



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

August/September 2006

Founder's Month

Birmingham, England
January 1st, 1953

Dear Friends,

New Years greetings to you all. Am sure you have had a wonderful Christmas, and my prayer for you all is that God shall richly bless you and make the coming year the best one you have ever known; and let us be reminded hourly that this may be the glad year when Jesus shall come and catch away His waiting bride. "Watch and Pray!"

As you see, I am now in England. Due to a change of arrangements, I had to sail on another boat (other than the Queen Elizabeth) and had to go via Nova Scotia which made my journey very long, and I didn't land here until December 29th; spent Christmas on the high seas of course. I landed in Liverpool, went directly to Ilkeston where I held a service for the Nazarenes there and then came on here where I am busy getting arrangements made to go on to Egypt.

I will leave England Sunday and go to France, and there I plan to make an effort to cross over into Spain and hold some services there for about five days. Persecutions are going on in Spain against those who preach the truth, and there may be a chance that as I am an American and Franco is bidding for American dollars, I might be permitted to hold a few services in a house somewhere. At least I am going to try, for I have always wanted to preach in Spain. I will tell you more later as to how I manage.

I expect to be in Egypt by January 23rd. I don't know just how long I will be there, or what place I will go after that. As there is so much hatred and unrest in that part of the world. I will have to go wherever God permits and when He clears the way. I will give you a full report in my next newsletter which friends in England will mail on to you within a month...

...Wish I could see you all and enjoy some more good sunshine and dry warm weather - it is miserable here. God bless you all. Pray for me and write when you can. My mail will be forwarded from the address below, and if any offerings are ever enclosed, they should be either in green back itself, or by personal check.

Yours for Souls,

Rev. J. Royce Thomason,
C/o Rev. W. A. Everitt,
219, Mary Street,
Balsall Heath,
Birmingham, England.





MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends:

It was 4:22 a.m. and raining *cats and dogs* as my folks used to say. I looked at the clock and thought it too early to rise. Yet, my mind began to race over a long "TO DO LIST" including the needs of family, friends, and this ministry.

The rains have briefly stopped, but there is some flooding in the river areas of our county. For me, a flood of prayer requests have surged through my heart and mind this morning. It's now 5:35AM and at my desk I pen these thoughts.

Many of you have read this little publication for decades. As you will note, this edition is *Founder's Month*. On January 1, 1953, Bro. Royce wrote the first newsletter from Birmingham, England. That was the beginnings of *The Voice in the Wilderness*

and for over 53 years now readers have been blessed by this printed missionary.

In my King James Bible, Nehemiah 11 has the following chapter heading - "Nehemiah establishes policies." The walls had been built on the original foundations and Nehemiah developed policies for populating Jerusalem. Under Nehemiah's leadership, God's people saw the impossible accomplished. It took prayer, persistence, and planning. Verse 17 of chapter 4 says, *They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.* Those were days of building and battle. The foundation was there and it was time to build.

Thank the Lord for the

foundation of The Voice in the Wilderness ministry. God's Holy Word, contending for fundamental Christianity and American freedom for over 53 years, this ministry has been a voice consistently crying out and standing for the truth. You have been a vital part of this work. On behalf of all our missionaries, thank you for your faithful friendship.

As summer rains fall over the beautiful mountains of Western NC, and a new day dawns outside the office of The Voice in the Wilderness, I am reminded of Nehemiah's words - *...God shall fight for us. So we laboured in the work: and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared... the joy of the Lord is your strength.* Praise the Lord for His grace and

(Continued on page 10)

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!



Each August *The Voice in the Wilderness* spotlights numerous events in the life and ministry of Dr. J. Royce Thomason. We are indeed thankful to our Saviour Jesus Christ in using Bro. Royce for almost seven decades of gospel work. Our Lord knew the events of September 2001 when illness brought about great change in The Voice in the Wilderness founder. Yet, because of *Providential Design*, preparation had been set in place for this ministry to continue without missing a step. Now, five

years after Bro. Royce's debilitating sickness, we praise the Lord for His sustaining grace in the on going missionary work of The Voice in the Wilderness ministry. God has truly shown Himself faithful in the midst of tremendous adversity.

This is a "Missions" oriented enterprise. For many years, The Voice in the Wilderness has supported some of the choicest servants around the world as they preach Christ and plant solid, soul-winning scriptural churches. It is a joy to write monthly checks to preachers and missionaries that enable these men and women to do the work God has called them to. Little did we know that the founder of this ministry, Dr. J. Royce Thomason, would become a needy recipient of The Voice in the Wilderness missionary support. However, we are thankful that for five years (60 monthly checks) The Voice in the Wilderness has been able to continue Bro. Royce's support check, monthly insurance payment and benefit needs. We view this "as unto the Lord" with Bro. Royce now a part of The Voice in the Wilderness missions support. Many of you have given

generously enabling The Voice in the Wilderness to minister financially to Dr. Thomason in this way.

Even though Bro. Royce has been unable to write a "thank you" for The Voice in the Wilderness and the sacrifice of many supporters, we would like to express our deepest appreciation to our Lord for this ministry and those who have made possible the generous missionary support for him during the past five years of his disability. Let me add my personal "thank you" as well for standing with this ministry during the time of transition and for the generous financial support that has enabled us to minister continually to Dr. Thomason.

THANK YOU

For your prayers and friendship!



For Personal Correspondence, Contributions,
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Write to us

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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."

Study The Word

with CrossVue School Of Missions

Every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ should be a diligent student of His Word. What a joy it has been for many years to travel across the United States, Canada, Mexico, India and Venezuela taking part in the teaching and preaching of God's Holy Word. During 2006, we have challenged *The Voice in the Wilderness* subscribers to read through the Bible. As you do so, always see HIM – HIGH, HOLY and EXALTED – our great God and Saviour. Daily you will be stirred as HIS HOLY SPIRIT guides you in all TRUTH.

