven methods and I must warn those who have an ear to hear, regardless of how small that crowd may be, that they not heed the siren call of the contemporary church growth gurus.

It is fearful that this church is influencing thousands around the world.

*For the complete article you can write: David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, PO Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061. Ask for the article "A Visit to Saddleback Church." 9/2/03*



## CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION

– The United States has now named Saudi Arabia as one of the world's worst religious persecutors. Iran, North Korea, China, Sudan, and Burma remain on the list of religious freedom abusers now along with

Saudi Arabia..... In India Christians are hoping for a reprieve from the Hindu extremists' violence. With the defeat of the Hindu nationalist BJP last April, officials squashed anti-conversion legislation in some states. Sadly, attacks on Christians have continued. These governmental changes will not stop the persecution overnight..... In China the arrest of house church leaders continues. Authorities are making efforts to stop evangelization. The organization, China Aid, reports the Communist Party's Politburo members recently met to discuss how to handle religious affairs in the country and decided to crack down on "illegal religious activities." .....In Colombia militants and guerrillas continue to launch attacks on Christians..... The Beslan Massacre on 9/13/04 in Russia should stir everyone's soul. Reports are that a number of Christian families were scarred by this horrible event. Continue to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world.



## THANKSGIVING

The words "Thank" and "Think" find their origin in the same root. This should remind us that "Thanksgiving" comes from thinking about the many blessings that we have.

Near the end of her life, Francis Ridley Havergal jotted down everyday on a little calendar something – often a little thing – for which she thanked God. It was her way of "thinking" about "thanking."

Someone has said that a grateful mind is a great mind!





# GAMBLING IS A COUSIN TO BRIBERY AND FRAUD

*Even churches seem to have been infected with the spreading disease of gambling. The implications should be unsettling to Christians.*

Not too long ago a new church was erected along the route I take to the office. It's a beautiful little church, and I'm sure it has a lovely congregation. On Tuesday evening the parking lot is jammed. On Sunday morning not nearly so many cars are evident. It isn't a case of the midweek prayer meeting on Tuesday night. The center of attraction, according to a sign outside, is "BINGO."

Gambling is a disease that is spreading around the world. For years it seemed to be confined to a few spots such as Portuguese Macao, Las Vegas, and Monte Carlo. Recently, Atlantic City was added, along with various State lotteries. And, as the church on my daily route indicates, gambling is even securely installed in some churches!

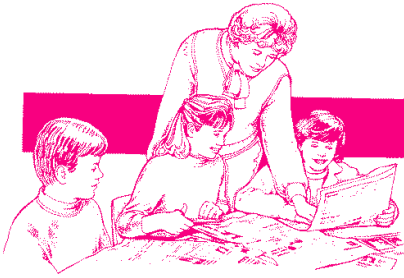
A few years ago it was reported that betting on commercial games exceeded \$22 billion in the United States alone. Who knows what the figure is today? It's safe to say that gambling is one of the largest businesses going. The concept of trying to get something for nothing is permeating our society. Of course, not everyone gambles. Sometime ago Maureen Kellick Kaufman's study indicated the following percentages of people who never bet: "male (25%); female (39%); White (31%); non-white (39%); 18-24 Years (25%); 65+ Years (65%); income under \$5,000 (66%); married (31%); divorced/separated (23%); Catholic (17%); Presbyterian/Lutheran, Congregational/Episcopal (20%); Bible Oriented sects (57%); Methodist (30%); Baptist (47%); Jewish (23%); atheist/no preference (47%); Northeast (17%); South (52%)." "The total sample showed that 32% "never bet."

But if 32 percent never bet, apparently 68 percent do so at least occasionally and indications are that gambling is increasing. There is something sick about a society that delights in trying to secure money or possessions without giving value in return. (The TV quiz show, of course, is practically a national institution). The same Commandment that requires us to rest one day in seven also specifies that the other six are for working. The principle, as it relates to our discussion of gambling, is that wealth gained by chance tend to have a demoralizing influence on the character. The overall impact on society of all forms of gambling does not lead to higher standards of honesty, purity, and Christ like character development. It would be difficult to argue that gambling does not make a substantial contribution to the overall corruption that prevails today. Gambling is a cousin to bribery and fraud. The whirlwind of excitement and pleasure connected with gambling makes the sober duties of life galling. The thoughtless mirth and the social gaiety on the part of millions, who participate in gambling activities create insensitivity to the claims of the gospel and open the door to a thousand evils. The intense passion for money-getting, the hope of securing something for nothing, makes a forceful impact upon minds, which turns one from life's true purpose.

