



CONTENDING FOR
FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIANITY

The Voice IN THE Wilderness

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

Mark 1:3

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CONTENDING FOR
AMERICAN FREEDOM

May 2005

A Mother's Power To Shape And Mold

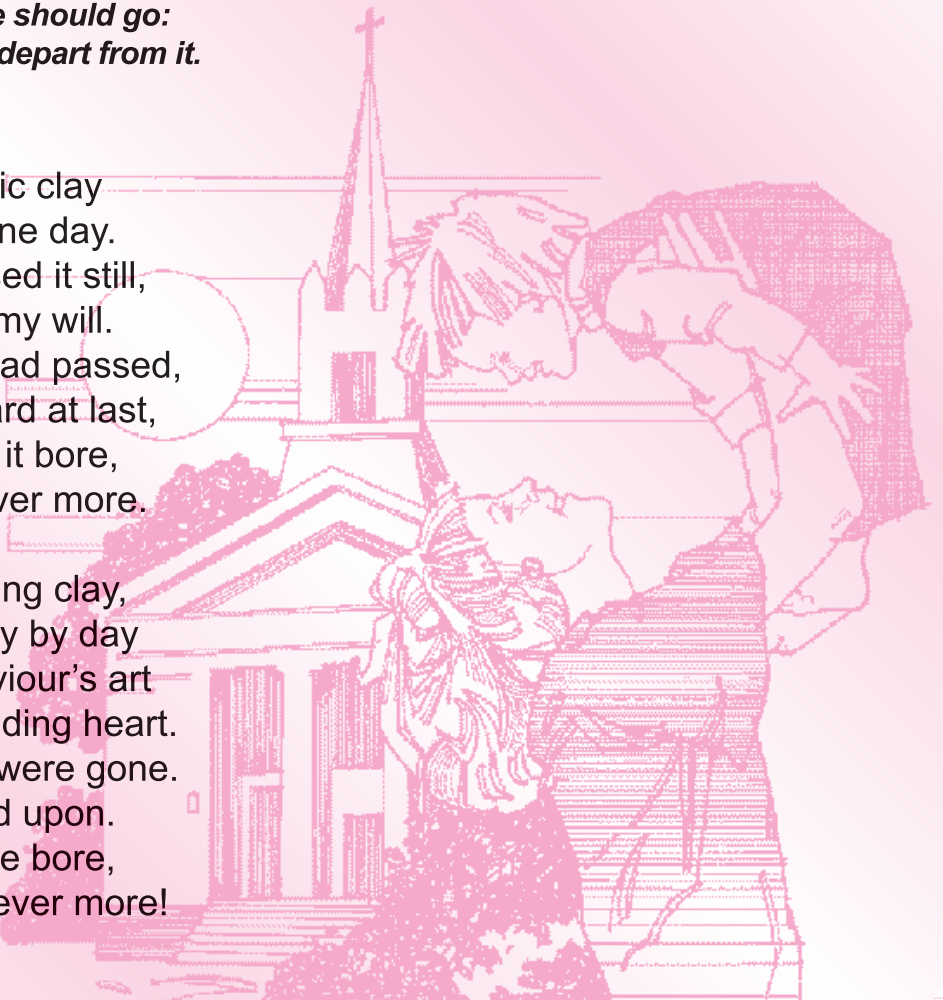
*Train up a child in the way he should go:
and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

Proverbs 22:6

I took a piece of plastic clay
And idly fashioned it one day.
And as my fingers pressed it still,
It bent and yielded to my will.
I came again when days had passed,
That lump of clay was hard at last,
The form I gave it, still it bore,
But I could change it never more.

I took a child, God's living clay,
And gently shaped it day by day
And molded with my Saviour's art
A young child soft and yielding heart.
I came again when years were gone.
He was a man I looked upon.
He still that early image bore,
But I could change him never more!

- Anonymous





MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends:

The privilege our Lord has given me of overseeing this ministry, preaching, writing, and sharing the needs of precious missionaries with The Voice in the Wilderness supporters is indeed sobering. Without the help of the **First Lady** of The Voice in the Wilderness, my bride of 32 years, it would not be possible. My Lord knew and prepared my life and ministry help meet. On May 6 we celebrate our 32nd wedding anniversary. This is of certainty a spiritual partnership. All across the U.S. from Florida to Maine, from North Carolina to California, Texas to Alaska, even seven Canadian provinces and territories and across the seas to England, India and Venezuela, my wife has accompanied her preacher man. She has been there faithfully making the difference. Though never owning a home, she has made rentals and trailers beautiful, clean, and comfortable places for her family. She is my Proverbs 31 lady:

My Love, My Wife

If I were an artist with palette and paint,
I would dip my brush into the colors
of Proverbs 31 and upon the canvas
of my heart create the portrait of
my wife.

If I were a gardener with a certain
green thumb,
who grew a prize rose... from the
fertile
soil of Proverbs 31 would grow my
treasured
rose and winner of the blue ribbon
and golden spade.

If I were a composer of song, I
would sing the
sweet melodies of Proverbs 31 in
honor of
my partner and wife who is the
harmony
line of life.

If I were a poet with pen in hand,

I would write from Proverbs 31
a sonnet of love to mine.

If I were a sculptor, I would quarry
from
among the gems of Proverbs 31
a work in her honor far above
rubies.

As her husband, friend and one for
life,
I praise her and rise up to call my
wife
Blessed!

-RLW

Amid all the responsibilities, time must be taken to praise and say **thank you** to my wife, the **First Lady** of The Voice in the Wilderness. Nobody knows, but possibly the Lord and me, how many hours she has willingly given to this ministry. Thank you Terry – from my heart!

- Ronnie



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, supporting American missionaries and native pastors by partnering with the local church in various areas of ministry and preaching Christ to the lost. We are supported by the gifts of those who care. 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 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: The Voice in the Wilderness, PO Box 7037, Asheville, NC 28802.

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!

FIRST LADY FOR CHRIST

...that in all things Christ might have the pre-eminence.

"Who can find a Virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies." Matthew Henry states, "This description of the virtuous woman is designed to show what wives the woman should make and what wives the men should choose... We have the abridgment of it in the New Testament (1 Tim. 2:9,10; 1 Peter 3:1-6), where the duty prescribed to wives agrees with this description of a good wife.

The ungodly world cannot understand God's perfect plan; and with great effort, rejects biblical teaching concerning marriage and the family. Unregenerate man, and sadly, some professed believers think they know more than God. The devastating result is heartbreaking consequences and ruined lives. Many religions of this world treat women as second class citizens or less. But the Bible sets forth the worth and honor of the Proverbs 31 woman.



