



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

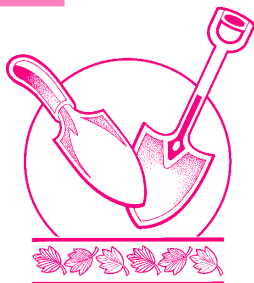
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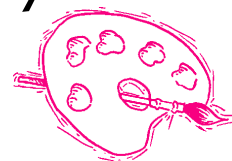
CONTENDING FOR  
AMERICAN FREEDOM

May 2003

## My Love, My Wife



If I were an artist with palette and paint,  
I would dip my brush into the colors  
of Proverbs 31 and upon the canvas  
of my heart create the portrait of my wife.



If I were a gardener with a certain green thumb,  
who grew a prize rose...from the fertile  
soil of Proverbs 31 would grow my treasured  
rose and winner of the blue ribbon and golden spade.

If I were a composer of song, I would sing the  
sweet melodies of Proverbs 31 in honor of  
my partner and wife who is the harmony  
line of life.



If I were a poet with pen in hand,  
I would write from Proverbs 31  
a sonnet of love to mine.

If I were a sculptor, I would quarry from  
among the gems of Proverbs 31  
a work in her honor far above rubies.



As her husband, friend and one for life,  
I praise her and rise up to call my wife  
Blessed!



# MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends:

There are four special ladies in my life that I would like to honor this month. As you noticed, the front cover is a poem written to my lovely wife and help-meet on our 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Actually, the poem was written over ten years ago but is as accurate today as ever.

We were both only 19 years of age on May 6, 1973, when joined as one in Christ. It seems only yesterday; and my, what a blessed, beautiful journey. Pastors, if you need a dynamic example to share with your ladies the model of Proverbs 31 may I recommend straight from my heart and the ministry of The Voice in the Wilderness, Sister Terry Williamson. Today, in the tradition of Proverbs 31:28 I arise to bless and praise her.

Terry and I have two children, Joshua and Rachel, who are presently with our heavenly Father as we all await that "Glad Reunion Day!" Rebekah, who is our "middle child," is as you can imagine, daddy's sugar baby (chuggie baby) in southern. She is a very special lady to me. Now serving in a local church and ministering as a Christian

schoolteacher, Mom and I are so thankful for her beautiful testimony. At 23, Rebekah (Beka) has graduated Christian College, completed her Masters Degree and taught Christian School for two years. Love ya' Beka!

Then on Mothers Day we sons' get to say a special "I Love You" to Mom. For nineteen years I lived in a home where I knew mama loved me. Many cannot say that, and what a void it must leave. Someone has said, "The 'self-made man' is probably more 'home-made' than he realizes." I am so thankful for all the love and sacrifice my mother has made for my family and me over these many years. HAVE A BLESSED MOTHERS DAY, MOM!



Mom with her new Panda Bear

Now, I know you have heard all the mother-in-law jokes. Thankfully, I can say the Lord has blessed me with wonderful in-laws. For over 30 years now, my wife's mother has been an encouragement and support. Her home has been my home and together we are all family. From your son-in-law, HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!

To all our subscribers, thanks for indulging these personal words. All of these special ladies have been such an important part of this preacher's life. The Lord has blessed me in so many ways.

Terry and I did make it to Dallas for a brief visit with Bro. Royce. The first of February he took a fall and spent several days in the hospital. Thankfully, there were no long term injuries, and he seems to have recovered. Over all, he is doing well. There are some circumstances that are not best but thankfully progress is being made. We were able to take care of some business for The Voice in the Wilderness and traveled over 2,000 miles without incident. By the way, Bro. Royce gave me some dates for meetings he has planned. Due to several discrepancies in the list he gave me, however, I cannot be certain of the exact dates. Below is a list of the churches he gave me for April and May:

Gallegos Ranch, San Antonio, NM – April  
Albuquerque Bible Church,  
Albuquerque, NM – April  
Milligans Cove Christian Church,  
Buffalo Mills, PA – April

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)



## SUSANNAH WESLEY – A GODLY MOTHER

*[Two of the greatest leaders in the evangelical movement in England during the eighteenth century were John and Charles Wesley. Their greatness is due in large part to their godly mother, Mrs. Susannah Wesley, mother of seventeen, who reared them according to scriptural standards. Below is a letter, in part, she wrote:]*

July 24, 1732

“Dear Son:

“According to your desire, I have collected the principal rules I observed in educating my family; which I now send you as they occurred to my mind, and you may dispose of them in what order you please.

“When turned a year (and some before), they were taught to fear the rod and cry softly; by which means they escaped the abundance of correction they might otherwise have had; and that most odious noise, the crying of the children was rarely heard in the house; but the family lived in much quietness as if there had not been a child among them.

“In order to form the minds of children the first thing to be done is to conquer the will, and bring them into an obedient temper. To inform the understanding is a work of time, and must with children, proceed by slow degrees as they are able to bear it; but the subjecting of the will is a thing which must be done at once, and the sooner the better.

“For by neglecting timely correction, they will contract a stubbornness and obstinacy which is hardly ever after conquered, and never without using such severity as would be painful to me as to the child. In the esteem of the world they pass for kind and indulgent parents whom I call cruel parents, who permit their children to get habits, which they know must afterward be broken. Nay, some are so stupidly fond, as in sport to teach their children to do things, which, in the after while, they have severely beaten them for doing.

“Whenever a child is corrected, it must be conquered; and this will be no hard matter to do, if it be not grown headstrong by too much indulgence. And if the will of a child is totally subdued, and if it be brought to revere and stand in awe of the parents, then a great many childish follies, and inadvertencies may be passed by. Some should be overlooked and taken no notice of, and other mildly reproofed. But no willful transgression ought ever to be forgiven children, without chastisement, more or less as the nature and circumstances of the offense shall require.

“I insist upon conquering the will of children betimes, because this is the only strong and rational foundation of a religious education; without which both precept and example will be ineffectual. But when this is thoroughly done, then a child is capable of being governed by the reason and piety of its parents, till its own understanding comes to maturity, and the principles of religion have taken root in the mind.

