



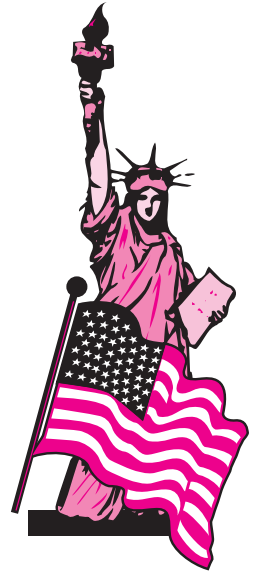
CONTENDING FOR
FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIANITY

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 2005

IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS

Things don't just happen to children of God;
They're part of a wonderful plan.
The troubles, reverses, the sorrows, the rod
Are strokes of the Great Sculptor's hand.
When some dread accident strikes you a blow
And you worry and fret and demand,
Why try so hard the mystery to know?
It's not just an accident; it's planned.

Have you been dropped from a place of power?
Do you wonder and reprimand?
Don't rebel, but look to him in that hour;
This didn't just happen; it's planned.
Persecution, tribulation come down like a storm;
Friends disappoint and withstand;
At last all alone, bewildered, forlorn,
You look, and He says, "This is planned."

-Author Unknown

***IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS: FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF
GOD IN CHRIST JESUS CONCERNING YOU. (I Thess. 5:18)***

***Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and
power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. (Rev. 7:12)***

***PRAISE ye the LORD, O give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good:
for His mercy endureth for ever. (Psalm 106:1)***





MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends:

Weak and unworthy is the description. When the great responsibility of The Voice in the Wilderness comes in view, that is how I see myself. Now the average layman would envision his pastor and spiritual leader as the anointed giant of faith, ever rising above the fray in perpetual victory. Yet we all have struggles and must pray, "Give us this day..." Each morning begins with surrender and trust. It is only in His grace and strength can we be "more than conquerors through Him that loved us." Thank God He is all in all!

The Voice in the Wilderness is given many opportunities of ministry. Obviously if one endeavors to do a work for God there will be challenges, yea, opposition. That's where the weakness comes in view. Then the enormity of the mission, truly being an eternal work for our Lord, reveals the unworthiness to

be steward of such heavenly things. Then I remember His call. He has put us in the ministry and with that, the supply and strength will come from above. So I'm back to each day beginning with surrender and trust in His perfect will. Now as we near the close of 2005, it is with *thanksgiving* we give Him all the praise and glory for this year's accomplishments.

Until Christ returns, it is our intent to finish 2005 and start a new year faithfully in the race set before us. These are just a few current projects I ask you to pray for:

1. The completion of the church construction in Andra Pradesh, India. The funds have been given to finish this project. Praise the Lord!
2. The Voice in the Wilderness continued involvement in the Venezuela ministry. We are praying for additional funds to help with the church construction in Venezuela.

3. The Aquila/Priscilla Ministry (APM) is off to a great start. Steve and Rebekah have been in several churches and already been privileged to see souls saved. Praise the Lord!
4. The Voice in the Wilderness owns a doublewide trailer and eleven acres debt free. The vision eight years ago was to build a multi-purpose facility for missionary meetings, training, office space and housing for the ministry. The Lord has opened the door to proceed with this project. Please pray for His wisdom and provision.
5. Plans are for Steve and Rebekah to leave for Venezuela in January 2006. Presently the door is open to work in Caracas. They hope to stay several months, return to the states for additional training at a Christian College, and then go back to the mission field. Pray for their ministry, walk with the

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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, 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!

EPHESIANS 4:31 "LET ALL BITTERNESS, AND WRATH, AND ANGER, AND CLAMOUR, AND EVIL SPEAKING, BE PUT AWAY FROM YOU, WITH ALL MALICE:"

AGREE To DISAGREE

A reoccurring theme was characteristic of one ministries business meetings. It was obvious to prevent disagreement or to avoid making decisions the minutes repeatedly year after year stated that item such and such was tabled until a future date or meeting. Some fear disagreement, some are always disagreeable. Christian people do not always find themselves dwelling harmoniously as one. There are among the best of us questions, struggles, and even heated disputes. There may be a right and wrong or even a "doubtful disputation!" Yet even when folk disagree there is a way to move forward. For God's glory to reach the lost and further the gospel ministry, leadership must at times make difficult decisions and press on even amidst opposition. "Stuck in a rut" or "tabling items" that pose potential controversy is not the plan. Yet due to immaturity, ignorance, or iniquity (possibly a combination) wrong decisions and discord can result. "I love to see people fussin' and fightin' and clawin' and bitin'."

Would you like to be called the meanest preacher in America? For some it is their aim to be contrary. How can Believers dwell together in unity even when some disagree?

Can we agree that the Apostle Paul was God's man, a great preacher, missionary, and spiritual teacher with an unquestionable record? This powerful servant of Christ wrote, "I . . . could not speak unto you as unto spiritual." Certainly he would desire their maturity. Yet he says they are babes feeding on milk, "not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able." Even under Paul's leadership and in some good churches today there are those who are not "able" to deal with the "weighty matters," "mature issues," or "hard things." They are easily overwhelmed, confused or "offended." Paul uses strong language in I Corinthians 3:1-4. Note his statement "Ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" In the business of the church can there possibly be envy, strife, and divisions? How controlled are you by your own desires? Immaturity will reflect selfish motivation. Only through His Spirit can we have insight and understanding of God's plans, thoughts, and actions. If it is "I think" and "I feel" it will be "I" centered and not Christ centered! Is it possible for the carnal to be Christ centered?

Ephesians 4:31 says "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice." Put it all away-ALL! Leave not a residual behind. Listen to Hebrews 12:15: "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled..." This root will imbed and invade the very fiber and essence of a mortal corrupting all. Be diligent and put it

all away!

