



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



CONTENDING FOR  
AMERICAN FREEDOM

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January 2003

## O Jubilee!

Just to permit me to share "The Greatest Story"

To confess that "Thine is the Kingdom, and The Power and The Glory",

O my dear Father in Thy heaven above

I prostrate amazed in the presence of love.

For myself no desire for fortune or fame

Let me live and die to praise Thy name.

And after these **50** YEARS in the way

Please by Thy hand may we never stray.

But simply to the Cross for now we cling

Till finally into Thy presence we all will bring

What crowns, and by Thee, what success

To lay them down and then to possess

Those words of longing and burning desire

As refined by the gold's cleansing fire.

"Well done my child, the table is spread!"

And into Thy presence the faithful are led.

O Jubilee! How long I pray

Just any moment, Yes, just any day!

-Ronnie Williamson



# MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends:

The Lord in His love and grace allows us those special occasions in which we can indeed be thankful. This issue marks such a time as this. I pray that 2003 will begin a season of greater surrender to our Lord's glory, producing much fruit to His honor and praise. The opportunities are available and the Holy Spirit is moving in the hearts of men around the world. I pray The Voice in the Wilderness will be positioned spiritually and financially to be and do all the Lord wills.

**January 2003** marks the **50<sup>th</sup>** year of publication for *The Voice in the Wilderness*. You will enjoy, I know, reading Bro. Royce's first "My Personal Message" printed in part below.

Birmingham, England  
January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1953

Dear Friends,

New Years greetings to you all. [I] 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 29<sup>th</sup>: 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 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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.

Bro. Royce closed his letter with the following:

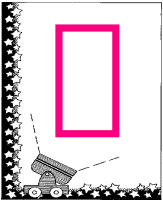
This is all I will have time for now. Wish I could see you all and enjoy some more good sunshine and dry warm weather - it is miserable here. God bless you all. Pray for me

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The Voice in the Wilderness is a nonprofit, independent incorporation, founded by Rev. Dr. J. Royce Thomason D.P.D. Ph.D., evangelist and medical missionary. The organization is dedicated to the spreading of the whole gospel to the world, especially in foreign lands. The program consists of building mission stations and schools, supporting the American missionaries and native pastors, providing needy students with room and board, administering medical and dental services free, and preaching Christ to the lost. We are supported by the gifts of those who care. All gifts designated by missions will go directly without any deductions. 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 the 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 Voice in the Wilderness, P.O. 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!



# MISSION SPOTLIGHT

## INDIA - TOMB OF THE DEAD - CHURCH OF THE LIVING

Overwhelmed and oppressed. That describes the emotions of my first visit to India. Seeing the poverty and disease of the country of India is a life-changing experience, to say the least. The first time I visited India I was not prepared for the dynamics of such a captivating culture and country. In just a few days there was this overwhelming oppressiveness that was all consuming. If it had not been for the church services and wonderful fellowship with the believers in Calcutta, I'm sure I would

have boarded the first plane out. It was hard to get beyond the abject poverty, disease, and extreme conditions that the Indian people had to deal with moment by moment. Just a brief year later when I returned for my second visit things appeared somewhat different. This time the oppressors, political corruption, and the evident stranglehold by religion loomed to the forefront. Initially, it was the poverty and disease. Then I saw beyond those deplorable conditions to the many underlying causes. The politics, religion, and all the under-the-table dealings resulted in a ruling class just getting richer at the expense and suffering of some of the poorest people in the world. My third visit to India opened my eyes to an all-new dilemma. Beyond the poverty and sickness, the political corruption and enslavement of religion were the precious souls of men and women, boys and girls, who needed the glorious life-giving message of Jesus Christ. I confess, it should not have taken three trips half way around the world, but for me, it was not until the third time that I could truly see the need in India is not technology, education, or economical; but as is for all the world, "The Way, The Truth, and The Life" is the only hope regardless of geographical location or station in this world.

Centuries of foreign invasion and civil disorder mark the history of India. Throughout the middle ages, the Indian people made incredible strides in art, literature, mathematics, and science

even in the midst of great troubles. In 1526 Babar, a Muslim warrior invaded India from Afghanistan and established the Mogul Empire. About 20 percent of the Indian people became Muslims during this period. We visited the famous Taj Mahal (meaning "best of buildings" in Persian), which houses the bodies of Mogul emperor, Shah Jahan, and his favorite wife, Mumtaz-i-Mahal ("pride of the palace"), for whom the tomb is named. Indians got in for 50 cents, but we foreigners paid \$15. The guards at the entrance were very rude to their paying customers. Yes, this white marble feat of architecture is something to see. However, I was more interested in the church of the living instead of a tomb of the dead.

What a joy to fellowship with and preach to the wonderful congregation of Faith Church and Bethel Church of Agra, India. Hundreds gathered for our Revival and Pastors Conference. The multitude of smiling faces and enthusiastic handshakes were refreshing. Talk about a singing church. These folks lifted heart and voice in praise to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. And the children as well as young people radiated with such a beautiful spirit. Then the friendliness of this congregation - everybody got a greeting that made you feel at home. These dear brothers and sisters put our American hospitality to shame. Pastor Patel has truly been used of the Lord to



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# RELIGIOUS NEWS AND COMMENTS



## 1. CHINESE TEACHER SAYS AMERICA'S GREATNESS IS BUILT ON CHRISTIANITY

-For years China has been trying to figure out exactly what makes America a great nation. A Chinese university professor said that his countrymen came up with four possible answers: America's military power and weaponry, its democratic political system, the availability of goods and services under capitalism, or the type of culture that exists in the U.S. However, they now realize that America's greatness has been based on a culture built on Christianity. The professor also indicated that according to an official government estimate, there are 20 million registered believers in China-and that sociologists believe there are between 25 and 30 million in non-registered churches. *Agape Press 12/02*

## 2. RICK WARREN'S PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHURCH

-*Christianity Today 11/02* has a 7-page article on Rick Warren's Saddleback Community Church (Calif)-a seeker-sensitive, purpose-driven mega-church. Thousands of pastors flock to his annual Purpose-Driven conferences. Last

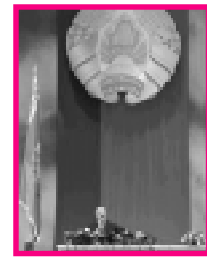
May's conference drew 3,800 pastors, and this remark from a Saddleback executive pastor: "We're not talking about doctrine. We're talking about how to do church in a way that meets people where their needs are." Saddleback has close ties with the Southern Baptist Convention but keeps this affiliation virtually invisible. Warren has dropped much of Southern Baptist culture-altar calls, Broadman hymnal, Sunday school. Warren was a listed speaker at the recent SBC meeting, and for liberal Robert H. Schuller a few years back. *Calvary Contender 12/02*



