



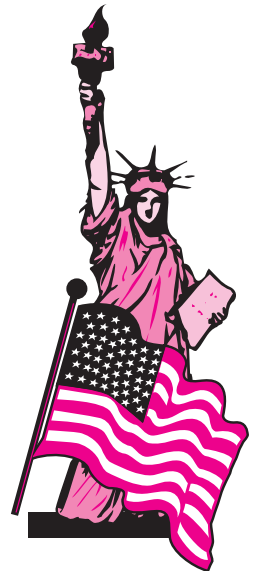
CONTENDING FOR
FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIANITY

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

December 2005

God's Highest Glory

LUKE 2:7-20

Down through the ages God's glory revealed,
The glory of a Babe in a manger concealed,
The plan of redemption, God's answer to man,
Was glory in the highest, very highest to span.
From everlasting to everlasting, there's none to compare
Good tidings were brought; no longer despair.

Suddenly there was with the angel, behold!
A multitude of the heavenly host we're told.
Glory to God in the highest this day,
Peace on the earth the angels did say.
Good will toward men, as they went on their way,
And the shepherds did find where the little Babe lay.

Glorifying God for all they had seen,
The shepherds returned to their labors serene.
Praising God for the truth of His Holy Word,
They made known abroad the sayings they heard!
Glory to God in the highest we resound,
The Saviour is born, God's love doth abound!

(In Memory of Bob Hazard - A friend of The Voice in the Wilderness)

To all Voice
Subscribers:
Thank You
for a
Great 2005 in
Gospel Ministry!

Happy Birthday, Bro. Royce





MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends:

Love, giving, thanks, singing, smiles, praise, worship, family and church events – all are words that describe this time of the year for me. Tis true, everyday should be a day of thanksgiving and no, December 25th is not the day of Christ's birth. Yet it does seem that during November and December, the church has an open door of opportunity to reach out to the lost, the discouraged, the down and outer with good will toward men.

Daniel Webster was asked, "What is the greatest thought that ever passed through your mind?" Webster answered, "My accountability to God." The apostle wrote, "I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel."

As this year comes to a close, let us give account of the effort we have made to tell the world about Jesus. Paul said "as much as in me." Maybe you are not outgoing, talented or good looking.

Maybe you stutter, you are shy and not good with words. Are you weak, sick or in a nursing home? Well, "as much as in you" share the glorious message that Jesus saves. May the close of 2005 find us sowing in tears, sharing the good news, and singing His praises that a lost sheep has come home.

It is our choice – Christlike or Critical, Better or Bitter, Sweet or Sour, Givers or Getters, Thankful or Thankless. We will give account. May our Account be full of good works to the Glory of God!

Steve and Rebekah are praying for an early 2006 departure for Venezuela. The Aquila/ Priscilla Ministry (APM) is already a blessing. Thanks to all who have given financially to provide for APM. You have been very generous. Pray that the apartment needs in Venezuela and expenses for their stay in Venezuela continue to come in.

To the many who have prayed for us, phoned, sent cards, and given generously to this missionary work – God Bless you all. May this time of

the year be especially blessed. Your friendship and partnership is deeply appreciated. Amen and praise the Lord.

Happy Trails!
For Christ and Souls,



Ronnie L. Williamson
Isa. 40:31

PS - SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST
Many subscribers will remember our long time friend Raj (Dr.) Singh in Calcutta, India. I received a letter from Bro. Singh's daughter requesting prayer for her Dad's illness and hospitalization. If you are able to check our website, you noticed that we placed a prayer request on that site. Well, just before this issue went to press, I received a second letter informing me of Bro. Singh's passing. I ask you to please remember this dear family in prayer.

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!

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.

THAT THOU MIGHTEST KNOW THE CERTAINTY OF THOSE THINGS, WHEREIN THOU HAST BEEN INSTRUCTED. - LUKE 1:4

THE CERTAINTY OF THOSE THINGS!

Are you CERTAIN? Are you absolutely, without a shadow of doubt, CERTAIN about what you have witnessed, what you believe, what you have been taught? Daily an enormous amount of information is disseminated. After all is this not the information age? Yet could it be you only have one side of the story or a part of the total picture? Be careful. For as Paul Harvey says you may need to hear “the Rest of the Story.”

Please take just a moment to read the following found in the Bible, Luke chapter one and verses one through four:

1. Forasmuch as many have taken



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Contributions, Address Changes,
New Subscriptions,*

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in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,

2. Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;

3. It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,

4. That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.

**Some are shut up in
Doubting Castle and do not
know with God nothing is
impossible.**

Charles Spurgeon wrote: “Say some, ‘Tell us how to discern truth.’ You may judge it by three things: by God, by Christ, and by man; that is, the truth which honors God, the truth which glorifies Christ, and the truth which humbles man.”

Yes, our report, speech, and testimony should honor God. Truth should honor God. Why occupy your time and waste the time of

others with something that does not honor God? Then certainly all we say and do should glorify Christ. Truth should glorify Christ. Then Mr. Spurgeon says, “truth which humbles man.” Possibly the motive is to humiliate, shame or even destroy. Is that speaking the truth in love?

