



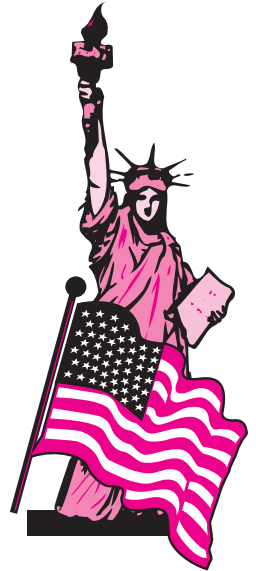
CONTENDING FOR
FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIANITY

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

February 2006



In Brother Royce's Own Words...



"Keep your heart free from hate and your mind from worry. Live simply, expect little, give much, fill your life with love, scatter sunshine, forget self, think of others and do as you would be done by..."

JANUARY 2000 *"THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS"* – DR. J. ROYCE THOMASON

"How's your health? Not so good? Well, thank God you've lived this long, many people have not.... How's your pocketbook? Thin? Well, most of the world is a lot poorer than we are. No pensions, no welfare, no social security, no food stamps. A third of the people of the world will go hungry tonight. Are you lonely? The way to have a friend is to be one. If nobody calls you, call them. Go out of your way to do something nice for somebody today. It is a sure cure for the blues..."

NOVEMBER 1995 *"THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS"* – DR. J. ROYCE THOMASON

"Question? Dear friend, when we lay aside this earthly frame, what will be the story of our predisposition of our earthly possessions before going? Will they have been designated for eternal benefits?"

FEBRUARY 1998 *"THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS"* – DR. J. ROYCE THOMASON





MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends:

In just a few minutes, Terry and I leave to visit with our parents and family for Christmas. This is always a special occasion. I decided to write a few lines because the February 2006 material for *The Voice in the Wilderness* is due for layout at the printers shortly after January 1st. We work about a month ahead trying to have the paper ready to mail on January 20th for the February edition.

I just talked by phone with Bro. Royce. He is recovering in the hospital after knee surgery. By now, most readers are aware that Bro. Royce spent a year at the Veterans retirement home in Oklahoma. Now he has moved back to the Dallas area. I am not sure how long he will be in the hospital and rehab. Eventually, he will likely reside in a nursing facility in that same locale. The Voice in the Wilderness board

and staff, along with me continue to pray for Bro. Royce during these challenging days. We are grateful to all our supporters that enable us to help meet the needs of Bro. Royce with his salary package each month. The Voice in the Wilderness does not have any authority concerning the personal affairs and decisions for Bro. Royce. Others, whom Bro. Royce designated earlier in life, have been given power of attorney to take charge of Bro. Royce's personal affairs and will make that determination. He needs your prayers as it continues to be a difficult adjustment after the illness, confinements, surgeries, and total change of lifestyle, coupled with age.

For all our subscribers and especially the very few who have inquired about certain ministry details, we have included, in Bro. Royce's own

words, comments that may be of interest. My wife and I have now been with The Voice in the Wilderness for almost 10 years. We came at the invitation of Bro. Royce with the original intent of carrying the ministry on for our Lord's glory. From 1996 to September 2001 Bro. Royce and his two life-long friends, voted in Board meetings, by majority, on the various actions for the furtherance of The Voice in the Wilderness. For almost five years, the consensus was to continue this work in the Fundamental Biblical heritage presently maintained. It was not until after Bro. Royce's serious illness that a confusion of the facts arose. I understand that traumatic circumstances may complicate life at times and even cloud the reason. To the best of my ability, I have

(Continued on page 13)

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!

In Brother Royce's Own Words...

7/1996 "...as soon as our additional help arrives to release me from most of the business part of the work...."

9/1996 "Please continue to pray for me and the work, for all that will be involved in the adjustments that will be made, the coming of additional help in October, **relocating the headquarters, etc.**"

10/1996 "If this work goes on when I can no longer carry it on, I must without further delay be training a successor. He will be a man with a family to support and this will mean that we are going to be faced in the future with a much larger budget than we now have.... **As my time shortens, I want to see what I have struggled to build these past 60 years enlarge, not shrink...**"

12/1996 Taken from ***New Helpers Arrive*** in the December 1996 issue, "They have come to join us in this work and with their background of religious and educational work; they will be a real asset to us. As soon as possible, I want to turn as much of the work as necessary over to them..."

1/1997 "If finances allow, I want to go there in February and take Rev. Williamson with me. He needs to see our work there, meet the people, feel their needs and get the vision of what needs to be done. One day the load will fall on his shoulders and a firsthand evaluation now will better prepare him for then." [*This was concerning India*]



*For Personal Correspondence,
Contributions, Address Changes,
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11/1997 "As you all know, third-world conditions in this area are such that we cannot safely and effectively carry on at this location any longer. Thanks to all of you who have been remembering us in this matter and have prayed that we might be able to sell the Dallas property and move to a new location, the office building (served as my home also) has sold. The deal was far less than we wanted, both in price and terms of financing. However, the board and I decided it was the best we would probably be able to do so made the sale....The Williamsons, having come from North Carolina... feel the work would be benefited if they established the main headquarters there....As yet they have not found a proper location that will fit our needs and pocketbook. We will have to get a loan wherever we locate back there...." [*This was*

(Continued on page 4)

concerning the selling of the Dallas property and Royce's move to Frederick, Oklahoma, along with the Williamson's move to North Carolina. You can read the entire article in the November 1997 issue]

12/1997 "Of necessity, this issue is being prepared a bit early and as of now, the Williamsons are temporarily housed in an efficiency apartment in Asheville, NC, trying to find a suitable, affordable location for our eastern headquarters...."

