

The Voice



CONTENDING FOR
FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIANITY

IN
THE



CONTENDING FOR
AMERICAN FREEDOM

Wilderness

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." - Mark 1:3

September 2007 • Published Monthly • Free Subscription

A NEW, NEW STORY

I tell you a new, new story
How my Saviour, in all His Glory
Shall take His own from vale of night,
A twinkle of eye transformed in light.

Corrupted clay to white robed we'll be
Ne'er a mortal could imagine to see
Such majesty and splendor, so Holy and High,
'Tis written and proved in your heart is nigh.

Renewed today and in sacred refrain,
So soon 'tis now His eternal reign.
A new heaven and earth, a new name written down
No tears nor sorrow, only His love to abound.

Lift up your heads, and be lifted in joy
With the morning cometh a new, new story.

- RLW



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Dear Reader: *The Voice in the Wilderness* is trying out a new format, due to an **enormous** Postal Rate increase. We still have the same amount of space, and the type size of the content has remained the same. This smaller booklet size will save much-needed money, both in printing and mailing. It will also conveniently fit in a pocket or purse, or slide into your personal Bible, so that you can more easily share the Good Word! Please let us know how this format works for you. Your comments, positive or negative, will help us fine-tune this important tool of our ministry.

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.



MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends:

September 2007 marks one year since the passing of The Voice in the Wilderness founder Dr. J. Royce Thomason. The baton was passed and we are thankful for our Lord's provision. During transition and this year's ministry, it is a joy to see the great things God has done:

1. Thousands of miles traveled, meetings, sermons preached, souls saved and "To God Be The Glory!"
2. The Aquila/Priscilla Ministry has seen a fruitful summer and is completing the Teaching English as a Second Language Certification.
3. Read the July/August 2007 letter at www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org for an update on needs and the seven-point overview of opportunities and praise items.

Thank you so very much for your partnership with The Voice in the Wilderness. Prayers and support from friends like you have made this

faith missionary effort possible. May our Lord richly bless you for caring.

In this issue of *The Voice in the Wilderness* is a very special article you will not want to miss, printed in memory of Dr. Thomason's passing. For five years Bro. Royce struggled with illness and aging until his passing at age 89. Please read the enclosed "While the Evil Days Come Not." I believe this message will be a tremendous help and, prayerfully a challenge to churches in a needy area of ministry.

The Voice in the Wilderness

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*For Personal Correspondence, Contributions,
Address Changes, New Subscriptions,*

Write to us

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J2SU

Will You Get Involved?

Imagine this: There we were in a remote mountain village far from modern conveniences. Only an Indian dialect is spoken here. Yet the gospel came across the airways on a small transistor radio to the hungry heart of one man. Under the sound of the gospel he was gloriously born again. Through a Bible study course and the sweet Holy Spirit's guidance, family was saved and a New Testament Church planted in that small village. Is that amazing? No Denomination, no Missions Board, but Christ and Christ alone.

Could this be Acts 1:8 in real time? After all Jesus said, "I will build my church." What a joy to witness His mighty hand and get in on what He has promised to do.

Acts 1:8 says, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." The First Century church understood. In less than a generation they went from a few, cowering behind closed doors, to a flaming witness throughout the known world. Now as a 21st Century Church

what do we understand about "Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria and the uttermost?"

We will call it, "J2SU" with J2 being Jerusalem and Judaea and SU, of course, is Samaria and the Uttermost.

It has been said that for each of us Jerusalem is our community or city in which we live. Judaea is compared to our state or even one's country while Samaria would be that far away place beyond the border or across an ocean. Finally unto the uttermost part of the earth covers all. People and languages, places and cultures which you have little or no knowledge of is the uttermost. Most importantly, of course, is that God is doing it in the J2SU. Will you get involved?

From the personal level as an individual believer accountable to God and the corporate level with the local church receiving the Acts 1:8 commission, we understand this as divine. Christ will build His Church and without divine power we have no part. Oh, but my soul is thrilled to know He has provided for us all. It is our privilege to get in on what our Lord is doing from Jerusalem to the uttermost.

Suppose for a moment your

Jerusalem is immediate family and friends with whom you have influence. What a mission field. What an opportunity to reach your loved ones with the message of Christ. Then Judaea is that sphere of acquaintances throughout life. Not relatives or friends, but individuals you come in contact with in school, business, work, or recreation. Share the gospel with all you meet in this walk of life. Now Samaria can be a challenge. This is the group that typically one does not desire to have contact with. Maybe there is a past prejudice toward their lifestyle, beliefs or their station in life is repulsive. Jesus said He must needs go through Samaria. The Samaritans were outcast, mongrel Jews. Yet, Jesus took the gospel to one unloved who needed living water (John 4). Finally, there are people you have no knowledge of. The language, culture and religion is vastly different. This is the uttermost. Possibly a far away place, even a hostile place. Yes, the gospel is to go from J2S and unto the uttermost. In my lifetime and your lifetime it is our privilege and God empowerment for His Church to simultaneously preach Christ in Jerusalem, in all Judaea and in Samaria, as well as the uttermost part of the earth. Surely you see this as reality in your church.

The First Century Church is an obvious example. And the record we have in the Book of Acts clearly establishes this to be the pattern and practice, even the very purpose for the local New Testament Church. In Acts, chapters 1-7 the church launches from the base camp in Jerusalem and in all Judaea this Holy Spirit powered witness. Certainly His power is evident from the beginning. Then the gospel fires burn into Samaria as recorded in chapters 8-12. Under the consistent urging of again the Holy Spirit, the church takes the witness to the uttermost in Acts chapters 13-28.

Oswald J. Smith asked the question, "Why should anyone hear the gospel twice before everyone has heard it once?" I personally thank God in His grace I did hear the gospel numerous times as His sweet spirit drew me ultimately to salvation in Christ. Yet, we must understand the mandate to carry the light unto the uttermost. An apathetic or obese church must not hunker down in Jerusalem, Judaea and Samaria building bigger real estate (auditoriums, gymnasiums, etc.) while failing the assault on the uttermost. The urgency is the regions beyond. This is why we exist and what we are about. Please, dear pastor and church, do not deny yourselves

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AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. & MRS. DAVID LILLY

RW - Ronnie Williamson

DL - David Lilly

PL - Patty Lilly

RW: Congratulations on receiving teacher of the year award for your ministry and service at Beacon Church.

Lillys: Thank you. It was a real honor.

RW: We enjoyed having lunch with you at Mount Pisgah, but the Lord provided a unique encounter. Tell us about this.

