



CONTENDING FOR
FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIANITY

The Voice IN THE Wilderness



"The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight."

Mark 1:3

Published Monthly
Free Subscription



CONTENDING FOR
AMERICAN FREEDOM

April 2003

Victory Won!

Arise my heart to shout and sing
Christ is risen, 'tis life to bring.

All guilt is gone and terror dies,
When in Him by faith we arise.

Above our fears and beyond our faults,
O what bliss, yea such peaceful thoughts.

To raise our joys and triumphs high,
Sing of Heaven, to this earth reply:

**"Remain no longer as a sinner undone
Cause He has vanquished and Victory won!"**

-Ronnie Williamson



MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends:

**O grave, where lies the dust
Another, like the other
Dead and dried like fallen husk.**

**This mortal frail, this vessel clay
When the hour came
That appointed day none could
stay.**

**Then in death, shall he live?
Is hope all gone?
And memory fades as empty
sieve.**

**Where, O death is thy sting?
The grave must yield
To Resurrection life, our
Sovereign King!**

-RLW

Let the theme be – Resurrection Life. What a story we have to tell. Truly it is the Gospel, Good News! Please take time to share this glorious message with a friend or even a stranger. This time of the year presents many opportunities to

present a witness of what Christ can do for a lost soul. Be faithful.

Well, it is February 26, 2003, yet you have already read March 2003 *The Voice in the Wilderness*. Due to our travels, much of the April material is being prepared early in order to meet our schedule. I had planned to be in Venezuela at this date, however because of political unrest, Delta Airlines canceled our flight and our missionaries thought it best to postpone the trip. Please pray for the faithful folk in Venezuela and Colombia that labor under some extreme conditions. In some cases, it can be physically dangerous and in most situations the strikes, demonstrations, and financial crisis make ministry more difficult.

If my information is correct, Bro. Royce fell on February 2, 2003. I did not receive word until about a week later. It was too late to put a note in the March paper at that time. He spent three days in the Dallas hospital due to his injuries, but he told me last week he is about recovered. I hope to see him the first of March and will say more in the May issue.

The year 2003 marks the 50th year anniversary of this publication. Thank the Lord for this wonderful ministry. I personally have been reading *The Voice in the Wilderness* since the 70's and what a blessing it has been to this preacher. Will you pray with us that the Lord will continue to use this printed missionary to touch lives?

Now the month of April is envelope month. Our long time supporters know we include an envelope four times per year. April is a critical time. After the Christmas envelope and year-end giving, *The Voice in the Wilderness* experiences a lean time financially for about four months or until the April issue. So this month, it is critical that we make up the shortfall as well as position the ministry for the next four-month run.

Many ministries have reported difficult times financially. Since 9/11/01 and due to job losses and threats of war, it appears that some have refrained from extra giving, and of course, some have been unable to give. That means a special APPRECIATION to our subscribers who have shouldered the added burden and given sacrificially. May God bless your willing and generous heart! THANK YOU for being there when we needed you! You have enabled us to continue our missionary support and printing schedules.

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.

(Continued on page 15)

“I thank God through Jesus Christ Our Lord.”

Romans 7:25

Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes:
He arose a victor from the dark
domain,
And He lives for ever with His saints to
reign:
He arose, He arose, Hallelujah! Christ
arose!

Today we rejoice in life, life
abundant, and life eternal. Singing
as I go, it's a know so way. Choose
if you will a maybe so, hope so,
could be so, if I'm good enough or
work hard enough so, way. The
Resurrection way is the sure way!

**Arise my heart to shout and sing
Christ is risen 'tis life to bring.**

**All guilt is gone and terror dies
When in Him by faith we arise.**



*For Personal Correspondence,
Contributions, Address Changes,
New Subscriptions,
Write to us*

Dr. Ronnie L. Williamson
Voice in the Wilderness

P.O. Box 7037
Asheville, NC 28802
Voice (828) 649-1043
Fax (828) 649-9784

For Personal Correspondence,

Dr. J. Royce Thomason

P.O. Box 210098
Dallas, TX 75211
(972) 298-5963

Above our fears and beyond our faults
O what bliss, yea, such peaceful
thoughts.

To raise our joys and triumphs high
Sing of Heaven, to this earth reply:

**“Remain no longer as a sinner undone
Cause He has vanquished and victory
won!”**

I. The Choice

Would you dare refuse life and
choose death? Would you choose
bondage over freedom? Would you
desire a drug to cause pain rather than
a prescription to relieve suffering?
Choose sadness over joy, guilt over
peace, blindness over sight, hell over
heaven, - no one in their right mind
would give a second thought. On this
Resurrection Day, you cannot lose.
Choose Christ, and you win all! All
that a human being could hope for,
long for, desire for, or ever dream of
is in the LIVING JESUS CHRIST.
Choose Christ and choose life! There
is no religion, philosophy, earthly
ambition or pursuit nor worldly
pleasure that can offer, let alone give,
what Jesus Christ can do for the soul.

II. The Offer

Religion cannot offer what
Redemption does. Reincarnation
cannot offer what RESURRECTION
does. Sensuality cannot offer what
SALVATION does. A drugged
stupor cannot offer what DIVINE
SANCTIFICATION does. Rock and
roll cannot offer what THE ROCK
with your name on HIS ROLL does!
Friendships or even family cannot
offer what FAITH does. Satan and
sin cannot offer what THE SAVIOR
does. Hell cannot offer what

HEAVEN does. Books cannot offer
what the BIBLE does. Idols cannot
offer what the great I AM does. The
offer is yours.

It's out of this world!

It's beyond this world!

It's more than this world!

It's better than this world!

It's not even of this world!

**ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH
JESUS CHRIST.**

III. Your Decision

What exactly are you looking
for? I have visited the jails and
prisons. I've seen what drugs, greed,
hate, crime, sin and sex do. Don't
look for it there.

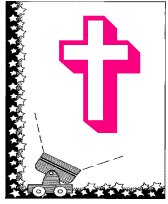
What exactly are you looking
for? I've been to the halls of
Congress. I've talked to the
intellectuals, the wealthy, those at the
top of their game. Don't look for it
there.