The Gospel of my Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ is True! Absolutely, without a shadow of doubt as Dr. Luke writes “thou mightest know the certainty of those things, where in thou hast been instructed.” I read where one prominent archaeologist carefully examined Luke’s references to 32 countries, 54 cities, and 9 islands, and he did not find a single mistake. Herein read with confidence and know the truth “the certainty of those things!”

Ponder just a moment the confidence, THE CERTAINTY you can have in God’s Word. Some place confidence in “Science,” medicine, government, man, and even themselves. Yet did you know... Men once said the earth was flat, BUT the BIBLE says in Isaiah 40:22, “It is He that sitteth upon the **circle** of the earth...” and now men agree with the BIBLE that the earth

(Continued on page 4)



“The Spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions, and the nearer we get to Him the more intensely missionary we become.” -Unknown

(Continued from page 3)

is a sphere, not flat. Stargazers once said there were 1,100 stars. Have you ever read Jeremiah 33:22? The Bible says, “As the host of heaven **cannot be numbered**, neither the sand of the sea measured...” And some of those poor ignorant people thought all those stars were the same, that light was fixed in one place, and that the Earth sat on a large animal. I guess they never read the BIBLE! “There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars, for **one star differeth from another star in glory**” (I Cor. 15:41). Then Job 38:19, 20 states: “Where is the way where light dwelleth? And as for darkness, where is the place thereof, that thou shouldest take it to the bound thereof, and that thou shouldest know the paths to the house thereof?” Then “He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing” is found in Job 26:7. Isn’t it amazing that scientist have finally caught up on a few things. If they had just read the BIBLE they would have known the stars are different, light does indeed move and, no, the earth does not sit on some big animal. Can you believe scientist thought air had no weight (but Job 28:25 says – “to make the **weight** for the winds”) and “Science” once said winds blew in a straight line (“The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits” – records Eccl. 1:6). Okay, so scientists don’t know everything.

Now that is true! For the longest time these brilliant minds did not know things were made of things man could not see – like atoms. But the BIBLE did. “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear” (Hebrews 11:3). And get this! It was once thought that the ocean floor was flat and only fed by rivers and rain. But wait just one minute. The Bible says, “And the channels of the sea appeared” (I Samuel 22:16) and when Jonah was in the midst of the sea, he said, “The waters compassed me about,... I went down to the bottoms of the mountains;...” (Jonah 2:5,6). Wow – did you know that doctors would bleed sick people and wash their hands in still water all to the harm of those they intended to help? Yet again, if these doctors had only consulted the Book written by the GREAT PHYSICIAN. Leviticus 17:11 says “For the life of the flesh is in the blood.” Leviticus 15:13 states “And when he that hath an issue is cleansed of his issue, then he shall number to himself seven days for his cleansing, and wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in **running water**, and shall be clean.”

Now, go back to Luke chapter one. It is here that we are given the most detailed account of events proceeding that divine event – “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” Read Luke chapters one and two. Here my heart and soul and mind are lifted to the heights. Listen to these words:

“...thou shalt have joy and gladness...”
 “...many shall rejoice at His birth...”
 “He shall be called the Son of the Highest...”
 “...the power of the Highest...”
 “...with God nothing shall be impossible...”
 “My soul doth magnify the Lord...”
 “...my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour...”
 “...the glory of the Lord shone ‘round about them...”
 “...good tidings of great joy...”
 “Glory to God in the highest...”
 “...peace, good will toward men...”
 “...glorifying and praising God...”
 “His name shall be called Jesus...”
 “...mine eyes have seen thy salvation...”

Some stay in the Slough of Despond and never see the steps of promise. Some are shut up in Doubting Castle and do not know with God nothing is impossible.

Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh
 The Prince of Peace
 Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty
 God, the Everlasting Father
 They that sat in darkness hath
 Seen a Great LIGHT
 Glory to God in the Highest!

Remember Simeon’s words “mine eyes have seen thy salvation.” Try standing and staring up to the heaven. Look, Look, and Look some more. Soon your neck will hurt, your eyes will blur and you will become weak and dizzy. Continue to Look for God when He has come to us – Emmanuel, God with us. Mine eyes have seen thy salvation. Glory to God in the Highest!

Of these things I am CERTAIN!

-RLW



“I know there are those who recognize Christmas Day as the birthday of a wise teacher... And then there are others of us who believe that He was the Son of God, that He was divine.” - Ronald Reagan, 1983

The Voice IN THE Wilderness

AN INTERVIEW WITH BRO. WILLIAMSON



Bro. Lilly

Bro. Williamson

By Steve Lilly

In June 2005, Rebekah and I moved from South Carolina to North Carolina, rented an apartment and started our ministry with The Voice in the Wilderness. It was "hit the ground running." Most could never imagine all the hours and details that go into this missionary effort. For the past six months, we have been learning the day-to-day operation and office administration. It has been an education just being involved in the production of The Voice in the Wilderness publication. Then, what a joy to speak and present the work in eight different local churches over these past few months.

The following is an interview I conducted with Bro. Williamson

which also gives a brief update on The Voice in the Wilderness ministry. On behalf of Rebekah and me, thank you ALL for supporting and praying for The Voice in the Wilderness ministry.