1/1998 "As of this writing, we still have not found any suitable, affordable location for our main office location in Asheville, NC. The Williamsons are there and on the job in a makeshift situation presently, and though many locations have been looked at, nothing satisfactory has shown up."

2/1998 "As this goes to press, things are at a standstill so far as a permanent location of our headquarters is concerned...Thank you for your many prayers and kind wishes in all these matters. Continue to pray; God is still on the throne, and prayer changes things...."
[Bro. Royce continues in this article his story concerning the Frederick, Oklahoma property. Please go back and read the entire article. We are only reprinting small excerpts.] "I told my board that though it would mean some inconveniences, I would like to spend any spare time I might have back in the old home town and there I wanted to be buried if I had to go by way of the grave....**Now, we owe nothing on it; it is debt free....It is now all in the name of The Voice in the Wilderness**, and I have been granted lifetime residency. When I ride off into the sunset of life and to the big roundup in the skies, **it will all be sold and the money used to keep the work going.**"

3/1998 "Our search for a building in Asheville is at a standstill as of now....Having to sell the Dallas property for much less than its actual value, we are going to have to get a loan it looks like if we get what we need...Anyhow, where there is a will there is a way; and the Lord knows all about it."

5/1998 "If you have bought any property of late, you know it is out of reason...However, with the wretched price we had to sell the Dallas property for and with no backup money, it seems borrowing will be our lot now...."

6/1998 "Thank you for your prayers concerning the acquisition of property for our Eastern headquarters in North Carolina...."

7/1998 "We have had to go in debt for our main headquarters property in North Carolina...Will you pray about all of these things?....The Williamson's are pretty well settled in the new property...."

(Continued on page 14)

"BUT COVET EARNESTLY THE BEST GIFTS: AND YET SHEW I UNTO YOU A MORE EXCELLENT WAY." "...THE GREATEST OF THESE IS CHARITY (LOVE)."

LOVE - A SERMON

Can you love the unlovable?

Can you love the one who has done you harm?

Can you love the one who will not love you?

This is an altar call – an invitation at the beginning of the sermon. Run to this place of prayer and repentance. Fall on your knees, and then on your face before HIM WHO LOVED you when you were unlovable – Prostrate before the one who suffered for you – Meet HIM WHO loves you with an EVERLASTING LOVE and asks you "Lovest thou me?"

His precious WORDS of Life and Love are bound in the pages of His Holy Bible. Yes, He loves you. Clearly, He tells you so in His own breath! Take your Bible in hand and read slowly, carefully John 3:16. Then quietly pause and ponder HIS love for you. Now let us read together the text found in I Cor. 13: 4-8.

*Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not;
charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,*

*Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is
not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;*

*Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;
Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things,
endureth all things.*

*Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies,
they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall
cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.*

LOVE suffereth long = **PATIENCE**

LOVE is kind = **KINDNESS**

LOVE envieth not = **GENEROSITY**

LOVE vaunteth not itself = **SELFLESSNESS**

LOVE is not puffed up = **HUMILITY**

LOVE doth not behave itself unseemly = **COURTESY**

LOVE seeketh not her own = **GIVING**

LOVE is not easily provoked = **GOOD TEMPER**

LOVE thinketh no evil = **GUILELESSNESS**

LOVE rejoiceth not in iniquity = **PURITY**

LOVE rejoiceth in truth = **SINCERITY**

LOVE beareth all things = **STRENGTH**

LOVE believeth all things = **TRUST**

LOVE hopeth all things = **ENDURANCE**

LOVE endureth all things = **PERSEVERANCE**

LOVE never faileth = **SUCCESS**

"Alexander Duff, the first foreign missionary of the

Church of Scotland, got off to a rough start. He was young, only twenty-three, and bright and innovative. But on his way to India in 1829 with his new wife, he was shipwrecked – not once but twice! The most serious wreck occurred when his ship, the *Lady Holland*, was within a few miles of India.

"At ten o'clock P.M., Duff was half-undressed when a shock and shudder ran through the vessel. He rushed to the deck where the captain met him with terrifying word, "Oh, she's gone! She's gone!" The ship split apart, but a portion clung precariously to a reef. Through the night the passengers huddled in terror in the surviving portion, expecting every moment to be swept away. They were saved the next day, but their clothes and prized possessions were lost, including Duff's entire library of eight hundred volumes.

"Later, standing on the shore and looking sadly toward the reef, Duff saw a small package bobbing atop the water. He watched and waited as it floated close enough for him to wade out and retrieve.

"It was his Bible. Of all his precious books, it alone survived. His heart soared, for he took it as a sign from the Lord that this one Book alone was worth more than all others put together." (Taken from *Stories, Illustrations, and Quotes*)

God's Love Letter to you. Read and Know! It is your choice. In His Word you can know the sweet love of His Son. As you abide in the Saviour, His love will clearly be seen in your life. It is self and sin that will rob the love of God from your life. Often those who set their eyes on self and perceive that someone has committed a great injustice against them, spring forth in bitterness. However, when the Saviour and His love spring forth in a yielded heart, His sweet love will be manifested in that life. "But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way." "...the greatest of these is charity (love)."