It is the desire of CrossVue School of Missions to challenge the local church in a Biblical worldview, and in that to be actively involved in reaching from Jerusalem, in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and into the uttermost part of the earth! In this, God has called His church to do.

Take a brief walk with me through the Book of Acts. This outline may help see the church and God's call afresh.

The Mandate – Acts 1:8 “Jerusalem unto the uttermost – ye shall be witnesses.”

The Measure – Acts 2:41 “...they gladly received His Word – there were added unto them about three thousand souls...”

(Duty [obedience] is ours – results are God's)

The Method – Acts 5:42 “...daily in the temple and in every house...”

The Membership – Acts 5:42 “they” the witnesses took the gospel everywhere as they went.

The Message – Acts 5:42 “...they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ...”

The Mathematics – Acts 6:7 “...the number of disciples multiplied...”

1. We are not talking “backing up.”
2. We are not talking “standing still.”
3. We are not talking “holding out.”
4. WE ARE TALKING MULTIPLICATION!

The Missionary – Acts 8:4 “...they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word...”

1. The Divine Plan
“...Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria, and uttermost...”
2. The Different People
“witnesses”
“Temple of the Holy Spirit”
I Corinthians 6:19&20 – “...ye are not your own...”
3. The Dynamic Power
“...ye shall receive power...”
4. The Determined Path
Acts 28:31 – “...Preach and teach the Lord Jesus Christ...”



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

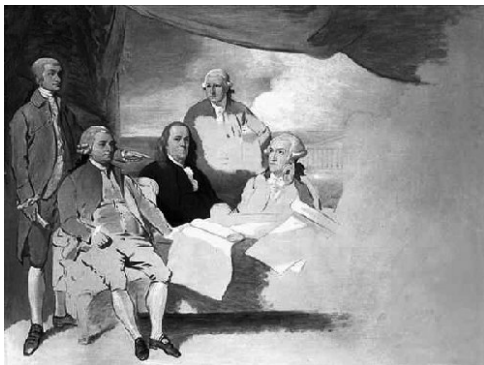


On September 13, 1814, a young man was sent to a British ship to try to secure the release of an American doctor. Because of the bombardment, the man was kept on the ship all night. As he watched the British bombard Fort Mifflin from a distance, Francis Scott Key penned the words to our national anthem. The fourth verse of the Star-Spangled Banner shows his jubilation when he saw the American flag still flying over the fort. He wrote:

*“O! Thus be it ever when free men shall stand,
Between their loved home and the war’s desolation;
Blest with vict’ry and peace, may the Heav’n-rescued land,
Praise the Pow’r that hath made and preserved us a nation!”*

*Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just;
And this be our motto, ‘In God is our trust!’
And the star spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave!”*

The Birth of Our Nation



Painting by Benjamin West depicting John Jay, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Henry Laurens, and William Temple Franklin. The British commissioners refused to pose, and the picture was never finished.

On September 3, 1783, the brand new nation of the United States of America and the United Kingdom signed the Treaty of Paris. The treaty had many references to God. It started with this sentence: “In the name of the most holy and undivided Trinity.” Another phrase in the treaty is, “It having pleased the Divine Providence to dispose the heart of . . . Prince George the Third. . . to forget all past misunderstandings. . . between the two countries. . .” The Treaty was signed by three of our distinguished Founding Fathers—Benjamin Franklin, John Adams (2nd President), and John Jay (1st Chief Justice of the Supreme Court).



NEWS BITS

FROM HERE AND THERE

KANSAS CITY, MEXICO-

KCSmart Port is an attempt to have a Mexican customs facility within the Kansas City's inland port. The interesting thing is that this facility would be considered part of Mexico. Documents obtained by Joyce Mucci, founder of Mid American Immigration Reform Coalition, show that the deal has been trying to go through since 2004. This is an effort to entice Mexican officials into cooperating with a Missouri development project in Mexico. *WorldNetDaily.com 7/5/06*



IS ISRAEL ALONE? - The United Nations has singled out the Nation of Israel for human rights violations of the "Occupied Palestinian Territories". The start of this was the Danish cartoons that were printed last year of Mohamed. Saudi Arabia was the nation that brought up the complaint. Instead of focusing in on the Sudan and what is happening there, the council looked at Israel's alleged crimes. Peggy Hicks of Human Rights Watch said, "The council's singling out the Occupied Palestinian Territories for special attention is a cause for concern. The human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories deserves attention, but the new council must bring the

same vigor to its consideration of other pressing situations." Amnesty International said that they "welcome the Council's decision to convene a Special Session on human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and calls for concrete action to address the gross human rights abuses currently taking place there." *www.irnnews.com 7/5/06*

DIVE ON IN- Congressman Jerry Lewis, chair of the House Appropriations Committee, has already asked and received from Congress \$1 million for a "renovation" of Banning, CA, city pool. Chris Millen, who works for the city's community services department, said, "The existing pool will be demolished and in the same location- the same footprint- we'll build the new pool." Estimated cost for the pool is as high as \$4 million. Representative Jeff Flake of Arizona is trying to block the indiscretionary spending. "Often these earmarks are for groups that have been unsuccessful in competing for these grants so they say bag it, let's just hire a lobbyist and get an earmark," remarked Rep. Flake. Rep. Jerry Lewis, over the last three years, has presented this project to the House as "renovations and improvements." By the way, the House recently passed a Legislative Line Item Veto Act so that the President can veto this kind of pork barrel spending. *Human Events 7/3/06*

GITMO GONE? - Just recently, the Supreme Court ruled on the case entitled *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*. This case was brought by one of the detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Hamdan's contention was that the US government has no right to try him in a military court. Based on the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) in article 36 (b), the Supreme Court said the government did not have the right to try these men at Guantanamo Bay. However, because Congress changed the language in the UCMJ before, they can do so again. Justice Kennedy said, "Because Congress has prescribed these limits, Congress can change them." Also, this ruling does allow the US to detain the people who seek to harm Americans, and does not guarantee those who are already captured a speedy trial in civil courts. *www.irnnews.com 7/5/06*

N. KOREA TO CELEBRATE THE 4TH?

- The 4th of July is a special day for us. It is the day that we celebrate our independence. But who knew that the North Koreans also wanted to celebrate with fireworks of their own? On that day, the North Korean military launched as many as 7 missiles, one of which was capable of reaching mainland United States as far east as Chicago. Thankfully, the missiles blew up before they could

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reach their target. The question is now what to do about the N. Koreans ignoring international warnings about launching the weapons? Should there be just sanctions or should there be military involvement? Let us see what happens next.