I heard it said with my own ears. Not only was the statement unbelievable, it was unscriptural. In an outburst of "bitterness" he said, "I can be bitter if I want to be bitter. Bitterness is not a sin." Bitterness is evidence that the root of faith in Christ is not the source of such outbursts, such bitterness. Bitterness is produced by its own root. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are. . .?" Yes, the proof of the root is the fruit. A holy life must be rooted in Christ. The old roots of sin and bitterness die with Christ in His death and the new root of faith and life is firmly established by His resurrection power! If the "root of bitterness" is not Christ, then where be the source? The obvious conclusion is sin, Satan and self-not the Saviour. Sin, Satan and self will produce divisiveness and discord.

It is our purpose to lift up the precious blessed name and news of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To HIM who is worthy be honour and glory, amen! Thousands each month read this little "Voice" and many join us in prayer as well as financial support to cry out the message of hope. What a joy to be a part of the sweet rather than the bitter-to share in building rather than tearing down.

Contending for the faith without seeming contentious is difficult at times. However, it was Jesus in the temple with whip in hand. Christ said, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!" Paul denounced those individuals who turned away. The Apostle John said he would remember the deeds of Diotrephes. Those prating, malicious words meant to hinder and harm the work of God were

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condemned by the apostle. Destructive individuals who bitterly attack God's work position themselves in a perilous place. It is not pleasant to rebuke and warn, but thank God for *The Voice in the Wilderness* and the clear message consistently "Contending for the faith."

I wrote these notes in the margin of my Bible from a sermon preached by a fellow pastor:

1. **It is better to be divided by TRUTH than united by error.**
2. **It is better to speak the TRUTH that hurts and then heals than a lie that comforts and then kills.**
3. **It is better to hear tough or even rough TRUTH than tender or polished lies.**
4. **It is better to be hated for telling the TRUTH than loved for telling a lie.**
5. **It is better to stand alone for the TRUTH than stand with a crowd in a lie.**

My wife and I are now in our tenth year with *The Voice in the Wilderness*. Believe me, this has been a decade of challenges. Our Lord has indeed been faithful. Without His protection and provision, this ministry would not exist today. It was said to one of our faithful Board members: "Let *The Voice in the Wilderness* die-Ronnie Williamson can get his own ministry." However, that was not God's will. *The Voice in the Wilderness* has repeatedly seen our Lord intervene. Those who meant evil were confronted by our God who "meant it unto good." And the more letters they wrote, the more phone calls they made, and the more mis-information they gave the more the Lord blessed *The Voice in the Wilderness*. Salvation, nourishment, and comfort He brought to pass. And all the while those who set their hand against the Lord's work suffered the more from the cancer of bitterness.

The story is told of a young American soldier who was captured by the enemy during World War II. With a gun and bayonet to his back, the young soldier was forced to march off to prison or possibly death. In the midst of fear, this Christian young man began to whistle a precious

hymn he had sung in church. To his shock the Japanese soldier began to whistle along with his prisoner. At first, the American thought he was hearing an echo. Suddenly, the Japanese came along side and said, "I am a Christian. I learned that hymn in a mission school." The two stopped, not as enemies, but as brothers in Christ. There on the battlefield they fellowshiped in the Prince of Peace. The Spirit of Christ had triumphed over the bitterness of war.

Some will never lay down the weapons of war. But thank God there is sweet Victory in Jesus for those who will only TRUST the Lord. No, we do not always

**What a joy to be a part
of the sweet rather than the
bitter--to share in building
rather than tearing down.**

like the circumstances of life. No, we may not always agree. But in Christ, we can agree to disagree and move forward for God's glory.

Several years ago, Bro. Royce chose two men to manage his personal affairs. Today, Bro. Royce resides in the Lawton Veterans Center. A young Mexican citizen lives in Bro. Royce's house in Dallas and Royce's Power of Attorney handles his finances. *The Voice in the Wilderness* continues to pay his insurance and tax benefits along with his salary; in addition, he receives his Social Security, VA benefits, and other income as well as financial gifts. *The Voice in the Wilderness* board is committed to do right for this ministry and founder. Thank the Lord for those friends and partners who have stood with us so faithfully. *The Voice in the Wilderness* ministry is committed to continue the Biblical Heritage set forth by our founder Dr. J. Royce Thomason. Without being contentious we will contend for the faith. May God help us all.

Now as I continue, what I am about to write may, by some, be easily misunderstood. But at this point, I believe it is important. Please, in no way is this meant to hurt anyone. Nor is the following

offered to impress. The truth of the matter is the Lord has been so gracious and generous to *The Voice in the Wilderness*, particularly during the past nine years. In terms of missions, the opportunities have been abundant and the results fruitful. This publication has chronicled month after month, year after year, the testimonies of the precious folk we have been privileged to work with around the world. What a blessing! Then, this little printed "Voice" touches thousands every single month. And what a blessing the meetings, preaching, and mission trips have been. On, and on the wonderful story goes!

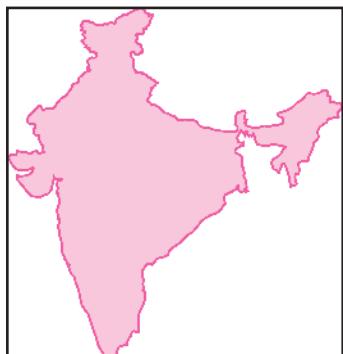
Yes, there have been some bumps in the road. But here on this earth, we can all expect that. I have even told Bro. Royce that the Lord knew he would get sick on September 10, 2001. The Lord knew about the hospital, rehabilitation center, the loss of driver's license, and the inability to continue his independence and travels. Bro. Royce has talked with me about some of his discouragements and the individuals and decisions he set in place many years ago concerning a time such as this involving power of attorney and necessary decisions for his own personal life and affairs. We have discussed the few individuals who have been hostile to *The Voice in the Wilderness*. However, I did remind Bro. Royce, that we do have a choice whether to remain discouraged, contentious, and become embittered with life's circumstances. Or we can choose to recognize that our Lord is in control and trust Him regardless the circumstances. *The Voice in the Wilderness* is thankful for the past blessings, but is moving forward day by day in our Lord's present blessings.