-RLW



**In His Book, I look to see
And 'twas there revealed to me
The truth of who I've really been,
Marred and scarred by the hand of sin.
But in His Love transformed I rise
A vessel now of Love's treasured prize.
This debt of love I surely owe
O' yes my soul, 'Tis Love I know.**

NEWS BITS

FROM HERE AND THERE

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE DECLARES WAR-

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has requested that the American press "reassess" their coverage of the war in Iraq. He said, "We've arrived at a strange time in this country, where the worst about America and our military seems to quickly be taken as truth by the press and reported and spread around the world." Mr. Rumsfeld stated that "It's appropriate to note not only how many Americans have been killed-and may God bless them and their families but what they died for, or, more accurately, what they lived for." All that the Secretary is asking for is to have a balanced portrayal of the war in the media. *The Washington Times 12/12/05*

BABIES BEHIND BARS-

Fathers in jail in Sweden may be allowed to raise their children while still behind bars according to *World Magazine (11/12/05)*. The government will allow cribs to be put into cells so that the fathers will be able to raise their children. The spokeswoman for the Swedish prison system says that this has little to do with gender equality.

CLINTON SPIED ON AMERICANS FIRST-

Recently in the news we have heard a lot about the Bush administration spying on Americans. According to *NewsMax.com (12/19/05)*, former

President Clinton did the same in the 1990's. The program that was run by the National Security Agency called Echelon monitored US citizens private phone calls to citizens of other countries. In February of 2000 (pre-Bush), Steve Kroft of "60 Minutes" reported the following: "If you made a phone call today or sent an e-mail to a friend, there's a good chance what you said or wrote was captured and screened by the country's largest intelligence agency."

BUY GENERIC, SAVE MONEY-

A recent study done by Express Scripts Inc., said that US health care patrons could have saved \$20 billion yearly if they had asked for generic drugs. Personal savings could have been \$10 or more for each prescription. Steve Miller, president of Express Scripts, said, "Using more generics simply requires better education and awareness of alternatives, not a big-dollar, up-front investment." In the coming year, there will be at least 15 new generic drugs available to the public. So the next time you go for a doctors visit, ask them about a generic alternative to the prescription you are taking. *World 11/12/05*

SADDAM'S DAY IN COURT-

The world's attention in Iraq should be on the court proceedings of Saddam Hussein. Kurdish television

is showing the proceedings on a daily basis. Hero Talabani, wife of President Jalal Talabani and founder of a satellite station in Iraq, said that if Mr. Hussein is convicted to postpone his death for years. "Let it be an example to Middle East leaders what can happen to murderous dictators. If Saddam dies soon, the full horror will not emerge and people will forget quickly." Just one of the atrocities that Saddam is being charged for is the imprisonment of political foes. A prison where he kept these political prisoners is a museum today. On one wall the following is written: "I'm 10 years old but they claim I'm 17. Mummy and Daddy, the Ba'athists are going to kill me and I'll never see you again." On December 6, three witnesses came forward and testified against Saddam Hussein in court. Two of the witnesses were women. *The Washington Times 12/12/05*

VENEZUELA'S ELECTION POOR SHOWING-

While the world's attention has been on Iraq; there was a parliamentary election in Venezuela. Only 25% of the population came out to vote. Hugo Chavez, President of Venezuela, blames the poor showing on the Bush administration. Calizto Ortega, a member of Chavez's party, said that, "There is no doubt in my mind that the US government

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

is paying the opposition parties to stay away on Sunday” (Dec. 4). Of course the Bush administration has denied this claim. With the two-thirds majority in the Parliament, Chavez can have the Parliament amend the constitution and allow him to run for another term. Little by little, Mr. Chavez has taken complete control of the Venezuelan government. In 2004, he packed out the Venezuelan Supreme Court with members who are loyal to him. With the majority in Parliament now, he can take complete control of the government. *The Washington Times* 12/12/05



ACLU SUES ON BEHALF OF STUDENT

Cameron Frazier is a student at Boynton Beach High School. The reason that he is in the news is because he refused to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance at school. Basing their arguments on the First and Fourth Amendments, the ACLU has agreed to represent the student in a lawsuit against his teacher and the Palm Beach County School Board. Howard Simon, the executive director for the ACLU of Florida, said, “This lawsuit is not about the Pledge of Allegiance. It is about his right to choose not to stand to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.” Cameron Frazier said, “Patriotism is more than going along with everybody else and just saluting a flag. It’s about things like supporting our troops during the holidays and helping hurricane

victims. I believe that the real meaning of the flag—freedom, liberty and equality – has been tarnished by the recent policies of our government.” *Sun-Sentinel.com* 12/23/05 {Editor: What are they teaching our children in school today? The US Constitution says nothing about equality, that was the French Revolution, and history can show what happened to that government.}

“BITS” OF NEWS – The Saudi government has approved plans to destroy Mohammed’s birthplace. In the last 20 years, the Saudis have destroyed over 90 percent of the ruins in Mecca and Medina that date from the time of Mohammed. Avoidance of “idolatry” is the stated reason.

The number of children born to unmarried American women reached record levels in 2003, according to research conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics. 1.4 million babies were born to unwed mothers, accounting for over 34 percent of all U.S. births...The Census Bureau report that only 22 percent of U.S. households are currently in the configuration of traditional nuclear families.

A poll by the Democracy Project found that over 40 percent of American Hispanics think illegal immigration is hurting the nation. Over a third of all Hispanics believe there are too many immigrants in the U.S.

The cheapest gasoline in the world – 12 cents a gallon – is sold in Venezuela. The most expensive is in the Netherlands, at about \$6.48 a gallon.

Eleven percent of American teenagers have their own credit cards.

A hospital in West Yorkshire, England, banned visitors from cooing at newborn babies over fears that the infants’ human rights were being violated.

In South Korea, a 28-year-old man collapsed and died after playing video games for 50 hours straight. The police suspect heart failure.