T.E. Dielman describes some "social corollaries of gambling behavior" in his book *Gambling: A Social Problem?* He admits it is impossible to determine whether gambling is a cause or a result of these related conditions, yet he notes that as the level of gambling activity increases so do the number of divorces or separations, the disagreements about money matters with one's spouse, and the instances of misunderstanding between marital partners. Absenteeism and tardiness, problems with children and days in which alcohol is consumed are all more prevalent among [gamblers] than among non-[gamblers].

To the thoughtful Christian, these conclusions should not be startling. Perhaps the words of the prophet Isaiah need to be heard loud and clear in our world today: "So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey" (Isa. 59:14, 15). [We have recently had requests come into our office on this subject. Please note that this is a reprint of an article we ran in November 2001.]





# SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION

Yes, by now the first weeks of the school year have passed. I have such admiration for those who teach our young people today. You are placed in a position to challenge, motivate, teach, love, and mold the youngsters today into what they will become tomorrow. Thank you to all who are TEACHERS!

I, too, have had the privilege over the years, opportunities to teach. It is always a joy for me to be around young people with thirsty minds. They always keep me on my toes with great thoughts and questions. Their youthful vitality for life and eagerness to be a part of it is uplifting and refreshing. Thank you students and keep up the good work.

But sadly, I am grieved at what I hear and have seen personally in schools today. We have drugs, violent behavior, lying, stealing, cheating, no respect for authority, immorality, gossiping, ridicule of fellow students, threats and yes even law suits, parents of students losing tempers with coaches, teachers, administrators, immodest clothing, numerous tattoos, erotic hair styles, and attitudes of always casting the blame on others. The list could go on. My, oh my, what a position we have allowed our educators to be in. It's no wonder the schools today are troubled. Many teachers are retiring due to stress and fear of law suits.

We must teach "absolutes." God's way is the only way. The examples in the above paragraph are just a few of many elements we find in "Christian Schools" today. I know, you must be shaking your head and saying surely you are mistaken. I read of those things in the public school in my area. Sadly, but true, some of our Christian school teachers are in this very battle.

Repeatedly I have heard Christian school teachers, and even church youth workers say, "I could work with the students and young people if it were not for the parents." What an indictment. Please keep this in mind. Parents are not and should not ever be our enemy. However, I am finding that they simply have NEVER been taught themselves a biblical world view. (Read add'l articles we've printed in the past in the 9/2003; 8/2003; 1/2002; 5/2002; editions of this paper.) Most Christian schools outline their policies of rules and discipline, and even curriculum, homework, and testing expectations and give to the parents to read, perhaps sign, and agree to follow. But come the first disciplinary action involving their student, out the window goes any parental cooperation or support for the teacher or school. Is the school ever wrong? Do teachers make mistakes? Yes, and again yes. However, that would NEVER excuse the countless stories of parents with the ugliest attitudes and spirits—and "Christian" parents at that. Agree or not, here's a thought.

Perhaps we as Christian educators and pastors have not taken time to train the trainer (teacher and/or parent) with the biblical philosophy of why a "Christian School" exists. I believe that the biblical model would be for Christian education to be a part of the local church. (Also, home schooling is another topic I'm not dealing with here. But this was my personal choice for our daughter, and I do believe the home schooling family should be actively involved in their local church.) Parents, teachers and students must all support a biblical world view. It is not just a private school, or non-public school. The rules and philosophy are all Bible based. Rules are not in place, just to have rules. They are there to teach God's way in all we do. Yes, certainly many would understand that sports and academics have a place, but know that Bible, character, honesty, and a solid work ethic are foundational. God's Word is our authority.