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PROVERBS 31:10-31

- 10 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price *is* far above rubies.
- 11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.
- 12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.
- 13 She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.
- 14 She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.
- 15 She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.
- 16 She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.
- 17 She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.
- 18 She perceiveth that her merchandise *is* good: her candle goeth not out by night.
- 19 She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.
- 20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.
- 21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household *are* clothed with scarlet.
- 22 She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing *is* silk and purple.
- 23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.
- 24 She maketh fine linen, and selleth *it*; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.
- 25 Strength and honour *are* her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.
- 26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue *is* the law of kindness.
- 27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.
- 28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband *also*, and he praiseth her.
- 29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.
- 30 Favour *is* deceitful, and beauty *is* vain: *but* a woman *that* feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.
- 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

(Continued on page 4)

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For wives, mothers, and all young ladies in Christ, let us declare May as **"First" Lady Month for Christ**. Here is an acrostic using the word F-I-R-S-T to describe the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31.

Faith – A VIRTUOUS woman – a woman of strength made so by her faith and fear in the mercy, love, grace, and wisdom of her righteous and Holy God.

Integrity – A VIRTUOUS woman – a woman of holiness and wholeness, fixed and firm in honesty.

Reconciliation – A VIRTUOUS woman – a woman reconciled to God with the ministry of reconciliation in the husband, home, and hearts of those around her.

Stewardship – A VIRTUOUS woman – a woman of industry well able to furnish her household.

Trust – A VIRTUOUS woman – a woman called blessed by her children, a woman trusted and praised by her husband.

In American history, the U.S. president's wife was not referred to as the "First Lady" until Zachary Taylor used the term in reference to Dolley Madison. Within a decade of Zachary Taylor's 1849 eulogy, "First Lady," had become the standard title of the president's wife.

Beginning with Martha Washington, many of the president's wives set forth an example of dignity and grace in their role as a leader. Though a very private person, she understood the pressures of this very public role. With her aristocratic Virginia roots, Martha Washington was criticized as too "royal" by some Americans wary of all things British. "At the same time, she was decried as too common by those who feared that her habits of recycling old gowns and of retiring early during receptions might confirm the suspicions of the world that America was an uncivilized wilderness. But to all who visited the president's

house—in New York City or later in Philadelphia—Lady Washington was the model of grace and propriety; eventually these qualities won her the affection and respect of all America." Ref - *First Ladies of the White House* by Skarmees, page 5.

Sara Polk and her husband brought to the White House a marriage that was a true partnership. She often told friends that she believed that she and her husband were predestined by God to lead America. Upon arriving to the White House, Sarah immediately made her presence felt. Believing that dancing in the White House rooms would be undignified, she banned all dancing, card playing, and drinking. When the "First Lady" entered the room during her husband's inaugural ball, the music and dancing ceased in her honor. Known to possess a balance of ego and humility, she used her leadership role while insisting, "I recognize nothing in myself; I am only an atom in the hands of God." Ref - *First Ladies of the White House*, Skarmees, page 23.

Lucy Hayes, mocked in the press as "Lemonade Lucy," immediately established a White House policy banning alcohol at all receptions. She resisted all efforts by the temperance movement to become part of their leadership and maintained a firm belief that hers was essentially a private role in a public setting. She was the first "First Lady" to hold a college degree. She had the education, resources, and opportunity to make the role of "First Lady" an active, independent, and powerful one. However, Lucy focused on her family responsibilities and her husband. While not totally shunning public duties, she was the first president's wife to travel without her husband and to deliver prepared speeches. Lucy also took an active role as president of the Women's Missionary Society at her church during her husband's presidency. Ref - *First Ladies of the White House*,

Skarmees, page 36.

In Titus 2:3 the mature lady in Christ is exhorted to be an example and teacher of "good things" to the younger women in Christ. Today the life support system has been removed, and death is eminent for many. The departure from the biblical model by so many women in our church today has left us vulnerable. So called "Women's Liberation" and the farming out of our God-given privileges and responsibilities has thrown our children to the ravening wolves. What has happened to the heart of mothers who no longer want to teach and train and love their children with the kind of affection that should be obvious to the woman in Christ?

An infant crying in the night:

An infant crying for the light:

And with no language but a cry.

Tennyson

*Yet 'tis mother and without sigh
Knows the language of her baby's
cry.*

*And in the day or in the night
'tis her love that brings comfort
and delight. RLW*

No wonder our families, children, and marriages are out of control. The very stabilizing element so critical to the home has been eroded. Without these godly women actively engaged in their biblical role, Titus says the Word of God will be blasphemed (Titus 2:5).

Thank the Lord for godly ladies who courageously stand firm in this age of compromise! Those today who are characterized by Titus 2:3-5 are indeed to be praised (Prov. 31:28). *Thou excellest them all.*

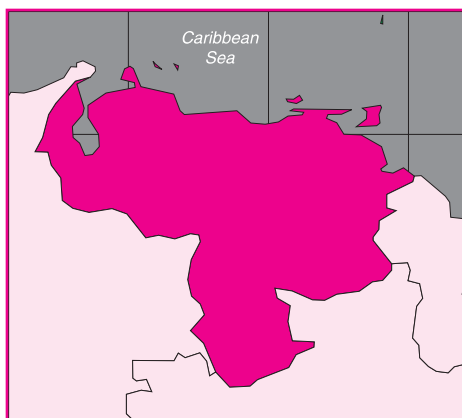
-RLW



*We love our
dear mothers!
Happy Mothers Day!*

The Voice IN THE Wilderness

MISSION SPOTLIGHT

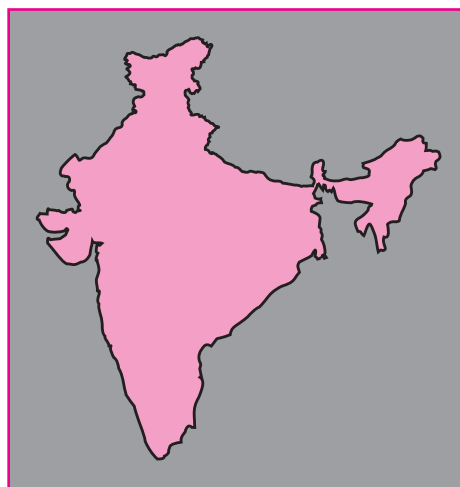
**FROM VENEZUELA –**

Delinquency is growing day by day in Venezuela. A national pastor was robbed while he and his family slept in their own house. They awoke to find that some of their belongings (thank God not all) were taken. He states, “A few days later, one of my wife’s cousins, who is now a Sunday school teacher at my dad’s church, was kidnapped in his own car by two thieves as he was leaving his university. They left him thrown on a highway about 2 hours from where he lives in Barquisimeto.

