

The Voice IN THE Wilderness

SPECIAL FOUNDER'S EDITION



CONTENDING FOR
FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIANITY



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

Published Monthly
Free Subscription



CONTENDING FOR
AMERICAN FREEDOM

August 2003

SPECIAL FOUNDER'S EDITION

Somebody said it couldn't be done,

But he, with a chuckle, replied

That maybe it couldn't, but he would be one

Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.

He waded right in with a trace of a grin

On his face; if he worried, he hid it.

He started to sing as he tackled the thing

That couldn't be done—and he did it.

Somebody said, "Oh, you'll never do that.

At least no one ever has done it."

But he took off his coat and he took off his hat;

And the first thing we knew, he'd begun it.

With a lift of the chin and a bit of a grin,

Without any doubting or "quit it,"

He started to sing as he tackled the thing

That couldn't be done—and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,

There are thousands to point out to you,

one by one,

The dangers that wait to assail you.

But just buckle in with a lift of the chin,

Take off your coat and go to it.

Starting to sing as you tackle the thing

That cannot be done—and you'll do it.

-Edgar A. Guest

Many will say it cannot be done. Thank you Bro Royce. It can still be done today!



MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends:

2003 is our “Jubilee Year,” and this edition of *The Voice in the Wilderness* has been designated “Founder’s Edition” in gratitude for the ministry of Dr. James Royce Thomason, affectionately known by friends as Bro. Royce. This August marks 67 years of gospel work for Bro. Royce. Together we praise the Lord for all that has been accomplished through this life and *The Voice in the Wilderness*. Our wonderful Savior is so gracious to allow us to serve and be a part of His kingdom work.

Bro. Royce always included an envelope in the August Edition of this publication. Typically the summer months are a lean period

and the August envelope was a catch up financially. Please consider at this time a generous gift to help *The Voice in the Wilderness* with missionary needs and our printing ministry. Also we have started to put in place some much needed organizational and stewardship procedures on several mission fields. Travel to India and Venezuela is necessary to follow-up and finalize some details. If the August gifts are substantial enough to meet the current commitments, we will proceed with travel to the mission field. Thanks so much for caring!

Combining the June and July issues saved *The Voice in the Wilderness* about seven thousand

dollars, but it seems a long time since we last met through these pages. I must not fail to say THANK YOU for the cards and gifts as my lovely wife and I celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary. It is indeed an amazing year. January 2003 marks 50 years of publication for *The Voice in the Wilderness*. May 6, 2003 was our 30th wedding anniversary, and July 24, 2003 is my 50th birthday. What a “Jubilee Year” this truly is! Thank you again for your prayers, support and friendship as we labor together for Christ and souls!

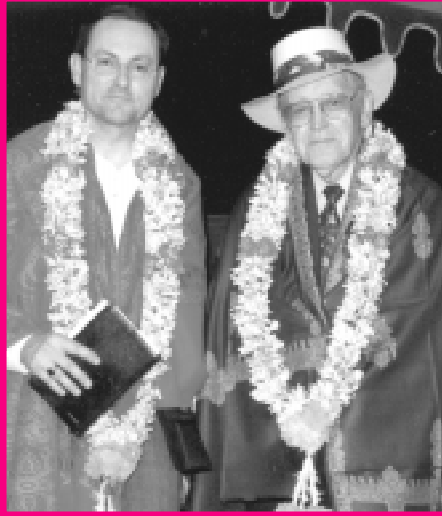
For Christ and Souls,
Bro. Ronnie

The Voice in the Wilderness is a nonprofit, independent incorporation, founded by Rev. Dr. J. Royce Thomason D.P.D. Ph.D., evangelist and medical missionary. The organization is dedicated to the spreading of the whole gospel to the world, especially in foreign lands. The program consists of building mission stations and schools, supporting the American missionaries and native pastors, providing needy students with room and board, administering medical and dental services free, and preaching Christ to the lost. We are supported by the gifts of those who care. All gifts designated by missions will go directly without any deductions. Contributions to *The Voice in the Wilderness* for projects or to support the ministry of a missionary will be used as indicated by the donor following approved policies and procedures. Gifts are tax deductible and should be made out to *The Voice in the Wilderness*. *The Voice in the Wilderness Magazine* is a fundamental publication, published each month in behalf of the work of the Lord and the preservation of the liberties of our United States. Printed material from other sources does not necessarily imply an endorsement from this ministry. There is no subscription charge; all interested people of good will may have a copy sent regularly to their address simply by requesting it. Address all correspondence to *Voice in the Wilderness*, P.O. Box 7037, Asheville, NC 28802.