Many students have come to know the Lord Jesus as their personal Saviour through a loving, dedicated, and caring teacher in a Christian School. Pastors and administrators and those in authority, please help these precious teachers, labourers for Christ, by educating and helping parents know why your Christian School exists and your biblical world view of education. Surely, if the parent, teacher, and student were clearly and distinctly shown and taught this philosophy, many agonizing and time consuming conferences could be avoided.

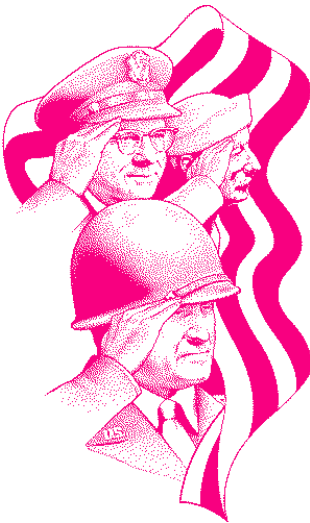
If you do not know the philosophy of your student's Christian school, I challenge each parent to go and ask. If you were given rules and guidelines, I challenge you to read, support, and pray for wisdom. Be a person of action, based on a biblical world view, rather than reactionary based on emotion.

Finally, I SALUTE all the many fine Christian teachers. May God direct your path as you mold, influence for Christ, and direct the precious students entrusted to your care.





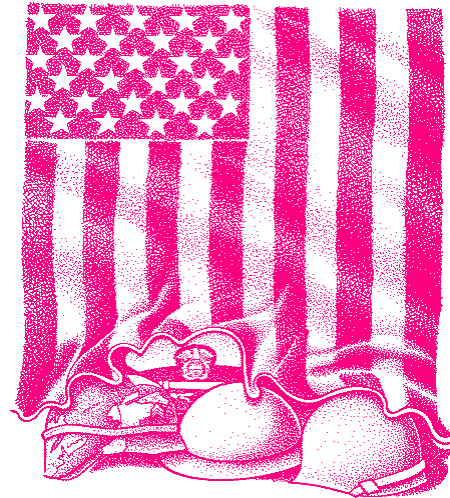
# THANK YOU – VETERANS, MILITARY, & FIRST RESPONDERS



Sometimes we get so taken up with the celebration of Thanksgiving at this time of year that we seem to forget another even more important event that took place in November, the signing of the Armistice (Veteran's Day) at the close of World War I, November 11, 1918. Had Germany won the war, you may rest assured that you, or no other nation, would be celebrating any Thanksgiving Day on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Armistice Day is a holiday in not only America, but also in Britain and France; both of the latter nations were our allies during the conflict. After World War II, the Sunday nearest November 11 was proclaimed in England as a day of tribute to the dead of World Wars I and II.

In the United States, the President signed a bill on June 1, 1954, redesignating the holiday as Veteran's Day. Let us not forget to be thankful at this season for all those brave men who laid down their lives, our own boys and our allies, to purchase for us such a glorious freedom as we enjoy today. And may we remember as never before, that freedom is everybody's business, that the price for it has never been decreased, but rather increased. Pray for our men and women in harms way.



I know three things that must always be  
To keep a nation strong and free.  
One is the hearthstone bright and dear,  
With busy, happy loved ones near.  
One is a ready heart and hand  
To love and serve and keep the land.  
One is a worn and beaten way  
To where the people go and pray.  
So long as these are kept alive,  
Nation and people will survive.  
God, keep them always everywhere,  
The hearth, the flag, the place of prayer.

## PLAN A "VOICE" DAY!

Dear Pastor:

Lord willing, **2005 is just around the corner**. As you plan events for the New Year, would you consider The Voice in the Wilderness? Plan a "Voice Day" and receive a special offering for this work. It could be a Sunday or a Wednesday service where you challenge your people to give a love offering to this missionary ministry. The Sunday School or VBS could take on The Voice in the Wilderness as a special project. Also, please ask your church to pray for us. We need your prayers to help us accomplish our daily responsibilities. The following are areas to regularly hold up before the Lord:

- *The Voice in the Wilderness* publication and printing ministry.
- Missionaries, churches, and ministries around the world.
- Ronnie and Terry Williamson and J. Royce Thomason.