My wife and I prayed for a year before accepting Bro. Royce's invitation. We knew this would be a difficult and perhaps challenging task, but we also knew it was God's call for us. Life indeed has its bumps, but when disagreements and hostilities arise, it is our duty to keep our hearts and eyes on Jesus while *Agreeing to Disagree*. So let me remind the few that have raised their hand in hostile opposition to this work, *The Voice in the Wilderness* Ministry, that **God is in control, this is His work, and by His grace so shall it remain!**



The Voice IN THE Wilderness

MISSION SPOTLIGHT



INDIA – One of our faithful pastors wrote... “We have been in severe floods, the worst hit.... Three of our believers houses (huts) were collapsed. A few believers are taking shelter in our church building...by His grace and through your prayers all are safe...Please pray because infectious diseases likely to occur, so that God could keep all of us under His mighty wings.”

AQUILA/PRISCILLA (APM) – Thank you for the encouraging response. Steve and Rebekah Lilly have been quite busy in The Voice office. The month of September provided numerous opportunities to minister in churches. The Lord has blessed them with talent to minister in music with the Hand Chimes. What a blessing! They have seen salvation decisions, ministered for a week in a Spanish Ministry in Raleigh, NC, as well as, dedicated many hours to preparing, studying, learning, and most importantly speaking with the correct tone and accent the Gospel Plan of Salvation in the Spanish language. You will be hearing more on our newest missionary endeavor as they follow the Lord’s leadership.

FROM UGANDA – People here are very eager to listen and please the other person, especially if that other person is a mujungu (mu-zu-ngu), a white person. They may be looking for a job that the mujungu will give them. They may be looking for money from the mujungu. Sometimes I really hate being a mujungu! But God is good and every so often He does the work and not the “mujungu factor.” God did a work in Ferdinand. Ferdinand is the landlord of two people in our church who have been faithful members for a long time. They were concerned about him and invited him to church. He visited. That next Saturday, I had the privilege of visiting him and sharing the gospel. He claimed to be saved but did not give a clear testimony. He said he would come back to



church again. That next day, he came forward in church to make public his decision to trust Christ. He had asked Christ to save him after I had left the day before. God had done His work in Ferdinand. Since his decision to trust Christ, Ferdinand has brought around ten family members or tenants. Many of those have trusted Christ. He is zealous to share his new faith with those he meets. He is constantly witnessing to and then inviting us to witness to his family or tenants. He is deeply concerned about his father-in-law’s village where there is no gospel preaching church. We brought his father-in-law into town after visiting with him and leading him to the Lord. He enjoyed being at the church and wanted to come everyday. We eventually had to take him home to the village, however, where there is no church. Pray that God will raise up a church in Bwayegamba village. Ferdinand is also very concerned about his home village of Ibanda. This is actually a fair sized town but it does not have a gospel preaching church. Ferdinand wants to build a church there and is talking about using some of his own land for the site. Pray that there will be a church in Ibanda. He has started discipleship and Bible institute and has submitted to every Biblical principle he has been taught. We are excited to see how God will continue to work through Ferdinand and others like him.

FROM VENEZUELA – On Sunday the 28 of August we had an attendance of 95 with over 26 visitors and 19 precious souls prayed to receive Christ as Savior. Many of these people were invited during the last several months and came from three different areas in the city.



This was a blessing to see and confirms that the harvest is truly great but the laborers are few. Please continue to pray for laborers to start churches in Venezuela. President Hugo Chavez reacts and stops authorization of missionary visas to Venezuela. One of the greatest hindrances to the work of the Lord in Venezuela could be politically based. President Hugo Chavez, after hearing Pat Roberson’s remarks about assassinating him, reacted and ordered to halt the authorization of all transit missionary visas. President Chavez stated that they must investigate every foreign missionary to see

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A Historical Picture Of Thanksgiving



The Pilgrims who sailed to this country aboard the *Mayflower* were originally members of the English Separatist Church (a Puritan sect). They had earlier fled their home in England and sailed to Holland (The Netherlands) to escape religious persecution. There, they enjoyed more religious tolerance, but they eventually became disenchanted with the Dutch way of life, thinking it ungodly. Seeking a better life, the Separatists negotiated with a London stock company to finance a pilgrimage to America. Most of those making the trip aboard the *Mayflower* were non-Separatists, but were hired to protect the company's interests. Only about one-third of the original colonists were Separatists.

The Pilgrims set ground at Plymouth Rock on December 11, 1620. Their first winter was devastating. At the beginning of the following fall, they had lost 46 of the original 102 who sailed on the *Mayflower*. But the harvest of 1621 was a bountiful one... [The colonists gathered together for a feast and time of thanksgiving to God for His provisions.]

Governor William Bradford sent "four men fowling" after wild ducks and geese. It is not certain that wild turkey was part of their feast. However, it is certain that they had venison. The term "turkey" was

used by the Pilgrims to mean any sort of wild fowl.

Another modern staple at almost every Thanksgiving table is pumpkin pie. But it is unlikely that the first feast included that treat. The supply of flour had been long diminished, so there was no bread or pastries of any kind. However, they did eat boiled pumpkin, and they produced a type of fried bread from their corn crop. There was also no milk, cider, potatoes, or butter. There was no domestic cattle for dairy products, and the newly-discovered potato was still considered by many Europeans to be poisonous. But the feast did include fish, berries, watercress, lobster, dried fruit, clams, venison, and plums.

This "thanksgiving" feast was not repeated the following year. But in 1623, during a severe drought, the pilgrims gathered in a prayer service, praying for rain. When a long, steady rain followed the very next day, Governor Bradford proclaimed another day of Thanksgiving, again inviting their Indian friends. It wasn't until June of 1676 that another Day of Thanksgiving was proclaimed.