In the wake of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, media commentators have pushed the notion that global warming is to blame for this year’s (2005) active storm season. But a study by five leading hurricane researchers concludes that there is no discernible trend in hurricane frequency or intensity. They examined both the scientific characteristics of hurricanes and their human impact in reaching their conclusion. Scientists have no evidence that future storms will be noticeably larger than in the past, that storms will be more damaging, or that significantly increased destruction is on the horizon after population and property growth are factored out. Barring such evidence, the authors say, “The significance of any connection to hurricane impacts necessarily has been and will continue to be exceedingly small.”

R.A. Pielke, et al., “Hurricanes and Global Warming,” Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, December 2005 (sciencepolicy.colorado.edu/prometheus)

The American Enterprise Jan/Feb 2006



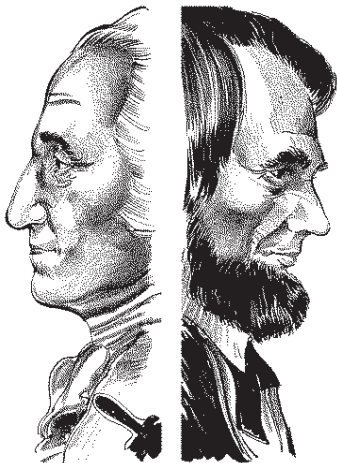


FAMOUS FACTS AND

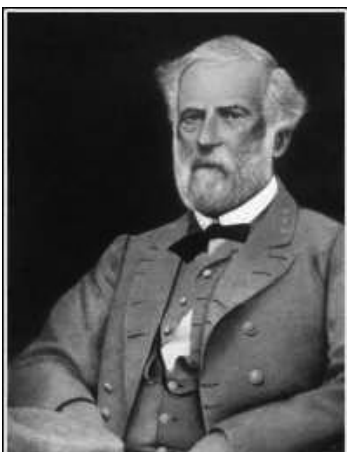
SUNDAY

MONDAY

20
TUESDAY



Adoniram Judson



Robert E. Lee

- Five dollars was all Julia Ward Howe was paid for her poem, *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*, which was published on Feb. 1, 1862.
- On Feb. 2, 1848, the United States Congress ratified the peace treaty which ended the Mexican War. "The United States and the United Mexican States....have, under the protection of Almighty God, the Author of Peace, arranged, agreed upon, and signed the following: Treaty of Peace."
- Robert E. Lee was named general-in-chief of the Confederate Army on this month in 1865. After he was told that chaplains were praying for him, he replied, "...I can only say that I am a poor sinner, trusting in Christ alone, and that I need all the prayers you can offer for me."
- Ronald Reagan was born Feb. 6, 1911. As President, while speaking in Dallas, Texas, he said: "If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a Nation gone under."
- Born on Feb. 7, 1817, Frederick Douglass, a former slave and later abolitionist stated in the retelling of his conversion: "I saw the world in a new light.... I gathered scattered pages of the Bible from the filthy street gutters, and washed and dried them, that...I might get a word or two of wisdom from them."
- On Feb. 8, 1936, Dr. J. Royce Thomason accepted Jesus as Saviour.
- The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated on Feb. 8, 1910. The Scout Oath states: "On my honor, I will do my best: To do my duty to God and my country..." In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge addressed some Boy Scouts: "It is hard to see how a great man can be an atheist...Doubters do not achieve...No man realizes his full possibilities unless he has the deep conviction that life is eternally important..."
- Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin were born on Feb. 12, 1809. Lincoln is known for the Emancipation Proclamation, affirming that all men are equal. Darwin is known for the theory of evolution, stating that all men are not equal because some are more evolved. Darwin's theory has been used by atheists to explain away belief in God, whereas the last act of Congress signed by Lincoln, was to place the phrase "In God We Trust" on all our national coins.
- "Man has forgotten God, that is why this has happened," was Solzhenitsyn's response when questioned about the decline of modern culture. A Russian author of the Nobel Prize winning *The Gulag Archipelago*, Alexander Solzhenitsyn was imprisoned for eight years by Joseph Stalin. The Communist government would not allow him to leave the country to accept the award. Finally, under international pressure, the Soviet Union expelled him on Feb. 13, 1974.
- On Feb. 15, 1898, the U.S.S. Maine blew up in Havana Harbor. President William McKinley and Congress stated: "The abhorrent conditions...in the island of Cuba...have been a disgrace to Christian civilization...the people of the island of Cuba are and of a right ought to be free."
- President Thomas Jefferson sent in the Marines to stop North African Muslim Terrorists from attacking Americans on the high seas. On Feb. 16, 1804, in what Admiral Horatio Nelson described as the "most bold and daring act of the age," Lieutenant Stephen Decatur sailed his ship, the *Intrepid*, at night into the pirate harbor of Tripoli, burned a ship and

WHAT ETERNAL IMPACT WILL

FACES FROM FEBRUARY

06

WEDNESDAY

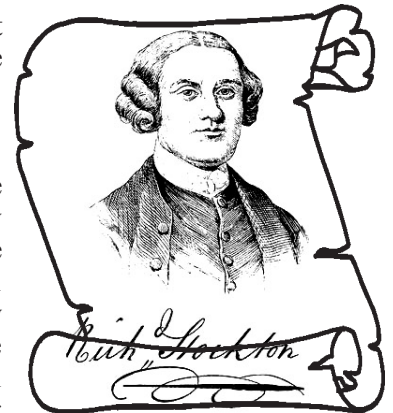
THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

escaped unharmed amidst fierce enemy fire. The Muslim stronghold was captured. "From the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli..."