Interview:

Bro. Lilly – First let me say thank you for the opportunity to serve with The Voice in the Wilderness Ministry.

Bro. Williamson – Terry and I appreciate you both and it's good to have you aboard. It is our prayer that the Lord will use the Aquila/Priscilla Ministry (APM) in a mighty way for His glory.

Bro. Lilly – How did you become acquainted with The Voice in the Wilderness?

Bro. Williamson – In the early

1970s I was attending a pastors' conference. At the host church *The Voice in the Wilderness* publication was distributed. It was there I first began to subscribe to *The Voice in the Wilderness* magazine. Years later I got to know Dr. J. Royce Thomason personally when he preached at our local church.

Bro. Lilly - When did the Lord open the door for you to begin ministry with The Voice in the Wilderness?

Bro. Williamson – It has been 10 years ago. Dr. Thomason first phoned me in 1995. He asked me to pray about coming to Dallas and working with The Voice in the Wilderness with the intent of assuming leadership. In 1995, I met with The Voice in the Wilderness board and also wrote my first articles for the magazine. My wife and I prayed about the decision for a year before accepting Dr. Thomason's invitation. Then in October 1996, we moved to Dallas, TX.

Bro. Lilly – What was involved in the move of the corporate office from Texas to North Carolina?

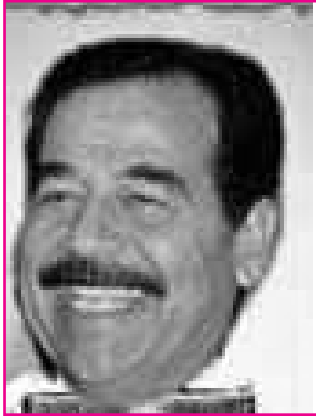
Bro. Williamson – Much prayer went into the relocation effort. Back in 1995, upon meeting with Dr. Thomason and the board, discussions were about the relocation of The Voice in the Wilderness corporate office. We prayed and visited areas of

(Continued on page 14)

"A scientist said, 'The very best way to send an idea is to wrap it up in a person.' That was what happened at Christmas. The idea of divine love was wrapped up in a Person." – H. Luccock

NEWS BITS

FROM HERE AND THERE



STEPHANOPOULOS SUPPORTED KILLING SADDAM

- In 1997, fresh from his influential White House post, George Stephanopoulos devoted an entire column in *Newsweek* to the topic of whether the U.S. should take out Saddam Hussein. The headline: "Why We Should Kill Saddam."

"Assassination may be Clinton's best option," the future *This Week* host urged. "If we can kill Saddam, we should."

Stephanopoulos added, "We've exhausted other efforts to stop him, and killing him certainly seems more proportionate to his crimes and discriminate in its effect than massive bombing raids that will inevitably kill innocent civilians."

[Did you ever hear a firestorm of media outrage after Clinton's adviser suggested assassination? But what if the liberal media does not like your politics or religion?]

While televangelist Pat Robertson has apologized for his remarks, a former military man and an ex-CIA operative says that his concerns about Chavez aren't exactly unwarranted. Retired Col. David Hunt said on Bill Bennett's radio program that "Chavez is a dangerous guy," and former CIA operative Wayne Simmons said on Fox News Channel's "Hannity & Colmes," of Chavez: "He should have been killed a long time ago." *NewsMax October 2005*

POLL: 49% SAY COHABITATION ACCEPTABLE - (According to a "Faith and Family in America" poll released on Oct. 19.) Although three-quarters of the 1,130 adults polled this summer agreed that "God's plan for marriage is one man one woman, for life," the amount of adults who are single - 50% - is at a record high, according to the survey.

According to the poll, only 22 percent of the populace say divorce is a sin, and 49 percent say cohabitation is acceptable.

Fifty-five percent agreed with the statement "Love is what makes a family, and it doesn't matter if parents are gay or straight, married or single." *The Washington Times 2005.*



WATCH OUT FOR HILLARY

- Hillary Clinton is up for re-election as Senator for New York. The problem is that when she last campaigned for this office, she failed to report almost \$2 million in campaign contributions. The *Judicial Watch* (Sept. 2005) has announced that this time around they will be monitoring Mrs. Clinton's campaign. Tom Fitton, president of *Judicial Watch*, said, "When one considers all of the serious campaign finance violations involving both Clintons, the need for such a program becomes obvious." An aside to this is the sentencing of former Clinton National Security Advisor Sandy Berger. On July 8, Mr. Berger was to be sentenced for stealing classified documents from the National Archives. The prosecutors have requested that Mr. Berger pay a \$10,000 fine and removal of his security clearance temporarily. No jail time.

(Continued on page 7)



If you worry, you don't pray. If you pray, don't worry.

(Continued from page 6)

STEM CELL RESEARCH THREATENS WOMEN'S HEALTH

– After more than 20 years, embryonic stem cell research has not yielded a single cure. During this same time, adult stem cells have been used to treat people with heart disease, Parkinson's disease, spinal cord injuries and at least 50 other documented conditions.