## 3. EXERCISING FAITHFULLY

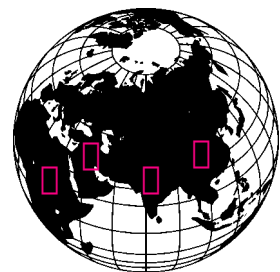
-*Better Homes and Gardens 12/02* in their Health section featured an article on churches across America opening up fitness centers to provide strength of body as well as soul. One observation was the preservation of "an atmosphere conducive to each church's values." "In the secular world, the attire and the music is not always what you want your family to be exposed to. You can come in here and it's what you would want your family to be a part of," reported the fitness director at Second Baptist Church in Houston, Texas. Another

issue mentioned was a safe environment for seniors as well as children of all ages. Note: "Bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things..." I Tim. 4:8



## 4. REGISTRY OUTRAGE

-Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko on Halloween signed into law one of the most repressive religion laws in all the former Soviet republics. In effect, it establishes the Russian Orthodox Church as the favored state religion. It bans activity by "unregistered" religious groups but makes it nearly impossible for minority religious groups to register. *World 11/02*



## 5. NO RISK-NO OBEDIENCE

-This is not a criticism, but hopefully an encouragement to think. Recently it was stated to me, "We don't support national and indigenous missionaries because accountability is almost impossible, and you will create a welfare

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mentality. These are valid observations, however, to have a set policy to never support national or indigenous pastors is equivalent to disobedience. How is that, you ask? Take, for example, the countries where American missionaries are not permitted or where gospel work cannot be legally conducted. Yet the Bible tells us to go into the "uttermost part of the earth." China and India alone have over 2 ½ billion people, and without support national pastors and missionaries obedience to the Great Commission cannot be achieved. Toru Marshall, director of Nationals Outreach Worldwide states: "Only those who support National Missions can truly say that they are reaching the world with the glorious Gospel of Christ. Fifty percent of the world's population has never heard a clear presentation of the Gospel. Seventy-five percent of those who have never heard of Jesus and His love live in what is known as

the 10-40 Window. This area encompasses China, India, and much of the Middle East. There are over 2 ½ billion people in China and India alone. American Missionaries cannot effectively reach this area of the world. They would not be legally allowed to conduct Gospel ministry in many of the countries of the 10-40 Window. Jesus told us to take the Gospel to the "uttermost part of the earth." How can we obey the Lord's command when American Missionaries are not allowed to go? The answer is simple; we must support National Pastors and Missionaries."

## 6. CAPITAL PUNISHMENT -

Where did the death penalty get that name? "CAPital" comes from the Latin word caput which means "head." That's where the word "decapitate" came from. It means to "dehead" (behead) someone. The United States doesn't

actually use the guillotine or the sword to carry out the death penalty. But the outcome is the same. Twelve states and the District of Columbia have no death penalty.

Some people picture God as a God of holy justice in the Old Testament who switches to a God of Holy love in the New Testament. But "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). He is not a sweet New Testament version of a harsh Old Testament God.

The New Testament reveals God's harshest act of judgment and his greatest act of mercy. They happened at the same time-on the cross.

God's justice and love are both perfect and everlasting. In all murder cases we should do exactly what He says. Genesis 9:6; Numbers 35:31; Romans 13 *God's World News 12/02*



# A Very Special Note

Thank the Lord for faithful, courageous pioneers who have gone before us carrying the Light of the Gospel to this lost world. Sophia Muller ranks among those who risked all to take the name of Jesus into the uncharted frontier. As many of you already know, it was through Sophie's sister and niece that we made important contacts in our relocation to Asheville, North Carolina. Barbara Kiefer (Sophie's niece) and husband George has assisted The Voice in the Wilderness on many occasions and in November 2002 we received the following note:

*Dear Ronnie, Terry, and Dr. Thomason:*

*On October 18<sup>th</sup> my husband, George Kiefer, died. He had a version of ALS and heart and respiratory problems. He fell about 10 days before he died and fractured his shoulder. Because of all his problems and being so fragile, he physically couldn't rally again. His family was at his bedside when he took his last breath.*

*George was a fine and good man, who told his daughter two days before his death not to cry because God had a plan for him. He was a strong Christian and was ready to leave this world. Each one of his children and grandchildren spoke at the Memorial Service, and we sang that hymn, "Fight the Good Fight." It was a powerful service, and all of us will miss his humor, quick mind, and kindness. It has been an extremely difficult time. He was such an important part of our lives.*

*Barbara Kiefer*

**Our prayers go out to this dear family!**







# GOD'S THEATER OF WAR IN THE CONFEDERATE CAMPS

## Chapter 3 (Continued)

### Stonewall Jackson

Just as Robert E. Lee's testimony reached many, General Stonewall Jackson's life testified of the peace that can only be found in Christ. Jackson's witness for Christ spread throughout his army career in Mexico before the Civil War, to the common soldier's life in his Confederate Army, and continued even after the war in his Negro Sunday schools.

During the time of the signing of the Peace Treaty, Jackson fully committed his life to serving God.<sup>34</sup> After the war, he became a professor at Virginia Military Institute. His Christian character was clearly evident as it was said "...no professor ever had to a higher degree the confidence and respect of the cadets for his unbending integrity and fearlessness in the discharge of his duty."<sup>35</sup> While Jackson was not in active duty, he was an active member and deacon at Dr. W. S. White's Presbyterian Church. He served as a committed deacon as well as a teacher of a young men's Sunday school class.

It was during this time between 1855 and 1861 that Jackson saw the need for the religious training of Negro slaves.<sup>36</sup> As a master of slaves in the South, Jackson consistently invited Negroes into his home for family prayer meetings. After some time, he had so many Negroes coming to pray that he began an organized meeting outside of his home.<sup>37</sup> With 100 students and twelve teachers, he began his Negro Sunday school class, which continued through and after the war.<sup>38</sup>

It was a strong devotion to God that Jackson carried with him into the Civil War. The night before he left his wife for war, they read together II Corinthians 5, "For we know, if our earthly house

of this tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."<sup>39</sup> It was with great confidence in the power of God that Jackson left his home for, not only the political battlefield, but also the battlefield of souls.