DL: We were at the deck looking at the Smoky Mountains. These three ladies came out with obviously not an American accent. I struck up a conversation. One said she was from Asheville and one from England. One said she had been to Africa and one to India. You were interested in talking to the one in India so I began talking to the one who had been to Africa. She said she was a missionary to the Congo. I said, "What mission?" She said, "UFM." I said, "Well, shake another UFM veteran's hand." I began mentioning UFM people's names and come to find out, we knew some of the same missionaries. We both knew some of the same missionaries who were killed in the uprising in the Congo. She knew

the missionary who roomed with my wife Patty.

RW: So it is an ever shrinking world.

DL: Yes, she came here to visit her sister who now lives in the States.

RW: That brings us to this point. Tell us first of all how you got saved and from there how you got involved in missions.

PL: My uncle led me to the Lord and followed up on my Christian life with Bibles and camp.

RW: Where was home?

PL: Ossining, NY. I went to camp every summer. A very influential camp counselor encouraged all of us to serve the Lord and go into full time Christian work. At least tell God you would do it. The camp had a missionary every summer. Missions was taught on a daily basis. Not just missionary stories, but also meeting people who were involved in missionary work. As a teenager in high school I became part of a high school born-againers club which encouraged missions world-wide. I went to Bible college, and, through the missions program, learned all I could about missions. I had an

interest in teaching Bible, and boys and girls how to love the Lord. We had to do a missionary notebook for a class. I did a notebook on Brazil, but the Brazil door never opened. When I graduated from college, I went on to teach in a Christian day school for 3 years. I applied to the mission; went to candidate school in June, and in August went to the mission field. It was amazing. Our director said that if we didn't send this lady (me), she will get in a canoe and paddle herself. I had two-thirds of my support before I went to candidate school. I went to Guyana to teach missionary children – 1st and 2nd combo class.

DL: We were not a church family when my mother was saved. The little community church was having a 2 week VBS. Someone stopped at our door and asked if I would like to go to Bible school. That got us involved in going to church. Mother felt we needed to go to church. She soon rededicated her life. I went to summer camp. In an old fashioned tabernacle meeting at night, I asked the Lord to be my Saviour. After coming home, I felt the Lord working in my heart to serve Him full time. At a night-watch New Year's Eve service after games and communion, Pastor asked for testimonies. I said I felt the Lord leading me to full-time service. When I finished high school, it was on to Bible college. In 1960-61 the Bible college started their first missionary peace corps. I signed up to go to a Latin American

country. My parents said they would help me with college expenses. I went to British Guiana with one other student. We played trombone, I played piano, and my friend sang solos. We did campaigns at churches and clubs in the schools. I came back from British Guiana and finished my college studies. Then I taught one year at a Christian school in Massachusetts. Feeling God was leading me back to British Guiana, I decided I should get a Master's Degree in Education. I earned that degree and applied to the mission. In 1966, I went to Guyana – the country achieved independence one month before I went. I thought I would be teaching in a Bible college, but it turned out it was only an evening school of the Bible which would not fill my time. They had been praying for two men to come and start a missionary kids school. Two missionary families with children needed a teacher, and I volunteered to help. Another interior couple felt that their ministry with the Indians was coming to an end and so they joined us and we started a missionary kids school. We started with grades 3-6 and next year expanded to grades 1-6. We needed a 1st grade teacher, and this is where Patty came in.

RW: Holy matrimony ensued?

DL: We knew each other for less than a year and were married. Our first son, Scott was born in

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NEWS BITS

FROM HERE AND THERE

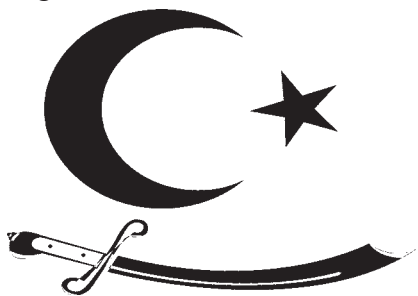
GIRLS GONE MILD – Does the world understand what the church refuses to address? Wendy Shalit, author of **A Return to Modesty: Discovering The Lost Virtue** has also written **Girls Gone Mild; Young Women Reclaim Self-Respect** (and find it is not bad to be Good). **This is not an endorsement**, but for crying out loud, when will pastors and parents wake up? My wife and I repeatedly are grieved by the blatant, in-your-face disregard of respect for God's house, and abandonment of common sense modesty, let alone Biblical standards, by young girls attending church in the "attire of a harlot." Does that shock you? Make you mad and enraged? So be it, you sorry, no-account dads that allow your daughters to parade around in the sleazy, gutter-wear of this perverted world. And mothers, for your child's sake, is there not a bit of discernment in you? Wendy Shalit has not written some pulpit-thumping treatise on puritan dress code. But

drawing on numerous studies and interviews, Shalit makes the case that today's virulent "bad girl" mindset most truly oppresses young women. **Girls Gone Mild** is about research for an alternative to the "Girls Gone Wild" culture. The sex revolution, feminist movement, rock music and demonic activity of this age has so possessed and blinded that the "church" seems anesthetized. "You've gotta look hotter than hot! Show what you've got!...Ready or not!" is the lead song from *Bratz Babyz: the Movie*, September 2006. Shalit tells it like it is – the corruption of TV cartoons and even the "TOY" stores. "These days when you walk into a toy store, it's not clear whether you actually made it to the store or accidentally landed in a red-light district." As we travel for *The Voice in the Wilderness*, it is disturbing to witness the deterioration of separation by many local churches and the seemingly silent pulpits. If the world is alarmed, when will

the church take a stand against Satan's open attack against our children! May God help us! *(Editor's Note: This article was derived from an interview with Wendy Shalit that I heard on National Public Radio. "Girls Gone Mild" is NOT recommended reading).*

DILAPIDATED DOGS -

How much do you love your pets? In Japan, those who can't put their dog down have found an alternative-nursing home. For a little under \$10,000 per year, owners, who cannot care for their dogs anymore, can have their animals housed and cared for. Takao Kanai, who plans on opening 7 doggie nursing homes, said, "It is extremely cruel to force people who think of pets as their own children to care for animals who are crying all night long." *World 7/7/07*



SCHOOL SEPARATION? -

Some people are saying that some government schools are treating Muslims in a special way. At

the University of Michigan at Dearborn, footbaths for Muslim students are being built. In San Diego, CA, an elementary school has added an extra recess so that Muslim children can pray. At George Mason University in VA, Muslim students are using a "meditation space" for prayer. They have laid out their prayer rugs and segregated the men and women according to their beliefs. 17 universities have had or are building footbaths for Muslim students (this number includes Boston University, George Washington University and Temple University). Nine have added prayer rooms specifically for the use of Muslims only (Stanford, Emory and the University of Virginia). The Muslim Student Association has been a leader in the effort to have the different universities accommodate Muslim students. To give you a perspective about how the universities are catering to minorities in this respect, the following was taken from a poll prepared by David Sikkink of the University of Notre Dame. He surveyed 3,290 teenagers between 13 and 17. He asked them what religion they would associate themselves with and their response was: 51%