“This news alerts us that Venezuela is a nation that is being destroyed by sin. Evil is multiplying every day, and this is why our hearts are burning to return, to do what God has led us to do. We desire to bring the souls of people to the feet of the only One who can restore, redeem and transform their lives. We were so overwhelmed when we heard the news, and our family and friends that went through this were able to say with all their hearts: ‘...the LORD gave, and the LORD hath

taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.’” Job 1:21b

Missionary Tim Carte phoned just as we were entering this month’s paper, praising the Lord for the many souls coming to Christ in recent days. Pray as they disciple these new converts, and that the Lord will provide leaders and teachers in the church. Also the Cartes are expecting a new



baby toward the end of May so please be praying for mother and child.

FROM INDIA – Pastor Samuel and his congregation have accepted the challenge to give 10% of the construction costs for their church building. The Voice in the Wilderness and two local churches have partnered together to raise the additional funds needed for this congregation in India.

THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS – This year’s offering during the “Easter” season was somewhat small. The Voice in

the Wilderness depends heavily on this offering to carry us into the summer months. Thank you to all who give and pray.

TO THE JEWS OF NEW YORK

CITY – Pray for us on June 12. We will be passing out 30,000 flyers advertising the event of our second annual “Thank God for Israel” day. We are excited to see God working already, but covet your prayers for His guidance and blessing, and especially for the salvation of souls. Most importantly: *pray, pray, pray.* – *The Gibsons*

For many years now across America and around the world, I have exhorted brothers and sisters in Christ to rise up from where they are presently and press on in faith. “The just shall live by faith” Romans 1:17 - not some fuzzy, emotional, hocus-pocus faith. But faith in the One True and Living God, Jesus Christ! However, all too many get stuck in a restrictive box of ideas by culture, fears, or even disbelief. Let us get out of the box and into The Book of God’s promise, and empowerment. This is not a harsh rebuke, but rather a challenge to take God’s Word and do it! Where are you and your ministry? Take the next step of faith and believe the Lord for even greater things. He is not limited by culture, economics, politics, and religion. But one of those boxes may very well trap us from

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Mass For His Soul



My dear wife and I were having lunch in a restaurant when an interesting conversation arose in the booth next to ours. Apparently, the waitress had asked the dining customer at that particular table about the "Jesus" T-shirt he was wearing. This waitress made the statement that she was brought up as a Catholic, but believed that all religions had some good and truth. The customer responded by asking if she had ever read the Bible? He then continued and later offered her a gospel tract to read.

In light of recent events, I found this young Catholic lady's response quite interesting. The following account by James McCarthy may help to give insight to the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church.

Climbing the steps of the bus that would take me across the width of Ireland from Galway to Dublin, I prayed that God would direct me where to sit. I wasn't disappointed. About half way to the back of the bus there was an empty seat next to an elderly nun. I sat down and we exchanged names.

Sister Teresa sized me up pretty quick. From my name she knew that I was of Irish descent, and from my accent that I was an American. "Your parents raised you in the Catholic faith?" she asked in a tone attesting to the fact that she already knew the answer.

"Yes," I responded politely, feeling somewhat as if my second grade teacher, Sister James Timothy, was speaking to me.

"And are you still practicing your faith?" Sister Teresa continued.

"No," I answered. "I began reading the Bible several years ago and became a born-again Christian. I left the Roman Catholic Church two years later."

Sister Teresa frowned. She had heard this story before. "I don't understand why so many people feel that they have to leave the Church." After a short pause she added, "You should have remained a Catholic."

"It was a matter of doctrine," I answered. "The Bible teaches that salvation is a free gift of God."

"I believe that," Sister Teresa replied with conviction. "Salvation is from God. That's what the Church teaches."

"But the Bible says that 'by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God,'" I said, quoting Ephesians 2:8.

"I believe that also," Sister Teresa answered. "Salvation is by faith in Christ. Christ died on the cross for our sins. We are saved through Him."

Sister Teresa's confident replies surprised me. She sounded as if she really believed it. Despite the teaching

of her church, she seemed to believe as I did. I decided to test her further. "Do you think that you will go to heaven when you die?"

"Yes. Christ died for me. I'm trusting in Him to get me there."

I asked a few more questions and found every answer spot on, as the Irish would say. Maybe she's a believer, a sister in Christ, I thought to myself. It's common to hear Christians today state that there are lots of believers in the Roman Catholic Church. I had met very few. The Catholics I had spoken to generally had no understanding of the gospel. I had never met a priest or nun who could explain the biblical way of salvation; I guess there is always a first!

We chatted most of the way to Dublin. I found Sister Teresa, like most nuns, to be a kind-hearted woman. And regardless of what her Church taught, I couldn't find anything wrong with her own understanding of salvation. Nothing, that is, until we reached Dublin.

"Are you visiting family?" I asked as we pulled into the bus station.

"No, I'm on my way to Rome," Sister Teresa explained. "Pope John Paul has declared this to be a holy year. Anyone taking a pilgrimage to Rome can earn a plenary indulgence."

I was shocked by her shameless participation in such an unbiblical practice. Catholicism teaches that every sin incurs a penalty, called temporal punishment. It also teaches that this penalty must be paid by the sinner either through suffering while alive on earth or after death in purgatory. Additionally, the Church claims that it can dispense credits that cancel the debt of temporal punishment. These credits are called indulgences. A partial indulgence takes away a portion of a person's penalty. A plenary indulgence, like the one for which Sister Teresa was attempting to qualify, cancels all the temporal punishment that a person had accumulated up until that time. The Church says that Christ gave it the authority to draw these credits from a vast reservoir of merit earned by Christ, Mary, and the Catholic saints.

I learned later that Pope John Paul II was offering Catholics visiting Rome a Plenary Jubilee Indulgence. Pilgrims were required to receive the sacraments of penance and the Eucharist, visit the basilicas of Saint Peter, Saint John Lateran, Saint Paul, and Saint Mary Major, and at each location pray for the pope's intentions, his personal prayer requests. Those meeting these requirements would receive a complete remission of the temporal punishment of their

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sins.