“I cannot dismiss this subject. As self-will is the root of all sin and misery, so whatever cherishes this in children insures their after-wretchedness and irreligion; whatever checks and mortifies it promotes their future happiness and piety. This is still more evident if we further consider that religion is nothing else than doing the will of God, and not our own; that the one grand impediment to our temporal and eternal happiness being this self will. No indulgence of it can be trivial, no denial unprofitable.

“Heaven or hell depends upon this along. So that the parent who studies to subdue it in his child, works together with God in the renewing and saving of a soul. The parent who indulges it, does the Devil’s work, makes religion impractical, salvation unattainable, and does all that in him lies to damn his child, soul and body forever.”



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

**Dr. Ronnie L. Williamson**  
**Voice in the Wilderness**

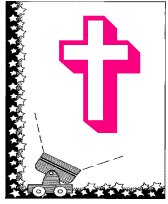
P.O. Box 7037  
Asheville, NC 28802  
Voice (828) 649-1043  
Fax (828) 649-9784

*For Personal Correspondence,*

**Dr. J. Royce Thomason**

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





The Voice IN THE Wilderness

# MISSION SPOTLIGHT



Regularly we receive letters requesting information about The Voice in the Wilderness points of missionary support. Last month a prayer card was attached to the enclosed envelope to help interested subscribers pray for the wonderful ministries The Voice in the Wilderness has the privilege to support. Some of the ministries that The Voice in the Wilderness supports receive a substantial check each month while others, we pray to

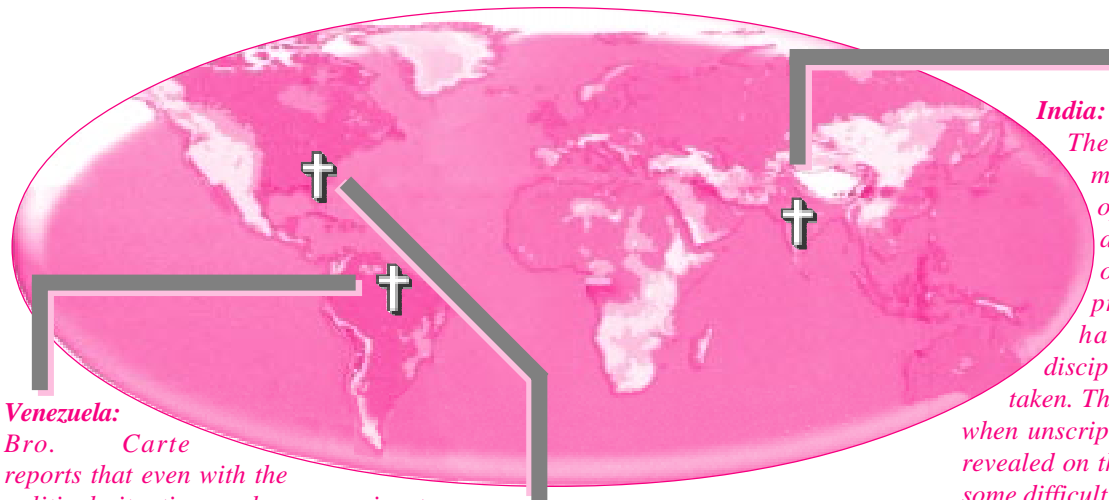
increase when funds are available. Many of our missionaries receive their support from numerous churches and individuals of which The Voice in the Wilderness is a part. However, most of our national workers depend solely on The Voice in the Wilderness for support.

Over the last seven years (and even prior according to records) there has never been a month when designated or earmarked gifts to The Voice in the Wilderness missions has

met, much less, exceeded our faith commitment to missions. Each month general funds, offerings from church meetings, or even money from a delayed salary check are used to meet the missionary needs. Through answered prayer, the Lord has seen fit to provide. Thank you for being sensitive to His leadership and sharing your blessings with this work. God bless your faithfulness and vision.

(Continued on page 5)

**Prayer Request:** Evangelist Daryl Grimes will be representing The Voice in the Wilderness as he preaches in various churches over the next six to eight months. This will help us with new contacts that time simply has not permitted me to schedule. Bro. Grimes traveled with me to India about two years ago. Pray the Lord will use him in his evangelistic work, as well as the representation of this ministry. Thank you, Bro. Grimes, for your willingness to help The Voice in the Wilderness in this way.



## Venezuela:

Bro. Carte reports that even with the political situation souls are coming to Christ and new converts are following up with believers baptism and discipleship. Pastor Ramos is making plans for their building as the land is now paid in full. Praise the Lord! Again, there are many challenges in the country of Venezuela and our dear brethren need your prayers. The new church in Barquisimeto needs chairs, hymnals, tables, lighting, sound system, and other supplies. Would you please pray for these needs.

**Asheville, NC:** Our headquarters, located in the beautiful mountains of Western North Carolina, enables us to reach the majority of our meetings in less than a days drive. The Dallas, Texas, location was about a two-day drive from most of the churches and supporters of The Voice in the Wilderness. It has been a joy over the past seven years for my wife and I to travel tens of thousands of miles presenting the gospel and challenging believers for world missions.

**India:** Please pray for wisdom as The Voice in the Wilderness ministers through numerous opportunities in India such as local churches, orphanages, education, and printing. Many challenges have arisen and even disciplinary measures have been taken. The Voice in the Wilderness, when unscriptural situations have been revealed on the mission field, has made some difficult decisions. Such events are not pleasant, and we thank the Lord for providing answers and faithful servants in India who are helping The Voice in the Wilderness to expand our outreach, as well as, produce better accountability and stewardship on this needy mission field. Many of you, our subscribers, have prayed for and given to the work in India. I am happy to report fruit and significant advances being made. Continue to intercede for the efforts in India.



(Continued from page 4)

### REALITY CHECK

When it comes to reaching the world with the gospel and the money needed to fund this global effort, can such an enormous task be realized?

First of all, the great commission would not have been given if it were impossible to obey. Acts 1:8 and other passages promise the power and provision for obedience. Today, the result is countless churches and individuals around the world engaged in preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Second, our Lord has promised to provide. Paul writes, "My God shall supply..." Phil. 4: 19. Where God guides, God provides. Folks, we are blessed and the money is out there if Christians would be obedient.

Thirdly, the task is achievable. It has been said that in AD 100 there were 12 unreached people groups for every existing church at that time. However, it has been estimated that today in America alone there are 600 Bible believing churches for each remaining unreached people group. Praise the Lord – what an opportunity. What a joy to trust and obey. What a privilege to get involved in the work God is doing throughout this world. Let's go! What are we waiting for?