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Protestant, 26.1% Catholic, 16.5% None or other religion, 3.4% Mormon, 1.6% Jewish, and 0.5% Muslim/Islamic. *USA Today* 7/26/07

Along the same lines, *Pacific Justice Institute* on July 10, 2007 sent out a letter about only Muslim prayers being allowed at schools in San Diego. The following is an excerpt from the letter: “When the United States Supreme Court banned school led prayer in public schools in 1964, it seemed that the worst was behind us and things could only get better. Such wishful thinking came to a halt when Pacific Justice Institute was made aware of the San Diego School District’s policy of bending over backwards to promote solely Muslim prayer in one of their public elementary schools. How did they do it? The District announced that it was setting aside an hour each day during the school time for children to engage in religious worship and prayer in a classroom specifically set aside for that purpose. So, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., Muslim children are gathered together in their own special room where they are led in Islamic chants and prayer by District paid employees

and Islamic clerics. Once again, this is all taking place in a public elementary school during school classroom time! Attorney Peter Lepiscopo recently petitioned the board members of the San Diego Unified School District to change their policies for their Daily Prayer Time to:

- Allow Christian and Jewish children to have a room for prayer and worship the same as the Muslim children.
- Allow Christian and Jewish children to participate in prayer and worship during the same time as the Muslim children.
- Allow pastors, rabbis, and priests the same opportunity given to Muslim clerics to come to school during that time to lead students in prayer and worship.
- Facilitate equal treatment of all children of all religious belief during this time.
- Ensure that children who are not religious or who do not wish to participate in the worship and prayer time are provided non-punitive recess time instead.

Needless to say, if the District adopts our policy recommendations, it will likely be challenged by the ACLU and others who seem to oppose

anything giving Christians an even playing field.” Brad Dacus - President, Pacific Justice Institute.



CANDIDATES CONTINUE TO SPEND MORE -

During the Democratic debate aired on CNN, different candidates suggested to increase government spending “by mandating universal healthcare coverage, healthcare coverage for illegal aliens, a massive increase in the minimum wage, a minimum salary for school teachers, more spending on public schools generally, cars that get 50 miles per gallon and even reparations for slavery.” Other topics that were discussed were imposing a carbon tax on the US economy, increasing the amount of personal income subject to Social Security tax, increasing tax rates on the top 1% of earners and eliminating the Bush tax cuts (which in effect increases everyone’s taxes). Every single candidate promised to increase the federal government and take more money from Americans.

Human Events 7/30/07

BIG MONEY - Also in *Human Events (7/30/07)* we find the top 10 contributors to the Clinton and Obama campaigns. This list is from greatest to least. The breakdown of what was given to each is listed under the company.

1. Goldman Sachs	\$441,851
Clinton	\$131,850
Obama	\$310,001
2. DLA Piper.....	\$318,627
Clinton	\$284,620
Obama	\$34,007
3. Citigroup Inc.....	\$312,261
Clinton	\$158,145
Obama	\$154,116
4. Lehman Brothers.....	\$305,510
Clinton	\$83,650
Obama	\$219,860
5. JP Morgan, Chase & Co.....	\$243,555
Clinton	\$89,100
Obama	\$154,455
6. Skadden, Arps et al	\$242,716
Clinton	\$135,060
Obama	\$107,656
7. Morgan Stanley.....	\$215,035
Clinton	\$127,700
Obama	\$87,335
8. Kirkland & Ellis.....	\$213,301
Clinton	\$110,200
Obama	\$103,101
9. Time Warner	\$210,971
Clinton	\$103,220
Obama	\$107,751
10. Viacom Inc.....	\$173,599
Clinton	\$93,200
Obama	\$80,399



UNDERSTANDING MEXICAN CULTURE

by Howard Munsey

In order to understand the mindset of modern Mexican people some knowledge is needed of their history, both pre-Columbian and medieval. The people are a blend of both histories, experiencing their greatest change at the time of the Spanish conquest, which began in the early sixteenth century. The Spaniards came with three goals in mind. One: to obtain riches, especially gold. Second: to build a colonial empire for the Crown of Spain. Third: to convert the people to “Christianity” from paganism, especially to Catholicism. The mystery of how they were able to achieve their goals so readily and with such relative ease is revealed in the details of their past.

When Hernando Cortez and his men first laid eyes on Tenochtitlan (site of present day Mexico City) they found a civilization whose splendor and magnificence outdid anything they had ever seen, even in all of Europe. Its temples and public buildings, its market with exotic fruits and ware, made by native people from all over Central America, exceeded in grandeur and population any city known to them on earth. Ornately clad priests, public figures and bronzed soldiers magnificently

presented to them a solemn array of a unique civilization. Moreover, it had about three hundred thousand inhabitants organized into a well-regulated body politic as well as political and economic control over the greater part of central Mexico. Cortez, with merely four hundred men took the city without the loss of a single man. Montezuma, the Aztec chief, surrendered his peacock crown, symbol of his authority, ceremoniously giving it to Cortez, bowing in surrender at his feet.

Behind this event lay the pre-Columbian religious beliefs of the Mexican people. Most Americans think of our southern neighbors as being a homogeneous civilization. Although they were linked in some degree by quite common characteristics, they varied widely in many ways from the tall, warrior Aztecs to the almost pygmy like Zapotecs, Huestacas, Mayans, Tarascans and the oriental looking Olmecs, to name just a few. They often fought against each other in wars of conquest, reducing other tribes to vassals and exacting tribute of them. Instead of being pictured as a unified people, Mexico should be viewed as a mosaic of tribal entities. The common characteristic that they

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shared was their belief in how the world came into existence. They often called their gods different names when, in fact, each tribe's local gods fit into the same classification in their universe. When defeating a neighbor tribe, priests would often adopt the tribal gods of their conquered enemies into the pantheon of their own deities. Thus there were various emanations and different names of the same god or goddess existent among them.

To understand how the hundreds of gods were classified within their universe and what their various rolls and symbols mean, we begin with three basic premises inherent in the body politic of the native people: One: a fear of the metaphysical. Two: an instinctive attempt to understand the natural universe. Three: a morbid preoccupation with occult practices and spirituality. Thus, despite the different names, their tribal gods represented the same forces of nature and fulfilled similar roles in most all of Mesoamerican culture. The sun god, associated with the day, sky and fire, was regarded as the principal, self-regenerating creator, from whom everything in existence came. They considered him to be the "All", consequently he had a dual character, e.g. night and day, heat and cold, male and female, positive and negative. This dichotomy of personality meant that he was the divine couple of creation, whose offspring were fundamental deities that

initiated the forces of nature which set the universe in motion.