On June 20, 1676, the governing council of Charlestown, Massachusetts, held a meeting to determine how best to express thanks...

"The Council has thought meet to appoint and set apart the 29th day of this instant June, as a day of Solemn Thanksgiving and praise to God for such his Goodness and Favour, many Particulars of which mercy might be Instanced, but we doubt not those who are sensible of God's Afflictions, have been as diligent to espy him returning to us; and that the Lord may behold us as a People offering Praise and thereby glorifying Him; the Council doth commend it to the Respective Ministers, Elders and people of this Jurisdiction; Solemnly and seriously to keep the same Beseeking that

(Continued from page 6)

being persuaded by the mercies of God we may all, even this whole people offer up our bodies and souls as a living and acceptable Service unto God by Jesus Christ.” - 1676

Thanksgiving Proclamation



October of 1777 marked the first time that all 13 colonies joined in a thanksgiving celebration. It also commemorated the patriotic victory over the British at Saratoga. But it was a one-time affair. George Washington proclaimed a National Day of Thanksgiving in 1789.

Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me to “recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness:” - Given under my hand, at the city of New York, the 3d day of October, A.D. 1789.
President George Washington



It was Sarah Josepha Hale, a magazine editor, whose efforts eventually led to what we recognize as Thanksgiving. Hale wrote many editorials championing her cause in her *Boston Ladies' Magazine*, and later, in *Godey's Lady's Book*. Finally, after a 40-year campaign

of writing editorials and letters to governors and presidents, Hale's obsession became a reality when, in 1863, President Lincoln proclaimed the *last* Thursday in November as a national day of Thanksgiving.

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God... No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens... - A Presidential Proclamation given by Abraham Lincoln on the Third day of October 1863.

Thanksgiving was proclaimed by every president after Lincoln. The date was changed a couple of times, most recently by Franklin Roosevelt, who set it up one week to the next-to-last Thursday in order to create a longer Christmas shopping season. Public uproar against this decision caused the president to move Thanksgiving back to its original date two years later. And in 1941, Thanksgiving was finally sanctioned by Congress as a legal holiday, as the *fourth* Thursday in November.

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NEWS BITS

FROM HERE AND THERE

WATCHING OUR BORDERS

— According to the *Judicial Watch* (9/05), President Bush's "temporary guest worker" initiative has "lured" large amounts of illegal immigrants into the United States from Mexico. A survey was conducted by the Border Patrol to see if this initiative had any result of the mass amounts of people crossing the border. The results are as follows:



1. The "temporary guest worker" program was interpreted as an amnesty program by the illegal aliens.
2. Early results indicated that the proposal did lure greater numbers of illegal crossings into the US. About 45% crossed illegally due to rumors of an amnesty program.
3. About 63% received information from the Mexican government or media supporting the idea of an amnesty program from President Bush.
4. Eighty percent of captured illegal immigrants would seek amnesty if it were offered.
5. Over 60% of captured illegal aliens had entered the US previously illegally, some up to six previous times.
6. About 66% wanted to appeal for

family members to also enter into the US.

ACLU SUES, WE PAY! — In 1934, several people erected a monument in the form of a cross made of iron in the Mojave Desert. In 1994, the government declared the area a national preserve. This is when the ACLU stepped in and helped Frank Buono sue for the removal of the monument. The Park Service lost the case and the ACLU invoked the 1976 Federal civil rights law which states that the defendant may have to pay for all legal fees for both parties involved in a case. *World* 5/18/05



ACLU HELPS STUDENTS SUE SCHOOL — In Bakersfield, California, students are suing over the censorship of an article about homosexuality. The ACLU filed the suit on behalf of the students. John Gibson was the principal that edited the article. Gibson said, "It's not about gays and lesbians. It's about student safety." California's education code states that student safety may be a reason for censorship of student articles. *NewsMax* July 2005

PETA

PROTECTION OF ANIMALS?

— A recent billboard in Times Square in New York City contended that the organization known as PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) has a history of killing domesticated animals that were donated to them at their headquarters in Norfolk, VA. David Martosko who is the research director for the Center of Consumer Freedom stated, "PETA raked in nearly \$29 million last year, and much of it was from pet owners who thought their donations actually helped animals. Instead, PETA killed them, while spending millions on programs equating meat eaters with Nazis, scaring young children away from drinking milk, recruiting kids into a radical animal 'rights' lifestyle, and even defending arsonists and other violent extremists." Of all the animals that PETA received only 14 percent were adopted out to families. *Americas 1st Freedom* July 2005

TEXAS VEGETATION IN SRI LANKA

— After the tsunamis that wreaked havoc on the island of Sri Lanka last year, scientists are discovering the growth of the prickly pear cactus and mesquite trees on the island. Both plants are indigenous to

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the American Southwest. Scientists suspect that seeds from both plants were floating around the Pacific Ocean and were washed upon the island during the tsunami. The problem is that the scientists are clueless how the seeds got into the Ocean. Hmm. . . the Flood?. . . *World* 7/2/05

SENATOR ATTACKS PRESIDENT

– During the immediate aftermath of the Katrina disaster, Louisiana Senator Mary Landieu said, “If one person criticizes (Louisiana officials), or says one more thing, including the president of the United States, he will hear from me—one more word about it after this show airs and I-I might likely have to punch him-literally.” The Secret Service has not taken this threat as seriously as the comments made by former Senator Jesse Helms about President Clinton. Helms jokingly said that President Clinton “had better watch out if he comes down here. He better have a bodyguard.” The national media have not covered the threats of Senator Landieu as well as the comments by Senator Helms. This just proves that threats against the President are not received as gravely as they once were. *NewsMax.com* 9/09/05

BILL CLINTON'S INITIATIVE TO SOLVE GLOBAL POVERTY

– *NewsMax.com* (9/11/05) reports that Bill Clinton has called in several world leaders to the Clinton Global Initiative to solve the problem of global poverty. He has invited several well-known leaders such as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Prime Minister Tony Blair, and President Jacques Chirac. Other world leaders include Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo

(drained state funds into private bank accounts), Rwanda President Paul Kagame (who slaughtered thousands in the 1990s), and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni (who invaded the Democratic Republic of Congo and supported rebels in the overthrow of that government). How can all of these people solve world hunger?