I had to voice my astonishment how Sister Teresa had given me a false picture of her beliefs. "I thought you said that Christ had died for your sins and that salvation was through trusting Him!" I objected.

"Christ has done His 99%," she retorted. "We have to cooperate by doing our 1%." With that she grabbed her bag and disembarked from the bus.

Sister Teresa apparently had no qualms about adapting the explanation of her faith for my evangelical ears. And why should she? The Roman Catholic Church has been following this approach for over 30 years. Gone are the days of the Church-Triumphant when Rome could and did intimidate emperors and kings. Gone are the dogmatic canons, as at the Council of Trent in which the Church condemned teaching contrary to its own. Gone are the anathemas that the Church once pronounced upon its opponents—solemn curses that put them outside the Church and the salvation it offered.

Now, having lost most of its ability to threaten with spiritual damnation, torture, and execution at the hands of civil collaborators, the Roman Catholic Church has changed its tactics. Rather than calling councils to condemn its critics and their teachings, the Church chooses to ignore them. Rather than issuing canons condemning salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, the Church now prefers to blur the lines of doctrinal distinction. When engaged in dialogue with non-Catholics, the Church today stresses what is held in common, not changing its doctrine, but reformulating its answers for an ecumenical age. It now woos rather than warns. Particularly in countries where there are large numbers of evangelical Christians, it is not unusual for the church to adopt the very wording of its former critics. There are no longer heretics, only separated brethren. Some within the Church are talking of the possibility of Martin Luther being formally forgiven. Others predict that the Church will one day recognize Luther as a Roman Catholic saint! The result is that now the Church's explanation of how the mingling of the work of Christ and the work of the Catholic for salvation fits together is couched so thoroughly in biblical language that it almost sounds right. One can easily be fooled, even as I was by Sister Teresa's initial responses to my questions.

By - James G. McCarthy, Good News for Catholics, Box 595, Cupertino, CA 95015-0595

Rome's Council of Trent, which has never been rescinded, stated: "If anyone says that in the Mass a true and real sacrifice is not offered to God; or that to be offered is nothing else than that Christ is given to us to eat, LET HIM BE ANATHEMA.

In my hands and from which I presently quote is the

Catechism of the Catholic Church Revised in accordance with the official Latin text promulgated by Pope John Paul II. The numbers preceding the following statements will indicate the passages quoted in the above said Catechism.

Concerning the Mass or Eucharist (1375) – It is by the conversion of the bread and wine into Christ's body and blood that Christ becomes present in this sacrament. (1376) – The Council of Trent summarizes the Catholic faith by declaring: "Because Christ our Redeemer said that it was truly his body that he was offering under the species of bread, it has always been the conviction of the Church of God and this holy Council now declares again, that by the consecration of the bread and wine there takes place a change of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the body of Christ our Lord and of the whole substance of the wine into the substance of his blood. This change the holy Catholic Church has fitly and properly called transubstantiation. (1414) – As sacrifice, the Eucharist is also offered in reparation for the sins of the living and the dead and to obtain spiritual or temporal benefits from God. In commentary on sickness and death the following is stated: (1517) – As the sacrament from Christ's Passover the Eucharist shall always be the last sacrament of the earthly journey, the "viaticum" for "passing over" to eternal life. For the sick and dying, the "Anointing of the sick" is fitly celebrated within the Eucharist. (1523) – The anointing of the sick completes our conformity to the death and Resurrection of Christ just as Baptism began it. It completes the holy anointings that mark the whole Christian life: that of Baptism which sealed the new life in us, and that of Confirmation which strengthened us for the combat of this life. This last anointing fortifies the end of our earthly life like a solid rampart for the final struggles before entering the Father's house.

Even a casual perusal leaves one with the obvious conclusion that the one percent is a huge "chunk of the pie." Christ's ninety-nine percent plus man's one percent equals a system of "works" that is absolutely contrary to biblical teaching. Thus the Eucharist and prayers for a deceased Pope.

-RLW



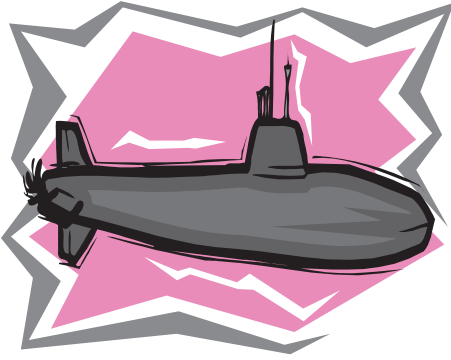
ON THE LIGHT SIDE

An in-flight announcement heard just before exiting a plane "As you exit the plane, make sure to gather all of your belongings. Anything left behind will be distributed evenly among the flight attendants. Please do not leave children or spouses."

Once again while preparing to exit a plane, this message was announced "Please be sure to take all your belongings. If you're going to leave anything, please make sure it's something we'd like to have."

NEWS BITS

FROM HERE AND THERE



COLOMBIAN DRUG TRAFFICKERS – It has recently been discovered by authorities that a vessel, similar to a submarine, was under construction by Colombian drug traffickers in which they were planning to smuggle cocaine. It was located 370 miles southwest of Bogota. However, this is not the first time they have discovered a submarine. Back in 2000, police raided a warehouse near Bogota and found a 100 foot long steel submarine under construction. What do you suppose the drug traffickers were up to? Well, according to the head of Colombia's secret police they use the submarines to carry cocaine offshore to boats that would in turn take the cocaine to Central America or Mexico, and then eventually deliver it to the United States.

IS THE U.S. SELLING F-16s TO EASE ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT IN ISLAMIC NATIONS? – Congress has recently received reports describing proposals to sell armaments to Pakistan and India. It is being

promoted as necessary to improve security, prosperity, and development of the entire region as a whole. Negotiations are to begin with Pakistan on obtaining F16s and information is being requested by India for the possible sale of multi-role combat aircraft. These sales would be a major shift in policy after years of sanctions. Pakistan has been in the news over its nuclear ambitions and their tolerance for Islamic extremism. President Bush tried to head off Indian worries by opening the door of conversation to them on future warplane purchases. India is contemplating a multibillion dollar purchase of fighter planes, including U.S. built or foreign made aircraft.

FORMER U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL DEFENDING SADDAM HUSSEIN – Under President Lyndon B. Johnson's administration, Ramsey Clark served as U.S. Attorney General. However, he has now joined the defense team of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. On December 29, 2004, he announced in Amman, Jordan, that the U.S. should be tried for alleged "war crimes" in Iraq. It is reported that Clark has also been involved with the defense of former Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic, on trial for war crimes in The Hague. Ramsey Clark, though a former U.S. Attorney General, is a frequent and longtime critic of much that is American.