What exactly are you looking
for? I've traveled around the world.
Seen far away places and met many
people, religious people: Catholics,
Muslims, and Hindus. It's not in
religion. Don't look for it there.

Mahatma Ghandi said, “It is a
constant torture to me that I am still
so far from Him whom I know to be
my very life and being. I know it is
my own wretchedness and
wickedness that keeps me from
Him.”

The apostle Paul writes, “O
wretched man that I am! Who shall
deliver me from the body of this
death? I thank God through Jesus
Christ our Lord.”

(Continued on page 14)



The Voice IN THE Wilderness

MISSION SPOTLIGHT



Our website will give you opportunity to download and print *The Voice in the Wilderness* as well as select articles. I hope to eventually install a page where up-to-date information can be retrieved. Answers to specific questions could be posted, announcements made, and even updates or inquiries about Bro. Royce's health. You can find our website at:

www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org.



Doors are open for missionary work in Uganda –

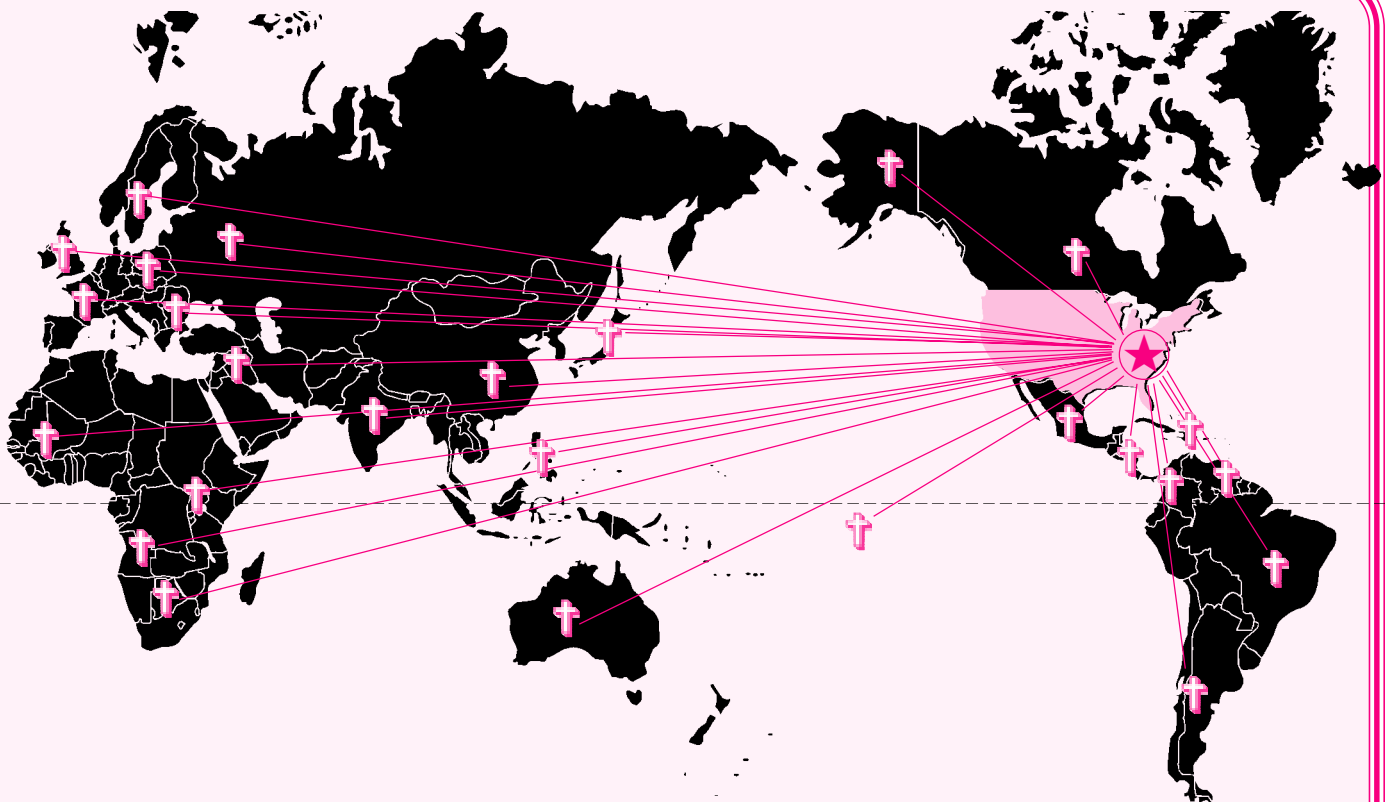
You will recall that only a few years ago this country was under the control of a ruthless and murderous dictator. Hundreds of thousands of graves mark the memory of this madman. However, today it is a joy to see what Christ is doing through missionaries to win many precious souls to Christ in this country. Continue to pray for

the Lord's provision and wisdom as The Voice in the Wilderness endeavors to assist in the Uganda work.



Missionary in Middle East –
As many of you know, we have supported a missionary in Syria for many years. Due to the persecution in that country, our communication

(Continued on page 5)



The Voice in the Wilderness - Subscribers in all 50 states, Washington DC, Virgin Islands, 26 countries, and 7 Canadian Provinces. The following is a list of countries where we presently have missionary work: Belize, Haiti, India, Mexico, Moldova, Philippines, Syria, Uganda, United States, Venezuela

(Continued from page 4)

is limited — what a need there is in the many Islamic controlled countries for the Gospel witness. Again pray for protection for these faithful brothers and sisters who labor under very difficult circumstances. We are unable to mention names and details without jeopardizing these missionaries. Thanks for praying.



Mexico – The Voice in the Wilderness has supported several missionary efforts in the country of Mexico. Unless you have visited south of the border, it is hard to imagine the mission field with millions just at our doorstep. Some have estimated Mexico City as the largest populated area on earth. Thank the Lord for those who are reaching out to our southern neighbors with the Gospel. Thank you for those who give monthly to our missionary program. You enable us to continue our small part in Mexico.