IS IRAN GOING TO BE ANOTHER IRAQ? - World

(7/1/06) also tells us of another country that has the US government considering on which to place heavier sanctions. Iran has been trying to enrich its uranium for some time now. President Bush stated, "Iran's leaders have a clear choice. We hope they will accept our offer and voluntarily suspend these activities so we can work out an agreement that will bring Iran real benefits." President Bush advised the Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad that the world would cut off his country politically and economically if it would not comply with the world's demands. President Ahmadinejad said he would respond by August 22.



OKLAHOMA SPELLS SPACE -

Entrepreneurs in Oklahoma want to do what Cape Canaveral and Houston have

done- have space travel. On June 13, the Federal Aviation Administration granted the Oklahoma Space Industry Development Authority a license that would bring the state closer to opening the first commercial space port. The Authority hopes that they will be open for business at Burns Flat, Oklahoma, in 2008. *World 7/1/06*



TEST FOR DEMENTIA

"It's that time of year to take our annual senior citizen test."

Exercise of the brain is as important as exercise of the muscles. As we grow older, it's important that we keep mentally alert. The saying; "If you don't use it, you will lose it" also applies to the brain, so.. Below is a very private way to gauge your loss or non-loss of intelligence.

So take the following test presented here and determine if you are losing it or are still "with it." See page 11 for the answers.

OK, relax, clear your mind, (well, maybe not THAT clear) and ... begin ... !

1. What do you put in a toaster?
2. Say "silk" five times. Now spell "silk." What do cows drink?
3. If a red house is made from red bricks and a blue house is made from blue bricks and a pink house is made from pink bricks and a black house is made from black bricks, what is a green house made from?
4. Its twenty years ago, and a plane is flying at 20,000 feet over Germany (If you will recall, Germany at the time was politically divided into West Germany and East Germany.) Anyway, during the flight, THREE of the engines fail. The pilot, realizing that the last remaining engine is also failing, tries an emergency landing procedure in the only clear spot he can see. Unfortunately, the last engine fails before he succeeds and the plane crashes smack in the middle of "no man's land" between East Germany and West Germany. Where would you bury the survivors? East Germany, West Germany or in "no man's land"?
5. Without using a calculator – you are driving a bus from London to Milford Haven in Wales. In London, 17 people get on the bus. In Reading, six people get off the bus and nine people get on. In Swindon, two people get off and four get on. In Cardiff, 11 people get off and 16 people get on. In Swansea, three people get off and five people get on. In Carmarthen, six people get off and three get on. You then arrive at Milford Haven. What was the name of the bus driver?

(Answers on Page 11)



Nuggets of Gold

1. Let your face know you're happy!
2. A frown is a wrecked smile.
3. Be better, not bitter.
4. No cowboy was ever faster on the draw than a grandparent pulling a baby picture out of a wallet.
5. Facts don't change; feelings do.
6. Most failures are expert at making excuses.
7. Example is a language all men can read.
8. Kind words can never die, but without kind deeds they can sound mighty sick.
9. Raising children is the biggest "heir-conditioning" job ever undertaken.



RELIGIOUS NEWS

AND COMMENTS



29 FOOT DISGRACE? -

At Mount Soledad National War Memorial near San Diego, CA, there has been a war raging. A 29 foot monument of a cross dedicated to the men who fought during the Korean War is being threatened to be dismantled. A judge in California ordered the city to either take the cross down or be fined \$5,000 a day. The city appealed to the Supreme Court, and they decided to stop the ejection of the monument for now. Philip Paulson, a Vietnam veteran, was the one who wanted the cross to be taken down. Mr. Paulson, an atheist, wanted the cross taken down due to the separation of church and state. Lawyers for the city called the cross "a national treasure." Remember last year the Supreme Court told courthouses in Kentucky and Texas that they could not display the Ten Commandments. Maybe with the recent change in the Court, it has gotten more conservative? *AOL News 7/3/06*

RELIGIOUSLY DUMBED DOWN- Students at Fuller Theological Seminary in California

are getting a religiously dumbed down education. A recent graduate of the Seminary, Kim Livesay, got her masters degree in marriage and family therapy. "I went out of my way to find a school I thought would give me a Christian preparation for my work as a counselor, and I went \$50,000 into debt. Why should I have to keep asking myself: 'Couldn't I have gotten this same education at Arizona State, where I could have lived at home and saved a whole lot of money?'," says Miss Livesay. To answer all of her questions, Miss Livesay recommends for people to talk to her professors. Jack and Judith Balswick teach a course at Fuller entitled "Gender and Sexuality." Dr. Balswick knows that his course is confusing and students have a hard time with the issues that he and his wife present to the class. In a book that he and his wife wrote in 1999 entitled *Authentic Human Sexuality*, Dr. Balswick wrote: "We acknowledge that some gay Christians may choose to commit themselves to a lifelong, monogamous homosexual union, believing this is God's best plan for them. They believe that this reflects an authentic sexuality that is congruent for them and their view of Scripture. Even though we hold to the model of a heterosexual, lifelong, monogamous union, our compassion brings us to support all persons as they move in the direction of God's ideal for their lives." *World 7/1/06 {Editor: Why are we setting up*

ourselves as God? Doesn't He have any say in all of this? Parents, be careful where you send your children for higher education!!}