*From time to time we preachers are privileged to get more than we give. In January I taught a two-week Interterm class on "Missions from the Apostolic Period to the Present" at Southeastern FWB College. My heart was blessed by such dedicated young people. Thank you Southeastern for being such a blessing.*



*I can remember as a boy when almost every place of business was closed on Sunday. Recently while traveling, my wife and I saw this Chick-fil-A sign - "CLOSED ON SUNDAY." That's rare, but they seem to do well. Amazing, huh!*

### Nuggets of Gold



1. The worst part of a diet isn't watching your food – it's watching everybody else's.
2. Simply having children does not necessarily make a woman a mother.
3. A mother's patience is like a tube of toothpaste – it's never quite all gone.
4. In just two days, tomorrow will be yesterday.
5. Never be afraid to try something new. Remember - Amateurs built the ark: Professionals built the Titanic.
6. The only helping hand you can count on is the one at the end of your sleeve.
7. Some people wave the American flag but waive what it stands for.



### Q. Is America the great Christian nation it once used to be?

**A.** Frankly, no longer—you'd have to say that it's really a post-Christian nation. As you observe the growing humanist philosophy in the increasing abortion, homosexual behavior, pornography and violence—as well as the growing anti-Christian sentiment—you have to conclude that something terrible has happened to this nation.

What's happened can be described as a 'culture shift.' Generations ago, American society was based on the Bible—thus most people had a Christian morality. But the Bible is no longer the foundation... increasingly it's being replaced by an evolutionary foundation. Thus people are being taught that man is just an animal, that the Bible is not true; therefore, people can decide truth for themselves.

As a result of this change, the American culture has changed from a Christian one to a secular one. People have no understanding of sin or Christian morality anymore. That's why we need to get people back to the authority of the Word of God—beginning with Genesis. [Answersingenesis.org](http://Answersingenesis.org)

### 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!



# The Voice IN THE Wilderness

# SERMON of the Month

*Revelation 22:20 "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen.  
Even so, come, Lord Jesus."*

## I. THE PROMISE II. THE PROPHECY III. THE PRAYER

Go ahead, raise your hand if you can answer, "yes" to these questions:

1. Do you have a Social Security number?
2. Have you ever been to a doctor or hospital for treatment?
3. Do you have a current driver's license?
4. Have you ever filed an IRS tax return?
5. Do you have a bank account of any kind?
6. Have you ever made application for employment?
7. Do you have a credit card or ever applied for credit or a loan?

Most of us could answer "yes" to more than one of these questions. That being the case, did you know a multitude of organizations, businesses, as well as individuals have access to your personal and private information? More than once I have been told that it is not too difficult to obtain financial, medical, and practically any information desired on any individual by following some simple steps on the Internet. It is very easy to obtain a map to your home with very detailed directions.

Now let's shift gears for a moment with a look at the "world  
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scene." Politically, economically, and certainly morally things are in a mess. Does America have enough citizens with moral discernment to stand against extremism in this country? Does the character exist in this nation to survive a real economic crisis or a serious military commitment?

Do you think the Iraq situation is uncertain, well what about North Korea, the Philippines, or consider any of the Islamic nations and the Middle East? Somebody explain the potential and prevention of retaliatory terrorists' acts against America. Then there's this UN business; and by the way, who are our allies—I mean countries American can take to the bank in a crisis?

Have I got you thinking yet? A bit of personal inventory about how public your personal and private affairs are—Then a look at the mess this old world is in—Now consider the **biblical view point**.

Rev. 22:20 says, "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

## I. THE PROMISE "He which testifieth these things saith, **Surely!**"

There are a lot of uncertainties in this world. But we can be certain of His promises. He said, **SURELY!**

Our heavenly Father knows all and is on His throne. He is in perfect control: the heart of the King is in the hand of the Lord, and no matter how crazy this world gets, our God is Sovereign. As His children, we can rest secure in His love and plan.

Besides Israel and Jerusalem, Babylon is mentioned more frequently than any other city/nation in the Bible. With ancient Babylon being modern-day Iraq, it is interesting to note the source of false religion and the movement toward a one-world government ruled by Antichrist. Rev. 17:1-6 concludes "...MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration." Following the great flood, Nimrod established one of his main cities in Babylon/Iraq. The children of Israel were exiled for 70 years in Babylon (Iraq). Iraq under Saddam Hussein, like Nebuchadnezzar, wants to conquer Israel.

Some say Babylon represents a people, evil influence, or a capital city. The Bible records a funeral dirge in Rev. 18:9-19 about the destruction of Babylon. Ultimately,

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

Babylon and this corrupt world system are destroyed as promised in God's Word. **Surely** it will come to pass!

Think about it. Sin and Satan will be destroyed. **God has promised.** Heaven will be ours. **God has promised.**

**Every promise in His Book is mine  
Every chapter every verse every line  
All are blessings of His love divine  
Every promise in His Book is mine.**

Hey! – Have you ever had a praise spell? Rev. 19 is a praise spell! “And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:” Alleluia, Praise our God, Alleluia! **He will keep His promise.**

## II. THE PROPHECY “Surely I come quickly.”

Remember there shall be wars and rumors of wars. Trying to achieve a western style democracy in Iraq could be almost impossible. Iraq has been at war with itself as long as anybody can remember. Iraq has 150 separate tribes. They break down into 2,000 smaller clans, each with its own ethnicity. Saddam Hussein managed to buy or intimidate each. But yes, there is a cause for the United States and the coalition in Iraq. However, Christians must keep in mind there will be no peace apart from the coming of the Prince of Peace.

Ready or not, He is coming. The Bible gives us great comfort as we have seen and are seeing His prophetic words fulfilled. John saw

in the Apocalypse the glorious view of the victorious Christ—King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The enemies of God gather as King Jesus upon His white horse leads His army in defeat of the beast and false prophet. John saw Satan bound and cast into the bottomless pit. Then the battle of Gog and Magog. Fire is called from heaven and Satan is at once and forever cast into the eternal lake of fire.