Venezuela – Bro. Carte emails: Things are going well with the church. We are planning a baptismal service for March and have just found a new building for the church. We hope to be able to enter it at the end of March. The things in the country are returning to normal but are not getting any better. The situation is bad—last week the embassies of Colombia and Spain were bombed by

terrorists....Bro. Carlos and the church in Sabana de Para are doing well and growing...They still owe some (not sure how much) on the land.



The Resurrection Story from the Colombian Jungle – Many years ago Sis. Sophie Muller wrote: “Today is Sunday, and we’ve just finished the morning service. It was on the Resurrection. I like giving that lesson best of all – Christ’s triumph over Satan and the tomb. At first it was quite a struggle conducting the meeting. My legs are still covered with the marks of it—little red dots of blood where a thousand gnats were breakfasting. Like messengers of Satan, they clouded the air as if to dim the splendor of the risen Saviour of Whom we were thinking. But after a while we forgot them, and we entered into the joy of our victory with Christ as He lifted us with Him into heavenly places, and we beheld Him in all His resurrection glory.

“I’ll be leaving this village tomorrow. That little woman who is dying is still suffering on. Night after night I can hear her moaning by the hour. It makes me feel terrible. There’s nothing I can do. I’ve been bringing her milk every day, and eggs when they gave me some; but she is too far gone for it to help. She spits all-yellowish blood. Now her stomach is swelling, too, so she doesn’t want anything to eat. She’s near death, I know, and I think the Lord will take her as soon as I leave, as He knows

that I have a horror for deathwatches.

“All last night she was chanting her own death song. It’s the first time I ever heard anyone do it for himself....The people here don’t care. They seem to think she ought to die and get it over with....Only her long, skinny, old husband sits by her side and feels bad. He prayed the other night, mumbling, and perhaps it didn’t all make sense and some laughed at him. Tonight he didn’t come to the meeting.

“We have just left Matijaipan and paddled down the Cuyari a few turns, and then up off the main stream, along the palm-fringed banks of the deep, wide *canyo*. The trees stand in groups, tall and straight, reflecting in the quiet water. We see white sandy beaches here and there.

“It’s nice and cool and peaceful—far from the dying woman’s groans. When I left her I told her that I thought Jesus was going to take her to His place soon and make her well there. She looked happy. She seemed eager to be gone, I thought. Then the realization of the glory she was about to enter broke upon me also, and she didn’t seem like the reeking human wreck of skin-covered bones that physical senses declared her to be, but, rather, one in a position to be envied.

“It was a strenuous time at Matijaipan; but if any of them aren’t saved now, it’s not my fault. I’m free of their blood. They can read syllables well now, and sound out the words; so those who are in earnest should soon be able to understand what they read about God.”



The Voice IN THE Wilderness

EDITORIAL

Politics will stop at nothing – Buckle your seat belt, we are in for a bumpy ride! By now you have seen for months a steady parade of Presidential “want-a-bes.” Liberals will pull out all the stops, no bars hold and as low as you can get to regain power. Lies and character assassination will be regulars on the daily menu of smear. It has become an on-going campaign trail and how Capitol hill accomplishes anything with that bunch of politicking, power hungry, self interested, agenda driven professional campaigners is beyond me. Terrorism, Afghanistan, North Korea, Iraq, the UN and the entire docket of issues are entangled in all the politics and partisan wrangling. Is the American Government even capable of making decisions and then following through? Corruption runs deep and no one is courageous enough or characterized enough to step up and deal with it. Don’t get me wrong. There **are a few good men and women** in politics. How they stay is beyond me, and obviously within the parameters of their conscience, these decent folk have been able to get elected and stay in office. There is a lot of give and take in order to get a little. Are they compromising real principles to even accomplish that much? America does need some people on the inside as salt and light, but it is an ugly, bloody existence. I fear the cancer has progressed in both parties to the point – well it may not be terminal – but America is critical. The liberal news

media is not reporting truth and fact. Please don’t hope for a minute to get honest journalism from ABC, CBS, NBC, or CNN. The same is true of most magazines and newspapers. It will take spiritual discernment to truly stay informed. Day to day life is very complex not to speak of world affairs. I am thankful for the godly men and women who read this publication, and that is why this editorial. Please don’t allow the times and trends or your feelings and fuzzy issues cloud good judgment. Issues like social security, Medicare, jobs, and economy, even “race” and the environment tend to play on self or bias. War becomes emotional and we are emotional creatures. But decisions must be made on sound thinking; and for the Christian, God’s Word must be the foundation and final authority.

Some Christians do not even want to know the truth. Why? Because it may mean a smaller paycheck, less benefits, loss of job or an even greater sacrifice to do what is right. Ignorance is not bliss. Can we apply an Old Testament judgment here? Hosea 4:6 says, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee...” Remember Romans 1:18 “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who hold the truth in unrighteousness.” Ignore the truth or imprison the truth: accountability cannot be escaped.

The hour is urgent. Through prayer and spiritual discernment, God’s people must “understand the times” and take a clearly delineated position based on His infallible Word.

Now you ask, do we stop the letter writing, no longer send emails, forget going to the polls and casting our vote? Absolutely not! Stay involved and let your voice and vote be heard. However, we must remember our commission is one of a higher calling. “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” The plan is to reach this world one soul at a time. Christ can change a man, a family, a nation. “...If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” Is this easy? No, but the opportunities are great. “For a great door and effectual is opened...there are many adversaries.” “...We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” So go ahead, do your duty, do what is right!

Here in western North Carolina many businesses, especially manufacturing operations, have moved south leaving hundreds of North Carolinians without a job. Forgive me, but it disturbed me greatly to see that Asian man last week place his bid to purchase a local business. Foreigners are buying up

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

this country and that is a regretful thing. Thank the Lord for red-blooded patriots whose values sore high above the dollar. In an interview one local business owner said he receives at least two to three offers per month to buy his manufacturing business. This rare business owner said those offers immediately go in the trash. When you are talking hundred of thousands of dollars, it is hard to say no. So it is difficult to do right if it means losing your job and sometimes worse. From the work place to Washington, from your house to the schoolhouse and the church house right is right, wrong is

wrong! "Put on the whole armour of God that you can stand."