FISHING AND MARRIAGE

– In *World* (9/17/05) it is reported that the California legislature has taken a bill originally written about fishing and turned it into a bill for same-sex marriage. Three Democrats and all Republicans except one who abstained voted against the bill. Assemblyman Ray Haynes said, “I didn’t think I’d ever see this while I was here.” This is the last of several times the Democrats in the state legislature has tried to pass a bill for same-sex marriage. What may not be well known are the rules that the Democrats broke in order to get the bill passed. The first is that they violated existing state law. Prop. 22 approved by nearly two-thirds of voters limits California to traditional marriage. The second is that the stated constitution says that a law passed by a referendum can only be changed by a referendum. The third is that they ignored a constitutional provision that prohibits passage of any law “that subverts the will of the people.” Governor Schwarzenegger has stated that he will veto this bill.

LOOTERS AND HELPERS

– Is America full of looters? After all of the negative news medias coverage of the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the impression that was given was that Americans were only looking after “me, myself and I.” In *World* (9/17/05), we find a listing of several

people who either wrote on the internet or were interviewed about helping clean up after the hurricane. “We are a family of five. . . We have a small room with a bed and two small dressers that we will offer to you so that you can get back on your feet.” “I am a licensed bus driver willing to go south to haul those folks out.” “I am a nurse from Cleveland.” “I am a CPR-certified health care provider.” Isn’t it good to know that there are people out there willing to help those that are in need?

VENEZUELAN TV

– A new TV station has started in Venezuela backed by the governments of Venezuela, Argentina, Uruguay, and Cuba. Hugo Chavez, the President of Venezuela, has close ties with Fidel Castro. The new network is called Telesur has also carried high praise from American actor Danny Glover, who is also on the board and a supporter of Chavez. This TV station is supposed to be an alternative to news outlets like CNN. It will probably spread anti-American sentiment throughout all of South America. *NewsMax.com* September 2005

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE UNDER ATTACK

– Atheist Michael Newdow is on the attack again trying to remove the words “under God” from the Pledge of Allegiance. If you remember, Mr. Newdow tried last year to remove these words and the case went to the Supreme Court. The case was thrown out on a technicality. This time Mr. Newdow, who is an attorney, is representing several people who want the words taken out of the pledge. Currently the case is in lower federal courts. *PacificJustice.org* 9/14/05



RELIGIOUS NEWS

AND COMMENTS

REINSTATED PASTOR – *NewsMax* reported the following in their June 18, 2005 issue. Pastor Thorkild Grosboll returned to his congregation after the Church of Denmark overturned the suspension that his bishop placed on the pastor. The bishop was concerned because Mr. Grosboll claims to be an atheist. His congregation welcomed their pastor back to the church with wine and snacks.



BOMBERS NOT RELIGIOUS – According to the July 2005 issue of *NewsMax*, most of the suicide bombings are not caused by religious motives. Robert Pape said, “The data show that there is far less of a connection between suicide terrorism and religious fundamentalism than most people think.” Mr. Pape contends that religion is a key factor for recruiting, “but is rarely the root cause.” The reason is to make “modern democracies withdraw military forces from territory the terrorists consider to be their homeland.”

JERRY SPRINGER GONE OPERA – In their July issue of this year, *Midnight Call* reports on the opera entitled “Jerry Springer.” “The Christian Institute filed a complaint before Britain’s High Court accusing the publicly funded BBC of discriminating against Christians and breaking its own charter. ‘I think this is the most offensive and spiteful show ever broadcast by the BBC,’ institute directory Colin Hart said.” The opera “features Jesus, Mary and God as guests on the Springer show, and includes hundreds of profane words. Jesus is shown wearing diapers and engaging Satan in a swearing match. . . . The BBC has defended airing the show, calling it a serious work of art lauded by critics and laden with awards.”



WCC MEETS IN GREECE – The World Council of Churches held a conference in Athens, Greece this year entitled “Mission and Evangelism.” The Most Reverend Brian Farrell, head of the Roman Catholic delegation, said, “In the end, someone has to reach out and put his hand on you and say ‘receive the Holy Spirit’.” The leadership of the WCC invited delegates from the Roman Catholic, Pentecostal, Charismatic and Evangelical sects. Dr. Michael Kinnamon, a pastor of

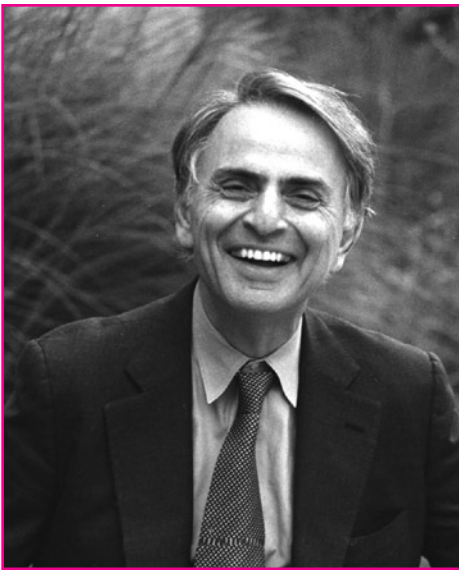
the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), said that “an ecumenical movement that does not involve conversations between people who disagree would not be an ecumenical movement. We must mature and come to understand that there are other faiths than Christianity in God’s plan for salvation.” Another delegate, Dr. Wonsuk Ma of the Asian Pentecostal Society, said that the pastor of the Yoido Full Gospel Church, Dr. David Yonggi Cho, has the right doctrine in teaching that physical healing is as important as salvation. Cho says that if God cannot heal a person, He is as useful as ancestral spirits. Ms. Viola Raheb, a delegate from the Lutheran church, said, “Violence is because Old Testament passages legitimize violence. We must turn away from the Old Testament with such passages as the fall of Jericho, and stay instead in the New Testament with its emphasis on love.” She went on to say that “there is no one in our time who ever preaches from such passages.” This theologian ignores what the writer of Hebrews said when he wrote, “By faith the wall of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.” (Heb. 11:30) Other representatives were from the Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, World Vision, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Seventh Day Adventist Churches and United Bible Societies. www.