A life insurance brochure tells the story of a man and his daughter swimming off the shore of New Jersey. Suddenly, the strong current of the Atlantic Ocean swept them far from land. Separated by some distance, the father called out to his child. “I’ll be back. Float on your back if you get tired. I’ll be back for you!” Along with rescuers in boats, the father searched the waters for his child. Four hours later they found her calmly floating far from land. With tears of joy, everyone was so relieved. Yet, the little girl seemed undisturbed. She told the elated rescuers, “Father said he would come back for me!”

**“Surely I come quickly.”** The Bible is full of prophecies that have already been completed and many more yet to come. Just concerning the prophecies about Jesus, it would be impossible for one individual to fulfill those prophecies.

Take for example...

Micah 5:2 – The place of His birth

Daniel 9:25, Genesis 49:10 – The time of His birth

Isaiah 7:14 – The manner of His birth

Zechariah 11:13 – The betrayal of Christ

Psalm 22:16 – The manner of His death

Zechariah 12:10, Psalm 22:16 – The piercing of Christ

Isaiah 53:9 – The burial of Christ

Mathematically speaking, the chance of one man fulfilling just eight of the prophecies concerning Christ would be 1 in  $10^{17}$  (1 with 17 zeros). Illustration: 10 to the power of 17 equals the number of silver dollars it would take to cover the state of Texas two feet deep. Now “mark” one of those silver dollars, stir the whole mass all over the state, blindfold an individual and instruct them to pick up one silver dollar trying to find the “marked” silver dollar. That illustrates 1 in  $10^{17}$ . The only way eight prophecies could be fulfilled by one person is by Sovereign design and revealed by inspired revelation. Then consider the possibility of 48 prophecies. That would equal 1 in  $10^{157}$ . How about 61 major prophecies? Again, only God could reveal these things.

## III. THE PRAYER “Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

The saint must pray. You have heard it. Prayer changes things. We must not just pray for the Lord's work – the work is prayer! Prayer lifts Christian activity from the realm of human activity to the DIVINE. When man works, man works – when man prays, GOD WORKS. The saint, preacher, Christian schoolteacher and missionary must prayer to move from the human and time to the DIVINE and ETERNAL. **“Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”** He is coming soon, and it is urgent that we go with the Gospel.

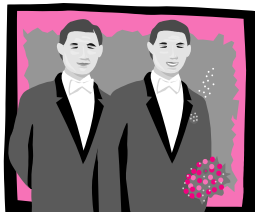


# NEWS BITS

## FROM HERE AND THERE

### REMEMBER THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH?

When the President announced that action would commence in Iraq, national response ranged from support to indignation and anger. Saddam Hussein, and at least one of his sons, promised a war that would engulf the Middle East and beyond. Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle said President Bush would lose American lives because he had "failed so miserably at diplomacy that now we're forced to war." Later Daschle issued a pathetic pseudo-apology. "My timing wasn't the best," Daschle told the *Black Hills Pioneer*. He did not know that military action was about to begin, he claimed. This is curious. Daschle's very words concluded that war was about to happen. They were delivered on March 17, when everyone in Washington knew the President was giving a speech that very night to deliver an ultimatum to Saddam. The next day, on March 18 – after President Bush had issued the ultimatum – Daschle told reporters, "I stand by my statement."



### EXTENDING THE BENEFITS AVAILABLE FOR MARRIED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES TO HOMOSEXUAL COUPLES

Once again we hear from Connecticut Senator Joseph

Lieberman, in a speech to Jewish liberals, expressing support for extending the benefits available to married federal employees to homosexual couples. He said he supports a bill offering "spousal benefits" to unmarried couples that file an affidavit saying they are living together in a "committed, intimate relationship." Lieberman told the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism that his support for domestic partner benefits shows that conservatives "have no monopoly on moral values." *Agape Press 4/1/03*

### SENATE PASSES BAN ON PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION

The U.S. Senate passed a landmark bill that bans the gruesome partial-birth abortion procedure. On a 65-32 vote, the Senate has approved the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003 (Senate Bill 3). However, by a vote of 52-46, the Senate passed a resolution reaffirming its support for the 1973 *Roe V. Wade* Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion.

### ANOTHER FREEDOM - GASOLINE

As of April 3, 2003, the House half of Congress is preparing a new energy bill for a vote soon which could enormously expand the use of ethanol now — And our American corn farmers can grow that! Now on top of that, if we come home from this Iraqi situation with a declaration of independence from gasoline, we will have won the war.

### THIS UNEMPLOYMENT TALK

Part of the reason for increased unemployment is layoffs. You do remember all those jobs going south and north of our border, right? And then, another part is the unwillingness of Americans to accept menial jobs - flipping burgers, washing cars, digging ditches, cutting grass, often leaving those jobs to immigrants – legal or other, while Americans go on the unemployment rolls.



peta

### "ADS" - A PLATE OF CONTROVERSY

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is known for purposefully outrageous ads designed to garner as much attention as sympathy. But even by that standard, the group's latest campaign is eye-popping. THE HOLOCAUST ON YOUR PLATE pairs photos of naked, starving Jews in concentration camps with pictures of cattle, pigs and chickens; the campaign runs with the tagline "To animals, all people are Nazis." Matt Prescott, a PETA official says he doesn't think there's a qualitative difference between the pain of Jews and pigs, explaining, "We're all animals." "We want to use the Holocaust to show what goes on today," Prescott says. "We're trying

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to spread the word of compassion.”  
*Newsweek* 3/03 [To equate the Holocaust of the Jews to the death of pigs is not compassion for life, but a gross perversion of human hearts.]

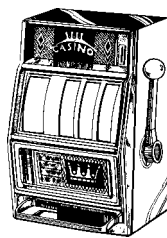
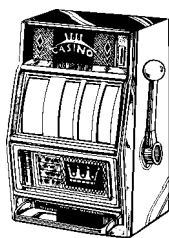


**ENLISTMENTS UP** – The volunteer armed forces seem to be doing just fine – meeting and exceeding recruitment goals. According to newly released Pentagon figures, the U.S. Army surpassed its recruitment goal in the past fiscal year, signing up 27,586 for active duty and 10,838 for the Army Reserve. The Air Force enlisted 37,200 recruits last year and is on pace to meet this year’s goal of 32,000. Figures for the Navy and Marine Corps are yet unavailable.