These are difficult, complex days, and it is a spiritual warfare. We can do what we ought to do through Christ who strengthens us. And it is through Christ men's hearts are turned from darkness to light. The hour is urgent, but opportunities abound. "Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep...let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly...and make not provision for the flesh..." Read it for yourself – Romans 13:11-14. Be found faithful. Jesus is coming soon!



Resurrection Proofs

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☞ The written Record. | ☞ The calendar (B.C.) "Before Christ" (A.D.) Anno Domini "in the year of our Lord." |
| ☞ The genealogical record. | ☞ The fulfilled prophecy of scripture. |
| ☞ The geographical location. | ☞ The churches around the world preaching the risen Christ. |
| ☞ The empty tomb. | ☞ The Hymnbook and innumerable songs written about Him. |
| ☞ The political leaders and historical proof. | ☞ The changed dynamic life of believers around the world. |
| ☞ Neither Rome nor the Jews could produce a corpse. | ☞ The continued attempt to this day by religion, governments, and disbelievers to deny and discredit Christ's resurrection. |
| ☞ The cowardly Apostles became willing to die for Jesus after His Resurrection. | |
| ☞ The eyewitnesses numbering over 500 who saw Jesus after the Resurrection. | |
| ☞ The very existence of the Christian faith. | |

Nuggets of Gold

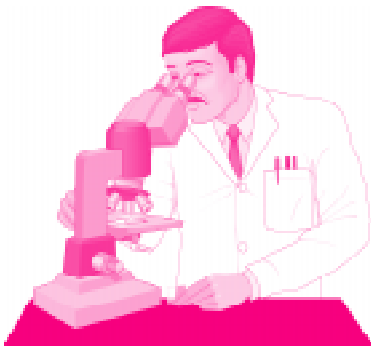


1. Childhood is the time when you make funny faces in the mirror; middle age is the time when the mirror gets even.
2. Temper is what gets most of us into trouble. Pride is what keeps us there.
3. A patriot is a man working for his country's future instead of boasting of its past.
4. Don't resent growing old—many are denied the privilege.
5. In an argument, the best weapon to hold is your tongue.
6. No person is so poor that he cannot give a compliment.
7. If some children are as bright as their parents think they are, they should be looked at through sunglasses.
8. A Bible that is falling apart often belongs to one who isn't.
9. A preacher was asked if he gave marriage counseling. His reply was, "Yes, every Sunday morning at 11:00 AM."
10. One man said, "I do not go to church because I was never taught to go when I was young." Another man said, "I do not go to church because I was forced to go when I was young." So you see, one excuse is as good as another when you do not want to do a thing.



NEWS BITS

FROM HERE AND THERE



HEALTH BRIEF: The largest diabetes prevention study ever attempted is under way at about 750 medical centers in 30 countries, including the University of Maryland Joslin Diabetes Center in Baltimore. The six-year trial will test two medications commonly prescribed for other conditions to see whether they can help prevent at-risk people from developing type 2 diabetes. One drug, nateglinide (Starlix), is an oral diabetes treatment that prevents blood sugar spikes. The other is a blood pressure-reducing drug called valsartan (Diovan) that helps bodies use insulin effectively.....In an early clinical trial, a new cancer test proved 100% accurate. The test detected four types of cancer – breast, lung, gastrointestinal and prostate – in the 177 study participants previously known to have those cancers, and it also accurately reported that 72 control patients (people who did not have cancer) were cancer-free. The test company, CeMines of Evergreen, Colorado, reports that a bigger study is under way.

MANY MEXICANS WORKING IN USA - One national pastor in Mexico says that the majority of the families around

there now have at least one family member who is working in the U.S.A. This means that there is a shortage of skilled workers, because they are the ambitious ones who have made it to the U.S., and it also means that they are sending money home to their families in Mexico. That means a lot of the Mexicans now have the money to build new homes, or at least add on to their existing homes. The old homes were made of sticks and mud or adobe bricks, (which is dried mud), thatched roofs and dirt floors. But the new homes are being built with cement block walls, concrete roofs and concrete floors. The door and window frames are made of steel.

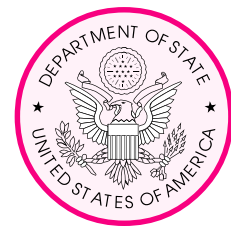


NINTH CIRCUIT DENIES REHEARING OF PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE CASE -

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals refused to rehear the decision made by one of its three-judge panels, which holds that the use of the Pledge of allegiance in public schools is unconstitutional. Only seven of twenty-four justices on the Ninth Circuit voted to rehear the case. The approval of at least thirteen justices was needed in order to fulfill the rehearing requirements. The original three-judge panel ruled the Pledge of Allegiance was unconstitutional because the phrase “one nation under God” allegedly violates the First Amendment’s Establishment Clause.

The case will likely be petitioned to be heard by the United States Supreme Court.

“It is surprising to see that the Ninth Circuit was unwilling to correct this outrageous earlier decision of banning the Pledge of allegiance from public schools,” said Pacific Justice Institute President Brad Dacus. “We expect the Supreme Court will decide to review this decision, and we plan to file an amicus brief in defense of the Pledge of Allegiance.” *Pacific Justice* 2/03



SAFE IN THE ARMS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT -

DUH! On what may be the eve of a war with Iraq, the State Department is still issuing nonimmigrant visas allowing citizens of Iraq and other terror-sponsoring nations to visit the United States. Between June 1 and February 23, says the State Department, it issued more than 19,000 visas to citizens of the seven countries the department lists as states that sponsor terrorism. More than 11,000 of these visas were issued to citizens of the five terror-sponsoring states in the Middle East—including 5,849 to Iranians, 3,673 to Syrians, 1,042 to Iraqis, 1,037 to Sudanese, and 188 to Libyans. In addition, 7,281 went to citizens of Cuba, and 375 to citizens of North Korea. *Human Events* 3/03

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

PARENTS BEWARE – A man in Chicago was arrested after a 17-year-old girl tipped off a mall security guard. She told police she had been abducted from a bus stop in Cleveland. Investigators said dozens of girls and women might have been forced into prostitution in Detroit, Cleveland, and Chicago. At least two other girls, ages 15 and 13, had been held against their will, authorities said. Among the charges are two criminal sexual conduct charges that could bring life in prison. *USA Today* 1/17/03 [Situations like this exist across this country. Parents and young people must stay on their guard!]