IS GOD’S WORK IN YOUR WILL?

A bequest in your Will to *Voice in the Wilderness* can assure that the outreach of this ministry at home and abroad will continue after you have gone to your eternal reward. Prayerfully consider us in your Estate Planning. Thank you!





Bro. Royce and Bro. Williamson ministering together in India. They are always treated royally by the pastors and church families of India.



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Contributions, Address Changes,
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Write to us*

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AN INTERVIEW WITH BRO. ROYCE THOMASON

President Emeritus and Founder of The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc.

Question (Bro. Williamson) – Bro. Royce, the Lord has been good to this ministry over these many years. We have a lot of friends who are faithful readers and supporters of this work. Take a moment to share with them how you are doing physically. Many have been asking.

Answer (Bro. Royce) – “As for my general self, I am fine, but my knees don’t want to hold me up without a walker it seems. There is so much I want to do but must be able to walk freely in order to do it. I want to have at least a few years of working for Him, but I am so hindered by being a cripple. That is the only complaint I have, but it is a bad one. I want to have a knee replacement and believe that may solve my problem. I need your prayers to this end, please. I am trying hard to do His will.”

Question (Bro. Williamson) – You have said many times that *The Voice in the Wilderness* publication is the lifeline of this ministry. Share with our subscribers how important their partnership is to The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc.

Answer (Bro. Royce) – “Dear Friend, I have a deep desire to see this organization go forward. We have no foundations or such sources of backing. We are a freewill offering organization and must have your kind support and backing to make it go forward in this dark age. We humbly solicit your very best to stand, as usual, with us in every way.”

Question (Bro. Williamson) – As founder of The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc., I know you have the desire for this ministry to go forward. Terry and I both have a vision of what God has in store for this work in the days ahead. Would you give a challenge to our readers to take a fresh look at what they can do to help this missionary effort?

Answer (Bro. Royce) – “We are really a missionary organization. We do not always find it possible to go overseas ourselves. Somebody must keep the home fires burning. We do our best to support those who have gone, but must have our help. Our help is contingent with the backing of others. Like myself, I know your mail is full of requests for finances. But, the needs must be presented. The only way of your knowing; and we are in the never ending, so it seems, battle for saving souls, educating the needy, spreading the whole gospel to the world. Time is so short. We must work while the doors are open. So, we humbly want you as a partner. We cannot go it alone.”

(Bro. Williamson) – “Bro. Royce, we rejoice with you during this Jubilee Year. For 50 years now this little publication has touched many lives around the world. We thank you for what The Voice in the Wilderness has meant to so many. May the Lord continue to use us for His honor and glory!”



The Voice IN THE Wilderness EDITORIAL

SCHOOL DAYS

GOLDEN RULE DAYS



For many young people across America, it will soon be “Back to School.” That means different things to a lot of families. Even Christian families approach the education of their children in various ways. Some place their young folk in public or government-run institutions, while others utilize some form of private education. Then there are many Christian parents that home school their children or enroll them in a church-run school or Christian school. The freedom to make that choice is still afforded parents in this country. However, does the scripture permit that liberty? Psalm 1:1 says, **“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”**

Even before our first child was born my wife and I committed to never place our children in public schools. The right Christian school or home school would not only be our choice but our conviction as well. Now maybe I was a bit brash, but I made the statement I would go to jail before I allowed my child to attend a public government-run school. With two of our children in heaven, Terry and I had the responsibility to only educate our daughter, Rebekah. She attended a Christian school for kindergarten, first and second grade. Then we home schooled for ten years. We could not begin to tell you how special this experience was. Oh

the richness of this unique relationship between parent and child. Never would I trade the sweet and cherished memories of home schooling.

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly. Is this difficult to understand? Need we spend a great deal of time expounding or expanding such clear and concise language? There is multiplied happiness for the man, the individual that lives out the life God intended for that person. He follows God’s counsel not the world’s way of doing things. He obeys God’s commands and lives according to God’s Word. Oh, the “blessednesses” that spring abundantly from such a life. The counsel of the ungodly will rob you of all the “blessednesses” the Lord has and desires for you. Yes, this is plainly set forth. It’s the course of the world or the course of HIS WORD. Please, for your sake and the sake of your family, **“walk not in the counsel of the ungodly.”**

...nor standeth in the way of sinners... Are you blood-washed by the Lamb of God and quickened to life by his precious Holy Spirit? Then stand not in the way of sinners. Certainly you do not ask, “What is the way of sinners?” To stand in the way of sinners is so obvious. Just look around. If you stand in the way of sinners you will not be standing with the Savior and His saints. The child of God enjoys much blessedness because he now stands

in the midst of all God’s blessing.

...nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful... To mock, to scoff at God, eternity, heaven, hell, sin and all that is right is the seat of the scornful. The seat of the scornful is the threshold of hell.

Now, do you see the progression? **Walk, stand, and sit.** We will discuss this later. Suffice it to say the blessed man, the man that is truly a happy man, is one that is holy. The holy life is happiness. The blessed reject the counsel of the ungodly, the company of sinners and utter corruptions of the scornful. The blessed embrace in all of life, God and His Word.

Did you know that the first so called public and private schools in America were founded firmly on the Bible? Traditional education in this country was:

1. **God centered.**
2. **Biblically based.**
3. **Christ honoring.**

Education in this country once taught the good and godly. Then in the early 1900s a so called progressive philosophy was introduced which denied God and rejected good. I came through the “progressive” system, and I know what is what.

However, my wife and I taught from a traditional philosophy where God, His Word, character, discipline,

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

absolutes, authority and solid academics are bed-rock. The difference in the two philosophies is as clear as Psalm 1:1. "School days, school days, good old golden rule days." What ever happened? It's so simple – we violated Psalm 1:1.

Christian parent – may I challenge you to take God's Word and with a submissive heart study and pray before His sweet Holy Spirit for God's will in the education of your children? What is HIS WILL in this matter? Money, time, lifestyle, parental capabilities are all factors, but have you submitted your will to Him seeking His way in these most critical years of your child's life?

It was my high school English teacher that said, "God is a crutch, created in the minds of men to lean upon." That was 1971.

Oh, but my public school is not like that, Bro. Ronnie. My public school has Christian teachers.

If there were no other verses in all of God's Word that spoke to this point with the exception of Psalm 1:1, this would settle it for me.

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." By the way, read the rest of the chapter. Are your children – are you walking in the counsel of the ungodly? Are your children – are you standing in the way of sinners? Are your children – are you sitting in the seat of the scornful? **Walketh, standeth, sitteth** – there's a lot of that in education and school. Is your **walking, standing, and sitting** according to HIS WORD?

(I hope to have more on Christian education in future issues)



THE COMMON MAN

While driving one day in the country alone,
I happened to pass by a little farm home;
Just a little frame house, wood shingles on top,
but there was something about it that made me want to stop.
So I pulled the car over to the side of the road,
near a field that had just been hoed;
I walked up to the house and I paused again,
When a man stepped out and said "Howdy friend."

I told him my name and then hastened to say,
"I don't mean to intrude –
but something made me stop here today;"
The old man smiled and said, "Won't you sit a spell?
The Lord sent you here, cause I've got a story to tell;
"You see, the Lord called my wife when we first built this home,
and me and my boy – well – we just stayed here alone;
We both worked hard and never complained,
We battled the snow, the wind and the rain.

"And then after supper at the close of the day,
we'd take down the Bible and we'd read and we'd pray;
Things weren't so easy but we made it some way,
Til' the postman came with a letter that day;
My boy had to go and answer his country's call,
And ah, I can see him now as he stood there, straight and tall;
He said, 'Dad don't worry, I'll be back one day,
And I want to thank you for teachin' me how to pray.'"

"Well, time rocked on and I found I could still smile,
the Lord was good and I'd get a letter once in a while;
But sir, my life went to pieces and I couldn't even pray,
When I read that wire – 'Your son died in action today.'

I even said, Lord I've had so little,
And worked so hard to do my share,
To take my only son – well, it just don't seem fair.
Then suddenly there before me, plain as could be,
My boy knelt beside me with his hand on my knee."

"He said – 'Dad – Dad you disappoint me –
why, I never thought you'd wane,
if you denounce our God and country now –
why Dad, I've died in vain.

I know it's lonely, and it's hard to carry on,
But Dad, you weren't the first one to give an only son;
And through the smoke of battle I never felt alone,
Cause I knew you were prayin' and wishin' I was home;
Then all of a sudden God came back in view
And He sent you here today, my friend, to tell my story to."

So as I left that little farm home –
I prayed, "Please let us understand
That the hope of America lies in our faith in God...
And the common man."
-Author Unknown





50 YEARS OF PRAYER, PRAISE, AND THANKSGIVING

“...by Prayer and Supplication”

✝ For God’s provision for the financial needs of our ministry.

✝ For direction and open doors for the outreach and missionary efforts.

✝ For God’s provision for The Voice in the Wilderness points of missionary support.

✝ For God’s provision in the development of The Voice in the Wilderness Missions Institute.

✝ For fruitful church meetings, conferences, foreign mission trips.