We salute and appreciate our men and women in uniform serving this great country. Our prayers go out to all the families of those who have paid the ultimate price.

**ANY QUESTION WHO THESE PEOPLE ARE? WHO THEY ARE FOR?** – Al Sharpton told supporters recently that he may run as an independent candidate in the 2004 presidential race if he fails to win the Democratic primary. Sharpton berated fellow Democrats for selling out on issues like the war with Iraq, asserting that the party has lost sight of its core value. “We already have too many donkeys running around here who are really elephants with donkey clothes on,” he said.

*Human Events* 3/03



**AMERICAN POLITICAL CLOUT** – American Indian tribes, with their new income from gambling, have acquired political clout. Thirty tribes with casinos have contributed seven million dollars to political candidates. *PH NEWS* 4/3/03 [Well, after all the injustices to native Americans, I guess they are taking the opportunity as it is.].....The U.S. cannot be proud of the degree to which the present generation of American Indian children are being overwhelmed by Twinkies, soda pop and diabetes. Some Indian groups, however, are encouraging their own children to snack on fruits and vegetables.

**MEDICAL UPDATE** – Hormone replacement pills should not be used for any reason other than a brief treatment to help women through the worst systems of menopause — lest you increase the chance of heart attack, stroke, and breast cancer. Check with your physician. *PH News* 3/03.....The most promising new use for Botox is headache treatment. It’s unclear how *Botulinum* toxin soothes an aching brain – it may inhibit the nerves that transmit pain – but large studies confirm that people get fewer headaches after being Botoxed. *Newsweek* 3/03.....The fast moving disease spreading from Asia, SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) is the same family of microbes that cause measles, mumps, and canine distemper – only for this virus group – there is no treatment thus far. The World Health Organization is coordinating the

disease investigation.....Syracuse, New York buses were prepared to post signs promoting public health, but the bus company’s ad agency refused to allow the ads. The ad said, “After a night of unprotected sex, you might not go home alone.” And then it named eight diseases. The ad agency said the signs might offend somebody.....Can Alzheimer’s be avoided? A very large Dutch study in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, says elderly people who suffer tiny, silent strokes, detectable only with a MRI, are 2-3 times more likely to develop Alzheimers. The best defense is to keep blood vessels in the brain open with diet, exercise, and a baby aspirin every day. Again, check with your physician.....Our government has been conducting studies of the drug *Memantine* for people with moderate to severe Alzheimers and in one of the studies *Memantine* does slow down memory loss and physical decline. Combined with another drug it actually improves memory and thinking skills. After six months one patient is smiling, talkative, recalling nicknames, like his young self. *Memantine* has been used in Germany for two decades to treat dementia. Details are in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. *PH News* 4/3/03

**THE FIRST AMENDMENT PROTECTS STUDENT RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS** – *Christian Law Association* in their *Legal Alert* stated that two documents, the **Presidential Guidelines** and the **Secretary’s Letter on Constitutionally Protected Prayers**, taken together, reaffirm that the First Amendment protects the following student religious activities in public schools:

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# RELIGIOUS NEWS

## AND COMMENTS



**TAX EXEMPTION FOR CHURCHES** – A few subscribers have written about tax-exemption for churches and ministries. Some agree and some disagree. The following is by Attorney David C. Gibbs, Jr., Legal Missionary, simply presented for information.

How should churches respond when faced with a challenge to their traditional tax-exempt status? Should they give up their property tax exemptions without a fight? Or should they actively resist any governmental initiatives to remove their tax-exempt status?

Ten reasons why churches should be tax exempt.

**Reason (1)** Historically, churches were not taxed because our laws recognized the existence of God. In tax jurisprudence, only a greater entity can tax a lesser. Because no American governmental entity ever previously considered itself to be greater than God, God and His Church have not historically been taxed. Courts have considered the question of what judge would have jurisdiction over God in the event of nonpayment of property taxes. Because our American laws have traditionally recognized God, churches have not historically been taxed.

**Reason (2)** Churches offer a special function that is essential to all societies – one that government cannot as effectively provide. Churches guide people as they seek

to make sense of life. They assist people in dealing with issues regarding God, self, purpose, failure, loss, sickness, disability, birth, and death. A society without answers to such meaning-of-life questions is jeopardized by people who view life as meaningless; and therefore, live for the moment in selfish and potentially reckless pursuits.

**Reason (3)** Churches provide a stabilizing influence in community life by encouraging people to subject themselves to governing authorities (Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-15) and to pray for all in authority (1 Tim. 2:2,3).

**Reason (4)** Churches provide a beneficial moral influence on society. By teaching the Bible, they exhort people to live self-controlled, moral lives, respectful of the needs of others. Churches bring people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ Who has the power to change lives.

The most perfect maxims and examples for regulating social conduct and domestic economy, as well as the best rules for morality and self-control, are found in the Bible. All the evils from which men suffer proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible.

**Reason (5)** Tax exemption encourages people to donate to churches and thereby support the charitable and spiritual endeavors of the church – endeavors which the government is unable to perform as well.

**Reason (6)** Churches contribute to the well being of the community in a variety of nonreligious ways. For example, many provide charitable

services: soup kitchens, food cupboards, homeless shelters, and drug and alcohol counseling. In this way, churches bear burdens that would otherwise either be met by further general taxation or be left undone to the general detriment of the community. Taxation of churches would reduce their ability to provide these charitable services. Churches – with their army of volunteers – can achieve the public good in social and moral arenas better than government can. Not only will services be provided at a lower cost, but also ethical, law-abiding citizens will provide the services and achieve higher rates of success. Even the government now recognizes this fact with its plethora of faith-based initiatives.

**Reason (7)** It would be discrimination to grant tax-exempt status to other nonprofit organizations such as education, medical, charitable, and welfare organizations, and even to for-profit businesses while prohibiting churches from receiving tax exemptions.

**Reason (8)** Taxation is a concept that applies to entities that produce wealth. Because churches consume wealth rather than produce it, taxation is inappropriate for church and ministry resources. The government would be taking funds intended for benevolent and non-profit purposes.

**Reason (9)** Tax exemption is necessary to protect the government from violating the establishment clause of the First Amendment. Tax

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exemption protects the government from excessive entanglement with churches by eliminating the need for a governmental valuation of church property, for an imposition of church-state reporting and auditing requirements, and for potential governmental tax liens and tax foreclosures.