TEXAS TECH PROF WON'T RECOMMEND CREATIONISTS – Dr. Michael Dini, professor of biology at Texas Tech university (Lubbock, Texas), makes no secret about his disdain for creationists. He tells them up-front that, if they ever want a recommendation for higher education, don't come knocking at his door. Basically, he says that anyone who rejects evolution is unfit to practice medicine and is sure to make 'bad clinical decisions.' *Answers in Genesis.org* 1/13/03



SEA SCOUTS REFUSED PERMISSION – The California State Court of Appeals recently upheld the trial court's ruling that the Sea Scouts' First Amendment rights have not been violated by the City of Berkeley. The city had prohibited the Sea Scouts from using city owned ship berths because they refused to recant any association with the Boy Scouts and its national policy of excluding avowed homosexuals

from general membership and positions of leadership. This case has proceeded through the lower courts, and is now being appealed to the California State Supreme Court. The Courts must first accept the case in order for them to rule on it. "In light of the important constitutional issues involved, specifically regarding the right of association, we sincerely hope that the California's High Court will accept the case and review it," commented Pacific Justice Institute President Brad Dacus. *Pacificjustice.org*



NEUROLOGIST CLASSIFIES ADHD AS A "NON-DISEASE," WARNS OF DIAGNOSIS – A pediatric neurologist is outraged that a growing number of young school children are being placed on addictive psychiatric drugs – drugs he says can cause brain shrinkage, permanent heart damage, and even death. Dr. Fred Baughman says psychiatrists commissioned by the pharmaceutical industry frequently construct bogus studies in hopes of validating Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) as a disease. He states that psychiatrists are not trained in diagnosing organic disorders of the brain, and often try to convince parents that their normal child is abnormal. In addition, Baughman says parents should never allow a physician or school official to convince them that their child has ADHD and needs to take a stimulant like Ritalin. By doing so, he says, one would be exposing their child to incredible damage. According to Baughman, there are as many as two pharmaceutical company lobbyists per member of Congress—and he says there is almost nothing the pharmaceutical industry asks for that

they do not get by spreading drug money around Washington. *Agape Press* 1/03

Do we get a true picture from the News Media? – Recently during an anti-war protest in Washington, D.C., 63 news photos of that event were transmitted by the Associated Press to newspapers and magazines. Shots were included of the impressive multitude on the outdoor mall. Well, the Associated Press covered another huge March for Life four days later, at the same location in Washington, D.C. However, it only transmitted a total of 15 photos; and not one included a picture of the multitude on the mall.

DUKE HOSPITAL TRANSPLANT EVENTS – Our heart goes out to the family, friends, and medical personnel related to the young girl who died at Duke Hospital due to the tragic transplant events. One note is that the body cannot be taken to Mexico for burial because the illegal parents may not be able to return to the U.S.

THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS, INC. – DISCLAIMER - From time to time I have seen, and others have reported to me, articles in newspapers, magazines, etc., about groups protesting here in the states as well as overseas concerning different issues. We want to go on record as saying there have never been such protests organized or participated in by this "The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc." There are many organizations using this same name, or variants of it, and in most cases this ministry probably would not endorse their positions or actions. If you ever have questions about any organization with this name and whether we are associated, please feel free to contact our office here in Asheville, NC.



RELIGIOUS NEWS

AND COMMENTS



SURPRISE? NASA 'CONFIRMS' THE BIG BANG

It seems the news is buzzing with the latest reports from NASA. Once again reports are shouting that the big bang is a historical reality. That's what Alan MacRobert declares in the article "Mapping the Big Bang" in *Sky and Telescope*. NASA has released the first years' results from a satellite. The oval coloured map represents the whole sky, like the spherical Earth is represented as an oval on a sheet of paper. Different parts of the map relate to different parts of the sky. Different colours represent variation in the CMB (Cosmic Microwave Background) with 'warmer' as red and 'cooler' as blue (but the differences are really tiny). Overall, this information is not new. Similar maps have been produced before. The results, however, are more precise and cover the whole of the sky. Neither is NASA telling a new

story about the CMB. CMB has long been touted as confirming the big bang, the age of the universe, its composition, geometry, its ultimate fate, and so on. But those assertions don't come from the measurements. They are based on an enormous number of philosophical assumptions. Of these claims creationist physicist, John Harnett says, "In short, the big bang is first assumed to be true and they adjust their parameters to get the theory to fit the data. Because of this circular reasoning, it would be a miracle if it did not "confirm" the big bang.' Dr. Hartnett showed that CMB actually poses problems for the big bang and supports creationist cosmologies. One problem is that the CMB seems to indicate a preferred frame of reference, contrary to the basic assumption behind the big bang. Another is that the total mass density of the universe inferred observationally does not agree with the mass calculated from big bang theory. And this latest NASA report even said that the stars formed earlier (by their own dating methods) than previously predicted. Then there is the fact that the CMB is very smooth, contrary to big bang predictions. And so on. Creationist cosmology models do not have these problems. So, have NASA really discovered the big bang is a reality as is so loudly proclaimed? No. They are just asserting it again. Nothing has changed. Answersingenesis.org 2/03



CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION – CLA

states in the February *Legal Alert* that a student in New York is now being permitted to wear modest clothes in gym class and was given an accommodation regarding a coed swimming class after CLA attorneys contacted the school. Initially the parents had been told that New York law would not permit their request for a religious accommodation. Thank you CLA.