The Aztec century was in fifty-two year cycles. According to legendary belief, their war god and chief deity, Huitzilapochtli, also known as Quetzalcoatl, had once sacrificed himself to re-start the sun. According to their mythology, we are now living in the fifth sun. Four previous suns had gone out because of failure to sacrifice human blood to it. As a poor peasant Huitzilapochtli had cast himself into an active caldera, causing the sun to burn again, and so was named their principal god. **Legend further stated that he would reappear on earth as a white man with a beard on an anniversary of their fifty-two year century. When the Spaniard Cortez showed up on a cycle year, they mistook him for the long awaited manifestation of their principal god and subsequently, their leader, Montezuma, surrendered his peacock crown to him, giving him virtual control of the city.**

It can be readily seen that this culture was both pagan (multiple divinities) and a form of nature worship. They built temples to the sun and the moon, as well as to tribal, rain and fertility gods and goddesses. **Like all pagans they believed that their divinities resided in the images they created for them. Therefore ugly, grotesque forms, pictures and statuary abound everywhere in**

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their temples as objects of worship, a fitting contrast to the beauty of a loving Saviour, Jesus, who condescended to earth and died on a lonely hill called Calvary to redeem us from sin and make believers new creatures in Christ.

The Aztecs also had a mother goddess called Coatlicue and a divinely conceived, miraculously born son who was their warrior god. It can be readily understood how that conversion to another pagan system to them amounted only to changing the names of their deities, which was no problem since they already had multiple names anyway. **Any student of the Bible can conceive how that both these systems had their origin in the ancient Babylonian mystery religion referred to in Genesis 11:1-9.** No changes in their personal deportment or characters were demanded. They tried to make their own way to heaven instead of depending on God's provided solution for their sin. For the most part they continued the same practices of sin in their daily lives as they had before. This philosophy and life style has had a deleterious effect on most of the world's population. Much that passes for religion in the modern world of even protestant churches today is of the same character. The resultant mindset of the people is that to have a chance to go to heaven, a

person must do good works, offer sacrifices to some deity, submit to some kind of ritual religious system and be associated with some king of earthly priesthood, whether there is a change of heart or not. In fact, a vital, living, personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Saviour through the new birth is absolutely necessary if one is to be saved from sins penalty and go to heaven when this earthly life is finished.

Following the Hernando Cortez appearance at Tenochtitlan in the year 1519 and being received as their long expected tribal god, the Aztecs soon learned that their new masters were not what they expected them to be. Cortez requested that a spot for an altar to the Virgin Mary be cleared among their pantheon of gods. The Emperor's refusal marked the first rift in the relationship, which soon led to war. The white man's greed for gold and other brutal atrocities soon brought about a state of rebellion among the Aztec natives. At the time of the Spanish conquest, Aztec warriors had conquered and ruled all other tribes of central Mexico. For many years they exacted tribute from the subjugated peoples and organized a system of commerce to move and trade goods within that system. Because they were hard and demanding taskmasters, they were highly disliked by the other tribes. This hatred made the Spanish conquest for Cortez much simpler, who enlisted these tribes as allies in the war that

followed. They considered the Aztecs their common enemy. Bold leadership by the Spaniards and better weapons, finally mastered the situation and the centers of power began to crumble. Soon all of Mexico lay conquered before them.

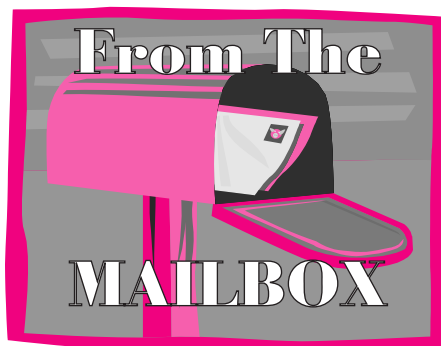
The mercenary Spaniards had not brought women to the new world during their voyages. After the conquest, they intermarried with the Indian population. Their children were called Mezitizios, which formed about fifteen percent of the population. Spaniards made up about ten percent of the population with the rest being natives. This condition prompted favoritism, segregation and discrimination. Some professions were open to whites only and the ruling class was composed of mostly whites and some of the tribal leaders who had joined with them to overthrow the Aztec empire. Their system of governmental control soon gave way to all sorts of bribery and influence peddling, the result of which remains until this day. One could buy a certificate of Spanish citizenship, or slaves could purchase their freedom and many other benefits could be had if you paid off the right official. Since the death of Cortez, the country has suffered through revolutions, uprisings and struggles for power, many of which left them in dire straits, and severely impoverishing the common people. Shortly after the conquest, the native people were

also afflicted with many European diseases such as measles, small pox, etc. for which they had no immunity, causing the death of more than ninety percent of the native population.

The vicissitudes, trials and hardships of the longsuffering Mexican people had conditioned them to be both submissive and passive to a life of poverty. Although the country is rich in natural resources, the wealth and levers of power remain in the hands of the privileged few until this day. The average person simply tries to fit in the situation that life has dealt him. In spite of these conditions, Americans find that there is a certain mystique about these charming people. They will prepare for you the best that they can afford, give you the choicest bed in their home and often treat you with a gift of remembrance to take home with you when you leave. Worshipping God with them is a delightful and rewarding experience. They love good fellowship and possess a sense of duty to the Saviour, which is a powerful force that binds the churches together in harmony.

We try to win all classes of the society to Christ, disciple and help establish them in the faith. Our efforts are most effective, however, among the downtrodden and disadvantaged. These people are uniquely prepared to be receptive to the gospel of Jesus Christ and its liberating effect to those who truly receive it.





Happy 100th Birthday, Brother Casey

Since I first met Bro. Royce in 1956, I have been a loyal supporter of your ministry. Now that I care for my father, who will be 100 years old on Aug. 27, I cannot do much. My father for years, when he had the money, was a great giver to your ministry. My wife has cancer and I have serious medical conditions. Please don't cut us off your mailing list. Some day we will perhaps be able to do more. We do pray for you and the good work you do. We love your soul winning jobs.

Subscriber Kentucky

Dear Friends:

In response to your letter we are including a love offering to help with the expenses of your ministry. We are fully trusting the Lord to supply our needs just as you are. He is a great Saviour and will see that His work is done in His way. We pray the Lord will encourage your hearts and give you strength as we all work, looking forward to His soon return. Your paper is a blessing and encouragement to us. May God supply all your needs.

Subscriber Louisiana

May God continue to bless your ministry. Hold fast and you will rise above tribulation.

In His Love

Voice in the Wilderness- et al-
I just read your appeal for help- **I'll respond**- No answer is necessary. The time is short-the need is great! I'm helping a great-granddaughter who is in Laos, assisting in setting up an orphanage there. I don't have a computer, so I can't email, so everything is done through "snail mail." I do pray for your ministry-daily. I'll do what I can, when I can. I love your magazine! May the Lord bless all your endeavors.