Jackson quickly impacted souls for Christ by urging colporteurs to enter his camps and abundantly distribute gospel tracts and printed copies of the Bible. After granting a colporteur permission to distribute Bibles within the camp, Jackson expressed his heart's desire that the "men should be not only good soldiers of their country, but also good soldiers of the Cross."<sup>40</sup> Jackson, as a General in the Confederate army, obviously wanted his men to valiantly fight in battle, yet, clearly, he desired that all men serve God first as faithful believers.

Chaplain Jones believed that the phrase "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" guided Jackson's life. Each step was marked through his constant prayer times. His personal servant noted many occasions when Jackson would spend many minutes in prayer the night before a battle was to begin. Soldiers within his campaign also witnessed Jackson praying before and even in the midst of battles.<sup>41</sup> Jackson illustrated this constant life of prayer the following way when asked of the subject:

"When we take our meals there is grace, and when I take a draught of water, I always pause to lift up my heart to God in thanks for the water of life; and when I go to my classroom and await the coming of the cadets [referring to his time spent at Virginia Military Institute] that is my time to pray for them. And so with every other act of the day."<sup>42</sup>

Many who came in contact with General Jackson often witnessed such

a prayer life. Once, in the heat of battle, Jackson was noted to have ridden to the front lines, in a spirit of prayer, found the chaplain, and said to him, "The rear is your place, sir, now, and prayer your business."<sup>43</sup> Hence, the chaplain departed the fierce battle to take up the cause with the Heavenly Captain.

Not only did Jackson's spiritual life affect his authority as a general, but also convicted many who witnessed his sincere faith in God. One night after a battle, a major went to Jackson's tent. Upon seeing him on his knees, he waited outside. After thirty minutes, Jackson still on his knees, the major inquired of the servant if perhaps the General had fallen asleep. The servant assured the major that Jackson was fervent in prayer, and rightly so, one hour later, Jackson rose from his praying knees and received the humbled major.<sup>44</sup>

The Lieutenant Ewell, who witnessed the prayers of Jackson one night, recounted a similar experience. After seeing Jackson pleading through such fervent prayer for God's guidance in the battle to come, Ewell declared, "If that is religion, I must have it." Only a few days later did Ewell make a public profession of faith and attributed his change to the testimony of General Jackson.<sup>45</sup>

Even though some eyes were opened to spiritual truths upon seeing Jackson praying, others less sensitive to spiritual things did not understand Jackson's urgency in seeking God's will for every battle. These individuals would probably have determined him "crazy"<sup>46</sup> as one author did, at seeing him pacing and mumbling in the woods. On the other hand, those who knew the heart of Jackson, immediately understood his ceaseless praying and would simply see

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a man of God quietly pleading for the will of God. Such was Jackson's ceaseless life of prayer.

Comfortingly, Jackson's abiding faith led him through the arduous Battle of Chancellorsville, yet God's faithfulness also proved His sovereignty as the General received a fatal wound given by a misguided bullet of his own troops. Following Jackson's example, troops gathered the day after battle and gave thanks to God for the victory.<sup>47</sup> With great pleading, though, General Lee, upon hearing of his great assistant's plight, declared, "If I have ever prayed in my life, I have pleaded with the Lord that Jackson might be spared to us."<sup>48</sup> Even while the doctors desperately tried to save Jackson, God was calling his name. As death drew close, Jackson declared that even if he could replace the arm the doctors had removed, he would not unless he knew it to be God's will.<sup>49</sup> As he grew worse, he remained calm in the grace of God, and comforted his wife, asking her to pray for him, but remembering to conclude her prayer with "Thy will be done."<sup>50</sup> Sadly, just days later, Lee would confer remarks over the death of Jackson, while continuing in the same faith that had kept his friend strong. He proclaimed that the Confederate Army would stand fast with "...unshaken confidence in God as our hope and strength."<sup>51</sup> Even in Jackson's death, more souls came closer to the eternal comfort of the Father.

### John Gordon

After Stonewall Jackson's death, General John B. Gordon became the commanding officer of his troops. Although the soldiers had lost their incomparable leader, General Gordon carried on the strong Christian witness in the camp. He was quite concerned for the spiritual affairs of his men. So much so, that he wrote Dr. A. E. Dickinson, Superintendent of Army Colportage, as to why missionaries and preachers were not being sent into the camps. Just as Jackson desired to see his men saved, General Gordon determined to do all he could to bring

the gospel message into the camps.<sup>52</sup>

### Jeb Stuart

General Jeb Stuart also followed the lead of his co-patriots and led his men in giving praise where it was due for their success in battle. Stuart's praise to God was recorded quite vividly in one report to General Lee concerning the battle at Leesburg. Stuart stated, "Believing that the hand of God was clearly manifest in the signal deliverance of my command from danger and the crowning success attending it, I ascribe to Him the praise, the honour and the glory."<sup>53</sup>

Stuart also, as vigorously as Jackson, desired that his men come to a personal relationship with Christ. He welcomed preachers of the gospel into his camps with prayers that many of his men would be changed through the shared gospel. Stuart's belief that "the calling of a clergyman" was "the noblest in which any human being can engage," showed his true Christian character of commitment to the gospel.<sup>54</sup>

As with Jackson, Stuart remained in the peace of God as he suffered from a mortal wound received in his service of the Confederacy. At his death, he said, "God grant that they may be successful. But I must be prepared for another world."<sup>55</sup> While passing into that other "world," as Stuart had requested, Rev. Dr. Peterkin sang "Rock of Ages,"<sup>56</sup> and then General Jeb Stuart was truly "safe from wrath" and "made whole".

What exciting testimonies have been recorded in the history pages of the Christian heritage! One can easily see how thousands of Confederate's lives were spiritually affected by the clear testimonies of chaplains, colporteurs, and Confederate leaders. These testimonies quickly lit the revivals that spread throughout the Confederate camps, influencing soldiers to accept a personal faith in Christ.