SUNDAY WORKERS:

Workers in South Dakota, Connecticut, Illinois, Tennessee, North Carolina, Indiana, Virginia, Ohio, Oklahoma, California, Florida, Missouri, Kentucky, Texas, and Colorado are not being accommodated by their employers regarding their religious convictions against Sunday work. In some cases, these workers have a conviction

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

against all work on Sundays. In others, they merely have a conviction that they must attend church and could be scheduled later in the day. Some of these workers have developed a conviction regarding Sunday work after previously working on Sundays. Sometimes workers have been given Sundays off, but after the company increased its hours of operation, the workers were told they can no longer be accommodated. *Legal Alert Feb/03*

AMERICAN HUMANISTS LOUDLY CONDEMN CENSORSHIP

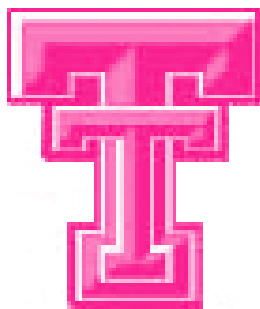
— unless they are the ones doing the censoring. Colorado's Columbine High School is installing thousands of 4-inch wall tiles in memory of 12 students and one teacher massacred there in 1999. The tiles were designed by school families, including victims' families. But tiles with crosses or references to the Lord—have been rejected. *God's World News/Top Story/ 2/18/03*



HARRY POTTER AS EVANGELISM TOOL

— Church leaders in Britain are using author J.K. Rowling's creation to spread the "Christian" message. A new booklet published by the ecumenical body Churches Together in England and Ireland say the Potter books, which have sold more than 90 million

copies worldwide, illuminate the battle between good and evil. [On through the fog!]



THE AUTHORITY OF THE WORD OF GOD VERSUS THE THEORIES AND OPINIONS OF MAN

— Ken Ham of Answers in Genesis Ministry reports that a professor at Texas Tech University has written some alarming anti-creationist comments about letters of recommendation which are required for students to enter medical school. Ken says this anti-Christian bigotry is really just the tip of the iceberg. Across the US, many students have told of similar things being said by their professors. And some have been denied their degrees because they were discovered to be creationists. America continues to lose the foundation of the authority of the Word of God. This increasingly secular worldview will produce an increasingly blatant anti-Christian philosophy. The humanists know that one of the major threats to their agenda is the creation movement as it proclaims the truth of the historical record of the Word of God. The real battle for the minds and souls of people is at the foundational level of *the authority of the Word of God versus the theories and opinions of man*—in essence, the creation/evolution issue.



DISNEY CANCELS WEEKLY CHRISTIAN WORSHIP SERVICES

— Walt Disney World is scaling back its Catholic and Protestant services. After Christmas Day worship, the theme park said it will no longer hold weekly services, although Christmas and Easter worship will continue. Disney officials said space problems were partly to blame. But the resort's executives also said it no longer seemed fair to hold services for only two faiths when religious diversity in America is increasing. The Rev. Richard Land, head of the public policy arm of the Southern Baptist convention, said Disney's decision reflected "a lack of comprehension of how the real country lives and what's important to them." *ACT 1/4/03* [Just a suggestion for Christians — be in your own church on Sunday, not at Disney.]

NOT LEGAL TO USE FULL NAME ON PRAYER LISTS

— A new federal law restricts Australian churches from using the full names of members on prayer lists without specific permission from each person. Churches can't put the names of ill members without their consent (2/6 Ala. Baptist) Clergy can't visit patients in hospitals unless each patient signs a permission form. This will restrict comforting the lonely and ill. *Calvary Contender 3/03*



SUICIDE

[Your Editor: My prayer list is a rather large one. Each name, ministry, and place represents a diversity of need. Two such requests represent the pain from suicide. Across the country and around the world, family members grieve and often suffer deeply from not only the loss of a loved one, but also the extreme grief due to suicide. I was shocked when I heard that Jim (the name has been changed) had committed suicide. I had the privilege to teach Jim one semester in his Christian High School. Never were there the indications that such an action would be even considered by this young man. Jesus said, "...I am the resurrection, and the life..." John 11:25 (There is hope!) keep in mind the following concerning suicide:

I. The Seriousness

Life is precious and entrusted to the child of God, and suicide must be viewed as a breach of that trust. Call suicide "self-murder" or a sin against God is to understand the seriousness of this act.

II. The Selfishness

The devastating effects upon family and friends are beyond description. The hurt and shame that love ones of a suicide victim experience run the gamut. From the spiritual and emotional to even financial, the grief and pain is incredible.

III. The Signs

Often significant behavioral changes may be an indication. Note

the following:

- A. Anxiety and unusual or sudden outbursts.
- B. Expressions of hopelessness or even talk of suicide.
- C. Change in personal appearance. Withdrawal from family and friends.
- D. Careless or reckless actions that almost exhibit a death wish. Preoccupation with death.
- E. Drugs and alcohol.

IV. The Solution

- A. The Savior – Friends and family must bring this individual to Jesus. Salvation and scripture, we would all agree, are critical to the peace and healing needed. This must be done with understanding, love, wisdom, and patience. Much prayer must go before as we tenderly present the hope we have in Jesus!
- B. Please be available to listen to the cry for help. Suicide is serious, and if we are too busy, too occupied to stop and listen, the opportunity to intervene may be lost. Be available and be a friend.
- C. Keep in mind that disease and chemical imbalances can have devastating effects on individuals who would never consider suicide. Christian doctors and qualified pastors will understand this and should be sought for help. Doctors may order a physical examine, glucose-tolerance and blood work up.
- D. Sin or demonic oppression may be the cause. Again, a dedicated pastor needs to be closely involved

as everyone prays for spiritual discernment. Keep hope a live for the individual.] -RLW

[Jim's best friend Philip Buck writes the following article.]

Suicide is a subject that most people do not like to talk about or know much about. However, I wish that I would have known more about it sooner. I had never felt its affects until I lost someone very close to me due to suicide. [Jim] was my best friend in high school [a Christian School]. He had been the salutatorian of our senior class. Not only was he smart, but also he was athletic, funny, very musically inclined, and had a great personality to top it all off. [Jim] was always the life of the party when we had class fellowships. Outwardly, [Jim] had everything going for him. He held a 4.0 at the University of North Carolina at Asheville, a local university with high academic standards. What made him take his own life at the age of nineteen? What was he thinking? This is a question that many of us asked ourselves. After a loved one takes their life, there is guilt of what maybe could have been done to prevent the suicide from happening in the first place. This is something that I faced as soon as I received the phone call from my father telling me that [Jim's] mother had found him in the back seat of his car earlier that

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

morning. Despite my feelings of guilt, Jim had made his own choice to do what he did, and he will one day stand before the Lord for taking his life.