For Christ and Souls,

*Ronnie and Terry Williamson*



(Continued from page 7)

and Iran are trying to smuggle in unaffiliated foreign terrorists – making it difficult for the Shin Bet to track them down – for terrorists’ attacks inside Israel. *Jerusalem Post* 6/9/04 P.3



## A CONTENTIOUS WAR RECORD

– John Kerry’s version of his service in Vietnam includes dramatic tales of wild shoot-outs with the enemy, significant injuries sustained in the heat of battle, and a single act of extraordinary heroism, a desperate and dangerous rescue mission to pull a wounded officer from the raging waters of Bai Hap River under heavy combat fire. Many of his fellow Vietnam veterans, who served side-by-side with him, have a very different story to tell. “I do not believe John Kerry is fit to be Commander in Chief of the armed forces of the United States,” says Rear Admiral Roy Hoffman (Ret.), the former Commander of Coastal Surveillance Force Vietnam. “This is not a political issue. It is a matter of his judgment, truthfulness, reliability, loyalty and trust – all absolute tenets of command.”

While a commissioned officer in the inactive Naval Reserve, Senator Kerry traveled to Paris, France and

met with official delegations from the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) and the Provisional Revolutionary Government (the Viet Cong). The Vietnamese Communists took advantage of the obvious propaganda victory provided to them by Kerry. “[Senator Kerry’s] leadership within the so-called Vietnam Veterans Against the War and testimony before congress in 1971 charging us with unspeakable atrocities remain an undocumented but nevertheless meticulous stain on the men and women who honorably stayed the course,” said Rear admiral Roy Hoffman former Commander of Coastal Surveillance Force Vietnam.

An excerpt from Judicial Watch’s official complaint, “The claims against John Kerry – both concerning his fraudulently obtained awards for valor and combat wounds, as well as his dishonorable and potentially illegal conduct as a commissioned officer of the Naval Reserve – are gravely serious matters that demand your immediate and direct action.” Among the evidence compiled in Judicial Watch’s official complaint are:

1. John Kerry received a Silver Star for firing upon a “single, wounded, young Vietcong fleeing the area of engagement in a loin cloth,” according to Kerry’s fellow veterans.
2. Senator Kerry claims he saved fellow crewmate Jim Rassman’s life by pulling him from the water under enemy attack after one of the Swift Boats had struck a mine. Swift Boat Gunners Mate Van Odell, who was also present during the incident, maintains at no point did they come under hostile fire. Others also claim that Kerry’s boat fled and by the time

he returned and rescued Rassman, the situation was under control. This incident “earned” Senator Kerry a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

3. Former Navy physician Louis Letson, who treated Senator Kerry for his “injuries,” issued a notarized statement claiming the wounds resulted when the Senator lost control of his grenade launcher, spraying his own boat and causing a piece of shrapnel to lodge in his arm. Dr. Letson removed the shrapnel fragment with a pair of tweezers and applied a band-aid. Senator Kerry received a Purple Heart for the incident.

Nothing compares to the sense of betrayal many veterans feel for what happened upon his return. Kerry not only appeared before Congress and the nation and accused his fellow officers of immoral, not to mention illegal, atrocities, he also engaged in private negotiations with Vietnamese Communists. After meeting with a North Vietnamese/Viet Cong delegation, Kerry held a press conference announcing his support for a peace proposal, which called for the United States’ withdrawal from Vietnam and the payment of war damage reparations to the Communist government. Kerry at the time was still commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve.

Federal law is clear on this issue. It is illegal for American citizens to negotiate with foreign powers, while the Constitution clearly prohibits any American citizen from providing comfort and aid to an enemy of the United States during wartime. *The Judicial Watch “Verdict”* 10/2004 Vol. 7 Issue 10



# NEEDS MET – “PRAISE LIST”

In our Nov/Dec 2003 issue we presented a list of “NEEDS” for The Voice in the Wilderness ministry. Rejoice with us as you read the following list of items. Every item we listed last November has now been met!