Tax exemption does not establish a religion in violation of the First Amendment. There is no primary effect of advancing or sponsoring religion as a general subsidy because tax exemption does not involve the direct transfer of public monies to churches and does not involve use of resources exacted from taxpayers as a whole. Tax exemption merely restricts an unconstitutional fiscal relationship between church and state and tends to complement and reinforce a desired insulation of churches from the state.

**Reason (10)** Removal of tax exemption from churches would demonstrate hostility toward religion and inhibit the free exercise of religion in violation of the First Amendment Free Exercise Clause.

*The Christian Law Association encourages churches to stand firm on the issue of tax exemption. Churches have a special function in our society that commands the benefits of tax exemption. In defending their tax-exempt status, churches are not putting tax breaks ahead of the needs of others in their community. They are merely recognizing the unique value that churches add to their community. Instead of apologizing for tax exemption, churches should continue to be active members of their communities proclaiming the answer to life's questions, providing a stabilizing, moral influence, contributing to the well being of others, and reaching souls for Christ. The Legal Alert 4/03*



## WOULD CHURCHES BE ALLOWED IN SAUDI ARABIA?

A Saudi Arabian official says [non-Islamic] churches will never be allowed in his country. Defense minister Prince Sultan told reporters at a news conference that Saudi Arabia – as the birthplace of Islam – will never allow churches to be built on its territory. He is quoted as calling those who want churches in Saudi Arabia, “fanatics.” The Sultan also says “nothing can contradict” his country’s Islamic character “even if we lose our necks.” *Agape Press 3/03*

## WHITE HOUSE BIBLE STUDIES

– Recently, liberals have attacked President Bush and his administration for holding regular, voluntary Bible studies in the White House. Critics say such practices violate the rights of non-Christians.

## SEVERE VIOLATORS OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

– *Newsweek 3/10/03* reported that an annual list of “countries of particular concern” would soon be released. But the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) says the U.S. State Department should have lengthened its list of “severe violators” of religious liberty in its most recent report. Secretary of State Colin Powell listed six countries – Burma, China, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, and Sudan – as nations guilty of violating religious liberties. The USCIRF also wanted Powell to add India, Laos, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan, and Vietnam to the list. USCIRF has also recommended Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan and Laos for the list for the past three years because of their deplorable religious freedom violations. *Agape Press 3/03*



## ACRES OF DIAMONDS

Russell Conwell was the successful pastor of the Baptist Temple in Philadelphia (1891-1925). One day, a group of young men asked him if he would be willing to instruct them in college courses; they wanted education, but lacked the money to pay for it. Conwell was so intrigued with the idea of founding a college for poor but deserving young men, he became the founder and first president of Temple University (1888-1925).

Dr. Conwell raised 7 million dollars to start the school. He did so by giving more than 6,000 lectures throughout the country. In each of them, he told a true story called “Acres of Diamonds.”

The story was the account of an African farmer who heard tales of settlers making millions by discovering diamond mines. These tales so excited the farmer that he sold his farm and spent the rest of his life wandering over the vast African continent searching unsuccessfully for diamonds. Finally, in a fit of despondency, broke and desperate, he threw himself into a river and drowned.

Meanwhile, the man who bought the farm found a large and unusual stone in a stream, which cut through the property. The stone turned out to be a great diamond with enormous value. He soon discovered other diamonds on the farm property. It became one of the world’s richest diamond mines.

The first farmer had owned acres of diamonds, but had sold them for practically nothing in order to look for them elsewhere. If he had only taken the time to explore and analyze his own property, he would have found what he sought.

The thing about this story that so profoundly affected Dr. Conwell and those who attended his lectures was the idea that each of us is standing in the middle of acres of diamonds. *-Pulpit Helps*







# George Washington - Freemason?



*[I recently received a question about George Washington and his relationship to Freemasonry. This article is research that David Barton of Wallbuilders is currently doing for a future book. I am presenting this just for your information.]*

As a brief overview on this subject, much of the change in American Freemasonry involves the evolution of Freemasonry from an operative to a speculative organization. That is, as an operative organization, Masonry long functioned as a guild—or union—of those who were literal stone masons. It slowly transitioned into a speculative group composed primarily of individuals who were not stone masons, but joined the group and began to speculate on—or spiritualize about—the operative masons. For example, speculative masons suggested that the operative mason's tool of the level was a spiritual representative of the equality of all men; they suggested that the trestle board of the operative Mason represented the brotherhood mankind; etc. In this manner, Masonry slowly developed from a guild of craftsmen into a fraternity of social brotherhood. At the time that George Washington was a Freemason, the group was not nearly so infected with the speculative aspect regarding Masonry. In fact, the first book that I have seen which

addresses American masonry as speculative was published around 1812. Additionally of significance is the fact that George Washington was a literal stone mason—evidenced by the fact that just outside of Washington, D.C., on the Great Falls of the Potomac river, is a series of stone boat locks to allow ships to descend the nearly 80 foot waterfalls safely. The construction of the stone locks was supervised by George Washington—something that a speculative mason could never do.

In addition to noting that American masonry was, historically speaking, a transitioning organization which lacked most of what today's Masonry embraces, there are several other significant transition points involving the history of American Freemasonry. One is the rise of the Anti-Masonic political party after the kidnapping and murder of Captain Morgan of Batavia, New York, by a group of speculative Freemasons after Morgan had threatened to reveal the "secrets" of their lodge. That cold-blooded murder led to the rise of a political movement to abolish Masonry. The presidential campaign of 1829 directly addressed this issue, as William Wirt, the Attorney General of the United States, became the nominee of the Anti-Masonic Party against General Andrew Jackson (a mason) of the Democrat Party. As we all know, Jackson won. Even though the anti-masonic party

continued for another decade, its defeat in the presidential race took most of the steam out of that particular movement. The attack against speculative Masonry soon however, became the target of the pulpit rather than the politicians.