In Christ

Subscriber Oregon



THE LOCAL CHURCH: THE FOUNDATION FOR WORLD MISSIONS

By Pastor Johnny Pike

It is my conviction that everything meaningful in the Work of God during this Church Age was meant to grow out of local church congregations scattered throughout the world. The work of God is only as healthy and viable as local churches. This is true in each local church's "Jerusalem," and it is also true of the work of God that goes on beyond its "Jerusalem."

Just think of it this way. If every local church were to close, for all practical purposes, all the work of God would die. There would be no preachers or teachers or missionaries to train in Bible colleges, therefore, they would cease to have a spiritual reason to exist. There would be no missionaries to send, so mission agencies would be out of business. There would be no tithes and offerings to underwrite the operating expenses of all these para-church organizations so they would go out of business.

www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org

The local church is the seedbed from which all things relative to the health and well being of God's work are to be drawn. Without vibrant, Spirit-filled local churches there is no hope for the work of God. He has designed it this way, and as the local church "is," so "will be" the rest of His work.

In 1996, I had the privilege to be one of the speakers at the first National Bible Conference held in the Republic of Moldova after the fall of Communism. I spoke on the "Dangers of Developing a Strong Denominational System of Fellowship."

I warned my Christian friends, pastors and leaders of the Baptist Union of the dangers of focusing their resources on building a strong Union. I encouraged them, instead, to focus all their strength and energies on building strong local churches. I fear that, as a denomination, they did not heed my advice and have taken the road that all denominations seem

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WHILE THE EVIL DAYS COME NOT

For decades, Pastors and churches have built gymnasiums and beautiful sanctuaries with the monies of those now neglected and forgotten.

At this very moment, I am personally acquainted with a number of families giving care to aging loved ones. In several instances, complex or serious illness presents health and financial issues. The AAHSA website states:

Between 2007 and 2015, the number of Americans ages 85 and older is expected to increase by 40%.

Among people turning 65 today, 69% will need some form of long-term care, whether in the community or in a residential care facility.

In 2020, 12 million older Americans will need long-term care.

The average monthly cost for a private room in a nursing home is \$6,234.00.

The average monthly cost of living in an assisted-living facility is \$2,714.00.

Medicare, which covers rehabilitation services after an individual is discharged from a hospital, pays for 19% of all long-term care spending.

Medicaid, which covers

health care cost for low income individuals, pays for 49% of all long-term care spending.

Each month, the world's population of elderly people increases by 795,000.

Medicare and Medicaid Programs are not adequate, and working in the system can be very frustrating. Even among many who have diligently been a part of the work force, presently retired and living on retirement income, are finding they have outlived adequate benefits for today's financial demands. Sickness and aging impacts an entire family. By faith, day by day, many brothers and sisters struggle in a difficult place. For some it can be an almost overwhelming journey through a deep, dark valley. Yet when the Christian thinks the sun will never shine, the light of God's Son rises in His dawn of peace and grace through ways amazing. Praise the Lord, a new day is coming.

In our church three elderly sisters arrived at that stage in life when this tabernacle of clay begins to dissolve. I remember distinctly those precious ladies saying, "We all got old and sick at the same time." "Now none of us can take

care of each other." It can be frustrating when dear ones suffer and there are no simple solutions to the trial. With modern drugs and so-called "heroic medicine," many live longer but experience extended periods of complicated assistance. For the individual, as well as the family, the challenge brings intense emotion of tears, resentment, anger, and extraordinary love. Yes, love, love that may seem a bit mixed-up at times, but real, the same.

I. The Evil Days

Have you ever studied Ecclesiastes 12:1-8? The preacher makes some incredibly accurate and relevant comments on the aging process. In verse one note the startling phrase "...while the evil days come not."

Just this week while door knocking, my wife and I met a man who said he did not believe in God, and the Bible was written by men with over 5,700 different translations. He also stated that men created gods just to have hope. Some day that man will be a lonely, hopeless individual. But for me, hope is a precious gift (Romans 8:24, Colossians 1:27, Titus 2:13).

Even so, for many "the evil days" will come. Dr. J. Royce Thomason, Founder of The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc., told me many times he wanted to die in the saddle with his boots on, but that was not to be. The last five years of his life were spent in and out of hospitals and nursing homes. He was never

able to deal with confinement and sickness. When the driver's license, independence and meeting schedules were gone, his obvious struggle with contentment ensued. Yes, "the evil days" had arrived.

My dad lived ten years after a very serious stroke. Mom was his primary caregiver, and it was not easy. For both of them, long days and nights of testing came all too often. Physical limitations, prescription drugs and side effects, personality changes, financial constraints, bureaucracy, red-tape, added sickness and a host of complications defined the "evil days" of Ecclesiastes. Mom and Dad were not alone in that struggle. But friends, relatives, and acquaintances that came by to keep them company, help, or assist, still could not make this time of life easy.

Less than a month ago a pastor friend called my office. In our conversation he stated emphatically, "I will never get involved in someone else's Power of Attorney or as Executor of a will again." He had been placed in an ugly, complicated situation. People you would never think to have a vicious, vengeful bone in their body can, in the last chapter of a loved one's life, become greedy, bitter and absolutely unreasonable, to put it kindly. The "evil days" have come.

II. The Critics

Then, some will make it a

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spectators' sport. Onlookers have all kinds of advice and always know how it ought to be done, and are always compelled to tell you. With that, their criticism can be so unkind. Stories are told and well-meaning people will believe an utter lie. However, they would certainly never want such things said about them. Yet, they will take the tale and run with it knowing the circumstances but preferring to spread gossip. Just as Job experienced the extreme, his suffering was compounded by his "friends." Listen to Job 30: 1, 2. "But now they that are younger than I have me in derision, whose fathers I would have disdained to have set with the dogs of my flock. Yea, whereto might the strength of their hands profit me, in whom old age was perished?" To add insult to injury, Job received no respect or understanding from the younger. The pain is both physical and psychological. My KJV study Bible has this header for Job Chapter 30 "The humiliation of Job's present state." Dr. J. Royce Thomason said to me several times after his debilitating strokes, "These golden years aren't what they were cracked up to be." Some may agree that their golden years have tarnished or as Job felt, they had gone to the dogs.

"Christians" can be some of the most critical know-it-all's imaginable. Just like Job's friends, there will be those who know exactly what is going on in your life. Be forewarned. This is the

very reason we all need a good church home and church family. I have heard it said many times every person needs three homes. Of course, there is our family's home. Thank God for husbands, wives, children and parents that love each other. Then there is the church home. So very special is the truly New Testament church home! And most importantly is our eternal home. For the young and old alike to trust Jesus Christ by faith, having one's sin forgiven by His precious blood with our names written in the Book of Life is the home we all need assurance of. During those times of suffering, and especially during the aging process, the counsel we need will come from our church family and friends. Three C's are so very essential: Church, Counselors and Contentment.