TO SKATE OR NOT- In Accord, NY, a local roller skating rink has offered for Sunday afternoons to be a Christian skate time. The Division of Human Rights of the State of New York has disagreed with the advertising of the Christian skate time. A letter from the organization said, "Christian skate denies or at a minimum, discourages non-Christian patronage." The rink offers specialty times for young children up to pre-teen as well as disco parties for adults. But the Christian time is discriminating. "These people are exercising basic constitutional rights on private property to the exclusion of no one and the state government is treating them like dangerous criminals," said Lou Sheldon, director of Tradition Values Coalition. "This is political correctness run amok." Len Bernardo, the owner of the rink,

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said that the Christian time was only referring to the type of music that was to be played on Sundays. www.irnnews.com 7/5/06

ROCKIN' FOR JESUS- Rolling Stone guitarist Keith Richards is a guest accompanist on a new religious CD entitled *My Soul is a Witness*. "He may have Sympathy for the Devil, but Keith Richards also jams for Jehovah." Richards's sister-in-law Marsha Hanson asked him and former Beach Boy Blondie Chaplin and Bob Dylan drummer George Receli to play some of the songs for the compilation. Two of the six songs that Richards performed were "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" and "Rock in Jerusalem." The album was made for the Lutheran church of which Mrs. Hanson's husband is a minister. Mrs. Hanson said that, "Obviously, you hear Keith chattering in the background. You can hear some of our comments and our laughter. That's part of the mood of the CD. We had a wonderful time." *Columbus Dispatch* 7/5/06



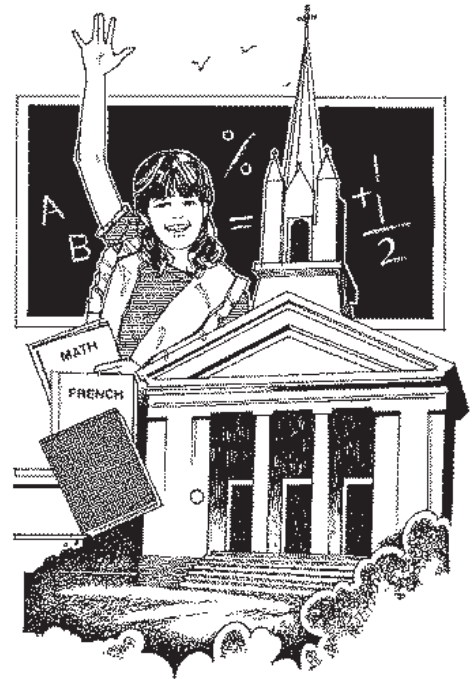
ROMANISM AND JUDAISM- Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar recently sent a letter to the Pope about a world gay pride parade to take place in Jerusalem. In the letter, the rabbi asked Pope Benedict XVI to help him "... thwart the event of the world gay parade which will take place next month in Jerusalem." Rabbi Amar went on to write, "We were shocked to hear of plans to hold the world Pride Parade in the Holy City. The city which the entire world looks up www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org

to due to its holiness and glory is now being attacked by evil people who wish to violate its honor and humiliate its greatness with deeds that the Torah despises, as well as all other religions. There is no need to elaborate about their plans and evil actions that bring humanity's dignity to the ground. I ask his Excellency to object [to] this terrible phenomenon, in the hope that the protest of religious leaders will guide lost souls who fool and harm themselves badly and will deter evil people from corrupting humanity." *Ynetnews.com* 7/5/06



GONE TO THE DOGS PIGS- A Voice in the Wilderness subscriber sent in a newspaper clipping about a Christian school fundraiser. The money was to pay for the senior class mission trip to Mexico City. The Christian school families donated \$940 during the event. Apparently the schools two principals had agreed to "kiss the pig" at the conclusion of the fundraiser. The newspaper report was accompanied by a 4X5 photo of the two school principals "kissing the pig." This is another example of the trends we have frequently addressed in this publication. Missions, church, and Christian education have all been subjected to everything but Bible. Please read The Voice in the Wilderness October

2004 "Missions at Risk" and October 2005 "Apologies From America." On page 3 of "Apologies From America" the unscriptural trends many groups have fallen into are highlighted as a caution to pastors and churches across America. May God help us to hold HIGH the Banner for Christ.



RUSSIAN STUDENTS VS. STATE SCHOOLS - *Pacific Justice Institute* wrote the following letter that exposes the militant aggressiveness of homosexuals and the agenda of public education. Read to weep, pray, and stand up for right!

"After experiencing dramatic reforms in their lifetime, a group of Russian teen-agers did not hesitate to exercise their newly-acquired free speech rights to express their religious beliefs at a state-sponsored school. In the past, when the state began an indoctrination campaign against their faith, they were intimidated into silence, just as their parents had been

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 2)

goodness to this ministry and my family! May we together *labour in the work for His honour and glory*. Amen.

Elsewhere in these pages you will find a report from Venezuela and the Aquila/Priscilla ministry. Also, I pray many of you will place as generous an offering as possible in the Founder's Month Envelope and return it to The Voice in the Wilderness office. Summer has historically been difficult financially. But May, June, and now July 2006 for The Voice in the Wilderness has been an extremely lean period. In addition with the added missions work in Venezuela plus the School of Missions, the needs are great. So this month we will launch a strong stewardship emphasis. This goal is to challenge present partners/supporters and enlist new supporters/partners to underwrite the current financial needs The Voice in the Wilderness is already committed to. Missionaries and projects need funding. We would like to close out 2006 with all accounts balanced and bills paid. Any way you can help, with as generous a gift as possible will be so very deeply appreciated.

Trusting, believing, and knowing you will do your best to help, I extend my heartfelt and deepest thanks for your prayers and support in advance. May God bless!

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



(Continued from page 9)

when they were young. But this time was different because the state-run school was in the United States, not Russia.

"Under the banner of the 'Day of Silence,' homosexual activists, in cooperation with public schools, had organized students and teachers to intimidate millions across America to be silent as a show of support for homosexuality. Students who chose to speak on this day would be given looks of disgust by their peers and many pro-homosexual teachers.