UNITED AUTO WORKERS DECLARED SOME MARINES UNWELCOME – It seems a bit silly to me, but the UAW has a rule that no one driving a foreign car can park in their parking lot. Okay, I say, it's their lot, I guess they have the right to make their own rules, but it is difficult to know exactly where cars are made. For example, the Hyundai Sonata is made in Montgomery, Alabama. Ford Motor Company owns English Jaguars, Land Rovers, and Swedish-built Volvos. The PT Cruiser owned by Chrysler is manufactured in Mexico. Anyhow, that's their choice. So I guess they felt driven to set another rule for "their parking lot." The UAW took steps to ban reservists from the neighboring Marine Corps reserve center from parking in "their lot" if their cars display pro-George Bush bumper stickers. So, these Marines that served "our" country by fighting for "our" freedoms are banned from parking in "their lot" because they display support of "our" President.... On through the fog!
Newscentral/point 3/22/2005

BORDER PATROL – The Senate approved a budget amendment sponsored by Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Ensign that increases the number of Border Patrol agents by 2,000 without increasing discretionary spending. The \$352 million cost of the agents

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will be offset by reductions elsewhere in the discretionary budget. The law responding to the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, signed by



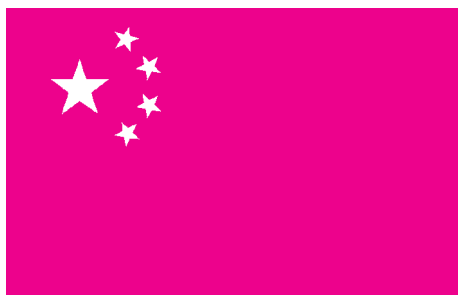
the President in December 2004, authorized 2,000 new agents per year for five years. But President Bush only funded 210 new agents in his fiscal 2006 budget. *Mar 21, 2005 Human Events*

MEXICAN PRESIDENT WANTS NO BORDER

– In a news conference, March 16, 2005, Mexican President Vicente Fox declared that walls built by the United States along stretches of the U.S./Mexico border “must be demolished.” Fox said that the walls are “discriminatory” – which is certainly true: They discriminate between the sovereign territory of the United States and the sovereign territory of Mexico. He also said they are “against freedom” – an arrogant and ironic statement from a man who leads a government from which a constant flow of humanity flees. *Human Events 3/21/05*

ILLEGAL POPULATION EXPLODING IN U.S.

– According to the Paul Harvey News on 3/23/2005, there are 10 million illegals presently in the U.S. (really, nobody knows the exact number). These numbers have increased by 25% in just four years. At this rate, the U.S. is increasing with illegals by one-half million every year.



U.S. LOANS TO CHINA – U.S. government’s Export-Import Bank has given preliminary approval to \$5 billion in loans or loan guarantees to the China National Nuclear Corp., which has been implicated in proliferating nuclear-weapons-related technology to Iran and Pakistan. White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan said, “If you’re talking about for peaceful civilian purposes, that’s one matter. If you’re talking about proliferation, that’s another matter.” McClellan added that the U.S. has “export controls on countries and we enforce those export controls.”....[Duh!] *Human Events 3/21/05*

Still talking about China – Have you notice how they are growing in world influence? *The Financial Times* recently reported that “China’s weight in global trade is so great that even a hiccup could shake some markets” (12/7/04). Their increasing global influence is even reflected by the supposition that “rising tensions with China may add impetus to Japan’s gradual shift to a more assertive military” *Newsweek, 11/29/04*).

AN ESTIMATED 5.1 MILLION PEOPLE IN INDIA ARE INFECTED WITH HIV

– The AIDS problem in India is now catastrophic. India ranks second in the world in the number of people who are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Some experts

believe the number of cases in India exceeds South Africa. This is because so much shame and stigma are attached to someone with AIDS in India that many people refuse to be tested for fear of becoming an outcast and shunned by society as being immoral. India is a traditional and class-conscious society. Women marry at a young age (between 14 and 18), and many marriages are arranged. Men marry at a later age and most have already had sex. Many have therefore contracted HIV before they marry and then they pass it on to their wives. It is estimated that 80% of HIV is spread by heterosexual, mainly married couples, from husband to wife. In 25 years, India will surpass China as having the largest population in the world. Two adults in India become infected with HIV every minute! *Healthwise/John Cionci, MD 3/2005*



OUT OF MONEY? SELL YOUR DAUGHTER

– *The Berean Call* reported the following on 2/28/2005 – Zeva’s eyes filled with tears as the 10-year-old’s father took her by the arm and handed her over to the man from who he had borrowed 50,000 afghanis, or about \$1,000. “I cannot pay you in any other way. Take my daughter,” said

(Continued on page 12)

RELIGIOUS NEWS

AND COMMENTS



INDIA'S ANTI-CHRISTIAN VIOLENCE

– India's southern Kerala state was the sight for continued violence against Christians. So much so, that a Christian parliamentarian from Kerala has raised concern about the apparent growing Christian persecution. Frances George of the Kerala Congress party said "various murderous attacks had taken place in Kerala in recent times" and that *RSS(Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh)* activists were behind most incidents of anti-Christian violence.

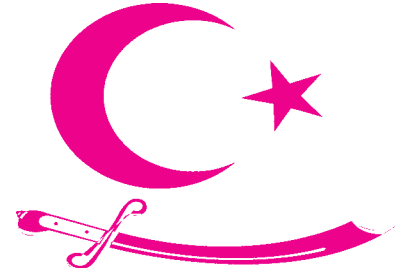
Kerala is known as 'the Cradle of Christianity in India' because Apostle Thomas allegedly established the first church here. Christians comprise almost 20% of Kerala's 30 million population according to estimates. *Worthynews.com*

SCHOOL RETRACTS QUESTIONS DISPARAGING RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

– After a presentation on the

infamous Scopes trial and the creation-versus-evolution debate, an American history teacher required his students to answer disparaging homework questions such as: "Are you willing to accept the truth as revealed by the newest and best methods of science or will you rely upon traditional notions that seemed to work for centuries?" Another question sought to undermine students' religious beliefs by asking: "Are the Biblical accounts of creation and of the miracles literally true? If not, what is the role of these tales in religious teaching?"