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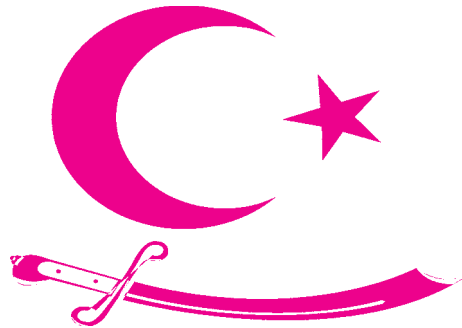
amcouncilcc.org AUG 2005 [But what about those who claim to be fundamentalists and defend Wescott and Hort's Bible?]

RELIGION IN A ZOO – The Tulsa Zoo in Oklahoma has displays on its grounds ranging from the American Indian beliefs to the Hindu. They have a marble globe displayed with an Indian proverb stating: “The earth is our mother ...the sky is our father.” Another exhibit is of the Hindu god Ganesha. Christians in the area got a petition together for the display of the Biblical account of Creation. This was accepted; but opponents fought back and overturned the decision of the board. *Answers in Genesis/September 2005*



ATHEIST AND SACRED – *TheBereanCall.org* (9/13/05) gave the following write up on Carl Sagan. “Carl Sagan, the recently deceased high priest of cosmos worship, declared that ‘any efforts to safeguard and cherish the environment need to be infused with a vision of the sacred.’ What could

an atheist have meant by ‘sacred’? Ten years earlier he had said, ‘If we must worship a power greater than ourselves, does it not make sense to revere the Sun and stars?’ No, it does not. Reverence does not pertain to things but to persons. To reverence the impersonal creation instead of personal God who created us is a perversion designed for escaping moral accountability to the Creator. God indicts those who worship the creation instead of its Creator (Rom 1:18-23); and warns of the corruption of morals and behavior which results (24-32).”



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS IMPRISONED

– Three ladies were imprisoned for teaching Muslim children from the Sunday School program “Happy Sunday.” The judge said that they were guilty of violating the Child Protection Act of 2002 for the country of Indonesia. If a child did not have parental consent, they were sent home so that the law would not be violated. The judge was influenced by threats made by Islamic extremists both inside and outside of the courtroom. Jeff Hammond of Bless Indonesia Today said, “The ladies, witnesses and judges were constantly under the threats of violence from hundreds of Islamic radicals who threatened to kill the three ladies, witnesses, pastors, missionaries

and even judges if the women were acquitted.” These three Sunday school teachers received three years for their “crime.” *NewsMax.com* 9/13/05



SCIENTISTS QUESTION EVOLUTION

– Several scientists, other than Christians, are questioning the theory of evolution that life came by chance. Creation is unacceptable to evolutionists because it appeals to a righteous God and accountability for our actions. As scientists look to the heavens, they confirm that the universe is a ‘big place.’ Instead of turning to the Creator, they believe that life exists elsewhere (belief in extraterrestrials). The proponents of the big bang theory and evolution push for this idea of evolution in other places than earth. The idea of UFO’s has also made it into our movies and television shows. The church needs to wake up and fight this current philosophy of evolution. *TheBereanCall.org* 9/13/05

“SCHULLER’S RECIPE FOR DISASTER”-

The *Calvary Contender* September 2005 reported the following on Robert Schuller. “Dr. Robert Schuller was honored by the recent NAE meeting in Colorado Springs. He said, ‘to be born again means that we must be changed from

(Continued on page 15)

A Song Outlasts Them All

On October 21, 1808 Boston, Massachusetts welcomed a new baby boy. As the boy grew, he attended the first public school in America, Boston Latin School. He proved himself to be a fine scholar, and even became quite efficient in many foreign languages. This knowledge equipped him as a first-rate translator which provided a source of income during his Harvard College days. After graduating with honors he worked in journalism. This initial career became short-lived when he followed God's call to Andover Theological Seminary to prepare for the ministry. As he pursued the ministry call, his talents of writing and languages were not forgotten. While studying in Germany in 1832, he was inspired by school children to write a poem. Each morning, the German school children began the day by singing a hymn. After compiling the poem, he adapted the tune of England's "God Save the Queen" and finished a hymn for the American classroom.

On his return to America, he became a professor of modern languages and a Baptist pastor in Waterville, Maine. By 1895, he had served as an editor, pastor, professor, translator, and secretary of the Baptist Missionary Union. Nevertheless, this vast resume is not what he is known for by today's Americans. As

described in verse by his classmate at Harvard, Oliver Wendell Holmes, he is remembered by that one hymn poem inspired by the school children.

Full many a poet's labored lines
A century's creeping waves shall hide-
The verse of people's love enshrines
Stands like a rock that breasts the tide.

Time wrecks the proudest piles we raise,
The towers, the dome, the temples fall.
The fortress crumbles and decays-
When breath of song outlasts them all.