1. Church – The Apostle Paul speaks so lovingly of the church at Thessalonica. He remembers with thanksgiving and prayer their "work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father..." What a church described in I Thessalonians 1:1-10. This was a church comforting one another with words of godliness, resurrection and Christ's second coming. They were hope, a crown of rejoicing, glory and joy. May God help us to be that kind of church.

2. Counselors – Please note section V for important Scripture references. Read carefully Psalm 1.
3. Contentment – Have you ever heard it said that the little baby is so contented? What a blessing – contentment. “...for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content” Philippians 4:11. I Timothy 6:6 says, “But godliness with contentment is great gain.” We can say that Jesus is all we need – “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.” But do we know Jesus is all we need until Jesus is all we have? When the evil days come we will be tossed by every wave of worry and care unless we practice contentment in Christ. This is not complacency not apathy. But it is indeed confident faith in Him who is able and worthy – Hebrews 4:15,16. To sing the song of Contentment, one must practice, practice, practice. While the evil days come not practice the song of contentment in Christ.

From a biblical standpoint, there are many reasons for suffering:

1. Sin – Keep a short account. I John 1:9
2. Satan - Take unto you the armor of God. Ephesians 6:16
3. Self - Remember now while the evil days come not. The

choice is yours.

I John 2:15, 16.

4. Sowing - You sow, you reap. Galatians 6:7-8
5. Sweetening – We can be better not bitter. James 1:4
6. Sanctifying – He is still working on me. John 17:17

When the final chapter of our life is written, may we say with the Apostle “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.” II Timothy 4:7.

III. Physical Changes

Our text notes the physical changes brought on by aging. Matthew Henry makes an important point here for us all. There are calamities in old age. If we live to be old, Mr. Henry says there will be times of no pleasure. “...which is a good reason why we should return to God, and make our peace with Him, *in the days of our youth*, and not put it off till we come to be old; for it will be no thanks to us to leave the pleasures of sin when they have left us, nor to return to God when need forces us. It is the greatest absurdity and ingratitude imaginable to give the cream and flower of our days to the devil, and reserve the bran, and refuse, and dregs of them for God...” It would be worth your time to read Mr. Henry’s commentary on Ecclesiastes 12:1-7. What a poignant question he gives to ponder – “How can we expect God

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should help us when we are old, if we will not serve Him when we are young?" See Psalm 71:17,18.

Ecclesiastes 12 outlines the physical failures of aging:

1. Verse 2 – Failing eyesight, diminished faculties and repetitious episodes of pain.
2. Verse 3 – The head and body shake, tremble, and grow feeble. Discouragement and depression easily sets in. The legs and mobility is hampered and halted. Arms and hands become weak. The teeth rot, brake and deteriorate with old age till digestion is affected.
3. Verse 4 – Here is our term for "shut-ins." Old age make for "shut-ins," "shut-outs" and sleeplessness. The mood, attitude, personality, disposition and total perception of life may dramatically change. Hearing fails and the voice cannot sing.
4. Verse 5 – Fears in life of heights, falling, and all the little worries are overwhelming and large. Gray hair has come and life ebbs away.

It is true that some age better than others. A friend said to me recently that her father had always been an easy-going and very kind individual. But now in old age, he was grumpy and demanding. Yet, another friend said their parent had always been a critical and difficult

person to get along with. However in old age, they had mellowed and were now such a joy to be around. Isn't that such a curiosity? What would make the difference? Years ago a pastor's wife assumed the care of her sister dying with cancer. The sister had been such a beautiful person, but now age and disease made the change. She was rude, unkind and even used foul and abusive language. The sister-caretaker was often brought to tears and heartache by this loved one's vile outburst. How can that be?

Time does not permit me to recount the multitude of stories over my 30 plus years of ministry. I cannot explain all the complexities of old age and sickness. But "Remember now the creator... while the evil days come not..." Verses six and seven remind us that "the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." Matthew Henry says, "Death will fix us in an unchangeable state." We will go home "for here [we are] a stranger and pilgrim. Why should we not long to go to our Father's house?"

MY KJV study Bible has this footnote for Ecclesiastes 12:6-8 "The silver cord, golden bowl, pitcher, and wheel symbolize life's fragility. How easily death comes to us; how swiftly and unexpectedly we can return to the dust from which we came. Therefore, we should recognize life as a precious resource to be used wisely and not squandered frivolously. Stripped of God's

spirit, our bodies return to dust. Stripped of God's purpose, our work is in vain. Stripped of God's love, our service is futile. We must put God first over all we do and in all we do, because without Him we have nothing. Knowing that life is futile without God motivates the wise person to seek God first." That must throughout life bring us to the scripture "...seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). It is framed in this view of life that by faith we trust Christ. Ultimately it is He who will set the record straight. Our spirit will "return unto God who gave it." Then and only then will there be no more tears, no more sorrow, no more crying, no more pain and no more death (Rev. 21:4). There is a remedy. God has provided for those who believe.

IV. Do you always get what you want?

Dr. J. Royce Thomason told me many times he wanted to die in the saddle with his boots on. In other words, it was his desire to depart this life actively involved in the ministry. However, that was not to be. After his strokes in 2001 until his death in 2006, an agonizing five year struggle with limitation and deteriorating health made for a difficult journey to the finish line. Much of that time was spent in the hospital, rehab center, and several nursing homes. That was in no stretch of the imagination what he wanted.

Over the years repeatedly I've heard family members echo the same story. He or she did not want to be placed in a nursing home. He or she did not want to die in the hospital. Never did he or she want to be bed-ridden and a burden on family or anyone else. Today the growing population of the aged and infirmed has created a strain on family, finances, and available resources. Medicine and science has given longevity but all too often, quality is a challenge. Yet for Christians and the local church, a door of opportunity lay open. No, this may not be the most glamorous of endeavors. Yes, it will cost the church a lot of time and money. Yet so many Bible preaching, fundamental churches have missed out or even neglected the responsibility to assist elder members and their families. It is time to urge our congregations to reach out and help this precious, vital and needy segment of membership. Primary caretaker relief assistance is urgently needed. Visits just for fellowship are so important. Transportation, shopping trips and doctors appointments can be a challenge when no help is available. Calendar, schedule and medication management can be a daunting task when eyesight fades and mental accuracy wanes. Young people can get involved with errands and lawn care. An army of volunteer rescue workers are presently sitting idle in church pews that could mean the difference between life worth living and a slow sad death for elder saints.