1. Office Copier
2. Computer Upgrade
3. Funds for Venezuela Bible Institute Trip
4. Special printing projects completed
5. Funds for India Trip
6. Funds for a Pastor in a church in South India now receiving support

## PRESENT NEEDS

In this November 2004 issue, we would like to present a new list of current needs. We pray that the Lord will challenge hearts and that these needs will soon be met helping us to press forward.

1. Reprinting of Sophie Muller’s books - *His Voice Shakes the Wilderness, Beyond Civilization and Jungle Methods*.
2. Partner to commit the funds to continue sending missionaries, pastors, Bible Institutes, and churches outside the U.S.A. our publication *The Voice in the Wilderness*. Postage alone is \$163.00 per month. We consider this publication a tool and ministry to those on the mission field.
3. Funding to help a mission church construct a building for church services. If interested, contact us for more info.
4. Because funding for our missionaries has been at best “slim” over the past months, we would like to be able to give them all a little extra during this Thanksgiving/Christmas Season. If you could partner to help with a little “extra” we will gladly distribute among our faithful missionaries.
5. Enlistment of new contributors. You may know a brother or sister of like faith and vision who could and would stand with The Voice in the Wilderness if they were introduced to our publication. Please share your copy and ask them to prayerfully consider supporting *The Voice in the Wilderness* publication and ministry. During this THANKSGIVING SEASON may we together express our appreciation for The Voice in the Wilderness by doing our part to continue this Gospel ministry.

**REMEMBER THIS IS ENVELOPE MONTH**

(Continued from page 2)

Royce in previous editions. Many are aware that he had knee surgery and may have the other knee done if the doctor agrees. Also, Bro. Royce’s care givers are discussing with him the possibility of an assisted living facility. We will keep you informed as to these developments.

Finally, I close with a “praise” item. Listed elsewhere on this page is a list of the many needs met this year. Please take time to rejoice with us for the “Great things He has done.” Our Lord provides in some amazing ways. Since September 11, 2001, ministries have seen dramatic reductions in support. Even during some difficult times, the Lord continues to supply. We praise Him for the multitude of blessings He has benefited The Voice in the Wilderness with during 2004. Please read the “Praise List” and “Prayer List” as well in this edition.

Again, for the 2.3% who have sacrificially given and all our friends who have partnered in prayer -

**THANK YOU! Have a blessed THANKSGIVING season.**

For Christ and Souls,  
Ronnie Williamson  
“Happy Trails” *Isa. 40:31*



**ON THE LIGHT SIDE - True Love?** A little old couple walked slowly into a fast food restaurant one cold winter evening. They looked out of place amid the young families and couples eating there that night. Some of the customers looked admiringly at them, thinking, “There is a couple who has been through a lot together, probably for 60 years or more!”

The little old man walked right up to the cash register, placed his order and paid for the meal. They took a table near the back wall and took the food off of the tray, one hamburger, one order of fries and one drink. The little old man unwrapped the plain hamburger and carefully cut it in half, and put one half in front of his wife. Then he carefully counted out the fries, divided them, and neatly placed one pile in front of his wife. He took a sip of the drink; his wife took a sip and then set the cup down between them. As the man began to eat his few bites of hamburger, the crowd began to get restless. Again you could tell what they were thinking. “Those poor people - all they can afford is one meal.”

As the man began to eat his fries, one young man came over and politely offered to buy another meal for them. The old man replied, “Thank you, we’re just fine. We’re used to sharing everything.” The onlookers noticed that the lady hadn’t eaten a bite. She just sat there watching her husband eat and occasionally taking turns sipping the drink. The young man came over again and begged them to let him buy them something more. This time it was the lady who explained that no, they really preferred to share everything.

As the little old man finished eating and was wiping his face neatly with a napkin the young man could stand it no longer. Again he came over to their table and made his offer. After being politely refused again he asked one last question of the elderly woman, “Ma’am, may I ask why you aren’t eating? You said that you share everything. What is it that you are waiting for?”

She gave him a puzzled look, and answered, “The teeth.”



# IT'S ONLY A QUARTER!

Several years ago a preacher moved to Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a gift from God and keep quiet."

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change." The driver with a smile replied, "Aren't you the new preacher in town? I have been thinking lately about going to worship somewhere. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change." When the preacher stepped off the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, and held on, and said, "O God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter."



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