### Revival Fires in the Confederate Camps

The *Richmond Christian Advocate* announced, "Not for years has such a revival prevailed in the Confederate States."<sup>57</sup> The revival fires

were evident over all the Confederate camps, and men like Chaplain James Marks testified of the dramatic events that took place in the camps. He told of the discouragement that was present among the troops in the aftermath of the first Battle of Bull Run. For encouragement, Marks called for a religious service. Through his preaching on the peace that can be found through Christ, hundreds of men came to Christ.<sup>58</sup>

Many who witnessed the revival meetings affirmed the testimonies of the many men who accepted Christ. B. T. Lacy detailed that 1,000 conversions were witnessed in September of 1863 in the second and third Corps of Virginia, while in excess of 15,000 men in the Northern Virginia army gave a personal testimony of accepting Christ in 1863.<sup>59</sup>

Testimonies of these conversions were usually recognized during the many revival meetings held in the camps. As Dr. Stiles reported, 1200 to 1500 men could be seen attending these meetings.<sup>60</sup> All types of services were used during the war, including "preaching and Sunday school, prayer meeting and Bible classes, enquiry, exhortation and singing meetings."<sup>61</sup> Through these services, many men felt compelled to surrender to God, yet Chaplain J. Monroe intently worked to keep the services quiet and reverent so that there was "no getting up an excitement."<sup>62</sup> He, along with other chaplains, determined to make sure that the soldiers made a truly committed decision not just participated in a religious experience. Dr. Stiles also expressed upon having several men become quite loud over their conversion, that he sent them out of the building for "rest and meditation" so as not to incite others to indulge in emotionalism.<sup>63</sup> Although some people did revel in this type of excitement, a genuine spirit inevitably pervaded, especially under the direction of certain ministers, such as Chaplain Monroe.

Revival meetings were usually directed by a resident or visiting

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# NEWS BITS

## FROM HERE AND THERE



### WHO IS NANCY PELOSI? -

She is the new minority leader in the U.S. House. Agape Press 11/02 reports that the House Democrats have chosen Nancy Pelosi, who represents the liberal San Francisco area, as their standard-bearer, making her the first woman to lead a political party on Capitol Hill. Her predecessor, Dick Gephardt of Missouri, says he is confident Pelosi will lead the party to control of the House in the 2004 elections. But conservative columnist Cal Thomas has a different take on Pelosi's selection, calling it the second major Republican victory in less than ten days. Thomas calls her voting record in Congress "a classic in liberal profiling," noting her 100% rating from both the liberal Americans for Democratic Action and the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League. And he says Pelosi and the rest of her wing of the Democratic Party "would rather be left than president."

**PRINCESS DIANA** - the greatest ever Briton? Can you believe it? Princess Diana was barely beat out by Winston Churchill as the greatest ever Briton. The Princess came in third place in a recent BBC poll out of 100 names listed just under Victorian engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel and Winston Churchill the winner. The top three were followed by Charles Darwin, William Shakespeare, Isaac Newton, Elizabeth I, John Lennon, Horatio Nelson and Oliver Cromwell. Is this a commentary on today's perspective of history and the value or impact of certain persons on history?

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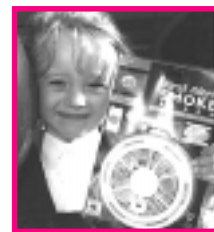
### AIR MARSHAL MANIA -

Recent revelations show an even more pressing need for arming commercial airline pilots. According to *USA TODAY*, the air marshal program is so beset with problems that at least 80 marshals have quit in recent months. Others are considering a class-action lawsuit over working conditions they fear put travelers at risk. Among the *USA Today* findings: 1.) Hiring standards since Sept. 11, 2001, have been lowered dramatically; 2.) No longer must applicants pass a difficult marksmanship course that used to be the make-or-break test; 3.) Many new hires were given guns and badges and put aboard flights before extensive background checks were completed; 4.) Despite the undercover nature of the work, officials have implemented a dress code that marshals worry identifies them to terrorists. "This used to be an elite, great group," one marshal, who joined the program just after the terrorist attacks, told *USA TODAY*. "Now they've turned this into a

laughingstock." - What are your thoughts about a well-trained, armed pilot on every flight? *America's 1<sup>st</sup> Freedom* 10/02



**PRESIDENT BUSH** has signed into law a bill reaffirming references to God in the Pledge of Allegiance and national motto. - Without comment, Bush signed the legislation supporting the words "under God" in the pledge and "In God We Trust" as the national motto. The measure was approved unanimously in the Senate and drew just five no votes from House Democrats. Congress rushed to act after a federal appeals court panel in California ruled that the phrase "under God" - inserted into the pledge by Congress in 1954 - violated separation of church and state. Enforcement of the ruling has been postponed pending a rehearing by the full court. *Agape Press* 11/02



### SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS -

Homeowners are advised to install smoke alarms on each level of the home

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outside sleeping areas and to change the batteries annually, as well as keep the alarm clean. Carbon monoxide detectors should be installed in every home outside main sleeping area. There were nearly 400,000 house fires in the U.S. during year 2001. These items would help you to protect your family. *Better Homes and Gardens 12/02*

## NOVEMBER 2002 ELECTIONS


- The runaway victor in the 2002 elections was the Republican Party. More particularly, the champion was President George W. Bush himself. For the first time in 50 years, Republicans ended up in control of both houses of Congress and the White House. The 2002 elections also saw Republicans win 20 out of 36 state governor races. And voters made a variety of other decisions in individual states. In both Arizona and Nevada voters said a strong no to legalizing marijuana. In Florida they said yes to a ban on smoking in most work places and restaurants. Some voters actually chose to keep paying certain taxes. *God's World News 12/02*



**HARRY POTTER - TOOL OF THE SUBTLE ONE** - What more do we need to say about Harry Potter? With the new movie came this review by the liberal media describing the difference between the first movie and the current production. The analysis used the words "darker" and "scarier" to depict the new Harry Potter movie. The reviewer stated, "This installment is darker and scarier." - The world does know what is going on! 



## Nuggets of Gold

1. When a man has climbed high on the ladder of success, quite often some of his friends begin to shake the ladder.
2. Some people may still have their first dollar, but the man who is really wealthy is the fellow who still has his first friend.
3. The man who really wants to do something finds a way; the other man finds an excuse.
4. Our aim should be service, not success.
5. *Smiles* is the longest word in the world. There's a "mile" between the first and the last letters in the word.
6. Wisdom is divided into two parts - having a great deal to say, and not saying it.
7. To keep young, stay around young people. To get old, try to keep up with them.
8. Old age is that period when a man is too old to take advice but young enough to give it.
9. A fanatic is one who can't change his opinions and won't change the subject.
10. Laughter is like changing a baby's diaper - it doesn't permanently solve any problems, but it makes things more acceptable for a while 



**Question:** Doesn't it take millions of years for coral reefs to form?

**Answer:** If Noah's Flood occurred only about 4,500 years ago, as the Bible indicates, then the coral reefs, such as the famous Great Barrier Reef in Australia, must be less than 4,500 years old. At one of the Barrier Reef's underwater observatories great clumps of coral are already growing on the large anchor chains! This has certainly not taken millions of years. Also, there's some fascinating research on coral growth conducted by Australian scientists. They found that the average growth of certain corals was over a half an inch per year. Now, the deepest part of the Great Barrier Reef is around 180 feet. At this growth rate, the entire reef could be explained in less than four thousand years - which fits the Biblical date of the Flood! **Yes, the Bible can be trusted from its very first verse!**

- ANSWERS IN GENESIS MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL 



# 50 YEARS and COUNTING

**Fifty** years ago marked a dramatic turn in the moral values of most communities throughout America. Sure things had changed even before 1950, but up until then, Christian values had remained dominant with church attendance, revival meetings, the “Blue Law” requiring commercial stores to be closed on Sunday, as well as prayer and Bible reading to open the school day.