- On Feb. 17, 1889, Billy Sunday preached his first sermon in Chicago. "Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you an automobile."
- *Pilgrim's Progress* was published on Feb. 18, 1678. After the Bible, it held the position as the world's best-seller for hundred of years. "Christian came up with the cross, his burden loosed from off his shoulders, and fell from off his back..."
- Adoniram Judson and his wife Ann sailed from New England to Calcutta, India on Feb. 19, 1812 to be America's first foreign missionaries. By his death, there were 63 churches and over 7000 baptized Christians in Burma. "How do Christians discharge this trust committed to them? They let three fourths of the world sleep the sleep of death, ignorant of the simple truth that a Saviour died for them."
- William Prescott, a Colonel during the Revolutionary War, was born on Feb. 20, 1726. As the British blockaded the Boston harbor, Prescott urged the city with: "Let us...stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free."
- In this month in 1962, John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth. Later on Discovery, Glenn said: "To look out at this kind of Creation and not believe in God is to me impossible. It just strengthens my faith."
- Presidents Day is celebrated on the third Monday in Feb. Remembered for including a prayer in their Inaugural Addresses are Eisenhower, Reagan and George H.W. Bush.
- George Washington was born on Feb. 22, 1732. In his Inaugural Address, he said: "It would be peculiarly improper to omit, in this first official act, my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe...No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the U.S...."
- The Panama Canal Zone was acquired for ten million dollars by the U.S. on Feb. 23, 1904.
- Composer George Frideric Handel was born in Germany on Feb. 23, 1685. His *Messiah* is an oratorio set to text from the King James Bible. At the end of his life, he told his friends: "I want to die on Good Friday, in the hope of rejoining... my Sweet Lord and Saviour on the day of His resurrection. Late on Good Friday Handel died. A favorite line of his *Messiah* was placed on his gravestone – "I know that my Redeemer liveth."
- Secretary of State, under Eisenhower, John Foster Dulles, born Feb. 25, 1888, helped negotiate the Peace Treaty with Japan. "Our institutions of freedom will not survive unless they are constantly replenished by the Faith that gave them birth."
- Born on Feb. 26, 1802, Victor Marie Hugo was hailed as the greatest of the Romanticist poets. He stated: "England has two books, the Bible and Shakespeare. England made Shakespeare, but the Bible made England."
- Author of the famous *Paul Revere's Ride*, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (born Feb. 27, 1807) stated: "Man is unjust, but God is just; and finally justice triumphs."
- Richard Stockton, justice on the New Jersey Supreme Court and signer of the Declaration of Independence, was captured and held prisoner during the Revolutionary War by the British. He died shortly after his release on Feb. 28, 1781, as a result of the harsh treatment he received while in prison. He wrote in his Will: "As my children will have frequent occasion of perusing this instrument, and may probably be peculiarly impressed with the last words of their father, I think proper here, not only to subscribe to the entire belief of the great leading doctrine of the Christian religion...but also in the heart of a father's affection, to charge and exhort them to remember 'that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom'."



YOU MAKE THIS FEBRUARY?

RELIGIOUS NEWS

AND COMMENTS



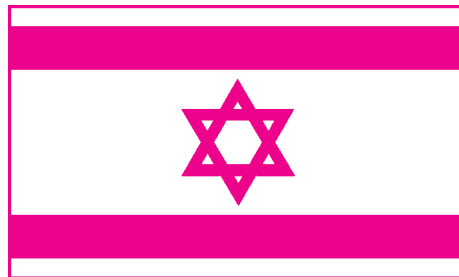
DISNEY DISCOVERS CHURCHES

-Walt Disney Company is trying to change the way that Christians look at them. With the resignation of Michael Eisner in September 2005, the now top-ranking executive Al Weiss is also chair for Vision USA, a corporation to plant churches in the 50 most influential cities of America. In an interview with *World* (12/10/05), Mr. Weiss said, "Our greatest challenge isn't the financial resources. It's finding great men to plant." In the past, Christians have criticized the Walt Disney Company for putting sexual innuendos in childrens films and supporting the gay-rights agenda.

BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF LIMBO

- A Roman Catholic commission has advised Pope Benedict to drop the non-biblical doctrine of limbo from the Roman Catholic Catechism. Limbo, according to medieval theologians, is neither heaven nor hell but is where babies go if they die before they are baptized. The pope is already on record as questioning the existence of limbo and pointing out that it has "never been a definitive truth of the faith." He headed the commission

when it began to study the issue last year, while he was a cardinal. *World* Dec. 2005



ISRAEL IS IN A FIGHT

- *Human Events* reporter Robert Spencer recently was in Israel and visited around the country. Everywhere that he went, it seemed that there was a presence of armed military or guards. Since the founding of the state of Israel in 1948, her Palestinian neighbors have been intent on destroying her. The question is how long will we let men like the Iranian president lash out against God's chosen people? The Israelis have carved out a life for themselves in this hard country. Yes, we should respect the Palestinians, but they also must respect the neighbors that have been placed around them. It was not to long ago that we were seeing daily in the news about suicide bombings in Israel. The jihadists have declared war on Israel and anyone that stands with her. Are we ready for that fight? *Human Events* 12/05/05

ADAM COULD FLY? - The Bible tells us to beware of teachers

with itching ears. Benny Hinn is one such person. *TheBereanCall.org* (12/05) quotes Benny Hinn as saying: "Adam was a super-being when God created him. I don't know whether people know this, but he was the first superman that really ever lived. First of all, the Scriptures declare clearly that he had dominion over the fowls of the air, the fish of the sea-which means he used to fly. Of course, how can he have dominion over the birds and not be able to do what they do?"