In the United States, there are 17 million diabetes patients. In a report on therapeutic cloning in mice published in the 2003 *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA*, scientist Peter Membaerts found that, based on cloning experiments done in mice, if the same model could be developed for human cloning, each cure for each patient would require 10 to 100 human eggs. To treat the 17 million American diabetes patients, we would need 170 million to 1.7 billion human eggs.

On average, a woman undergoing ovarian hyperstimulation releases 10 to 12 eggs per treatment. In other words, somewhere between 17 million and 170 million women would be required to donate their eggs. According to the 2000 census, there are about 60 million American women of reproductive age.

The reality is that millions of women will be required to provide eggs. Women whose eggs are harvested undergo a long, uncomfortable, painful and potentially dangerous process called ovarian hyperstimulation.

Women have also died from egg harvesting. Knowing this, most

women would not consent to egg harvesting unless they felt they had no choice.

Endorsing any form of legislation supporting embryonic stem cell research means putting thousands of women at risk of serious illness, disability or even death. *Excerpts from Human Events 2005.*

OUR BORDER – NON CONTROL

– MS-13, a gang founded in El Salvador and known for smuggling drugs and immigrants across the U.S./Mexico border, could be bringing terrorists with them on those well-worn trails. "Al-Qaida has offered MS-13 about \$250,000 to smuggle 'high value al-Qaida operatives across the border'," says Rep. Solomon Ortiz.



The FBI recently estimated that there are up to 30,000 MS-13s already in the United States. The notorious MS-13 aside, illegal immigrants from a host of countries are pouring in. So far in the current fiscal year, some 142,500 so-called (OTMs - Other Than Mexican) nationals have been caught. In the special Arizona effort described above, 3,004 OTMs were detained in 2004, alone.

About 70 percent of OTMs are released. Predictably, few show up for immigration hearings. Even those from countries on terrorist watch lists are set free after 180-day detention.

Who's Paying the Bill for Illegals?

- Studies in Washington estimate that illegal aliens have cost U.S. workers \$133 billion in job losses.

- Caring for illegal aliens – with food stamps and medical benefits, for instance – costs \$65 billion annually.

- More than 25 percent of the prisoners in our federal prisons are illegal aliens, and the cost is \$900 million per year to feed and house them.

- Border states bear the burial costs of illegals that die trying to reach the U.S.

- The Centers for Disease Control reported 38,291 California cases of tuberculosis that included Multiple Drug Resistant Tuberculosis, which is 60 percent fatal and for which treatment costs \$200,000 to \$1,200,000 per patient. Illegal aliens are also bringing in syphilis, gonorrhea and dreaded leprosy. Some 7,000 new cases of leprosy in three years have crossed over from Mexico, India and Brazil.

- Hospitals and doctors are fined up to \$50,000 for refusing to treat. Needless to say, this unfunded federal mandate has caused dozens of hospitals to go bankrupt.

[If as a taxpayer this infuriates you, just read on.]

- Nine states – California, Illinois, Kansas, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and Washington – allow illegal immigrants who grew up in the state to attend public colleges at in-state tuition rates.

- Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich,

(Continued on page 12)

Silence is often misinterpreted, but never misquoted.



Special Christmas Greetings from Our Families to Yours...

Someday soon we will have all eternity to *Praise our Lord and Saviour* together. What a blessed time of fellowship never to be separated again. Until that day, may we as labourers together be found faithful to all He has called us to do.

As a subscriber to *The Voice in the Wilderness* you learn about various mission fields each month. Many pray regularly for our brothers and sisters around the world serving Christ so faithfully. Some are able to give financially to help with the support of those dedicated missionaries. From our heart to yours - **Thank You** so very much. May our Lord's continued provision be evident in your life



*May our Lord bless
you and your family
richly. Thank you for
caring and sharing.*

Luke 2

*Terry and Ronnie
Williamson
The Voice in the
Wilderness*

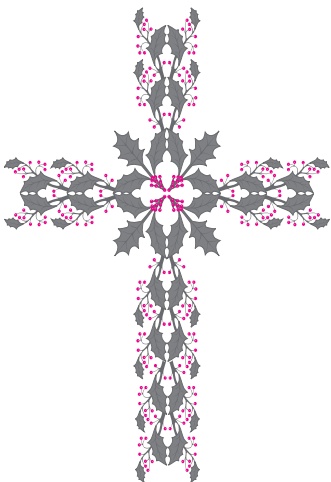
*Thank you all for
making us so welcomed
as a part of this
ministry. God Bless.*

Isaiah 9:6

*Rebekah and Steve
Lilly
Aquila and Priscilla
Ministry*



What Is CHRISTmas?



*"Christmas is for children,"
We oft hear people say,
Ignorant, apparently,
Of the meaning of the day,*

*Christmas isn't Santa Claus
With all his toys and prizes,
Nor is it decorated trees
And gifts of many sizes.*

*Christmas isn't ornaments,
Which once a year are seen,
Or candles on the table top
With colors red and green.*

*Christmas isn't singing carols
Or seeing cards are sent,
Though these are important, too
A deeper meaning's meant.*

*Christmas is to celebrate
The blessed Christ-child's birth,
To bless the day in human form
God's Son came to this earth.*

*Christmas is (at least should be)
A day for everyone,
To praise the Father for His Gift
Of Jesus Christ, His Son.*

*Yes, Christmas is for everyone
Let's all keep that in mind,
It isn't just for children.
Christ came to save mankind.*

-Unknown



There is no key to happiness... The door is always open.