The American classroom hymn was first performed on July 4, 1832 at Boston's Park Street Church. Boston again recognized this important contribution as they honored its author in 1895. But the hymn was sung most reverently at its authors funeral. On November 16, 1895, Samuel Francis Smith died. "AMERICA" was sung in his honor, and still today, school children across America honor their country each morning by singing Smith's poetic words. May we never forget that we live in a "Sweet land of liberty" where God Almighty is the "Author of liberty." -RWL

My country 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing.
Land where my fathers died!
Land of the Pilgrim's pride!
From every mountain side,
Let freedom ring!

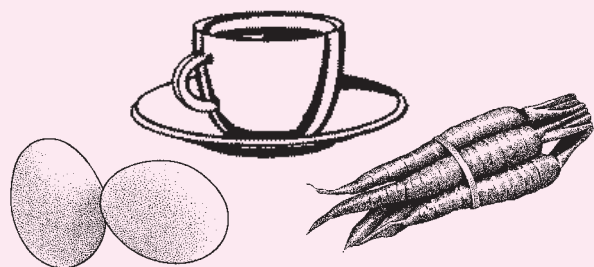
My native country, thee,
Land of the noble free,
Thy name I love.
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture fills
Like that above.



Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees
Sweet freedom's song.
Let mortal tongues awake;
Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break,
The sound prolong.

Our father's God, to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing.
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King!





You'll Never Look At A Cup Of Coffee The Same Way Again...

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life, how things were so hard for her. She didn't know how she was going to make it, and she wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as soon as one of her problems was solved, a new one popped up.

Her mother took her into her kitchen, where she filled three pots with water. In the first pot, she placed some carrots, in the second one, she placed some eggs, and in the third pot, she placed some ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil without saying a word. Then in about twenty minutes, she turned off the burners. She fished out the carrots and placed them into a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them into another bowl, and then she ladled the coffee into yet another bowl.

Turning to her complaining daughter, she asked, "Tell me, what do you see?"

"Carrots, eggs, and coffee," her daughter replied.

She brought her daughter closer, and asked her to feel the carrots. She did, and noticed that they were now soft. She told her daughter to break an egg, which she did, and after removing the shell, she saw that the egg was now hard-boiled. Finally, she told her daughter to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as she tasted the rich flavor, then asked, "What's the point, mother?"

Her mother explained that each of the three objects had faced the very same adversity, -- boiling water, -- but each had reacted differently: The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin, outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its insides became hardened. The coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water!

"Now, which are you?" she asked her daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

Think of it like this.....Which am I? Am I a carrot that appears to be strong, but with pain and adversity, do I wilt, and become soft and lose my strength? Am I an egg that starts out with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship, or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter, and tough, with a stiff spirit and a hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually **CHANGES THE WATER!!** The bean gets hot and it releases its fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better.....and change the situation around you! When the hours are the darkest, and trials are their greatest, do you elevate to the next level? How do you handle adversity?

ARE YOU A CARROT, AN EGG, OR A COFFEE BEAN?

Coffee, anyone?

-Unknown



WHY ENGLISH IS SO HARD TO LEARN

Here are a few examples of words, spellings, and the English language:

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce produce.
3. The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
4. We must polish the Polish furniture.
5. When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
6. They were too close to the door to close it.
7. The insurance was invalid for the invalid.

(Continued from page 2)

Lord, safety, good health, and finances.

6. A trip to India and Venezuela is in the making for Bro. Williamson. This will be a support and blessing for missionaries that The Voice in the Wilderness is assisting.

7. Several printing projects are on the table. Ask for our Lord's timing and wisdom in this area.

Your partnership in prayer is a must. Please, each and every day lift The Voice in the Wilderness before our Lord. We treasure your prayers, and daily the Lord answers in amazing ways. God bless you for

ministering to us. Read Colossians 4:12 which says, "Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye stand perfect and complete in all the will of God." Your prayer support is so precious.

Thanksgiving is far more than an annual calendar date. We should daily present our thanksgiving to our Lord. He is worthy. Then, of course, each year Bro. Royce always gave *The Voice in the Wilderness* readers opportunity to share a financial gift with this missionary work. So as usual we have enclosed an envelope to assist you with your gift.

Thank you so very much for your friendship and faithfulness. To God be the Glory for it all. Amen!

For Christ and Souls,
Bro. Ronnie - Isa. 40:31

Happy Trails



PS – The true Christian has:

A MIND
through which Christ thinks,
A VOICE
through which Christ speaks,
A HEART
through which Christ loves,
A HAND
through which Christ helps.

(Continued from page 5)

if they are spies. This reaction should only last for a short time and is purely political but other side affects have taken place. I have been verbally assaulted several times while going door to door. Several people have said that I am an imperialist from the US or work for the CIA. Many church groups have announced the need to make sure that their churches have been registered as nonprofit organizations and have all financial records in order in case of a necessary investigation by the government. If the Venezuelan government does start to pressure the churches it could mean persecution to some. Please pray that there will be continued peace in Venezuela and that the Church will not be pressured by the government. We have started meetings throughout the week in two mission churches. Please pray that soon we will see ordained men continuing the work with these churches.



"THEN WHY DON'T WE PRAY?"

The highest privilege ever afforded to man is the power of prayer.

...then why don't we pray?

The right to talk to the highest potentate in all the universe...

...then why don't we pray?

The most powerful force accessible to man is the potential of prayer...

...then why don't we pray?

The greatest longing in the heart of God is to talk to His children...

...then why don't we pray?

Nothing is impossible to those who pray...

...then why don't we pray?

No man ever fainted or faltered who gave himself to prayer...

...then why don't we pray?

Every sin is forgiven, every stain is washed clean, all guilt diminished to the man who prays...

...then why don't we pray?

Hell moves farther away, Satan flees from the man who prays...

...then why don't we pray?

Anointing will come, mountains will be moved, valleys made smooth, rivers made crossable, the inaccessible made accessible, the impossible made possible, dreams come through to the man who prays...

...then why don't we pray?

Jesus said that men ought always to pray...

...then why don't we pray?