A vigilant parent contacted Pacific Justice Institute on behalf of his daughter, who was subjected to this assault. PJI wrote a legal demand letter to the Superintendent of Schools, reminding him that federal and state law prohibit government hostility toward religion....Moreover, California law requires written parental consent before students answer any questions which probe their religious beliefs. In response to the letter, the school principal thanked PJI for bringing this matter to his attention, and acknowledged that the questions "should not have been asked and will not be asked again."

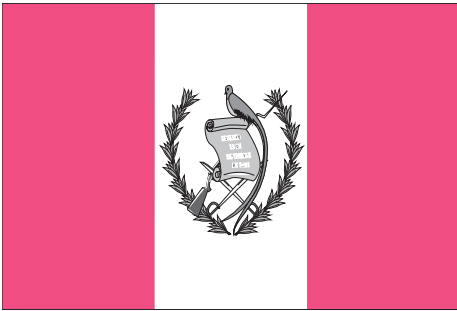


EPISCOPAL CHURCH HIRES MUSLIM CLERIC

– The newest staff member at St. John's Episcopal church in Denver, Colorado, is a Muslim Imam. Ibrahim Kazerooni was formally installed on November 14, 2004 as the director of the church's Abrahamic Initiative, a bridge-building effort among Christians, Jews, and Muslims according to *The Denver Post* on 11/11/04. This is probably the first time in history that a Muslim cleric has become a staff member in a church. Church representative Greg Movesian said, "We hope this appeals to people who don't look upon people of other religions as a target for conversion but rather potential partners in maintaining a civil society." *The Berean Call* 2/24/05 [*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.* Prov. 14:12]

(Continued on page 11)

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DEFENDING GUATEMALA'S CHRISTIAN FAITHFUL

– From 1960 to 1996 Guatemala suffered through a civil war that left more than 100,000 people dead and 1,000,000 Guatemalans as refugees. At least 30% of the 14,280,000 Guatemalans – whose country is slightly smaller than the State of Tennessee – are unable to read or write, and 75% of Guatemalans have annual incomes that are below the poverty line. Most pastors are paid \$30-\$60 a week, and Christian school tuition is \$5 a month. The history of war and the resulting poverty in Guatemala have created numerous legal problems for the churches in that country. During the first week of January 2005, attorneys from Guatemala met with attorneys for the Christian Law Association to map out a strategy for setting up a “CLA of Guatemala.” Almighty God is doing a work in this Central American nation! Thank God for these attorneys from Guatemala who are willing to lay their prized legal education on the altar for the churches and Christians of Guatemala. *The Legal Alert/ February 2005*

CITIZEN APATHY SEALS FATE OF CROSS

– Christian Law Association report that only a handful of church leaders in a southern California city actively supported a ballot initiative to save a city cross that had been the subject of litigation for more than 14 years. The decision to finally abandon the cross was not made by a judge, but by a democratic vote after legal groups had fought to retain the religious symbol that had soared over this city for decades.

CHRISTIANS and NON-BELIEVERS

– In a poll by George Barna, it was consistently revealed that there is not much difference between the moral actions of Christian believers and unbelievers. For instance, those professing to be “born again” Christians divorce just as often as nonbelievers. Among married born again Christians, 35% have experienced a divorce. That figure is identical to the outcome among married adults who are not born again: 35% (*www.barna.org, Sept. 8, 2004*) Among professing Christians, half considered cohabitation and “enjoying sexual thought and fantasies about someone” who was not their spouse to be morally acceptable; roughly a third considered adultery, pornography, drunkenness and having an abortion to be morally acceptable; and one in five thought the same of homosexual behavior. *Barna research, Nov. 3, 2003, report.*

Today there is a rise of divorce

and decline of marriage which is said to have played its part in changing attitudes to sex in a disturbing trend in those over 50 according to recent reports. [God’s Word is clear on these issues. Will we stand on the Book?]



EUROPE'S RELIGIOUS HERITAGE

– An article recently stated that “more than a million people are going to deliver a petition to Tony Blair and fellow EU leaders calling for changes to the constitution recognizing Europe’s Religious heritage. The Vatican has not been happy with the fact that the proposed European Union constitution does not specifically mention Christianity. [Does this EU business sound prophetic to you?]



MAN DIES AT BENNY HINN HEALING CRUSADE

– A 52-year-old man died of an apparent heart attack on January 22, 2005 while attending Benny Hinn’s “healing” crusade in

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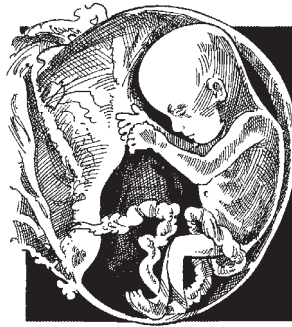
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Gul Miran, 42, a farmer in Nangarhar province.

Like many other farmers in Afghanistan, Gul Miran had planned to pay back the loan with the proceeds from his crop of poppies, which would eventually be turned into heroin. But as part of its stepped-up effort to combat the drug trade in the country, the government had ploughed under his fields, and Gul Miran was left with nothing.

"I accepted the girl in return for my loan," said Haji Naquibullah, who had advanced Gul Miran the money. "We had an agreement. He would (pay me back) regardless of whether his crops were wiped out by the weather or by the government. "In a year or 18 months, I will marry her off to my youngest son," he said. "He is 19 years old and has been married to his first wife for two years but has not had a child yet."

Payenda Gul, who grows poppies in the Shinwar district, was forced to give his 17-year-old daughter to a 38-year-old in order to pay his debt. "When you have an agreement with an opium dealer, nothing but the opium can be paid but they cannot refuse the daughters. It is a way in which a dealer can find a wife for himself or for a son. The son may be disabled or he may be growing older and not had a wife. It is easy to present him with a pretty girl." – *As reported by www.JewishWorldReview.com/JALALABAD, Afghanistan* [By the way, one editorial I recently read reminded us that at least 70% of the trafficking of drugs from Afghanistan and the Middle East are being financed by American consumers, consequently, financing our own destruction. The enemy is us.]



UNSAFE ABORTIONS – Up to 10 million Asian women have unsafe abortions annually, accounting for half of all pregnancy-related deaths. The United Kingdom reports, "Britain's largest provider of abortions stands accused of advising women to circumvent British regulations on later terminations by flying to a clinic in Barcelona [Spain] where the operation is provided—illegally." *Daily Telegraph* [Bloody murderous hands worldwide.]