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DONOR FATIGUE

Due to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, gas price increases, and other disaster events, the Red Cross has had to borrow a huge sum of money to continue relief operations. Contributions have dropped and many organizations attribute it to "Donor Fatigue." We have been in two churches in recent weeks where the Sunday bulletin reported deficits in budget. I know

people, yea, even God's people, can grow weary in well doing and especially get tired of constantly being asked for money. The Voice in the Wilderness has been blessed to have friends and partners in ministry that faithfully and generously give to this missionary and printing ministry. November and December are critical months in which a large portion of

the annual financial need is met, making up any summer short fall, and positioning The Voice in the Wilderness for a new year. From our heart to yours **THANK YOU** so very much for those who have been so kind to share God's blessings with The Voice in the Wilderness. May God Bless you richly!

Your year-end gift to The Voice in the Wilderness will provide for the publishing of this printed missionary and the Gospel outreach. Thank you so very much for your generous support enabling The Voice in the Wilderness to finish this year and start 2006 on a sound financial footing. Have a joyous CHRISTmas!

GOSPEL ABC'S

Acept the Bible's written assessment: "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one." Romans 3:10

Admit man's attitude: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Romans 3:23

Acknowledge your own aversion: "For if when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son..." Romans 5:10

By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned;" Romans 5:12

But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith which we preach;..." Romans 10:8

Believest thou this?"

Confess with thy mouth...

Call in Faith...

Commit your heart, your all..." Romans 10:9, 13

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner and Jesus died on the cross, shedding His blood and rose from the grave for me. Forgive me of my sins and thank you for salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen."

Children, like canoes, behave better if paddled from the rear.

RELIGIOUS NEWS

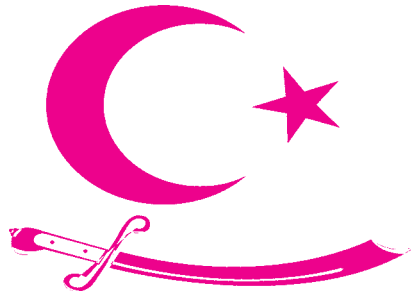
AND COMMENTS



RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION OF THE U.S. SUPREME COURT

– Mr. Bush, do you remember the crisis of the Supreme Court? Are we missing a lifetime opportunity? Below is a chart that reflects what the religious affiliation of the Supreme Court will be if (at this writing 11/1/05) O'Connor is out and Alito is voted in:

Justice Roberts	Catholic
Justice Breyer	Jewish
Justice Ginsburg	Jewish
Justice Kennedy	Catholic
Justice Scalia	Catholic
Justice Souter	Episcopalian
Justice Stevens	Protestant
Justice Thomas	Catholic
Alito	Catholic



ISLAM HAS RIGID REQUIREMENTS

– Far from being a religion of tolerance, Islam has rigid requirements of its adherents as a recently release fatwa (decree) in Indonesia shows. (*Jakarta Post*, 30/7/2005) The 11 fatwas:

1. Religious teachings influenced by pluralism, liberalism and secularism are against Islam. The fatwa states the Muslims must consider their religion to be the one true religion, and to consider other faiths as wrong.
2. Ahmadiyah, an Islamic group that does not recognize Muhammad as the last prophet, is a heretical sect, and its followers are murtad (apostate).
3. Mixed marriages between people of different faiths are haram (forbidden under Islamic law).
4. Women are forbidden from leading prayers when men are present in the congregation. Women are only allowed to lead prayers in an all-female assemblage.
5. Joint prayers performed with

people of other faiths are not recognized in Islam. Saying "Amen" to prayers led by a non-Muslim is haram.

6. Islamic law on inheritance is not applicable for non-Muslim family members.
7. Islam recognizes capital punishment for serious criminal offenses and the state can apply such punishments in the judiciary system.
8. Engaging, believing and practicing in shamanism and fortunetelling are forbidden. The publication and dissemination of these practices, such as through television shows, are also considered haram.
9. Determining goodness for the public under sharia must not violate Islamic texts, and the only institutions that have the right to determine such goodness are those possessing sharia competence.
10. Any violation of intellectual property rights (HKI) is haram. HKIs that are protected under Islamic law are those that do not go against sharia.
11. The government cannot revoke the ownership of a person's personal property arbitrarily or by coercion.

The Berean Call.Sept.2005

(Continued on page 11)



*It is not what you eat between Christmas and New Years, although, that you cannot be-little.
It is what you eat between New Years and Christmas, that gives you the fat around the middle.*

(Continued from page 10)

MISSIONARY DOLLARS

– This was a note from an American missionary about young nationals who have been saved and now train in a Bible Institute. This is a way for churches and individuals to make a huge impact on the field with limited missionary dollars.