"But dozens of Russian Christian teenagers attending schools in the Sacramento area had strong convictions to the contrary. So instead of surrendering to this indoctrination, they decided to utilize their right to speak up by wearing t-shirts expressing their beliefs. The shirts made it clear: 'Homosexuality is Sin. Jesus Can Set You Free.' One student stated, '[t]hat t-shirt did not express hatred toward any group, and as a Christian I know that we have to love everybody, like Jesus did. I did not want gays to be pushed around; they can do what [they want]. I simply wanted to express my opinion that homosexuality is wrong.' However, under the guise of tolerance, the school responded with an immediate demand of censorship by ordering the students to remove their shirts. When the students refused to give in to this demand for them to hide their faith, administrators on one campus suspended more than a dozen students for two days and stained their records by putting the suspensions into their files.

"In a school not far away, another group of Russian students not only wore t-shirts, but decided

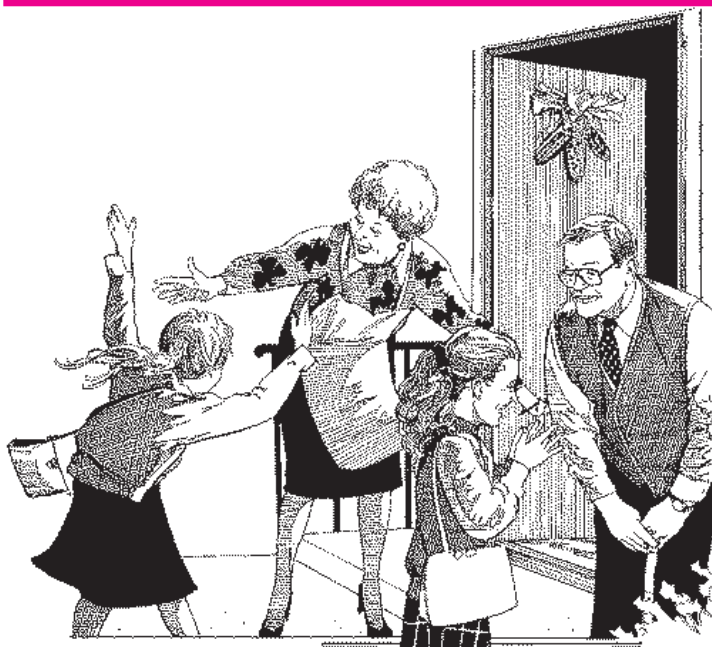
to pass out tracts stating what the Bible says about homosexuality. Their literature was confiscated and they were ordered to remove their t-shirts or turn them inside-out. One girl described it this way. *The... teacher seeing that I did not listen to him and put on the t-shirt again, came up to me really fast totally angry saying, 'Do you want to fight with me? Huh! Do you want to fight with me?' I passed him by, totally ignoring him, letting him know that I am not afraid of him. That day I was scared to walk alone – and not only me because gay people were so aggressive to us – that we had to walk in groups. I heard some of the students were saying, 'We have to shoot all Russians.'*

"These Russian students and their parents soon contacted *Pacific Justice Institute* for representation. Not only have we made the commitment to represent these brave young Christians, but we have also begun to train them and their youth pastors and parents on all of their legal rights and opportunities to have a dynamic impact on their campuses by sharing their faith even more.

"The training is the easy part. The representation is what will take considerable time and resources. If we prevail, a precedent will be established that will open up the floodgates of opportunity for the thousands of students who have recently been intimidated from boldly sharing their faith to desperate teens needing to hear it. But, if we fail, then schools will have the green light to more aggressively than ever permanently silence Christians while promoting homosexuality with taxpayer dollars."



Thank You, God, For Grandparents!



Few can bring the warmth
We can find in their embrace,
And little more is needed to bring love.
Than the smile on their face.

They've a supply of precious stories,
Yet they've time to wipe a tear,
Or give us reasons to make us laugh,
They grow more precious through the years.

I believe that God sent us Grandparents
As our legacy from above,
To share the moments of our life,
As extra measures of His love.

~Author Unknown.~

At 26, I am thankful the Lord is still giving me the privilege of enjoying the love of four living grandparents. What a blessing it was, even as a child, to know and love my Great-grandmother Holder. As the years go by, it seems Grandma and Granddaddy Williamson and Grandma and Granddaddy Little become a more precious and important part of my life. Now, as a wife, I cherish the opportunity of sharing these special people with my husband, who has wonderful aunts and uncles, but was not able to grow up spoiled by the love of grandparents. Together, we say, "Thank you, God, for Grandparents!" as we look back at the love, sacrifices, and prayers they have bestowed upon us.

We love you all and pray the Lord will bless us with many more years to come.

Love, Rebekah and Steve

Not Taking Undue Advantage

A PIONEER PREACHER was called upon to preach at the funeral of a man who had refused to come to church. As the pallbearers neared the door of the building, the old preacher stood in the doorway and beckoned to them, saying, "Gentlemen, I have never taken undue advantage of any living person, and I will not begin by imposing on the dead. If this man were living, he wouldn't enter this building. Put him down right there and let's respect him enough to finish his earthly pilgrimage as he lived it." The services were conducted from the door, while the remains rested on the lawn. — *unknown*.

ANSWERS TO "TEST FOR DEMENTIA"

Turn magazine upside down

1. "bread" — If you said "toast," then give up now and go do something else. If you said, "bread," let's see how you did on Question 2.
2. Cows drink water. If you said "milk," please do not attempt the next question. Your brain is obviously over stressed and may even overhear. If you said "water" then maybe you did well on Question 3.
3. Greenhouses are made from glass. If you said "green bricks," why are you still reading these answers?
4. You don't, of course, bury survivors. If you said ANYTHING else, you must never try to rescue anyone from a plane crash. Oh, well, there's still one last chance.
5. Oh, for crying out loud! Don't you remember your own name? YOU were driving the bus!!