Many of today's teens seem to be greatly influenced by the humanistic thought of the times that we now live in. Our society today is very hedonistic in its thinking. The thinking is, "If it makes you feel good do it." Despite the many ways that man tries to gratify his longing for pleasure, he does not nor ever will find true happiness in what this world has to offer. The next logical thing to do if he is not finding happiness is to end it all. It is not shocking then that suicide is the second leading cause of death among adolescents today, not far behind accidents. (Santrock, 93) Adolescence today, whether high school or college students, are searching for their happiness in drugs, sex, alcohol, friends, clothes, and entertainment. The list could go on and on. Where can man find true happiness? The answer is found in God and in God alone. With prayer being taken out of the public schools and humanistic philosophy infiltrating our schools in its place, it is no wonder that our society is the way it is.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the national suicide rate is 11.31 (1998) per 100,000. Nevada has the highest rate of suicide with 20.18 per 100,000; almost double that of the national average. One can safely say that in the case of Nevada, this is a reflection of the gambling, which is strongly endorsed and participated in especially in Las Vegas. The adult suicide rate in urban areas of America in 1995 was 14.91 per

100,000; in rural areas it was 17.94 per 100,000. ("Suicide Rates in Rural America") The chance that males will attempt suicide is three times more likely than the chances of females. (Evans and Farberow) also, studies show that 6 percent of death between the ages of 10 and 14 are due to suicide. Between the ages of 15 and 19 the percentage goes up to 12 percent of deaths. Studies also show that the suicide rate of adolescents has tripled since the 1950's. (Santrock, 93)

The methods of suicide vary according to sex. Females tend to use less aggressive forms such as taking sleeping pills; males use more aggressive means such as shooting. Also, women attempt suicide more often than males, but are less successful than their counterparts. (Santrock, 480)

The media has proven to consistently devalue the human life. Television and movies often glorify the taking of one's own life. I believe that the Internet plays a huge role in all of this as well. It is very difficult to ignore this reality after the death of my friend, [Jim]. The private detective investigating the case searched his computer for some clues. What he found was amazing. [Jim] had used the Google search engine to access websites that actually went step by step in describing how one could commit suicide. Looking through the history of his Internet site visits, the detective found the exact website where he had received his information. [Jim] had followed the directions exactly as he had been advised to do. Of course, we were all outraged at this finding. One of our friends wrote the website, expressing his disgust for their vile

website. Whether they ever replied, I do not know.

One's view of God is reflected in the way that he treats his own life. Those who do not view God as being in control and the One that can give true pleasure are prime candidates for suicide. In Psalm 73:25 Asaph was able to say, "Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire beside you." Asaph's happiness was found in God alone. If [Jim] had found his happiness in God alone, He never would have made the awful decision to take his life. He did not view God as good enough. He was a Christian. He had given testimony of his salvation on many occasions. [Jim] might have had many burdens on him, but he never claimed Philippians 4:6-7 (If he did claim it, it never became reality) these two verses say, "Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." No matter what he was going through, God could have taken care of it. Obviously, [Jim] and many others like him do not believe that God is big enough to take care of their problems. The Bible is replete with verses dealing with God's love, strength, hope, and peace. If someone truly believed that God was who the Bible says He is, the thought of suicide would never cross his or her mind.

Many adolescents do not know what God offers them in terms of a solution for their problems. It is our job as Christians to show the love of

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

Christ and tell them the hope that God offers. Christ is the answer to the problem of suicide in America.

-Philip Buck

Bibliography

Evans, Glen and Norman Farberow. *The Encyclopedia of Suicide*. New York:

FactsOnFile, 1988.

Santrock, John. *Adolescence*. Boston: McGraw Hill, 2001.

"Suicide Rates in Rural America." www.highplainsmentalhealth.com/news



(Continued from page 3)

She was only fifteen. Yet a terrible disease struck her down. Her parents stood by her bedside waiting, waiting for that final moment. In a hush, the doctor stated to the grieving parents, "I'm sorry, she has seen her best days, poor child!"

"No, doctor," the weak child exclaimed, "my best days are yet to come – when I shall see the King in His beauty."

On a distant battlefield, a brave soldier fell mortally wounded. Later, he was found, lying upon his face, open Bible before him. His hand was stuck to a page of the Holy Book held fast by his own life's blood that had ebbed away. Carefully, the dead soldier's hand was removed from the

printed page. Amazingly, the letters of the scripture were clearly traced on his hand. Upon this brave soldier's hand was this ever-living promise: "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

"I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Dear friend, will you make the right decision? Jesus Christ offers you eternal life. It is your choice. Right now, will you pray and ask Jesus Christ to pardon your sin, cleanse your heart and life? He has paid your sin debt and purchased eternal life for you. Will you trust Him by faith and receive His gift of salvation? -RLW



"The Blood Shedding" - Charles H. Spurgeon

[Each month we try to enclose in every envelope a nugget of interest, encouragement, or share a blessing along with our missionary support checks. We received many comments on the following, so I thought we would share this one with all our subscribers.]

Charles H. Spurgeon preached a sermon entitled, "The Blood Shedding," February 22, 1857, from Hebrews 9:22. He describes the suffering and death of Christ, and says, "Mark his brow-they have put about it a crown of thorns, and the crimson drops of gore are rushing down his cheeks!...But turn aside that purple robe for a moment. His back is bleeding...they lift up the thongs, still dripping clots of gore; they scourge and tear his flesh, and make river of blood to run down his shoulders! This is the shedding of blood without which there is no remission...They fling him to the ground; they nail his hands and feet to the transverse wood, they hoist it in the air...Blood from his head, blood from his hands, blood from his feet. They pierce his side, and forthwith runneth out blood and water. This is the shedding of Blood, sinners and saints; this is the awful shedding of blood, the terrible pouring out of blood, without which for you, and for the whole human race, there is no remission...it is not a thing which you may doubt, or which you may believe; it must be believed and received, otherwise you have denied the Scriptures and turned aside from God." He further states, "It cuts off every other hope, bring your hopes here, and if they are not based in blood, and stamped with blood, they are as useless as castles in the air, and dreams of night. 'There is no remission,' says the text, in positive and plain words...Except you put confidence in the shedding of our Savior's blood, and in the blood shedding alone, for without it there is no remission." (The New Park Street Pulpit, Vo.3, pages 90-92, Pilgrim Publications)

Spurgeon never changed in his preaching of the blood. On May 30, 1875, he preached again from the same text. In his sermon, he repeated over and over, "Without shedding of blood is no remission." Without resorting to lengthy quotations, we can honestly say that his doctrine never changed. He said, "It is not possible that any sin should ever be forgiven to any man without shedding of blood." (Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, Vol. 51, page 426, Pilgrim Publications).