✝ For His continued wisdom and leadership in the direction and decisions made for The Voice in the Wilderness.

“...with Thanksgiving!”

✝ For 50 years of Gospel ministry.

✝ For God’s protection over the countless miles of travel worldwide.

✝ For God’s provision spiritually and financially.

✝ For the wonderful unity in vision to carry The Voice in the Wilderness forward in God’s will.

✝ For God’s provision for day to day needs.

✝ For the many souls saved and lives touched for eternity through The Voice in the Wilderness.

“Needs”

✝ VHS projector for missionary.

✝ Funds for Church Construction.

✝ Provision financially for Mission trip to India and Venezuela.

NOTE: Be sure to check our website at www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org for “URGENT MESSAGES.” Just click on “Urgent Message” and you now have the opportunity to see updated information and needs from The Voice in the Wilderness ministry. This is a new added feature and we trust that those who share in our vision will check our website often. Since our last issue of *The Voice in the Wilderness* (June-July 2003) the following updates were listed on our website:

5/30/2003 – We have mentioned several times some of the work in Venezuela. A faithful national pastor needs some financial assistance with equipment for their new church. I have personally preached for this dear brother and they are doing a wonderful job. Please pray for them at this time. If you can give financially to help meet this special request, just earmark your check

“Pastor Ramos” and send to The Voice in the Wilderness.

5/30/2003 – For a long time now Bro. Royce and The Voice in the Wilderness have been supporting the missionary work of Pastor Gary May in South Dakota. His ministry is primarily to Native Americans on a reservation. About two weeks ago their church building was destroyed by fire. Arson is suspected. They do have insurance coverage, but not adequate to replace all the loss. Please pray for Bro. May and the ministry among the Indians in South Dakota. If you would like to help in a financial way, please send your gift to The Voice in the Wilderness and earmark it “Pastor Gary May”.

6/02/2003 – As many of you know, we have supported students in third world and developing countries training for the ministry. Some come to the U.S. for Bible College. Now the United States Immigration Department has reexamined some schools training foreign students for Christian service. Pray the opportunities will remain open for these young people to prepare as preachers, missionaries, teachers and full time Christian workers either in their country or here in the United States. They are the ones that can best reach their own families and people with the Gospel.





FROM THE MAILBAG

Dear Friend:

Please call me to let me know how I can purchase a copy of His Voice Shakes the Wilderness by Sophie Muller. My husband was a missionary kid in Colombia, S.A. I would like to give him a copy for his birthday. Thank you!

-South Carolina

Greetings Friends in Christ:

Just a note to tell you we have been receiving the paper for a long time and want to help keep it coming along with all the other ways you are sharing the Gospel to so many people. Keep up the good work and tell Bro. Royce we said hello and to keep on sharing the Good News too, wherever he can. We thank the Lord for restoring his health enough to be able to continue. Also thank you for keeping on in his field of labor where he had labored so long. Keep up the good work.

-Pennsylvania

Hello Everybody:

I wanted to tell you that I think you are doing a great job. I talked to Bro. Royce in Dallas and he sounded good for an 86 year old man. God surely has a crown in heaven for him. He is the one that got my family started for our Lord. Thank God for Him.

-Oklahoma

Dear Bro. Ronnie:

Greetings in Jesus name; what a lovely name! Enjoy the paper so much and read it through when it comes. I also enjoy your poems and personal message, and of course all the rest of the paper. "One Broken Key" sure made the point. Lord, help us! Enclosed is a check for the "work" where needed. The Lord bless you all. I also pray daily for Bro. Royce. -New Jersey

Dear Bro. Ronnie:

I've always looked forward to receiving The Voice in the Wilderness. My husband and I first got acquainted with our dear Bro. Royce back in the 1960s or 70s. He held us a revival meeting in E. Los Angeles, CA, and we have taken the paper since. Although my husband has gone on to his reward, I intend to stand for the old line of holiness. I will soon be entering my 90th birthday, so I don't have long to wait. Just keep up the good work.

-A sister in Jesus

Dear Brother Ronnie:

Enclosed is an address of a pastor friend to add to your mailing list. Also is another pastor's email address. He wants information about your mission works. Both of these men are pastors and are conservative men. I had referred them to a work that I used to be associated with. However, that work is no longer a credible organization.....

-Tennessee



Nuggets of Gold

1. Gossip is denounced by God as talebearing, whispering, and backbiting.
2. Gossip is quite often someone's "version" which is actually a "perversion" of the real story.
3. If practice makes perfect, be careful what you practice!
4. Exercise Daily – Walk with the Lord.
5. God made us with two ears and one mouth—what should that tell us?
6. Be kind to unkind people – they need it the most.
7. There are plenty of leaders, but where are they leading us?
8. Habits are either the best of servants or the worst of masters.
9. Our favorite attitude should be gratitude.
10. No man is too big to be kind, but many men are too little.