Another important transition point in the completion of American Freemasonry was the work of Albert Pike and Albert Mackey in expanding Freemasonry after the Civil War. Albert Pike is credited with instituting the degree rituals from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 32<sup>nd</sup> degree and essentially establishing the Scottish Rite in America. His famous, or infamous book, *Morals and Dogmas*, details the rituals and teachings of each of those degrees. It is from this book that so many Evangelicals find so much to condemn about Freemasonry. In fact, it is hardly a respectable anti-Masonic book which does not frequently cite *Morals and Dogmas* to establish why the teaching of Christianity and those of Freemasonry are incompatible. (However, recall that this book followed the American Founding by almost a century; and there is no evidence that these teachings were ever present in early America; most are introduced for the first time in the writings of Albert Pike.) Some of the teachings which appeared in Pike's book include (1) overt occult teachings; (2) asserting the Masons as the heirs to the teachings of the

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Druids, Gnostics, Essenes, etc.; (3) dualism, that Jesus and Satan were brothers, and that good and evil are always balanced; good can never overcome evil or vice versa; (4) pluralism, that all roads lead to Heaven, and that good works are the key to spiritual salvation; (5) the non-divinity of Jesus Christ; etc. Again, these are Masonic teachings that were absent from American Freemasonry during the time of America's Founding.

Another item which is important to note is that American Freemasonry cannot be compared to European or especially to French Freemasonry. It truly is comparing apples and oranges. Nevertheless, many today point to specific aspects of European Freemasonry (e.g., its association with the Illuminati, etc.) to condemn the Founding Fathers who were American Freemasons. Letters written from George Washington to Rev. Schneider in the last three years of Washington's life show that not only is there a clear difference between Freemasonry in the two nations but that there is even an American disgust with European Freemasonry. This animosity between the two continents has not changed much even today. American Masons can proceed from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 32<sup>nd</sup> degree in a single weekend (they are deprecatingly called "weekend warriors"), needing only to pay a certain fee to advance from degree to degree. However, European Masons spend nearly a year studying each degree before advancing to the next. Few American Masons, far from studying even a single degree, have never even read a single book that was given to them explaining their degrees either at the

level of the Blue Lodge (e.g. Lightfoot's Manual of the Lodge) or at the level of the Scottish Rite (e.g., Pike's *Morals and Dogmas* or Mackey's various works on Freemasonry.)

Even another indication that Masonry was apparently benign at the time of the American Founding is seen in the criticisms of Masonry by those who were well versed in the Bible and who were strong proponents of Christianity (e.g., Noah Webster, John Quincy Adams, Jedidiah Morse, etc.) Rather than presenting strong theological arguments against the now prevalent teachings of Masonry which present obvious targets for even a nominal Christian exhorter or lay-minister, the strongest theological criticisms they could muster against Masonry (at least prior to the Daniel Morgan murder) was the fact that it was a "secret" society and that the Bible told us to bring things into the light rather than hide them. Today, however, its secrecy has become one of the minimal theological problems with Masonry. This seems to confirm that there was an absence in the early days of those fallacious teachings which now permeate that organization.

These are my summary overview observation on American Freemasonry, and they are based on the writings of the Freemasons themselves. (We have a rather significant collection of their own writings, beginning with the first American book on Masonry, published in 1734 by Benjamin Franklin). [www.wallbuilders.com](http://www.wallbuilders.com)  
David Barton – *Wallbuilders*, P.O. 397, Aledo, TX 76008

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- (1) Voluntary individual or group prayer before meals, tests, and at other times when such activity will not disrupt classroom instruction.
- (2) Voluntary student Bible reading during non-instructional periods.
- (3) Religious conversations with classmates during non-instructional periods. Students may even attempt to persuade their peers concerning religious topics as long as such attempts at persuasion do not constitute harassment.
- (4) "See-you-at-the-pole" gatherings.
- (5) Distribution of religious literature.
- (6) Wearing clothing or apparel with religious messages to the same extent as secular messages are allowed.
- (7) Incorporating religious views and beliefs in homework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments.

School officials, parents, students, and teachers should consult these federal documents, and consider them as authoritative when questions arise regarding the religious rights of students in public schools. *The Legal Alert* 3/03



## NOTICE IN AN OFFICE

THIS DEPARTMENT REQUIRES  
NO PHYSICAL FITNESS  
PROGRAM:

Everyone gets enough exercise jumping to conclusions, flying off the handle, running down the boss, going on wild goose chases, knifing their friends in the back, dodging responsibility, and pushing their luck.



# WELCOME TO THE WAR

*John Downs*

*[Brother Downs came to know Christ as his Savior as a result of Roloff Evangelistic Enterprises. Thank the Lord for work like the Lighthouse Prison Ministry that reaches out with the message of "Life" and "Hope." Read the following testimony and rejoice!]*

It was twenty-two years ago that I was court ordered to a Christ-centered rehabilitation home, simply known as "The Lighthouse." My condition was far worse than most of the inmates I minister to [today]. It was there that I learned to submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, to believe in the absolute sufficiency of Scripture, and to get ready to "fight the good fight of faith."

We were taught that Christianity was not going to be some casual "tiptoe through the tulips," but rather a war that must be fought daily, using the weapons that God has equipped us with. We sang songs every service like "Stand up, Stand up for Jesus, you soldiers of the cross." Another one of my favorites stated, "It's a battlefield, Brother, not a recreation room. It's a fight and not a game. Run if you want to, run if you will, but I came here to stay."

I have had the honor this past summer of seeing first-hand the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ transform many depraved sinners into God fearing saints. I tell every

single man the same thing upon his entrance into the Kingdom of God, WELCOME TO THE WAR! No one is immune to the trials and tests of life. In fact, our Lord promised in John 16:38 that they will come. Charles Spurgeon said, "We are attacked from beneath, tested from above, allured by the world, and troubled when we look within."

I have a very good friend who will be executed this month for a crime he committed while he was in medical school. His repentance has been as notorious as his sin, and he has fought the good fight of faith these past eight years on death row. As I was communicating with his parents this past week, I was reminded that I was going to miss not only a friend, but also a brother who has prayed for my family every day from his cell on death row. That is what I will miss the most.

We are in a war, and sometimes I am on the front lines because of the nature of the work God has called me to. I want to thank all of you once again for the prayer and financial support that you have been so faithful in supplying. I would ask you to please consider increasing your prayer support as we continue to do the will of God for the glory of God.

The Lord has done an unusual work in the lives of a special group of men I hold services for every week. They are on the psychiatric floor of a facility that houses several thousand inmates. They are on suicide watch, and many of them have lost all hope and have given up

on living. I have had some unusual services with these guys. The Lord has brought a good number of these men to salvation, and they are committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord of their life.