If you would like to help spread the Gospel and multiply results for your giving to missions, there is a unique opportunity to do so by helping to support these young people in their preparations. National missionaries and Pastors can do the same job that many missionaries are doing with less problems. They know the culture, language and climate; things that foreign missionaries often struggle with. There are doors open to nationals that are closed to foreigners, such as restricted areas. The Nationals normally live on 25 to 30% of the salary of a US missionary. The chances of a National missionary leaving the field are much less than for foreigners. For about \$2,000 a year we can send a single person to Bible Institute. That pays all tuition and room and board for a year. It is a great investment in the Gospel that will continue to be felt long after we can no longer carry on. Please consider this as an opportunity to spread the Gospel.

PETERSON – AUTHOR OF “THE MESSAGE”

– “The importance of poetry and novels is that the Christian life involves the use of the imagination, after all, we are dealing with the invisible. And, imagination is our training in

dealing with the invisible, making connections...

I don’t want to do away with or denigrate theology or exegesis, but our primary allies in this business are the artists...why do people spend so much time studying the Bible? How much do you need to know? We invest all this time in understanding the text which has a separate life of its own and we think we’re being more pious and spiritual when we’re doing it....[Christians] should be studying it less, not more. You just need enough to pay attention to God.... I’m just not at all pleased with all that Christians do, and the more they do the better.” [*A Conversation with Eugene Peterson, Mars Hill Review, Fall 1995, Issue No. 3: pgs 73-90.*]

[TBC: It is shocking, but not surprising, that Peterson esteems Bible study so little. While claiming to be a Greek and Hebrew scholar on one hand, Peterson regularly abandons definitions from Strong’s (and other trusted sources) for his own poetic “translation” into today’s “lingo.” That such carelessness is applauded by leading evangelicals is astounding. Peterson is much more careful with his interviews today – but these earlier comments reveal his rationale for taking such “creative liberty” with Scripture in his corrupted “paraphrase” of God’s Word called “The Message.” Peterson says, “imagination is our training in dealing with the invisible.” What an astounding contradiction of God’s Word! (which says): “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman

that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15): “All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).]

The Berean Call. Aug. 2005.



SCHOOL DISTRICT ACKNOWLEDGES MISTAKE, REFUNDS RENTAL FEES TO CHURCH -

Like many new congregations, a new church leased space in a Sacramento high school for its Sunday morning services. Until recently, the school charged the church higher rental fees than were charged to other non-profit organizations, solely because of the church’s religious nature. Concerned about this differing treatment, the church contacted Pacific Justice Institute. PJI lawyers wrote to the school explaining the unconstitutionality of the school’s actions and warning of legal recourse should officials persist in requiring higher fees from churches than from other groups.

To its credit, the school acknowledged the church’s right to

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Perhaps the best Yuletide decoration is being wreathed in smiles

(Continued from page 7)

a Democrat, recently signed a bill to provide greater protection for day laborers, many of whom are illegal immigrants.

- A Nevada state court ruled that illegal immigrants who work on public works projects must be paid as much as workers who are U.S. citizens.
 - Earlier this year, Washington state lawmakers reversed course and revived a law that provides health care to illegal immigrant children.
 - Currently, a handful of states – including California and Massachusetts, New York and Washington – provide non-emergency medical care to children, regardless of immigration status. Other states provide blanket pre-natal care to expectant mothers. [It seems the U.S. has a mess on its hands. One side says "get tough." The other side says "Welcome!"]
- NewsMax October 2005.*



CHINA OUTLAWS SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN

- China's national legislature has outlawed sexual harassment and vowed to work toward equality between men and women. The legislature also passed a measure that will for the first time outlaw sexual harassment of women. China's state media reports that the legislation, which goes into effect December 1, will give women the right to "lodge complaints," but was vague on penalties.



The Angels Sing This Month In History

The same year twenty-one-year-old George Washington was fighting in the French and Indian War, a Christmas carol became popular. It was written by Charles Wesley, born on the eighteenth day of this month in 1707. He was the brother of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, and together they served as missionaries among the Indians and settlers in Georgia. Charles Wesley's Christmas carol, written in 1753, begins:

*"Hark the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem."*



HIS DAD'S GREATEST GIFT

A young, successful attorney said: "The greatest gift I ever received was a gift I got one Christmas when my dad gave me a small box. Inside was a note saying, *Son, this year I will give you 365 hours, an hour every day after dinner. It's yours. We'll talk about what you want to talk about; we'll go where you want to go, play what you want to play. It will be your hour!*" "My dad not only kept his promise," he said, "but every year he renewed it – and it's the greatest gift I ever had in my life. I am the result of his time."



If there is no joyous way to give a festive gift, give love away.

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equal treatment and recently sent a check to the church, refunding nearly three thousand dollars in unjustified fees.

Brad Dacus, President of Pacific Justice Institute, commented, "Churches today are encountering a host of obstacles to getting their message out." *Pacific Justice Institute*. Oct/2005

CHURCH PROMOTES PEACE BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS - PINELLAS PARK

On 9/12/2005, beneath a skylight in a Christian church, surrounded by stained-glass images of Jesus Christ, Omar Kassem led the Muslim call to prayer in Arabic.