The perversions and profanities paraded about today as to be the norm were considered illegal and immoral. Televisions and air travel were limited and rare for most while microwave cooking, dishwashers, home A/C, fast food establishments, shopping malls, FM radio, computers, and rock and roll music were not yet the American scene. Just in **fifty** years America, and yes the world, has changed.

- 1948 & 1950** The World and National Councils of Churches founded, respectively.
- 1950's** New Evangelicalism takes a dramatic upswing.
- 1950's** Billy Graham refused an invitation by the liberal New York City Ministerial Association.
- 1950's** Later the Fundamental Ministerial Association extended an invitation. Graham accepted providing a joint sponsorship of fundamentalists and liberals.
- 1957** Billy Graham announced his “inclusive policy.” Shortly he would use men who denied the deity of Christ. Soon Billy Graham refused to be called a Fundamentalist.
- 1960's & 1970's** Remember the “Jesus People”? Agree or not, this is an interesting statement by David Wilkerson in his book *Set The Trumpet to Thy Mouth*: “One of the reasons God’s Spirit was lifted from the Jesus Movement....was their refusal to forsake their old music. They gave up pot, heroin, alcohol, promiscuous sex, and they even gave up perverted lifestyles. But they refused to give up their beloved rock....its hold is stronger than drugs, alcohol, or tobacco. It is the biggest mass addiction in the world’s history....rock music, as used and performed in Christian circles, is of the same satanic seed as that which is called punk, heavy metal, and is performed in devilish rock concerts worldwide.”
- 1960's & 1970's** The charismatic movement is gaining momentum.
- 1980's** Financial and sex scandals plague Charismatics, New Evangelicals, and Fundamentalists.
- 1980's & 1990's** The New Age Movement gains attention.

\*Next month we will recap some **positive** events over the last **fifty** years that furthered the Gospel of Christ.



(Continued from page 7)

chaplain. Upon a soldier accepting a personal relationship with Christ, he then chose the denomination that he wished to join. Sometimes many chaplains would work together in directing services. Therefore, on many occasions, a soldier could express to the appropriate chaplain that he wished to join his denomination. When a chaplain could not be located for a corps of soldiers, many attested that the revival still invaded these areas as well. One soldier wrote that they still had revival in their camp through their "comrade in arms." Those professing conversion in a camp without a chaplain or without the preferred denomination simply had to wait until a chaplain visited to join a denomination.<sup>64</sup>

Many times soldiers also had to wait for a visiting chaplain in order to be baptized. A.P. Hill's troops, while marching to Gettysburg, stopped at the Antietam River for a praise and prayer worship time with a chaplain. On June 29, 1863, fourteen men were baptized before continuing along the battle road.<sup>65</sup>

With so many conversions taking place, historians have been unable to identify the exact numbers that were converted. This is especially due to the fact that chaplains during the Civil War were not required to record the conversion they witnessed.<sup>66</sup> Also factoring into the estimate of Confederate conversions are the prisoners who accepted Christ while in a Union prison. Beardsley records that the rising evangelist, D. L. Moody, visited Camp Douglas, a Union prison camp, on many occasions. Moody testified that regularly, thirty to forty men would be saved each night that he visited.<sup>67</sup> Respectfully, some estimate that 150,000<sup>68</sup> conversions took place, while others conservatively state 100,000<sup>69</sup> Confederate troops converted during the war.

While historical records cannot prove the exact number who received salvation, neither can records show the life changing affects such a revival placed upon the lives of those in the South. Many letters were sent home telling of

conversion experiences and the blessings of revival. One soldier wrote, "that I have profest [sic] of my sins and am going to gine [sic] the church and be baptized."<sup>70</sup> Imagine the flood of joy that filled many hearts upon receiving such a testimonial. More emphatically, imagine the changes experienced in homes upon the return of soldiers at the war's end. Bennett wrote in his book twelve years after the war that the fruits of revival are endless. Hundreds of churchgoers attributed their "spiritual birth" to a battlefield revival. Bennett concluded that the Confederate soldiers simply laid down their sword of Confederate cause for the sword of God's truth. Truly, the "strongest proof of the genuineness of the Army Revival" can be seen.<sup>71</sup>

Rebekah Williamson  
(Conclusion - next issue)

<sup>34</sup> [CHAPTER 3] M.L. Williamson, *The Life of General Stonewall Jackson* (Arlington Heights, Ill.: Christian Liberty Press, 1989.), 31.

<sup>35</sup> [CHAPTER 3] *Ibid.*, 36.

<sup>36</sup> [CHAPTER 3] *Ibid.*, 50.

<sup>37</sup> [CHAPTER 3] Jones, 85.

<sup>38</sup> [CHAPTER 3] Williamson, *The Life of General Stonewall Jackson*, 50.

<sup>39</sup> [CHAPTER 3] *Ibid.*, 70.

<sup>40</sup> [CHAPTER 3] Jones, 83.

<sup>41</sup> [CHAPTER 3] Jones, 88.

<sup>42</sup> [CHAPTER 3] Williamson, *The Life of General Stonewall Jackson*, 59.

<sup>43</sup> [CHAPTER 3] Jones, 92.

<sup>44</sup> [CHAPTER 3] *Ibid.*

<sup>45</sup> [CHAPTER 3] *Ibid.*, 97.

<sup>46</sup> [CHAPTER 3] Jones, 89.

<sup>47</sup> [CHAPTER 3] Johnson, 105.

<sup>48</sup> [CHAPTER 3] *Ibid.*, 104.

<sup>49</sup> [CHAPTER 3] Jones, 99.

<sup>50</sup> [CHAPTER 3] *Ibid.*, 100.

<sup>51</sup> [CHAPTER 3] Johnson, 105.