GOOD AS NEW - There is a new Bible translation out called the Good As New Bible. This translation describes itself as "women, gay, and sinner friendly." Paul commands us that it is better to marry than to burn in lust. The Good As New translates this as, "If you know you have strong needs, get yourself a partner. Better than being frustrated." This "Bible" leaves out the Pastoral Epistles and the Book of Revelation but includes the Gospel of Thomas (of *The Da Vinci Code* fame). Another translation, The Inclusive Bible, shies away from gender specific words for God, Christ, and Adam and replaces "husband" and "wife" with the word partner. It also replaces the words "demon possession" with "mental illness" and "salvation" with "completeness." *World* 11/12/05

(Continued on page 11)

www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OPPOSES BUSH

The National Council of Churches recently has been more critical of the Bush administration and supportive of the liberal agenda. Liberal private foundations for the past five years have provided funding for the NCC. The United Methodist Church has advised the NCC to "avoid partisan politics" and have a "more temperate tone." Bob Edgar, the general secretary of the NCC, says that the money donated goes to church-based programs and doesn't "dilute our responsibility to the churches."

World 11/12/05

DEFROCKED MINISTER- Also according to *World (11/12/05)*, Irene "Beth" Stroud was a non-celibate lesbian minister in Philadelphia for the United Methodist Church. That is until a church court found her "guilty of engaging in practices the UMC declares are incompatible with Christian teaching." The Methodist church bans practicing homosexuals from the clergy. Miss Stroud says that she will continue at her church as a "lay minister."



KRISPY KREME GETS AN "F"

It has been a long standing practice of Krispy Kreme Donuts to give away free donuts to children who receive "A's" on their report cards. That is until now. June Kamp is a mother of seven children. Five of them

received several "A's" on their report cards; so she loaded up the car and took them to the local Krispy Kreme. As the youngest, who is in kindergarten, handed over his report card with three "A's", he only received two donuts. Because one of his "A's" was in Bible, and the state does not require that subject in schools, the Krispy Kreme organization no longer will give out free donuts to students who receive an "A" in Bible. *Family.org 12/12/05*

THE NEW WHAT WOULD JESUS SAY?

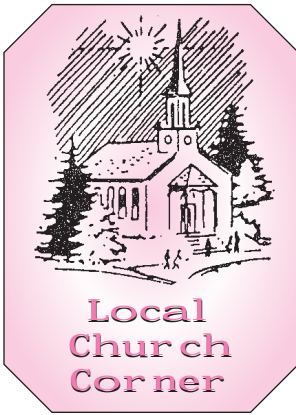
So ... what do you think Jesus would say to pop singer Madonna? While former reporter and atheist, now assistant pastor at Willow Creek Community Church Lee Strobel admits he's "not pretending to have divine revelation from God on what Jesus would say," his book title, "*What Jesus Would Say*," gives the impression he has a pretty good idea about what Jesus would say. But, we have to wonder what Jesus he's talking about, because his Jesus sounds more like a pop-psych-pastor than God the Son. Strobel's Jesus identifies Madonna's problem as a self-esteem issue. Self-esteem? That's because it's easier to get someone to come to church if you identify one's problem as low self-esteem instead of sin. And, contrary to what so many pastors-turned-pop-psychologist like Strobel would have you believe, the Bible says: "this know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves..." (2Tim. 3:1,2) *The Berean Call 12/29/2005*



Nuggets of Gold

1. People are funny – they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.
2. Spreading gossip is impossible if we refuse to listen – or to believe it.
3. Do something. Either lead, follow, or get out of the way!
4. The best time to start thinking about retirement is before your boss does.
5. At no time is a little knowledge more dangerous than when you are using it to start a rumor.
6. As a general rule, a liar is not believed, even when he speaks the truth.
7. If it is true that the world is getting smaller, why do they continue to raise the price of postage?
8. Straight living cannot come out of crooked thinking.
9. Do it now! Today will be yesterday, tomorrow.
10. If you think time heals everything, try sitting in a doctor's office.





Pastor Todd Page gave us a wonderful challenge on **New Year's night 2006**. The Bible says in Isaiah 54:17 "This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of Me, saith the Lord." Using the name of our church he gave the following acrostic:

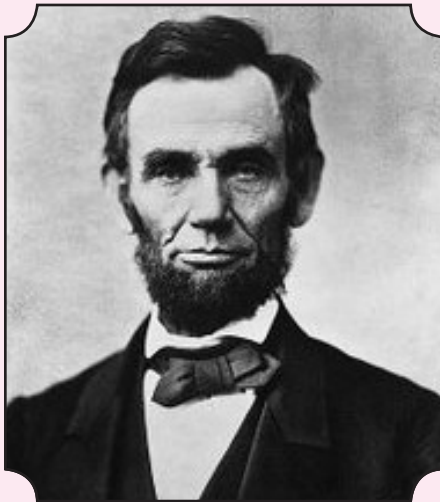
Honoring Christ with King James Bible Preaching & Teaching
Emphasizing Soul-winning with "Compassionate Boldness"
Restoring the Fundamental Heritage of our Forefathers
Inspiring Future Generations toward Christ-likeness
Traditional Music Programs and Worship Hymns
Aggressive Church Planting within the U.S.A.
Global Missions Programs and Education
Earnest prayer for Revival in America



Pastor Todd Page

Many local churches at the beginning of a New Year set aside time for a stewardship emphasis, missions conferences, and revival meetings. As you plan this year's schedule take inventory of the rich heritage passed on to you. Psalm 61:5 says, "...thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name." Indeed we have a great responsibility as well as accountability in our local church here in America for all the many rich blessings passed on to us. Great care must be taken to handle this heritage appropriately. In an age of compromise when the foundations of all that has been held dear for so long is under attack, may each pastor and layman alike make it a priority to contend for the faith. Perhaps a special time set aside to pray for our Lord's strength throughout 2006, with the emphasis on the goals set forth in the above acrostic, will keep our local churches on track. Your community, even unto the uttermost, needs **your church** to be this kind of church.