"God is great," the University of South Florida student said to the congregation at Good Samaritan Church, which ended the hour long Sunday service by announcing "salaam," the Muslim greeting for peace.

Church leaders say the acts served as bookends for a service meant to promote peace and a better understanding between Christians and Muslims four years after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"Good Samaritan Church in Pinellas Park is a union of Presbyterian and United Church of Christ denominations. What better church to reach across faiths to destroy stereotypes," said the Rev. Susan Sherwood. *The Berean Call* 10/25/05.



DID THE AIR FORCE COURT-MARTIAL GOD? – New Air Force guidelines discourage public prayer at official functions and urge commanders to be sensitive about personal expressions of religious faith.

The document directs chaplains to "respect the rights of others to their own religious beliefs, including the right to hold no beliefs." The guidelines, which apply to the entire Air Force, were drawn up after allegations that evangelical Christians wield so much influence at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO., that anti-Semitism and other forms of religious harassment have become pervasive. *NewsMax* Oct/2005



ON THE LIGHT SIDE

It was the day after Christmas at a church in San Francisco. The pastor of the church was looking over the manger scene when he noticed that the baby Jesus was missing from among the figures. Immediately he turned and went outside and saw a little boy with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus.

So he walked up to the boy and said, "Well, where did you get Him, my fine friend?"

The little boy replied, "I got Him from the church."

"And why did you take Him?"

The boy said, "Well, about a week before Christmas, I prayed to Jesus and I told Him if He would bring me a red wagon for Christmas I would give Him a ride around the block in it."



MEMORIAL GIFTS

Received by The Voice in the Wilderness

In Memory of: PETER J. BLAKEMORE

Given by: James Wilkes

In Memory of: MIKE SPRINGER

Given by: Denise A. Eggert

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 honor a loved one, please send a Remembrance Memorial Gift or a Living Memorial Gift with the person's name (legibly printed). Your gift will be listed in an upcoming issue of this publication.

THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS • PO Box 7037 • Asheville, NC 28802



*Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart,
a wide open heart that thinks of others first. G. Adams*

(Continued from page 5)

potential relocation. Asheville, North Carolina, was where Sophie Muller returned to the states to live with her sister prior to her homegoing. Through Sophie's niece, we made contact with a realtor in Asheville. There was potential for a good local church and easy access to probably over 90% of The Voice in the Wilderness supporters and subscribers.

Bro. Lilly – Tell me about the transition from Dallas to North Carolina?

Bro. Williamson – I believe that the Lord opened the door for The Voice in the Wilderness to purchase 10.92 acres just north of Asheville. During my first five years with this ministry, Dr. Thomason and two of his closest friends served as the board along with me. Of course, there were many details that had to be coordinated for such a move. After several meetings with Dr. Thomason and the other two board members, we voted and made the necessary decisions to put in place the corporate relocation.

Bro. Lilly – When did the transition of leadership take place?

Bro. Williamson – Actually, there was a gradual transition over a period of several years. Most of the daily office administration was our responsibility even before moving from Dallas. Dr. Thomason and I had agreed on how most of the daily operation of the ministry should be conducted within the first 12 months. Obviously this was all a lengthy process that we worked through over a period of time. Then on September 10, 2001,

Bro. Royce became seriously ill while preaching in Ohio. Even at that time my wife and I had been responsible for most of the ministry and the printing of the magazine. Then the next five to six months were very critical. Bro. Royce spent a lengthy period in a rehabilitation center before returning home. At that point he was no longer able to drive and continue his travels. This was a very difficult and dramatic change in lifestyle for him. The Lord provided for this ministry in some amazing ways. Looking back, it is obvious that His hand was evident during a very difficult time. With Dr. Thomason and his two lifelong friends as board members, much prayer went into this final transition. As close personal friends, not just board members, decisions in hard times are tough. Someone must step up to carry a heavy responsibility even under emotional circumstances. Again, we give the Lord praise for continuing His provision in this missionary work during a challenging time.

Bro. Lilly – What was the vision for the North Carolina location?

Bro. Williamson – When the acquisition of the North Carolina property came about, Dr. Thomason was near 80 years old. The Voice in the Wilderness had been supporting an American missionary for many, many years. The hope was to utilize the wisdom and experience of these two men in training college/career age young people for missionary and full-time Christian service. A multi-purpose facility on the acreage in North Carolina would be

utilized as a preaching, teaching, and training center where these two men could pour their hearts into the lives of those who would continue to hold forth the Word of Life. That vision remains to this day, even though these two men may not, at this stage, be able to participate. Presently we are going forward with the development of the ministry and property here in North Carolina. The Lord has again provided in some absolutely amazing ways. With you and Rebekah coming aboard in the Aquila/Priscilla Ministry along with other opportunities, the corporate office will prove to be a great tool.

Bro. Lilly – It has been good to learn over the past six months about the missionary work of The Voice in the Wilderness. I've read about Sophie Muller and the jungle ministry. What's going on there now?