The Voice IN THE Wilderness

MISSION SPOTLIGHT

PARTNER WITH AQUILA-PRISCILLA MINISTRIES

A Diary Of APM – Part I



As a reader of The Voice in the Wilderness, you probably are unable to travel with Aquila-Priscilla Ministries (APM) and serve as missionaries and teachers. Nevertheless, we do invite you to “go with us” by way of the written word and participate by understanding more clearly the vision and goal of this specific ministry. Your daily prayers and consistent financial support provide an avenue for APM to share the gospel around the world. So, here’s the ticket – non-stop to Caracas, Venezuela. Fasten your seat belts as you take off for daily experiences with APM as Steve and Rebekah Lilly minister for seven weeks at a Bible College and Seminary.

5/15/06 Today we departed Raleigh-Durham International Airport at 1:25pm after goodbyes to family. Amazingly, we had no trouble checking our luggage. One piece weighed 49.5 lbs. – 50 lbs. being the limit! Then Delta flight 300 left Atlanta at 5:36 for Caracas. In flight, we filled out visa and custom information and had our last American meal – Pasta, salad, roll, and a chocolate brownie! We landed on the steamy Caracas coast

at 9:55pm. After presenting our passports and visas and collecting our luggage, we were greeted by a sign-holding Bro. Rafael and family. Thankfully, he brought a loaner truck to carry us and our luggage to the motel we were to stay at for the night. Our very modest accommodations and creepy crawling welcomers were an interesting introduction to Venezuela. Sticky, hot, 3 small beds, “friendlies” skittering around ... Sleep slowly came!



A look at Caracas. The city is divided up by these houses called Barrios. The city is on a fault line, and if there were an earthquake, these houses would quickly crumble.

5/16/06 After showering and feeling refreshed for the day, we entered the steam zone for breakfast. Our first Venezuelan breakfast included black beans, cheese, shredded beef and arepas – not bad, but Steve didn’t care for the beans. The airport is actually located in the State of Vargas; therefore, Bro. Rafael drove us through town, up the mountain, around the broken bridge on a temporary road and into the city of Caracas. Upon arrival at the church, Pastor Paez immediately ushered us into our waiting class. Around 32 students eagerly welcomed us. We spent about an hour getting to know the students

and teaching our first English lesson. After class, we enjoyed a pollo lunch (chicken) and unpacked for our stay at The Lexington Motel. Tuesday church began at 7pm with Dad (Bro. Williamson) preaching. Four souls were saved – AMEN!

5/17/06 We visited the supermarket across the street this morning. Thankfully, many items are the same as in the US. Day 2 of classes began at 9:30am. Students enjoyed learning their first Bible story in English today – Adam and Eve – although the “TH” sound is difficult for many to pronounce. After class, Rebekah practiced piano (Pastor plays, but will greatly enjoy this 7 week break!) Abraham, a seminary student who drives a taxi, came to take Dad back to the airport. Tomorrow he will fly out for meetings elsewhere in Venezuela. We are on our own now. Lord willing, we will be greatly used here.



These are two of the young men that came to our class that met on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays. Steve was helping them with pronunciation and understanding of the English words that they were learning.

5/18/06 Pastor picked us up this morning and took us to a much nicer supermarket to buy sandwich

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supplies. Next, we went to the Bank. Customers must leave all bags in a locker just inside the door. Next you have to step through a sliding glass door and be checked for weapons by a metal detector. When finished you can then go through another sliding door into the main bank area. All that for nothing. The bank will not exchange American money (President Chavez has created a problem)...not sure what we will do. Our afternoon class with the seminary went very well. The night class of 15 students is mostly church members. It is evident that this class does not have as much educational experience and will probably need more one on one help. Pastor and family left this afternoon for a weekend conference, so we are really on our own! Rebekah played for the congregations in church and afterwards, Francisco, who speaks some broken English, helped us pick out 7 weeks worth of songs from the Spanish hymn book that we all know. Because the Pastor is the only one who has a car, we had to take a taxi back to our room – SCARY! – Pastor says that you can never trust a taxi driver as an American. Thankfully two of the seminary guys went with us. Now, time to shower and get rid of some of this stickiness!

5/20/06 Visitation with Pastor Fares in Baruta was eye-opening. We drove to East Caracas and climbed a mountain to the rancheros. Fares has a nice area for his church in an old municipal building. It is very secure with office space, auditorium and fellowship area. We had seven people come for visitation for this new church to pass out invitations for Club Biblia, a teen Bible lesson, at 2pm. We walked through the Barrio (neighborhood) passing out invitations. To visit each rancho we had to climb long, steep flights

of stairs, stopping along the way to tap on the metal bars and doors of each resident. Surprisingly, most of these people were immigrants – Chinese, Peruvian, Syrian, Cuban. We visited one man who lived “miserably” behind the dumpster in a heap of trash. He spoke English! Steve witnessed to him, but Enrique said that he had been saved many times. Steve will visit him again next Saturday.



While in Caracas, we had the opportunity to go on visitation every Saturday. The church that we did visitation with is an outgrowth of the church where we taught classes. Steve and Fares (the pastor) are holding the sign of the church. The English translation is Eastern Torch Baptist Church.

5/22/06 Dad flew from Barquisemeto to Caracas today. Finally, he arrived at our hotel around 3pm. We thought he would be here much earlier in the day. Perhaps there was a miscommunication about the times between Pastor and us – BUT no! It was not a language problem for the confusion was between Pastor and Bro. Rafael! We had a nice visit with Dad. Dad went with us to our 7pm class and Bro. Rafael came and took him back to Vargas. It seems as if we will have to stay at the hotel for the duration of the trip. The President of Venezuela has confiscated all apartments for the homeless to live in, and raised the hotel prices to out-price the American religious workers. We are trusting God to provide for

these extra expenses.