NO AUTHORITY – NO TRUST – Worldwide, a disturbing 63 percent believe their politicians are dishonest. A *Sunday Times* writer stated: "We live in an age in which authority is absent... In America the decline of authority has been particularly swift.

INTOLERANCE FOR BIBLICAL ABSOLUTES – The concept that all cultures, all religions and all human ideas are inherently equal is the battle cry of those spouting the new tolerance and promoting the concept that there are no absolute truths. What is actually happening is that many concepts considered absolute truths by a majority of Americans for hundred of years are being replaced. One state allowed license plates that read "2Sexy" and "2Hot4U," yet denied a person who wanted to put "Pray" on

her plates, claiming it would violate separation of church and state. It's not tolerance but intolerance for biblical absolutes. Just ask someone who is pro-abortion if she is tolerant and accepting of someone who is pro-life. Or ask some who support homosexuality and gay marriage if he believes that a Christian who believes homosexuality is a sin is equally entitled to hold his position. Anything to do with Christianity must be eradicated from all public forums while religion is promoted as a positive multicultural experience.

Researcher George Barna reports that 44 percent of American's contend that "the Bible, the Koran and the Book of Mormon are all different expressions of the same spiritual truths." Of course, anyone who has even skimmed these books knows that, while there are some similarities, they are opposed to each other in many important ways.

Jesus said, "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you."

SCHIAVO – "THE BOTTOM LINE" – Much has been said about the Terri Schiavo case. Let us now consider Bible prophecy from 2 Timothy 3 concerning the last days. This prophecy, written 2,000 years ago under divine inspiration, is a precise description of conditions in "Christian" societies today. America is known as a "Christian nation." Professing Christians had a major role in its formation, and the majority of its citizens even today profess some sort of faith in Jesus Christ and a large percentage attend some sort of church. This is the exact type of situation the Spirit of God describes in 2 Timothy 3. It describes apostasy

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among professing Christians. The conditions it describes have always applied to “pagans” outside of Christ; it applied to those who lived before the Flood; the amazing thing about this prophecy is that it describes the same wicked conditions among those in the last days who have “a form of godliness,” those who profess Christ yet commit spiritual adultery with the world (James 4:4; Rev. 17). Every point of this prophecy has some bearing upon the Terri Schiavo case, but consider just a few:

“*perilous times*” – If Terri could talk she would undoubtedly tell us that it is perilous times!

“*men shall be lovers of their own selves*” – Michael Schiavo claims

that he is doing this only because he loves his wife, but his actions state more loudly that he is a lover of himself more than a lover of his wife and of God and His holy laws.

“*without natural affection*” – A complete lack of natural affection is required for a man to remove food and water from his wife and watch her slowly starve to death.

“*trucebreakers*” – Michael Schiavo made a solemn covenant or truce when he married Terri, promising before God and man to love and cherish her and be faithful to her until “death do us part,” but he has brazenly broken his marriage vows.

“*incontinent*” – incontinent means without self control; Michael Schiavo is living with a woman out of wedlock

because he is incontinent.

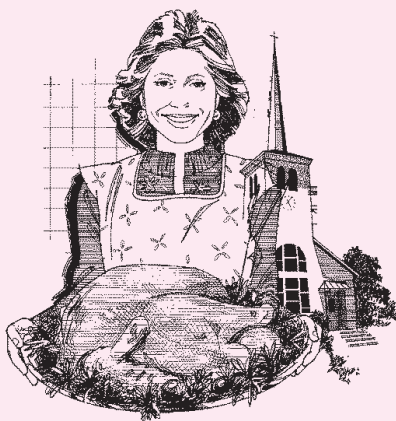
“*fierce*” – what could be more fierce than for a husband, with the assistance of judges and police and doctors and nurses, to starve his wife to death?

Indeed, the Terri Schiavo case reminds me that we are in the last hours of this age, that the time is short. “He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (Rev. 22:20).

Friday News/www.wayoflife.org/4/2/2005 [The Bible says that the Lord has no pleasure in the death of the wicked, Ezekiel 33:11. “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints” Psalm 116:15.]



MOTHER'S ALTAR



Many years ago I knelt
And bowed my head in prayer
Upon a checkered apron
As my mother stroked my hair.

I have knelt at many altars
Of wood, of gold, of stone;
But that gingham-covered altar
Is the sweetest I have known.

-Unknown



SPECIAL GIFTS

Recently received by The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc., Ministry.

Given by: Sam Marshall
In Memory of: Mother

Given by: JoAnn Barnhart
In Memory of: Fay Gene Chipman & Katy Garrett

We would like to express our thanks to those who have given a memorial gift to **The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc. Ministry**. These names will be added to a plaque and displayed in our office. If you would like to give a special memorial gift or honor someone, please send your “special gift” along with the person’s name (legibly printed) you would like listed in an upcoming issue to: **The Voice in the Wilderness, PO Box 7037, Asheville, NC 28802.**



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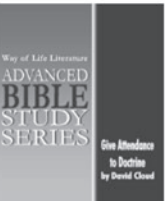
Bangalore, India ("When the miracle failed to save a life," *Deccan Herald*, Jan.23). Bogus "faith healers" like Hinn bring reproach to the cause of Christ. (No one ever died when they were seeking healing from HIM [CHRIST].) Benny Hinn claims to have received the anointing of the late female evangelist Kathryn Kuhlman, and that might well be true, as she also was bogus. In his book *Healing: A Doctor in Search of a Miracle*, Dr. William Nolen dedicates an entire chapter to his experiences investigating Kuhlman's healing crusades. Though sympathetic to Kuhlman as a person, Nolen was unable to document medically even one case of physical healing. At the time of his investigation, Dr. Nolen was chief of surgery at Meeker County Hospital in Litchfield, Minnesota. In his book *Occult ABC*, Kurt Koch described his own research into Kuhlman's healing ministry. He carefully followed up on a list of 28 cases of alleged healings in Minneapolis, Minnesota. "Ten had not been healed, seven had experienced an improvement in their condition, eleven had diseases in which the mind can play an important part. In the whole of this extensive report, there is not one clear case of healing from an organic disease." *Fridaynews/wayoflife.org*/4/4/05

(Many have inquired about several articles we have used from *David Cloud and Way of Life Literature*. The following is a special offer for materials that

may be of a benefit to pastors and Bible teachers. If corresponding or placing an order, please do directly to *Way of Life Literature* and not through The Voice in the Wilderness. This editor has not read all of the books by Bro. Cloud, but the materials that I have used and read have been of great benefit.)