-Unknown

(Continued from page 11)

a negative to a positive self-image. ' He said, 'There are some things in the Bible I cannot swallow, but you get saved, not by the Book but by the blood.''' (Does he not believe that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God. . .")

CHURCH OR RODEO – At Happy Trails Cowboy Church in Taylorsville, NC, one may find himself in the middle of a rodeo. Pastor Don Martin said, "I wear a Western-style shirt, jeans, and cowboy hat and boots, and we meet in an arena used for rodeo events. The only time I take my hat off is when I'm praying." His is not the only church the Southern Baptists call an "affinity church." Pastor Gary Davis has a church in Denver, Colorado that caters to people who like motorcycles. "We don't care if you're wearing a suit or a T-shirt and jeans. What we care

about is the condition of the heart," said Mr. Davis. Other denominations have also joined the "affinity church" movement. The Methodists are also moving to get involved in this area as well with over 200 starting last year. *NewsMax September 2005*

DOES PRAYER HELP? – The *Midnight Call* October 2005 reported the following on prayer and sickness. "The study of more than 700 heart patients, one of the most ambitious attempts to test the medicinal power of prayer, showed that those who had people praying for them from a distance, and without their knowledge, were no less likely to suffer a major complication, end up back in the hospital. For the latest study, Mitchell Krucoff, a cardiologist at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, NC, and his colleagues designed a complicated experiment

involving 748 patients who underwent treatment at nine hospitals around the country for heart problems between 1999 and 2002. The researchers enlisted 12 congregations of various Christian denominations, Jews, Muslims and Buddhists around the world to pray for some of the patients, giving them names, ages and descriptions of the illness. The first quarter had people praying for them. The second quarter received a nontraditional treatment known as music, imagery and touch (MIT) therapy, which involved breathing techniques, soothing music, touch and other ways to relieve stress, such as imagining calming images. The third group received both prayer and the therapy, and the fourth received nothing. Overall, there was no difference among the four groups, the researchers are reporting in the *Lancet* medical journal."



SCREAMS AND SQUEALS AT 30 THOUSAND FEET

No, it wasn't the panic of horrified passengers, even though the gentleman on the aisle seat was about to have a screaming fit of his own. My wife and I were leaving Dallas en route to Atlanta after visiting with the founder of The Voice in the Wilderness, Dr. J. Royce Thomason. Boarding the plane with us and seated across the aisle one row back was a mother with two very small children. A man, no relation to the woman, occupied the aisle seat with the mother in the middle seat. Belted securely in mother's lap was her toddler. Then in the window seat was the second daughter. From the beginning to the end of this two hour flight a steady barrage of screams, squeals, and tantrum cries filled section six of that 757. Passengers repeatedly cut annoyed, glaring looks at the very noisy two. It was, to say the least, a very unpleasant flight for those seated next to and around the disruption. Now, numerous observations could be gleaned from this tedious experience: 1) What was that dear mother thinking? 2) Speaking of crowd, I mean child-control! But the point here is this – No matter the circumstances, surroundings, or persistent looks from fellow passengers, the screams and squeals were never intimidated. Are we ever like that tiny human being? Throwing a life temper tantrum when things don't go our way? Do we ever desire life's discomforts and painful impositions? Very few kneel in prayer requesting troubles, trials, and tribulation. Yes, I have witnessed those with such grace and sweetness of spirit travel through some awful storms. But all too often the bumps, bruises, and scars leave behind ugliness. For the child of God this need not be so. Better not bitter, sweet not sour should rule. This screaming, squealing, kicking routine is no way to fly. It may be a different journey we prefer, but buckle your seat belt of truth, relax your feet in the slippers of peace, and recline back in the arms of Jesus. He is the shelter in the time of storm. Soon our Captain will turn the seat belt sign off and we will be free to move about Heaven.

-RLW




Nuggets of Gold

1. Giving help to the enemy used to be called treason – now it is called foreign aid.
2. Facts are troublesome things to the evildoer.
3. The newest fad diet on the market today - "No more, thank you!"
4. Truth angers those whom it does not fully convince.
5. For some people a new idea hurts their mind the same as new shoes hurt their feet.
6. For every minute you're angry, you lose sixty seconds of happiness.
7. You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.



WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PUMPKIN PIE?

Not even a year after their establishment of a new homeland, the colonist came together to give thanks to God for providing an abundant harvest from their new land. This three-day feast did not include a couch and TV, but a simple table spread with the available food supply and chairs seated with grateful laborers. Today this national holiday has been sandwiched between “Candy Day” and Christmas. It seems to only signify the beginning of the holiday shopping season, and even that is changing year-by-year. Now, as September welcomes the coming of autumn, stores begin stocking their shelves with aisles of candy for Halloween and SECTIONS of holiday paraphernalia for Christmas. What happened to the Pumpkin pie? We seemed to have subtly skipped what the first colonist remembered – PRAYER and THANKFULNESS. Like little children, we all enjoy the “GET” holidays, yet we must remember that all we receive comes from the Lord. “In everything give thanks for this is the will of God.” With all that America affords today surely we can find many things that the pilgrims did not have the privilege of being thankful for. Reflect on the following interesting facts, and give glory to God for all that He has supplied for our country. 

1621

Historians believe that the Pilgrims enjoyed venison or roasted turkey (fowl).

Sugar was limited, therefore the only sweet food items Pilgrims may have cooked was wheat pudding.

Cod, eel, clams, lobster, goose, duck, crane, swan, partridge, and eagles were common sources for dinner meats.

Pumpkin pie was not a common recipe in the 1620s.

Sweet potatoes/potatoes were not common during this time.

Today

Minnesota raised 45.5 million turkeys in 2003. North Carolina produced 45 million.

Wisconsin is the leading state producer of cranberries, with 305 million pounds.

The average American consumes 13.8 pounds of turkey a year.

791 million pounds of pumpkins were produced in 2002.

In 2002 the US grew 1.3 billion pounds of sweet potatoes.

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