<sup>52</sup> [CHAPTER 3] Jones, 104.

<sup>53</sup> [CHAPTER 3] Davis, Burke, *Jeb Stuart: The Last Cavalier* (New York: Wings Books, 1957.), 237.

<sup>54</sup> [CHAPTER 3] *Ibid.*, 240.

<sup>55</sup> [CHAPTER 3] M.L. Williamson, *The Life of J.E.B. Stuart* (Arlington Heights, Ill.: Christian Liberty Press, 1914.), 187-188.

<sup>56</sup> [CHAPTER 3] *Ibid.*, 188.

<sup>57</sup> [CHAPTER 3] Frank Grenville Beardsley, *A History of American Revivals* (Boston: American Tract Association, 1904), 246.

<sup>58</sup> [CHAPTER 3] Keith J. Hardman, *Seasons of Refreshing: Evangelism and Revivals in America* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1994), 186.

<sup>59</sup> [CHAPTER 3] Sidney J. Romer, *Religion in the Rebel Ranks* (New York: University Press of America, 1983), 114.

<sup>60</sup> [CHAPTER 3] *Ibid.*, 116.

<sup>61</sup> [CHAPTER 3] *Ibid.*

<sup>62</sup> [CHAPTER 3] *Ibid.*, 117.

<sup>63</sup> [CHAPTER 3] *Ibid.*, 118.

<sup>64</sup> [CHAPTER 3] *Ibid.*, 118.

<sup>65</sup> [CHAPTER 3] *Ibid.*, 121.

<sup>66</sup> [CHAPTER 3] *Ibid.*, 122.

<sup>67</sup> [CHAPTER 3] Beardsley, 262.

<sup>68</sup> [CHAPTER 3] Hardman, 191.

<sup>69</sup> [CHAPTER 3] Romero, 122.

<sup>70</sup> [CHAPTER 3] *Ibid.*, 119.

<sup>71</sup> [CHAPTER 3] William W. Bennett, *A Narrative of The Great Revival Which Prevailed in the Southern Armies During the Late Civil War Between the States of the Federal Union* (Harrisonburg, Va.: Sprinkle Publications, 1989), 427.

## HOW MUCH OF THE WORD IS GETTING INTO YOU?

"Scripture memorization is a lost art. I found out why. I spent over six months asking people the following questions. 'Would you tell me from memory John 3:16?' 'Could you quote the Lord's Prayer?' 'Can you tell me some or all of the 23<sup>rd</sup> (shepherd's) Psalm?' Over the months I made an amazing discovery. **I spoke to people from all walks of life, from non-Christians to Christian bookstore employees, who handle every kind of Bible imaginable.** Nearly every person did the same thing: they quoted the King James. But many of these people do not read the King James. They read other Bible versions. Why then are they quoting the King James Bible? It's an established fact: people quote the last version they memorized. These people stopped memorizing when they switched Bibles! Why did they stop memorizing? **About every two years the modern translations change.** (The NIV is notorious for this.) And in the churches, pastors regularly switch Bible versions when they preach. Since they don't have anything clear and consistent to memorize, they stop trying. But there is a translation that stays the same: the King James Bible! And it is more than consistent: it is the preserved words of God in English. It is so easy to memorize the King James. Just read your Bible out loud each day and write down your favorite verses. You will begin to notice how much scripture you are remembering. It's important how much you are getting into the Word. Even more important - how much of the Word is getting into you!" (David W. Daniels) -copied from *The Angelus*



## Personal Message

(Continued from page 2)

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  
Birmingham, England

I got a chuckle out of that “green back” statement; and for many years now, faithful supporters have indeed sent in the “green backs.” Thanks is due to all our friends and partners for standing with *The Voice in the Wilderness* over these **fifty** plus years. Let me also express appreciation for all the Christmas cards, letters of encouragement, and gifts for 2002. Your kindness and generosity is so very precious.

The Lord has graciously allowed this humble work to touch lives around the world during this brief period. Yes, brief as a vapor, yet eternally lasting results for which we say Hallelujah!

It seems only yesterday that I was a little boy in eastern North Carolina. Only in dreams could that child have envisioned traveling this world over to see far away places and experience the diversity of so many nations, and kindreds, and peoples, and tongues. That has been my privilege and blessing over the past dozen years.

Lord willing, this July I will celebrate my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and along with the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of *The Voice in the Wilderness* we dedicate this a **Jubilee** year. Throughout 2003 as we highlight various ministries, will you join with us as prayer partners? Many subscribers sent in their response card pledging support through prayer, and many financially as well. You are so very special, and we deeply treasure your friendship.

An added blessing to this **Jubilee** will be the 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary for

my lovely bride and I. On May 6, 1973, Ronnie Williamson and Terry Little were united in “marriage covenant.” What a beautiful occasion it was as two in Christ became one. I used the word (marriage) covenant instead of (marriage) contract very deliberately. A contract may imply distrust and lack of total commitment. A covenant is built upon trust and commitment. This trust and commitment is in Christ given unto one another in the marriage union. And now after 30 years, my wife and I celebrate the joyous blessing of demonstrating this heavenly relationship Christ has with each saint through our wonderful union here on earth. She is indeed my help-meet, partner in the ministry and best friend all in Christ!

**So you see, this is a special year. Fifty years for *The Voice in the Wilderness*, fifty years for me personally, and our 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Please indulge us a bit of celebration. Jubilee, Jubilee, it’s going to be a happy Jubilee. Jubilee, Jubilee, it’s all because of Jesus don’t you see!**

For Christ and Souls,  
Ronnie Williamson



### DIARY OF A BIBLE

**JANUARY:** A busy time for me. Most of the family decided to read me through this year. They kept me busy for the first two weeks. They have forgotten me now.

**FEBRUARY:** My owner used me for a few minutes today. He had an argument at work and was looking up some references.

**MARCH:** Grandpa visited. He kept me in his lap an hour reading 1 Corinthians 13.

**APRIL:** I had one busy day.

My owner was appointed leader of something and used me. I got to go to church for the first time this year, Easter Sunday.