GENERAL PICKETT'S OLD FRIEND



*The Confederate Soldier's Wife
visited by Mr. Lincoln*

I was in Richmond when my soldier fought the awful battle of Five Forks. Richmond surrendered, and the surging sea of fire swept the city. News of Five Forks reached us, and there was a report that General Pickett had been killed. I did not believe it, but I was very anxious.

The day after the fire there was a sharp rap at the door. The servants had all run away. The city was full of Northern troops, and my environment had not taught me to love them. With my baby on my arm, I opened the door and looked up at a tall, gaunt, sad-faced man in ill-fitting clothes, who asked: "Is this George Pickett's place?"

"Yes, sir," I answered. "But he is not home."

"I know that, ma'am," he replied, "but I just wanted to see the place. I am Abraham Lincoln."

"The President!" I gasped.

The stranger shook his head. "No, ma'am; no ma'am. Just Abraham Lincoln, George's old friend."

"I am George Pickett's wife and this is his baby," was all I could say. I had never seen Mr. Lincoln, but I remembered the love and reverence with which my soldier always spoke of him.

My baby pushed away from me and reached out his hands to Mr. Lincoln,

who took him into his arms. As he did so, an expression of rapt, almost divine, tenderness and love lighted up his sad face. It was a look that I have never seen on any other countenance. My baby opened his mouth wide and insisted upon giving his father's friend a dewy, infantile kiss. As Mr. Lincoln gave the little one back to me, he shook his finger at him playfully and said: "Tell that rascal, your father, that I forgive him for the sake of that kiss and those bright eyes."

He turned and went down the steps talking to himself, and passed out of my sight forever. But in my memory those intensely human eyes, that strong, sad face have a perpetual abiding place – that face which puzzled all artists but which revealed itself to the intuitions of a child.

-From *The Heart of a Soldier*

By Mrs. La Salle Corbett Pickett



(Continued from page 2)

endeavored to mitigate the divisive misinformation. So, in Bro. Royce's own words, written in this publication over a period from November 1995 up to his physical illness of September 2001, you can read of the original intent for the direction of this ministry - taken from *My Personal Message* written by Dr. J. Royce Thomason when he was president, editor and director of The Voice in the Wilderness. The board of The Voice was the same during this time-line of events with the only exception being Ronnie L. Williamson added when he joined this ministry in October 1996.

The Voice in the Wilderness is enjoying the blessing of our Lord. It is evident and clear what Dr. Thomason's intention was for The Voice in the Wilderness - to continue to grow and go forward. He made his own decisions about where he would live, the personal friend that would be taking care of all his personal/financial responsibilities by appointing him power of attorney. He also made the decision, with approval from his board, about having someone come to The Voice to assume the ministry's leadership. It was his choice, approved by his board, and so directed from 1996 until 2001 at which time life changing circumstances, no surprise to our Lord, began a new direction for Dr. Thomason.

As stated many times in this paper, we are committed to following our Lord's leadership and the door of opportunity He has set before us. To continue

this work will be to honour our Lord and Saviour and to carry on what Bro. Royce so clearly documented for us while he was physically strong, traveling, preaching, and writing. Life's physical challenges for Dr. Thomason, coupled with age, sometimes can lend to confusion, and non-clarity when recalling facts etc., and that is why we wanted to share with you his own personal writings and original intent for this work. Bro. Royce's *My Personal Message* and other articles was a feature in each issue and were like a diary of his personal thoughts each month to you.

We are so very grateful to those that have joined us to continue the vision and work that the Lord began through a man, Dr. J. Royce Thomason. May we not quit on our Lord, but continue teaching, praying, winning souls, helping missionaries, and printing this little paper to glorify our wonderful Lord and Saviour.

For Christ and Souls,
Ronnie L. Williamson
Isa. 40:31
Happy Trails



ON THE LIGHT SIDE

A well-worn one dollar bill and a similarly distressed twenty dollar bill arrived at a Federal Reserve Bank to be retired. As they moved along the conveyor belt to be burned, they struck up a conversation.

The twenty dollar bill reminisced about its travels all over the county. "I've had a pretty good run," the twenty proclaimed. "Why I've been to Las Vegas and Atlantic City, the finest restaurants in New York, performances on Broadway, and even a cruise to the Caribbean."

"Wow!" said the one dollar bill. "You've really had an exciting journey!"

"So tell me," said the twenty, "Where have you been throughout your lifetime?"

The one dollar bill replied, "Oh, I've been to First Baptist Church, Freedom Baptist Church, Liberty Baptist Church"

The twenty dollar bill interrupted, "Wait..."

"...What's a church?"



MEMORIAL GIFTS

Received by The Voice in the Wilderness

In Memory of RICHARD JACK

Given By: Rebecca Jack

In Memory of MRS. EVELEAN SMITH

Given By: Mrs. Mildred Jolly

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

(Continued from page 4)

8/1998 “This time maybe we could use it to apply on our office indebtedness....”
[Concerning the anniversary issue envelope offering]

6/1999 “On behalf of myself and the Williamsons, I want to thank those of you who sent in a special gift at Easter time to help reduce the debt on our N.C. property....”