5/24/06 Tonight's class had their first test. The students were very nervous, but they were all able to tell the story. We will grade the written part tomorrow. Interestingly, two girls from another class came to get a sneak peak of the test before tomorrow, but the Pastor's wife quickly sent them on to choir!

5/25/06 Whoa! Our ride today was 5 minutes early. (We are trying to get use to the plans constantly changing and times being hours later than scheduled!) Lunch was black beans and rice – good for Rebekah but not for Steve. Steve is getting a lot of teasing about this. The seminary class did great on the oral story-telling test and they learned the chorus of the song all the classes will sing in church at the end of the course.

5/27/06 Sickness was inevitable! Today was the day. Thank goodness

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ON THE LIGHT SIDE

A sweet little boy surprised his grandmother one morning and brought her a cup of coffee. He made it himself and was so proud. He anxiously waited to hear the verdict on the quality of the coffee. The grandmother had never in her life had such a bad cup of coffee, and as she forced down the last sip she noticed three of those little green army guys in the bottom of the cup.

She asked, “Honey, why would three little green army guys be in the bottom of my cup?”

Her grandson replied, “You know grandma, it's like on TV, ‘The best part of waking up is soldiers in your cup’.”



(Continued from page 13)

for Imodium! Rebekah barely made it through teaching and was very thankful to get back to the hotel and the bathroom.

5/28/06 Many people were saved and baptized today at church services and piano playing for Rebekah went well. After not eating much due to sickness, Rebekah was starved. Pastor took us for some American food at Wendy's. Mmmm! After the night service, we took Pastor to "our place" for ice cream. Because of the way we were dressed, the lady working at the Pasteleria asked if we were believers. She had just moved from Columbia and was looking for a church. Pastor told her about Iglesia Biblica Bautista de Vista Alegre. We are looking forward to Lina visiting soon.

5/29/06 The Monday night class of church people is such a blessing to teach. They love the Lord and are eager to learn so that they can better serve the Lord.

Juan wanted to look at our pictures of Heaven again. He was in awe over what Heaven may look like. He pointed to the picture of the house on the street of gold and said teary-eyed "My mansion!"

6/2/06 Last night the seminary guys cooked us an All-American meal – hot dogs! We had a great time getting to know each one better. The seminary class has blossomed. To give a little more college structure to the class, we instituted assigned seating, homework, and required oral practice. The spirit of the class soared and learning has improved.

6/3/06 The Metro took us to the Chacaito stop. Thankfully, it wasn't as crowded as yesterday (we felt like the "Huddled Masses" as people jammed into the train until no more could fit!). From the Metro, we took a bus that carried us to Fares church

for visitation. Fares and Steve were able to give a good witness to two teenagers and Steve visited Enrique again, the man who lives behind the trash. After visitation, we went back to the church for Sunday music practice with the director, Carlos. We practiced and the Sunday AM songs went well, but the PM songs ... well, it will be a miracle if we make it through them. Carlos doesn't know timing and it is almost impossible for Rebekah to stay with him. Finally, she tried to demonstrate (since he spoke no English) what a half note is. Maybe after 15 times of practicing "How Great Thou Art" we finally got it. "Dear Lord, Help us to 'get it' tomorrow for church."



Rebekah had the opportunity to play the piano every service. The church there meets 4 times a week. Twice on Sunday, Tuesday night for prayer meeting, and Thursday night for their weeknight service.

6/4/06 The Lord blessed and we made it through the song services. Everyone seems to be enjoying Rebekah's playing in spite of some mistakes. Today, Pastor shared with us his vision for this ministry. What a joy it was to hear of how God has worked so far here in Venezuela. Now, we can pray even more faithfully and specifically for this work.

6/5/06 After doing some necessary shopping, we spent the afternoon working on a lesson for children's church. We will be giving balloon animals to good listeners and Steve will be giving a lesson

in Spanish!! (This will take much practice!) Rebekah will also be singing a song in Spanish for the church services. Tonight's class took their second test, while Rebekah worked with two new unsaved students who came for the first time to class. They learned of sin and Eve's choice to sin. We are praying they will learn of God's salvation and be saved through this class.



The young men in the seminary like to sing. One Sunday night after the services, they serenaded us and taught us a new song in English. Please pray for these young men as they seek where God would want them to minister- either in Venezuela or other countries.

6/8/06 The Pastor's wife's birthday was today. We were able to give them a much needed set of kitchen glasses. The classes today told the Moses and Jonah stories. The night class with the older folks is struggling with pronunciation, but is so excited about learning. Maritza came today after class for some help. She said that we were such an example to her because she could tell how much we loved God by the way we taught English. That was a blessing to hear. Sometimes we forget that "fruit" is not just someone getting saved, but can also be someone growing stronger in the Lord.

APM looks forward to continuing their journey of service with you in the next edition of The Voice in the Wilderness.



VISION AND MISSION

Throughout 2006, as we recognize the Williamson's 10th anniversary with *The Voice in the Wilderness*, we have highlighted the Vision and Mission of this ministry. It is a joy to be a small part of what our Lord is doing around the world to reach precious souls with the wonderful good news of Jesus Christ. With this combined August/September edition, there remains only three more monthly printings of *The Voice in the Wilderness* for 2006. Prayerfully, you will catch the urgency and burden of the opportunities before us.

Please, this is a clarion call to action. We need your help. On behalf of all those who receive benefit from *The Voice in the Wilderness* ministries, the challenge is before us. May we all do our part.

It has been said that Caleb was not so much a man of great faith as he was a man of faith in his great God! It was Caleb who was willing to take the unpopular stand and believe God. Numbers 13:30 says, "And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, let us go up at once, and possess it, for we are well able to overcome it."