**MAY:** I have a few green stains on my pages. Had some early spring flowers pressed in me.

**JUNE:** I’m stuffed full of newspaper clippings from the daughter’s wedding.

**JULY:** I went in the suitcase today for vacation.

**AUGUST:** I’ll be glad to get out of this suitcase.

**SEPTEMBER:** It’s good to be out of that suitcase, but I hate these newspapers and magazines on top of me.

**OCTOBER:** Somebody was sick and I was read today.

**NOVEMBER:** Hey, I’m back on the end table. The preacher must be coming by.

**DECEMBER:** I’m back among the Christmas decorations and nativity scene.

**JANUARY:** Here we go again!



### EPITAPH IN A GRAVEYARD IN ENGLAND

I HAVE SINNED  
I HAVE REPENTED  
I HAVE TRUSTED  
I HAVE LOVED  
I REST  
I SHALL RISE  
I SHALL REIGN





# DEFINING THE YEAR 2003

Regardless how hard you try, when one “contends for the faith” often the perception of being “contentious” is conveyed. Please know my heart, and I place in print here that it is not the intent of this publication to be unkind to individuals, play some personality/political game or demonstrate a divisive spirit for the sake of constantly “rocking the boat” or “stirring the pot.” Recently in a meeting the pastor asked me, “Do you know evangelist so and so?” I had not met this evangelist nor was I familiar with his ministry. The pastor said this fellow describes himself as “The meanest preacher in America.” Now if that’s the way that evangelist wants to be known, so be it. However, I pray that even with the iron fisted determination to stand in this day of compromise, *The Voice in the Wilderness* will dress that iron fist in a velvet glove and demonstrate true biblical love along with the authoritative voice of His inspired, infallible Word.

2003 will again draw lines and define for many the distinctives of various ministries. It has been very grievous to this preacher to see men that I have respected for decades express positions that are deeply troubling. I have on my desk a Christian publication dated September 1972. Pictured on the front, for a Bible Conference, are six of the most powerful preachers I have ever heard. My, how I recall the moving messages delivered by these men. Over the past 30 years several of the fellows have been personal friends and even from a distance have encouraged this preacher to stay the course. Now, three of those men have had broken marriages and two have taken positions that I believe are in error. Only one to my knowledge has to this date remained consistent to what was then the biblical position of us all. I still love these brothers even

though I disagree heatedly with a number of them in many areas. What is happening? Most of you know as well as I do. Bible versions have become the topic of defining debate. The KJV has not only been exchanged for another Bible, but now I hear those I’ve respected for 30 years say there are errors in the KJV. Laymen in churches are confused and the world and the devil loves it. Music and dress standards have plunged to an all-time low in our churches - not their churches - ours! Most of the Independent Baptist preachers I know personally are good Bible preaching fundamental soul-winning fellows. That’s why I was shocked when I got a lengthy letter from an Independent Baptist Pastor in South Carolina telling me to take his church off *The Voice in the Wilderness* mailing list. It seems that even though a pastor may believe in standards and biblical separation, he doesn’t preach it nor does he want his church folk reading it in a fundamental publication. Can a preacher believe, truly believe something and not preach what he believes?

Then there is the debate over divorce and remarriage. Again, our churches are under attack and homes are falling apart. From the pulpit to the pew, I’ve never seen such devastation. Do we neglect, abandon, or look down on these individuals. No, we must reach out with love, teach them to forgive and bring healing to their lives. At the same time, the pulpit must stay red-hot preaching and teaching what the Book says about the institute of marriage and the home. Folk in the church are shacking up, having sex and babies out of marriage and no one weeps.

I cannot believe we’ve begun discussions as to whether the Bible has errors and was the blood of Jesus Christ divine or human. For crying out loud,

what will be next? There may even be confusion about what we call ourselves. I’ve traveled all over the world and when you say, “I’m a Christian” that means a lot of different things to people. Christian to some may be Catholic, Mormon, or American for that matter. On the front of this publication it says, “Contending for Fundamental Christianity”. Is Christian or fundamentalist a label to be shunned? One Christian College president wrote: “...those who wished to be more steadfast and less ecumenical began identifying themselves as “Fundamentalists.” [This university] is unashamedly Fundamentalist, but the term is beginning to carry an onerous connotation with the world at large because of the media’s penchant for lumping Christian Fundamentalists in the same heap as Islamic Fundamentalists. Instead of “Fundamentalism” defining us as steadfast Bible believers, the term now carries overtones of radicalism and terrorism. “Fundamentalist” evokes fear, suspicion, and other repulsive connotations in its current usage. Many of us who are separated unto Christ feel it is appropriate to find a new label that will define us more positively and appropriately.” Again, I am not criticizing this school or president. I have many friends who are graduates from this institution and have in past years recommended this school to some of the young people I have ministered to. This simply demonstrates the season of debate that many are engaged in, much of which, to me, is very disturbing. Often we must agree to disagree. For good men there need not be personality, politics, and down right meanness. Year 2003 will draw lines, denote distinctives, and in some cases, divide based on issues that cannot be ignored.



(Continued from page 3)

lead this great congregation into an anointed ministry.

October 2002 marked my fourth mission trip to India. Immediately, I knew this was going to be a fruitful venture. The Lord arranged on one flight for me to be seated beside a Catholic lady from New York City. She raised poodles for “show,” and was quite enthusiastic about sharing her beloved animals with me. During our conversation, she told me she was Catholic. I asked her to tell me what her priest taught about heaven and eternal life. She clearly understood the way to heaven was by good works and keeping the Ten Commandments. This gave me an opportunity to open the Bible and show her what God says not what a preacher or a priest has to say. It was a joy to pray with this dear lady, as she trusted Jesus Christ as her Savior. That one appointment would have made the trip worth it all, yet there were many more blessings to come.

### SHIV NARAYAM

It was one of those hot, dusty days in Agra, India, and God had a divine appointment for his preacher. Pastor Hemant Patel and one of his men, Bro. Thomas, were passing out tracts and sharing the gospel with people along the street. Typically, they would go into the city where there were hundreds of thousands of people to witness to, but that was not the direction the Lord would lead on that day. As they walked out of the city into the rural area, they met a man who rejected their gospel witness but said he knew someone who might be interested. The man led the two preachers to a village to meet a Hindu

named Shiv Narayam. Friends and family affectionately referred to this Hindu man as Baba. This was the fortieth day of fasting and prayer for Baba. His Hindu religion had not given him the peace that he was searching for. As Baba looked at one of his Hindu gods, a dog walked by and urinated on the idol. “How could a god allow a dog to do this?” Baba thought in disgust. For forty days Baba would fast and pray for the truth - to know whom the true God is. Is God real, would He hear and answer? On the fortieth day of the fast, heaven sent an ambassador halfway around the world to a remote village in India, hidden in the darkest of spiritual night, oppressed by the worst poverty’s woes, and chained to religions slavery. Bro. Patel and his family had left the comforts and ease of America and moved to one of the most hostile challenges imaginable. Unless you have been there, seen it with your own eyes, smelled it, tasted it, heard it, felt it - my how all the senses are taken to the limit in India. Words, photographs, nor video describe the oppression. Even after my fourth visit, it’s still hard to believe a country and its people can survive such conditions. Over one billion people living in ways most reading these words can never in your wildest imagination conceive. I must pause to say this trip was much easier in terms of logistics than the past trips. India has made gigantic strides to improve some of its infrastructure. Two cities have constructed several new highways and have installed some underground sewer works. I even ate in several restaurants where I felt reasonably assured the food and beverage was “safe.” Don’t get me wrong. There are some world class accommodations in India and some of