We have been studying Psalm 23 together; and at the onset, I challenged them to memorize the chapter and be ready to quote it in chapel. Recently, I was walking by a cell-block and I heard a group of men quoting the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. I walked over to the cell-block and told them it was against the law to quote the Bible in a state facility. They knew I was kidding, and told me they were practicing the chapter so they could say it in chapel.

**"NO ONE IS  
IMMUNE TO THE  
TRIALS AND  
TESTS OF LIFE."**

One of the men came to the bars and began to get real emotional. He said that his life had changed since I introduced him to the Shepherd. He told me that he was no longer on the psychotropic drugs, and he was focusing his time memorizing the Word. He said, "I feel like God wrote the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm JUST FOR ME and He has truly restored my soul." I assured him that God had inspired Psalm 23 just for him as well as the rest of Scripture. (Romans 15:4) He is now working on memorizing the

first chapter of James.

I encourage the men to memorize Scripture by the chapter, and I would encourage you to do the same. I believe in and encourage Scripture memorization constantly because I know what it has done for me personally. Nothing will benefit you more during the trials and temptations of this life than meditating on Scripture you have committed to memory. I strongly recommend that you commit several chapters of Scripture to memory. The following are just some of the chapters that have meant the most to me as I have memorized them and reviewed them through the years. Romans 6 and 8, Colossians 3, James 1 and 4, 1 Peter 4, 1 John 4, 1 Corinthians 13, 1 Thessalonians 5, II Corinthians 4, Isaiah 53, Psalm 1, 8, 23, 27, 34, 37, 40, 51, 91, 103, 121, 139.

My son and I spend a great deal of time hunting game birds together. On opening week we had a blast (literally) hunting in our favorite spot. It's our favorite spot simply because we know there is plenty of game there. When we go, we are always excited because we expect something to happen. I have a similar, yet stronger expectation when I minister in the field God has called me to. Jesus said, "They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

There is no way for me to convey in a newsletter everything the Lord is doing in the lives of men. What is happening cannot be attributed to the beautiful building we meet in. We just meet in concrete rooms that are packed from wall to wall with broken

people. It cannot be attributed to the great choir specials we have. 'Yours truly' leads the singing of some of the great old hymns without any accompaniment. It cannot be attributed to the great preaching that Chaplain Downs does. I have been accused of making an "assault with an attempt to preach."

I believe the primary reason that the Lord is doing a mighty work in our midst is the atmosphere of BROKENNESS, DEPENDENCE, AND HUNGER that is so prevalent in the lives of many inmates. I think Isaiah 57:15 sums it up perfectly. When you introduce the truths of the Word of God into that kind of atmosphere there will always be a move of God.

Recently, there was a young man waiting in line to talk to me after a service. I noticed him even as I was talking and praying with other inmates because he was crying profusely. When I finally got to him, he told me that he "felt like God was dealing with him for the first time in his life." He then asked me if it was too late for him to receive the Lord Jesus Christ since the service was over. I smiled, gave him a big hug, and I shared with him from the Word how to begin his relationship with Christ.

What a joy it is to share the good news of Jesus Christ to broken, confused and hurting men, He is the "Lord of the harvest" and all we need to do is get involved in what He is already doing. Thank you for standing with us and may our Lord bless you richly as you do His will.

Brother Downs

1 Peter 5:10



(Continued from page 2)

Flintstone Christian Church.  
Flintstone, MD – May

Please feel free to contact the church or Bro. Royce for more details.

If possible, check our website at [www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org](http://www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org) regularly for any urgent messages. We are hoping to be able to post important notifications for you when needed.

Finally, although at this writing it is too early to tell the outcome of our April envelope contributions, I want to thank all who responded with a financial gift. Your generosity and sacrifice is deeply appreciated. "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you!" Phil. 1:3

**Cranberry** – Terry and I always enjoy the wonderful spirit and fellowship while preaching at Cranberry Baptist Church in Beckley, WV. Pastor Roger Pauley and the folks there are always so kind and gracious. On Sunday morning March 30<sup>th</sup> we awoke to about a foot of fresh snow, yet a wonderful crowd gathered for the closing two services of the Missions Conference. Dr. James Ray from BIMI preached the AM service and I closed out Sunday night. Thank the Lord for this dedicated pastor and congregation.

**Tabernacle** – Thank you Pastor Jim Maddox and Tabernacle. This is a special place and a special ministry with a burden for souls and world missions. As the home of Local Church Missions, this congregation is winning souls around the world. You will remember these precious folk as they battled hurricane and flood waters a few years ago in Kinston, NC. Through prayer, sacrifice, hard work, and friends these precious folk have rebuilt a beautiful facility to the glory of our Lord. Terry and I were blessed as I had the privilege to preach the final two services of their Missions Revival. Keep up the good work, Tabernacle. For Christ and Souls,  
Bro. Ronnie



# WHO IS THAT LADY?

Timmy was a little five-year-old boy that his Mom loved very much, and being a worrier, she was concerned about him walking to school when he started Kindergarten. She walked him to school for a couple of days, but when he came home one day, he told his mother that he did not want her walking him to school everyday. He wanted to be like the “big boys.” He protested loudly, so she finally got an idea of how to handle it.

She asked a neighbor, Mrs. Goodnest, if she would surreptitiously follow her son to school, at a distance behind him that he would not likely notice, but close enough to keep a watch on him. Mrs. Goodnest said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed.

The next school day, Mrs. Goodnest and her little girl, Marcy, set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbor boy he knew. She did this for the whole week. As the boys walked

and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, the little friend of Timmy noticed that this same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week.

Finally, he said to Timmy, “Have you noticed that lady following us all week? Do you know her?”

Timmy nonchalantly replied, “Yeh, I know who she is.”

The little friend said, “Well—so who is she?”

“That’s just Shirley Goodnest,” Timmy said.

“Shirley Goodnest? Well who is she, and why is she following us?”

“Well,” Timmy explained, “Every night my Mom makes me say the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm with my prayers ‘cuz she worries about me so much. And in it, the prayer psalm says, ‘Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life.’ So I guess I’ll just have to get used to it.”

-Author Unknown



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