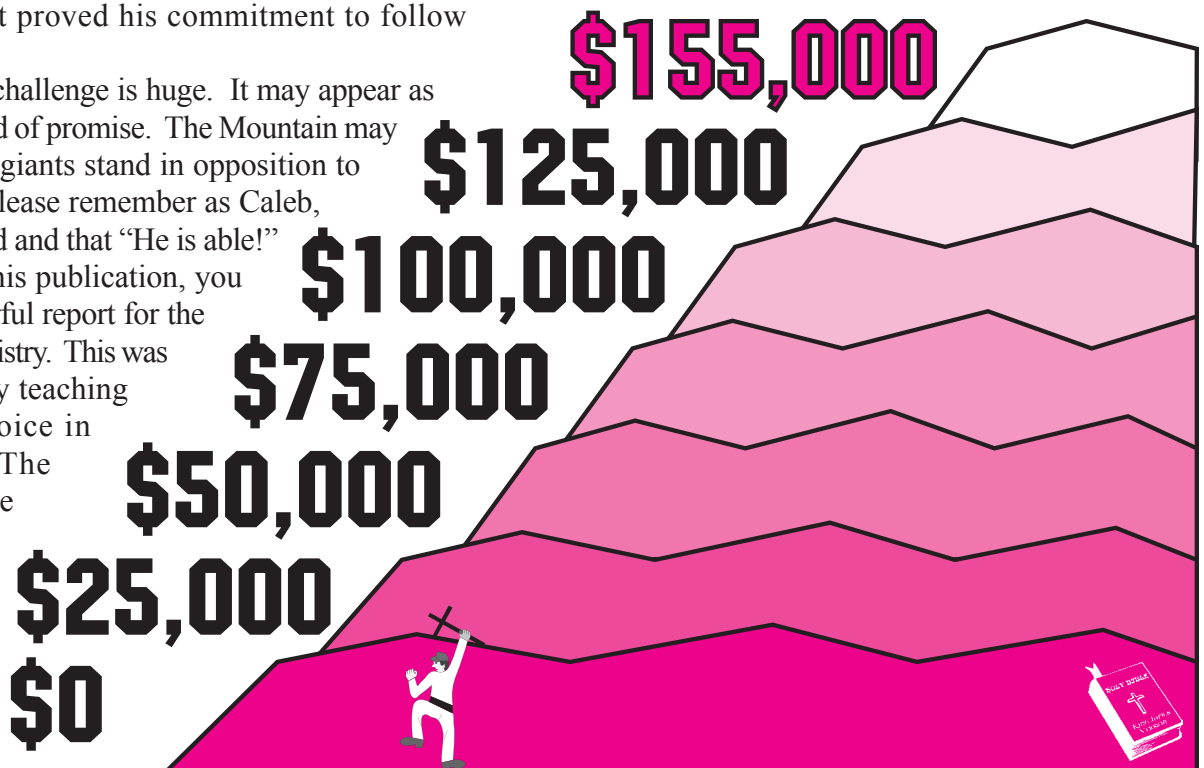
- I. Caleb had the Facts. He had seen the land himself and knew the truth.
- II. Caleb had Faith in God. He believed the promises of God to give the land to Israel.
- III. Caleb followed through with his Faith. It was his statement "we are well able" and "give me this mountain" that proved his commitment to follow through.

The following challenge is huge. It may appear as the giants in the land of promise. The Mountain may loom high and the giants stand in opposition to our success. But please remember as Caleb, the promises of God and that "He is able!"

Elsewhere in this publication, you will see the wonderful report for the Aquila/Priscilla Ministry. This was the first missionary teaching venture of *The Voice in the Wilderness*. The Lord willing, there will be many more such endeavors. Through CrossVue School of Missions, *The Voice in the Wilderness* will

assist Pastors and Missionaries around the world with training and discipleship in the local church. There are giants that will arise in opposition. There are mountains that must be climbed. Thank God we know He is able and with His strength we can do all things to His glory and praise.

So here is the challenge. Enclosed is an envelope for you to help with the year-end goal. From August 2006 to January 1, 2007, *The Voice in the Wilderness* has set a goal of \$155,000 to finish our annual commitments. Many saw the great giants that occupied the land. Caleb saw his great God – the omnipotent of all the land. To some \$155,000 is a giant in the land. But the truth is "we are well able to overcome it" with God's blessing. The historical record reveals not everyone followed Caleb in the blessings and promises of God. But we have the example so that the same error is not repeated. Please stand with us in the Vision and Mission the Lord has given to *The Voice in the Wilderness*. From this printed Missionary to the Aquila/Priscilla Ministry and CrossVue School of Missions, a fruitful harvest is already apparent. Please believe with us as we continue to move forward by faith in what our Lord has called us to do. Your generous faith offering mailed to *The Voice in the Wilderness* in the enclosed envelope will help reach the \$155,000 goal by year-end. In advance, thanks for your faithful partnership with *The Voice in the Wilderness*. May God Bless you all.



My Get Up and Go!!

How do I know that my youth is all spent?
Well, my get-up-and-go has got up and went.
But in spite of it all, I am able to grin,
When I recall where my get-up has been.

"Old age is golden" – so I've heard it said –
But sometimes I wonder when I get into bed,
With my ears in a drawer and my teeth in a cup,
My eyes on the table until I wake up.

Ere sleep dims my eyes, I say to myself,
"Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?"
And I'm happy to say, as I close my door,
My friends are the same, perhaps even more.

When I was young, my slippers were red;
I could kick up my heels right over my head.
When I grew older, my slippers were blue;
But still I could run the whole day through.

But now I am old, my slippers are black;
I walk to the store and puff my way back.
The reason I know my youth is all spent:
My get-up-and-go has got up and went.

But I really don't mind when I think, with a grin,
Of all the grand places my get-up has been.
Since I have retired from life's competition,
I accommodate myself with complete repetition.

I get up each morning and dust off my wits,
Pick up my paper and read the "obits."
If my name is missing, I know I'm not dead;
So I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed!

-A. Magazet

Dear *Voice in the Wilderness* Subscriber,

It will save time and make our record keeping more accurate if you would kindly include your subscriber number on your correspondence and contributions sent to *Voice in the Wilderness*. When writing a check place your subscriber number on your check in the "For" space at the bottom. **Thank you** for your assistance.

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