the most gifted, educated, and yes wealthiest people found anywhere are east Indians. Yet, you would write a check today, you would begin earnestly to intercede if you could but glimpse the urgent need I share with you. Bro. Patel and Bro. Thomas should have turned and walked into the city where millions needed the gospel literature that they were distributing. However they had a divine appointment, walking away from the city and into the rural village along the breath-taking dusty road in a humble dwelling the Lord introduced them to Baba. On his fortieth day of fasting, two missionaries now present the one true and living God, Jesus Christ to this dear searching Hindu man. You can believe hell was not happy. As a matter of fact, the water buffalo, a prized and valued possession of any Indian villager, almost went berserk. Typically this domesticated beast is very docile, but on this occasion, the demons prodded him along trying to disrupt the gospel opportunity. Bro. Patel said, “Here I was about to be attacked, gored, or worse by this buffalo, and my family didn’t even know where I was.” However, the Lord knew and was in control of all the details. For on this day, the one true and living God was bringing His Light to this precious seeking soul.

As a result of Shiv Baba receiving Christ, some eleven members of his family have been saved and baptized. Possibly thousands have been contacted with the gospel message, along with two churches planted, and many home Bible studies established. This is truly the story of a modern day miracle!

Please pray for the precious souls of India. Opposition to the gospel has

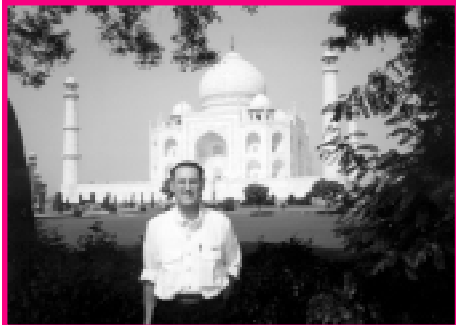
(Continued on page 15)

*(Continued from page 14)*

already succeeded in one area to pass legislation against conversion. Jail sentences and even greater are risk for some dear brothers preaching Jesus. Let's pray for wisdom and power as the church in India labors under some extreme conditions.



Your gifts have made it possible for these young students to study Bible and prepare themselves to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in India, Kenya, and throughout the world. Pray for this fine group as they study in Agra.



The Taj Mahal is one of the Seven Wonders of the World. We took a day out of the busy schedule to tour the sights. What a privilege to travel and see these incredible places.

Throughout my ministry the Lord has allowed me to meet some of the choicest individuals to ever walk this terrestrial ball. Above are Bro. Hemant Patel and Bro. Pavel Clipa. What a joy to have our pastors join me for a conference at Bro. Patel's church during my November 2002 visit to India. Bro. Clipa's father was martyred for the cause of Christ by the communists, and now the Lord is using Pavel in a mighty way to touch lives in Europe and America. I hope to share Bro. Clipa's story in a future issue.



The Voice in the Wilderness brought nine of our workers to Agra for a time of fellowship around God's Word. Brothers Abednego, C.P., Dayaraju, Nirmal, Partha, Pramod, Rajamallik, Samuel, and S.K. were able to see the work in Agra and meet the brethren during our conference and revival.



This is indeed a modern day miracle! What a joy to meet Brother Baba and his dear wife. Please read their amazing story in this issue.



Brother Baba and the village church extended a very gracious welcome. What a joy to meet these precious brothers and sisters.



Our Mission Team had opportunity to see the Taj Mahal. Pictured here are Brothers Dann Patrick, Ronnie Williamson, Hemant Patel, Mike Woodard, Bobby Reavis, and Bro. Raju. Towering above the white marble tomb was the sweet fellowship of those who have partaken of the Resurrection life.



The Lord has miraculously raised up two anointed churches and home ministries in the Agra area. Pictured here, Pastor Patel gave us a tour of their computer area where he is training members in various skills.



Pastor Hemant Patel and Faith Church of Agra, India were so very gracious during our visit in November 2002. The church presented gifts to Pastor Dann Patrick, Brother Mike Woodard, Brother Bobby Reavis, and Brother Ronnie Williamson expressing just a part of their world-class hospitality during our stay. If only all our churches in America could sample the sweet spirit of Faith in Agra.



# STAY BY THE BOOK

When the Soviet Union broke up, some preachers began to re-look at their sermons on prophecy. Bible teachers thought they needed to do a rewrite. Now the world is occupied with terrorism, Islam, and a shaky economy. How does all this affect our view of end time events? We must stay by the Book. The next major event on God's prophetic calendar has remained unaffected by breakups, Osamas, Saddams, and all the economic shenanigans.

The *Atlantic Monthly* 10/02 ran an article entitled, "The Next Christianity." The following was an interesting description: "The modern world arose from the trauma of the Reformation. Brace for a second Reformation - a global convulsion that will shape the coming century." Listen to the following quote from this same edition: "We stand at a historical turning point, one that is as epochal for the Christian world as the original Reformation. Around the globe Christianity is growing and **mutating** in ways that observers in the West tend not to see. **Tumultuous conflicts within Christianity will leave a mark deeper than Islam's on the century ahead.**"

"The twenty-first century will be regarded by future historians as a century in which religion replaced ideology as the prime animating and destructive force in human affairs." This is where preachers and Bible teachers must not allow diversionary tactics to dull our biblical focus. Yes, the world is a buzz with constantly changing events. The news media bombards us 24/7 with a constant barrage of changing affairs on every scene. Our anchor must continue to be the Word of God. Certain events obviously may be interpreted by Bible prophecy; and even at "that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." (I Corinthians 1:21) "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." (I Corinthians 1:18) That indeed must remain our focus. The *Atlantic Monthly* added, "Pentecostal believers reject tradition and hierarchy, but they also rely on direct spiritual revelation to supplement or replace biblical authority." It should be apparent to us that the anchor and sole authority is the inspired, infallible Word of God. More than ever we must **STAY BY THE BOOK.**

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