Your church could even build

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an assisted living facility for the aged in your congregation. Or maybe it would take several churches working together to pool resources for such a facility. Liberal denominations have done it. Cults have done it. What about fundamental Bible preaching churches? Maybe it is not what we want, but could it be the right thing to do? For decades, Pastors and churches have built gymnasiums and beautiful sanctuaries with the monies of those now neglected and forgotten. Talk about a debt we owe. And have we even missed a wonderful evangelistic tool by failing in this highly visible opportunity to demonstrate love in action to the lost world around us?

V. Sit down and talk

Don't assume anything. There comes a time for a family meeting. Families within a family have issues, and for all individuals involved life can be complicated. There are work schedules, financial constraints, even health considerations for caregivers and other family members. Often those involved live away and travel distances which will be factors of consideration. Personalities and opinions vary. Sitting down and talking things out will not always cure all. But ill-feelings may be averted if people take time in a considerate, loving manner to discuss details, needs, plans, and options. It is good to

have a pastor and godly individuals to give objective, impartial counsel. The family should have a support group of Christians, particularly in the local church that can help work through issues and challenges. All of us need brothers and sisters in Christ we know that pray and have God's wisdom in their lives. It is biblical to seek counsel (Prov. 11:14, 12:15; 13:10; 15:22) and bear one another's burdens. Regardless of what you think, your opinion is not always best. Be willing to listen to others. Above all, sit down and talk with the Lord. Read His Word and allow His Spirit to guide you in all truth. If we will be still and wait on the Lord, He will bring the right people and resources into our lives. By the way, Psalm 116:15 is still true. Therefore, make preparation for your earthly estate to continue to be of eternal worth via your will. Vollmer said, "One of the most important documents a man ever signs is his will. I can tell better what a man had in his heart by reading his will than I can by reading his obituary. His obituary tells the world what his friends thought of him; his will reveals what he had in his heart."

VI. Science or Faith?

In 2005, *New Scientists* magazine reported that Italian researchers were developing a six-legged robotic camera that crawls around inside the body and attaches itself to the intestine wall.

At the time, researcher Dr.

Ariana Menciacsi, of the St. Anna School of Advanced Studies in Pisa, said, "All the indications are that this will be far less uncomfortable than a colonoscopy or gastroscopy in which the intestine is inflated, causing much pain to the patient."

Men are looking to medicine and technology for the answer. Government should fund all our needs. But reality is – the body wears out and "it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. Hope for eternity free from sickness and death is available to all who believe. Thank God for His love, grace and mercy that provides the answer to this decaying body and inequities of this life. Our Creator will, in the conclusion of all, make things right for His Children.

The numbers are rather curious. It has become a complicated situation for many. Reports are that 4.5 million children live in grandparent headed households in the United States. The first of 78 million boomers have passed age 60. Then the aging population costs big bucks and extended care. It sounds callous, but sadly scores are outliving their retirement and savings. Medicare and Medicaid simply are not adequate. Reports say there are 34 million unpaid caregivers providing an average of 21 hours of care per week. These caregivers spend an average of \$2,400 out of pocket each year to help their relative. Of course,

politicians prey on the emotions and ignorance of voters looking everywhere and sometimes anywhere for relief. Nearing the end of life, the great pioneer missionary, Hudson Taylor, said, "I am so weak, I cannot work; I cannot read my Bible; I can hardly pray. I can only lie still in God's arm like a child and trust."

- *The Beginning.*



NEVER TOO YOUNG OR TOO OLD

The Sword of the Lord (4/2007) recorded the following Wall Street Journal article: Golda Meir was seventy-one when she became prime minister of Israel. William Pitt was twenty-four when he became prime minister of Great Britain. George Bernard Shaw was ninety-four when one of his plays was first produced. Wolfgang Mozart was just seven when his first composition was published. Now how about this! Benjamin Franklin was a newspaper columnist at the age of sixteen and a framer of the United States Constitution when he was eighty-one.

Neither transition nor retirement means "quit." In all of life, whether young or old, "Remember now thy Creator while the evil days come not."



Guyana.

PL: When I first got there, the other missionaries were talking about when we might have to leave. But I had come to stay my entire life.

DL: In 1969, there was an interior revolution which closed jungle entry without government permission. That's what the government used to close missionary work. By this time it was obvious we could not continue our missionary work. The government would give us a visa but not a work permit. It was decided that the work would close with the exception of one place. The Wapashana tribe had never been reached with the gospel. The government wanted linguistic work to be done with this tribe and so one missionary was given permission to go and live with the tribe to be a linguist.

PL: Some missionaries did move on to Brazil to continue interior jungle work. And these works are still going strong today. Today Guyana has opened up more and evangelistic work is going forward.

DL: When we came back to the states in '71, we were looking to stay with the mission and it was proposed that we go to Papua New Guinea to start an MK school there. I asked if there was an MK school

nearby and it seemed that there was one close by, so there was no need to establish another school. So we went to Massachusetts to start a Christian school, and it is still going today. We were puzzled as to why the Lord did not open foreign missions. But 2 or 3 years after leaving the mission, the Lord's direction was clear when a family member needed state-side medical attention.

RW: When did you start in full-time Christian service?

PL: I started in 1964 and took 8 years off to start a family.

DL: I started in 1963 and took off 2 years. Then continued in 1966 until today.

RW: I know you mentioned having the willing heart, your camp encouraged you to have a willing heart. Maybe expound on that, make a recommendation to parents concerning their children.

PL: I think it is important to talk about missions at a young age. Christian camps even influenced me more than the local church. Always teach the fact that God can use you. Teach your children that – God can use you, be willing to serve, go to Christian camp, serve in the church (cleaning, SS, nursery), read Christian biographies.

RW: The truth of the matter is that,

if you are willing, God can use you now, regardless of the age. I think parents need to emphasize this.

PL: Someone said, Wish it, dream it, do it.

DL: In my situation, after we started to attend this church, the Pastor and his wife started a missions conference annually. They would bring in missionaries from all over the world. Mother was always very careful to have them in our home. She made sure we rubbed shoulders with the missionaries. At one point in my life, a Methodist preacher drove myself and some other teenagers to a Bible College in Rhode Island for a visit and later I ended up going to that Bible college.

RW: It is so important today for parents and pastors to encourage young children to serve the Lord. This teaching must be intentional.

PL: I told my SS class last week that I have been blessed in my life in that I have got to do what I dreamed I wanted to do. As a young teenager, I dreamed that I wanted to teach the Bible and that I have gotten to do.

DL: When I was a teenager, someone saw that I had a gift to teach and gave me many opportunities to teach in the church. At that time, I said that I would never teach! The Lord had different plans, I would

soon discover.

RW: What have you seen by way of changes in Christian education over your 40 some years of teaching?

DL: Children and parents are considerably different today than they were even 20 years ago. People today want the end product, but are not willing to go through the process of getting it. Which means diligence, sacrifice, discipline – there is a price to pay for academic excellence, and especially spiritual maturity.