Bro. Williamson – For many, many years The Voice in the Wilderness has been involved, as well as several other ministries with the jungle work. I've personally had the opportunity to go to the jungle and sit at Sophie's desk in her hut – and what an experience! In the last few years after Sophie's homegoing, those in charge of her ministry have expanded and organized into "quite the operation." Bro. Peterson told me a few months ago, that the Bible Institute and churches are growing. He reported about \$3,000 per month is going into the work from various churches and supporters. The Voice in the

(Continued on page 15)



If we could condense the truths of Christmas into three words, these would be the words: "God with us." J.M.

(Continued from page 14)

Wilderness is still involved in Venezuela and Sophie's work continues under the leadership and support of others.

Bro. Lilly – What is The Voice doing in Venezuela?

Bro. Williamson – Well, presently, there are several pastors and missionaries in Venezuela we're assisting. It was my privilege just this past May 2005 to preach for several of these dear brothers and help with the construction of a new church. We have tried over the months to give reports on some of these projects in the magazine. Pray for Venezuela. Their president has created some difficult circumstances for some of the missionaries.

Bro. Lilly – Could you give us an update on India?

Bro. Williamson – In South India, The Voice is helping build a new church. I hope to preach the dedication for this new construction in the near future. Some may recall that Dr. Jacob passed away about a year ago. He was the director of the Good Samaritan Orphanage. We are addressing some of the needs at the two orphanages. My prayer is for those two ministries to come under the direction of a pastor and local church. I believe that would be biblical. The Lord has opened the door for partnership between The Voice in the Wilderness and a local church in India for the coordination of the work in that country. A dear brother has stepped up and offered to help us in this endeavor. I'll be giving more details about this development as soon as possible.

Bro. Lilly – Where else is The Voice in the Wilderness involved in missionary outreach?

Bro. Williamson – Financially we are assisting a number of ministries worldwide. We've already mentioned India and Venezuela. In a small way we help in Mexico, Belize, Haiti, Jewish Missions, Uganda, Bible College training of international students, a Girls Home, Indian Reservation, Boys/Girls Home, Moldova, along with several other stateside ministries. We do consider The Voice in the Wilderness magazine our "printed missionary." Each month we mail it out free of charge to subscribers in all 50 states, many Canadian Provinces, and numerous other countries around the world. We regularly receive letters telling about the blessing of this "printed missionary."

Bro. Lilly – Bro. Williamson, I would like for you to share perhaps some needs of The Voice in the Wilderness.

Bro. Williamson – First and foremost, let me just say that our desire is for the Lord to continue to use The Voice in the Wilderness to be a "Voice" for HIM in all that we do. It is an honor and privilege to serve HIM. I would request that each of our subscribers share *The Voice in the Wilderness* with their pastor and brothers and sisters in Christ. Then pray regularly for this ministry. Of course for those who are able, a financial gift to help with the work would be deeply appreciated. Each month read *The Voice in the Wilderness* as we share updates from the mission field and urgent prayer requests. Also for those who have access to our website, they can check out our prayer page. From our heart your partnership with us in the gospel work is a special blessing. May God bless each of you.



T H E C O M P U T E R
S W A L L O W E D
G R A N D M A

The computer swallowed grandma.

Yes, honestly, it's true.

She pressed 'control' and 'enter'

And disappeared from view.

It devoured her completely,

The thought just makes me squirm.

She must have caught a virus

Or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin

And files of every kind;

I've even used the Internet,

But nothing did I find.

In desperation, I asked Jeeves

My searches to refine.

The reply from him was negative,

Not a thing was found 'online.'

So, if inside your 'Inbox,'

My Grandma you should see,

Please 'Copy,' 'Scan,' and 'Paste' her

And send her back to me!

Unknown



CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

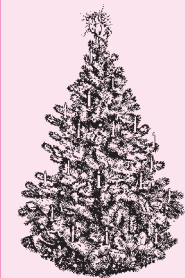
Who thought of that?

The date of Christmas-The idea to celebrate Christmas on December 25 originated in the 4th century. The Romans celebrated the birthday of their sun god. Roman Church leaders decided that in order to compete with the pagan celebration of the sun god they would themselves order a festival in celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Although the actual season of Jesus' birth is thought to be in the spring, the date of December 25 was chosen as the official birthday celebration of Christ's Mass so that it would compete head on with the rival pagan celebration.



Mistletoe and Holly-Two hundred years before the birth of Christ, the Druids used mistletoe to celebrate the coming of winter. The early church banned the use of mistletoe in Christmas celebrations because of its pagan origins. Instead, the use of holly was suggested as an appropriate substitute for Christmas greenery. The holly wreath represents the crown of thorns placed on Christ's head and the red berries symbolize His blood.

Poinsettias-The Mexicans in the eighteenth century thought the native plant was symbolic of the Star of Bethlehem. Thus the Poinsettia became associated with the Christmas season. They were first brought to America in 1828 by Joel Poinsett, Ambassador to Mexico.



The Christmas Tree-The Christmas Tree originated in Germany in the 16th century. It is believed that Martin Luther, the Protestant reformer, was the first to light a Christmas tree with candles. While coming home one dark winter's night near Christmas, he was struck with the beauty of the starlight shining through the branches of a small fir tree outside his home. He duplicated the starlight by using candles attached to the branches of his indoor Christmas tree.



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