9/1999 “I want to hang on as long as I can. First of all, there is more work to be done now than when I first began....also, I have made so many friends in the churches where I have gone year after year, people who are more like family to me than just friends... Then too, retirement is out of the question because my obligations are such that I must continue to help pay the bills and see that the ones who look to us for life's provisions each month are taken care of...”

1/2000 “Whether Bro. Williamson and I get to India this year is uncertain....Keep your heart free from hate and your mind from worry. Live simply, expect little, give much, fill your life with love, scatter sunshine, forget self, think of others and do as you would be done by...”

4/2000 “...we need all the financial help we can get at this time. Brother Williamson handles the financial arm of the work.....Financial arrangements have been made for Brother Williamson to go to India as soon as possible to take care of matters there. I will not be going...”

8/2000 “We still have an outstanding debt on our North Carolina headquarters, and we want to see that paid off.”

2/2001 “We had purchased property in North Carolina for the Williamsons..... Sometimes I thought to myself we would sell the Frederick property, pay off the North Carolina debt, and I would go back to Dallas and just rent something for myself that would suffice for the rest of my days. However, the thing that finally clamped it was when the North American Trade Alliance/(NAFTA),....came along building a four-lane highway...right down my road, taking 37 feet of my front yard. Yes, they paid a fair price, but who wants to sell a big hunk of their yard?.... I told the state official I dealt with that the road would be a conduit for illegal aliens and drugs, and he readily agreed that was a big possibility. That part I did not feel I could safely live with – being alone and out in the country. As I saw it, the only sensible thing to do was sell out, pay everything off, and go back to Dallas.... so I came back to Dallas....I bought the place....I made extensive repairs.... ‘A tent or a cottage, why should I care, they’re building me a palace over there.’ ...**The Frederick property will be listed for sale by the time this reaches you. I must confess, I have had a hard time dealing with it all, but God has helped me and I am reconciled.**”

(Continued on page 15)

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5/2001 "I do sometimes find myself dreading the day when I may have to stop doing so much driving; but of course, it will come if life spares and Jesus tarries."

6/2001 "The Williamsons and other friends are going to have a banquet in celebration of my 65th year in this work...."

9/2001 "No, I have not retired and have no plans to do so until circumstances force me to quit...."

10/2001 "God being my witness and with my hand raised, I felt nothing but was conscious that the stroke had gone aimlessly and as quickly as it came.....I have NO ill effects from the strokes, thank God, thank God.

11/2001 *[This final quote was written by Dr. Ronnie L. Williamson. For printing purposes "The Voice in the Wilderness" magazine is sent to the press approximately 3-4 weeks ahead of the edition date.]* "I am writing this month's letter to you on behalf of Bro. Royce who is recovering in a Rehabilitation Center in Texas. On September 10th, Bro. Royce had a stroke-like episode while staying at the home of Pastor Oswalt and was taken by ambulance to the Wayne Memorial Hospital in Greenville, Ohio. On September 12th he was released from the hospital only to suffer a more severe episode early that Thursday morning....."



GOSPEL ABC'S

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

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

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

"...**B**y 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

"**B**ut 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

"**B**elievest thou this?"

C onfess with thy mouth...

C all in Faith...

C ommit 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."



BLAME IT THEOLOGY

"Blame it" theology has become quite popular. "I was abused as a child so all my problems are not my fault—it was my parents." "It's my husband" or "it's my wife." "If I only had the money they've got." "Don't blame me, it's so and so's fault!" Just suppose you were born a Negro slave. Certainly there's no hope or expectations there. Then at age four your slave mama dies. That did it. You poor slave boy—you ain't got a chance. The next year of life separates you from your papa and now, slave boy, you are all alone. No mama, no papa, no money, no education, no nothing but loneliness and hopelessness—is that not right? Well think about it. That poor orphaned slave boy learned by sheer determination to read and write by age seventeen. Then a move to Philadelphia landed him a job as a hod carrier. Next he became the janitor of a church. He enrolled in night school, took some correspondence courses and mastered both Hebrew and Greek. The church where he worked as janitor called him to serve as Pastor. That congregation grew under his ministry to a membership of 12,500. This poor orphaned slave boy preached weekly to huge

throng of Negroes, Whites, Jews, Italians, Germans, Norwegians, Mexicans and Danes. Along with his powerful preaching, Charles A. Tindley wrote the words and music for many gospel songs. Some of the favorites are "Nothing Between," "By and By," and "Stand by Me." When a troubled church member came by to seek Pastor Tindley's counsel this was his advice: "Put all your troubles in a sack, take 'em to the Lord, and leave 'em there." Out of that homespun comfort came the song "Leave It There."

If the world from you with-hold
Of its silver and its gold,
And you have to get along with meager fare,
Just remember, in His Word,
How He feeds the little bird—
Take your burden to the Lord
And leave it there.

If your body suffers pain
And your health you can't regain,
And your soul is almost sinking in despair,
Jesus knows the pain you feel.
He can save and He can heal—

Take your burden to the Lord
And leave it there.

When your enemies assail
And your heart begins to fail,
Don't forget that God in heaven
answers prayer;
He will make a way for you
And will lead you safely thru—
Take your burden to the Lord
And leave it there.

When your youthful days are gone
And old age is stealing on,
And your body bends beneath the
weight of care,
He will never leave you then,
He'll go with you to the end—
Take your burden to the Lord
And leave it there.

Poor old orphaned slave boy Charles Albert Tindley. He could have taken up "Blame it Theology." However, I guess he didn't know any better. He lived by "Leave It There" theology. By the way, it works every time!

Dear *Voice in the Wilderness* Subscriber,

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