(Continued from page 2)

If you are a new subscriber or have never made a contribution to The Voice in the Wilderness, this is a wonderful time to do so. Please note the enclosed envelope. Our various ministries are listed on the attached prayer card. Remove the envelope flap containing the prayer list and display it in a prominent place, and please remember to pray for this work. Then, enclose your gift to The Voice in the Wilderness and drop it in the mail immediately - with delay comes forgetfulness. Thank you for helping.

Last month I shared our current needs. However, we constantly are adding new subscribers to our mailing list, and so I would like to share this information once again. Here is where we stand presently. To meet budgeted needs after a very slack two months, The Voice in the

Wilderness needs the equivalent of 30 contributors to give \$100 each. That would make up for our current shortfall. As Bro. Royce has said a few times in the past, "We've been dipping to the bottom of the meal barrel, and it is now becoming slick." Every \$5 and \$10 gift is critical while those who can do even a little extra will help make up the deficit. To talk of money is very grievous to me. I wish all needs were met and accounts in the black. However, that is not the case, so I do thank you for taking time to pray with us.

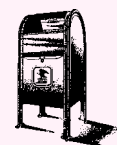
By the time you receive this issue, the U.S. may have taken military action in Iraq or things may have escalated in North Korea, Venezuela, or other hot spots. I do not know how long the door will remain open to the Gospel in some regions. Pray for national pastors as

they carry a heavy burden to reach their people. As long as possible, The Voice in the Wilderness will do its best to help our brothers and sisters around the world get the Gospel into the "uttermost." God bless you for partnering with us in this mission. For Christ and Souls,
Bro. Ronnie

P.S. So much BAD NEWS bombards us daily that often we overlook and forget to thank the Lord for His many blessings! Across this country, and yes around the world, we are continually encouraged by the most precious friends anyone could have. From our hearts we THANK YOU. The thoughtfulness, prayers, and support mean more to us than words could express. I just wanted to share the following that have come from some of our dear readers:



FROM THE MAILBAG



This is in honor of your fifty years of service to mankind. I really enjoy reading your paper. Also I'm moving into an apartment and selling my ranch home. Please change my address. (Subscriber, Iowa)

Dear Sir: We always liked "The Voice in the Wilderness". We miss it. The last address in the states was.....I was wondering if it is possible to send it to us here in Africa. We are here as missionaries. We need something good to read. (Missionary, Africa)

Hi Terry: We took a special offering to help cover the cost of postage for the publication that so many of our church families look forward to reading each month. God bless you both! (Faith Independent Baptist, Morristown, TN)

Dear Friends: I am [sooo] glad I subscribed (or at least received a copy) of "The Voice in the Wilderness." I read it from cover to cover and thoroughly enjoyed every word. Yes, yes, I will send a gift each month as long as possible. Thank you over and over for getting me started reading this. God bless you richly. Keep up the good work. Another prayer partner, (Subscriber, Kansas)

Dear Bro. Ronnie: I send my prayers, love and monthly support. You are doing a great job. I am thankful Bro. Royce found someone like you. I have such respect for you and the way you are holding to the old time gospel way. Not many today are telling it like it needs to be told. I am looking forward to meeting you. Keep preaching it hard brother! Your articles are right on the mark. As our dear Bro. Royce would say "Preach on Brother!" (Subscriber, Maryland).



The Resurrection Story in a Nutshell

In 1975 Bro. Royce gave us the following story that perhaps sums up the real meaning of the crucifixion.

A minister was going down the street when he met a little boy with a cage of English Sparrows. The little birds were frightened nearly to death and the minister asked, "Where did you get the birds son?" "Oh" replied the little boy, "I set a trap and caught them. I put out a little bait, and they went right into the trap and I caught them." "What are you going to do with them?" "I'm going to poke them and tease them for a while then I'm going to kill them. I have a tom cat at home that likes to eat birds so I am going to feed them all to him." The kind minister said, "Son, I would like to buy the birds from you, what will you take for them?" "Oh," replied the boy, "You wouldn't want these birds, they ain't no good, they're just old sparrows and can't sing good like other birds."

"But I do want them," insisted the minister. "What will you take for them?" "I'll take two dollars," replied the boy. The minister gave him the money and smiling from ear to ear, the boy handed over the cage of birds. He ran gleefully down the street and the kind man went around

the corner, opened the cage door and set all the frightened sparrows free.

That is a good picture of the plight of the human race. The devil cleverly scattered some bait around a cage and the unsuspecting human race fell for the trick and became prisoners to the devil's plans. Then one day the kind Jesus saw our sad plight. Prisoners without hope. Doomed to destruction. He inquired, "What are you going to do with them?" "Oh," replied the devil, "I'm going to kill them. I am going to first use them for everything I can and then I am going to kill them in hell." "What will you take for them?" the Savior asked. "Oh," said the devil, "You wouldn't want this crowd. They are no good. They would just hate you, spit in your face and even kill you. They are a mean, wicked bunch. You wouldn't want to buy them." However, the kind Jesus continued to bargain and He said, "But tell me, what do you want for them?" The devil then said with a smirk on his face, "It will be very high. It will cost you the last drop of blood you have, yea your life."

Then the Savior went to Calvary, paid the full price, opened the cage door and let us all go free.



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

Please note the **sample** address label with the **sample** subscriber number circled.

.....
.....99999.....
.....John Doe.....
.....1000 Somewhere Street.....
.....Anywhere, USA 00000.....
.....

The Voice In The Wilderness

P.O. Box 7037
ASHEVILLE, NC 28802

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #7742
SPRUCE PINE, NC 28777