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Nuggets of Gold

1. Nothing good can come if the will is wrong.
2. To give evidence to him who loves not the truth is to give him more plentiful material for misinterpretation.
3. Christians show what they are by what they do with what they have.
4. Jealousy makes us smaller in the hearts of our friends, weaker in the eyes of our adversaries, and defenseless in the hands of our enemies.
5. Equal pay for equal work requires premium pay for superior work, lower pay for inferior work, no pay for no work.
6. Happiness is not absence of conflict but the ability to cope with it.
7. Footprints in the sand of time are not made by sitting down.
8. Children have never been good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.
9. A man who does only what is required of him is a slave; it is only the man who does more than is required of him who is free.
10. Some people get lost in thought because it is such unfamiliar territory to them.

TRIVIA QUESTION: What did Henry Ford and George Washington Carver have in common?

Answer: They were friends and respected colleagues. Both men were fascinated by the soybean, and they worked together to explore uses for it. Later, Henry used soybeans in many ways, including collecting soybean oil to make enamels for paints, fluid for shock absorbers and plastic horn buttons. In fact, more than two bushels of soybeans went into each Ford automobile during the 1940's.



(Continued from page 5)

realizing the promises and power in HIS BOOK!

Dr. Ricky Tippet gave me a copy of the following. I pray we will not be trapped in this box of excuses. Let me share with you the letter written by one missionary who after 20 years of ministry observed how mission churches were handicapped by the dependence upon foreign money:

"I have kept to the last what seems to me the most serious indictment of the work of the church. Most of the churches in India are not self-supporting. This is a very serious matter. Analyzed critically, it means this: Indian Christians take their religion so lightly and superficially that they are not prepared to contribute adequately to the support of their own churches and their own ministers.

"...It seems to me that so long as Indians are not prepared to sacrifice whatever is necessary to support their churches, this is convincing proof that the church has failed in its fundamental objective—to convince people of the truth of

Christianity, for surely it is true in this, as in all ages of all peoples in all countries, that the only real test of conviction is the desire and willingness to sacrifice.

"It is a shameful thing that we cannot stand comparison in this matter with our Hindu and Muslim [people]. I think we have a right to ask the Missions why they have allowed things to come to such a pass, why they have so pauperized and weakened us that the indigenous church instead of being a sturdy, virile, self-reliant body, able and willing to be self-sufficient, is a feeble, weedy, top-heavy administration, the member of which are always turning to the West with imploring eyes, and abject, outstretched hands asking for alms.

"In this, I maintain the church has failed in its most important work, and the measure of its material success in obtaining foreign men and foreign money is the exact measure of its spiritual failure in this country."

Now let us look again to The Voice in the Wilderness missionary

work. In Venezuela I give a big thank you and commendation to a pastor and his congregation for their step of faith to match dollar for dollar their giving with that of The Voice in the Wilderness for their new church construction project. The Chavez government has created problems, the people are poor, even one pastor, wife and children were robbed and terrorized; but these precious believers have been liberated from the box of unbelief and empowered by the promises of God's Book!

At the same time, on another mission field, a pastor and his congregation have been challenged to sacrifice, trust God, and give to build their church. However, they are trapped in the box of poverty and continue to plead, "We are poor, we need The Voice in the Wilderness to give us the money or we cannot begin construction." Is God's Book true? Is God able to supply? When will we trust HIM to provide that we may reach our Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria and world for Christ?



THE SLAVE WAS ME

Slave driver on the wagon rode
With sin behind in heavy load.

And poor lost soul in heat of day
Chained to that wagon and dreadful way.

Chok'in dust – what a roe to hoe
Long, long way to death he know.

Merciful LORD, can't you see
This old slave and pity me?

Driven by whip and shackle worn
Bloodied brow and back all torn.

My dear mama, pray for my soul
Woe's gotta grave, done dug my hole.

Then a shade by day rose o'er me
And showers of blessings fell from Thee.

O' sweet chariot of mercy grace
Benevolent Master show Thy face.

Yes, sweet Jesus Thy Name I call
Free me from that old Adam's fall.

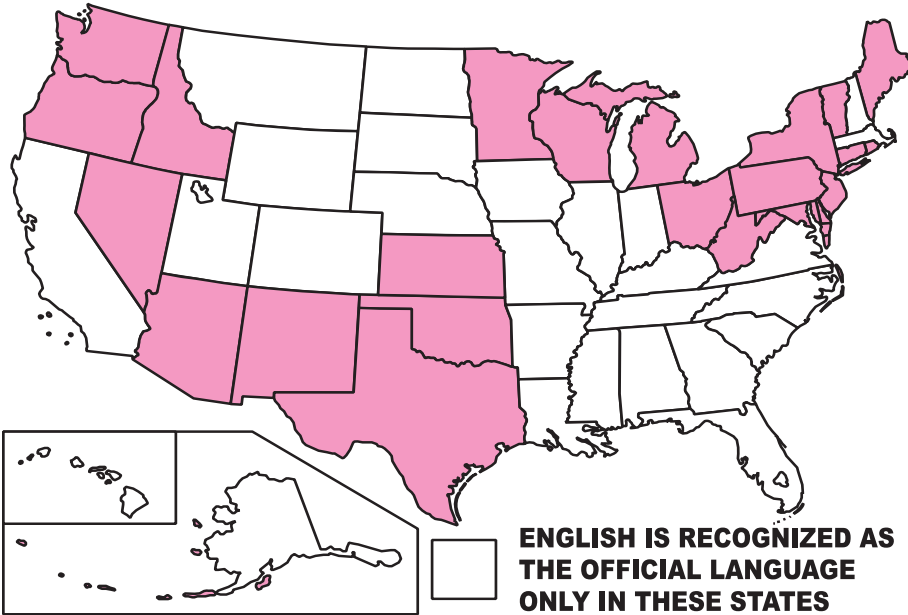
There in Jordan Thy promised land
And lift me up and help me stand.

-RLW



AMERICA, THE LAND OF LANGUAGES

Census Bureau Data and U.S. English, Inc. indicate there are now 322 languages spoken in the United States. Theodore Roosevelt said, *“The one absolute certain way of bringing this nation to ruin, or preventing all possibility of its continuing to be a nation at all, would be to permit it to become a tangle of squabbling nationalities. We have but one flag. We must also learn one language and that language is English.”*



Will Americans remain one people, a nation where immigrants are assimilated into a common culture by, among other things, learning a common language? Or will America become a Tower of Babel? This is the question at the core of the official English language debate.



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