PL: Now at our school, we are seeing more students attending Christian colleges after graduation which is very encouraging.

RW: Now as you look toward retirement from full-time teaching, what are your goals for the years to come?

DL: Serve the Lord. We still have to work that out. God will show us His future plans. I am planning on continuing to teach the handbells at our Christian school, we have been given an invitation to teach English overseas as a missions opportunity. The opportunities are wide open.

RW: If you are able, there is no shortage of things to do. And there's always much prayer that needs to be done. Thank you Bro. and Sis. Lilly for your faithful servant's hearts.



is still collecting signatures for the “Redress of Grievances” to be distributed to our U.S. Congressmen. Also, additional individuals are needed for the “Pray for a Country Map” at The Voice in the Wilderness’ Founder’s Hall. Look at the March 2007 and April 2007 issues of *The Voice in the Wilderness* for additional details and information. We still need your help with these two projects.

Please note also the special interview with Mr. and Mrs. David Lilly, veteran servants of the Lord. This special feature will bless your heart and challenge your life. God has allowed Terry and me to be enriched by some of our Lord’s choicest workers. Thank you Bro. and Sister Lilly for faithfully holding forth the Word of Life. May God continue to bless your ministry.

Now, in closing, I again thank you for your prayers and partnership. Pastor A. Samuel is doing better from his burns. The church construction is complete, with a few details to be wrapped up soon. APM has had a fruitful summer and your response to the July/August 2007 letter was tremendous. We do not have final totals as of this printing, but we

certainly have been encouraged thus far, and will trust the Lord to stir hearts to help us meet this immediate need. Please continue to stand with us as together we labour for Christ. He is worthy!



For Christ and Souls,
Ronnie L. Williamson

Isa. 40:31

“Happy Trails”



Nuggets of Gold

- The real measure of a man’s wealth is what he has invested in eternity.
- Trying to build the brotherhood of man without the fatherhood of God is like trying to make a wheel without a hub.
- It is impossible to mentally and socially enslave a Bible-reading people.
- Teaching children to count is not as important as teaching them what counts.
- Shortchange your education now and you may be short of change the rest of your life.
- The true object of education should be to train one to think clearly and act rightly.
- It is not what is poured into a student that counts, but what is planted.
- True education enrolls men at the cradle and graduates them at the grave.

the divine privilege and blessing. God is doing His work, and bids you come! It has been said when our light shines the farthest it also shines the brightest at home.

The Apostle Paul helps us with this uttermost perspective. Note his words in Philippians 2:14-16 as the Apostle exhorts us to “Do all things without murmurings and disputings...” Why is he saying this? Because our church will not have the anointed power of Jesus Christ to impact this world if the world constantly sees and hears these murmurings and disputings. Back in verse 13 Paul says, “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.” Underscore two words here in Philippians 2:13 – **“both”** then **“and,”** Paul says, **“both to will and to do.”** In Acts 1:8 there is a **“both/and”** statement. **“...Both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”** The church today is to be about **“both/and.”** I am firmly persuaded that in our local churches we must do **“both/and”** – **both Jerusalem and Judaea, and Samaria, and the uttermost.** Paul says, “it is God which worketh in you **both to will and to do...**” Our Lord worketh in us not only to see Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria and the

uttermost, not only to pray, not only to fund a missionary away off yonder somewhere but for His Church to do His good pleasure in **both Jerusalem and Judaea and Samaria and** unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Be careful now. Do not miss this. Why? “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke (*Acts 1:8 was a rebuke – note Acts 1:7 “...It is not for you to know...”*) in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation (*surely we know our witness from Jerusalem to the uttermost is among crooked and perverse nations*) among whom ye shine as lights (*hold on to your favorite pew because this will knock you right out of your comfort zone and seat of do nothing*) in the world!” There it is. God is in us so we need not be blamed for ignorance nor neglect in shining the light of truth to the nations of the world! We are not to be light among light, salt among salt, some exclusive walled monastery set up high as a fortress. We are to be on the move battering down the gates of hell. May we go about among the nations as the lamplighter of old and poke holes in the darkness.

Hudson Taylor said, “I used to ask God to help me. Then I asked if I might help Him. I ended up by asking Him to do His work through me.” Dear Church, that’s Acts 1:8.

- RLW



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

On September 21, 1924, President Calvin Coolidge addressed the Holy Name Society in Washington DC. Looking ahead to America's future, President Coolidge said: "The worst evil that could be inflicted upon the youth of the land would be to leave them without restraint and completely at the mercy of their own uncontrolled inclinations. Under such conditions education would be impossible, and all orderly development intellectually or morally would be hopeless. I do not need to picture the result. It seems to me perfectly plain that the authority of law, the right of equality, liberty and property, under American institution, have for their foundation reverence for God. If we could imagine that to be swept away, these institutions of our American government could not long survive."

Bill Federer

www.americanminute.com

GOSPEL ABC'S

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

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

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

"...**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?"

Confess with thy mouth...

Call in Faith...

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

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

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to take and focused the best of their energies on developing the Union.

Denominations and all other para-church organizations die or weaken spiritually for the most part because the foundations upon which they depend, local churches, are weak.

If missions are the “heartbeat” of God, and I believe they are, then they must be the “heartbeat” of the local church. The Great Commission was given to the local church and the execution of that commission is, today, only as healthy as the local congregations which were meant to underwrite all its needs.

If we are going to see a revival of missions emphasis and development, which is greatly needed, we must have a Spiritual awakening within the local church. The problem and the hope are not on the roof (the denomination or mission board). They are in the foundation - the local church.

This generation needs God’s help to refocus all its energies on building strong Bible-centered, Spirit-filled local churches. Then more will be done for missions than will ever be done any other way.



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Become a more active prayer partner of The Voice in the Wilderness by subscribing to The Weekly Voice e-mail edition. Specific weekly prayer requests, “Rejoice with The Voice” notes, ministry updates, and a weekly Nugget of Gold are sent in a half-page e-mail message. Send your e-mail address to membersnp@thevoiceinthewilderness.org

IS GOD’S WORK IN YOUR WILL?

“One of the most important documents a man ever signs is his will. I can tell better what a man had in his heart by reading his will than I can by reading his obituary. His obituary tells the world what his friends thought of him; his will reveals what he had in his heart.

- A. M. Vollmer

For as (a man) thinketh in his heart, so is he- Proverbs 23:7. *Out of (the heart) are the issues of life* - Proverbs 4:23.”

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!

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.

Please note the **sample** address label with the **sample** subscriber number circled. **Your** number can be found on your address label. It is **not** 99999.

ASHEVILLE, NC 28802

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- John Doe

- 1000 Somewhere Street

- Anywhere, USA 000000

SPRUCE PINE. NC 28777