ROCK OF AGES PRISON MINISTRY

Frequently The Voice in the Wilderness receives letters from prisoners incarcerated in various facilities across this country. Some are requesting Bibles, literature, or just a friend to correspond with. Regretfully, due to the limited time and resources of The Voice in the Wilderness, it is not possible for this ministry to adequately help these individuals. Rock of Ages Prison Ministry has full-time chaplains working in institutions conducting evangelism, revivals, discipleship and Bible Institutes. This is a wonderful contact for prisoners and their families. Please take the opportunity to write Rock of Ages Prison Ministry if you think these good folk could be a blessing to you. Address all correspondence to:

Rock of Ages Prison Ministry
PO Box 2308
Cleveland, TN 37320

NEWS BITS

FROM HERE AND THERE

CENSORSHIP - Back in April the Maryland Senate barred a pastor from offering prayer when he refused to drop the reference to Jesus Christ. Two Jewish senators threatened to boycott the assembly if the prayer was allowed, so the senate head barred Pastor David Hughes from praying. Maryland was one of the first states in the U.S. to grant religious liberty, but now it is descending back into the Dark Ages of religious censorship. *Christian News*, 4/03



CHINA'S SECRET AGENDA

- While the Bush administration encourages more trade with China and manufacturing is shifted from the U.S. to China, the communist government of China continues its persecution of Christians. The Voice of the Martyrs say they have obtained a top-secret document that proves the Chinese government has an ongoing, systematic campaign to expose and destroy unregistered protestant churches in the Hebei Province. The directive is a work plan order from the Public Security Bureau. It instructs the bureaus to terminate "illegal Protestant activities." Dated August 20, 2002, the directive details the effort to "establish a secret force" to infiltrate unregistered church groups to gather in-depth intelligence against Protestant church activities, and to "set up full files; recognize influential people and illegal meeting places." Bureaus are instructed to

confiscate "illegal publicizing" materials used for evangelism and are told that "stubborn members," believers refusing to "voluntarily obey regulations of the government," should be "severely punished." *Voice of the Martyrs*, 4/03..... Fines are also to be used in China to force women to terminate pregnancies in its one-child policy. One province has raised fines for second children without permission from twice combined incomes to eight times combined incomes.



TERRORIST NATIONS MEMBERS OF UN

- The United Nations recently put communist Cuba on the Human Rights Committee—further proof that UN ideals are just a myth. Freedom Alliance's director Fred Gedrich feels the UN is the farthest thing there is from a peace-loving organization. He points out that the United Nations Charter says membership is open only to "peace-loving" nations and at least 47 UN members are the worst dictatorships in the world. "Seven are identified as 'terrorist states' by the U.S. government," Gedrich says. "We shouldn't put that institution on a moral plane with the United States, and certainly—under no circumstances—should we ever defer to that body to decide what is in our national security interest." *Agape Press via Calvary Contender*

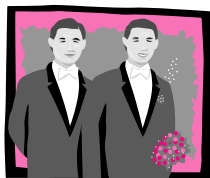


EXPERT LAMENTS LOWLY STATUS OF CURSIVE IN EDUCATION

- An expert of penmanship fears that young students today too often replace their pencils with keyboards and cell-phone touch pads. "Students particularly in the public school sector, think of handwriting as an old fuddy-duddy kind of thing that is old-fashioned and, in their eyes, isn't necessary anymore because they've got the computer – and to them, the computer pretty much does all," says Michael Sull, former president of the International Association of Master Penmen. He goes on to say that many school students and public education systems now believe learning how to write in cursive is unnecessary, but handwriting will stand the test of time as it always has. *Agape Press* 6/03..... Since your editor once served in the Christian Education ministry, I am aware of home schools as well as Christian Schools that are using curriculum that teaches cursive writing as early as four-year-old kindergarten. The A Beka Book curriculum used in many schools and home schools conducted research several years ago on cursive writing and began incorporating this style of writing into their program from the onset of training. The art of communicating through handwriting should never be lost.

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REFORM JUDAISM SANCTIONED SAME-SEX MARRIAGES IN 2000

– Now Conservative Leaders Have Agreed to Reconsider - In *Newsweek* 3/03 issue it was reported that though Reform Judaism sanctioned same-sex marriages in 2000, the Conservative movement has not. But that could be changing. Conservative leaders have agreed to revisit a 1992 decision reaffirming their ban on same-sex weddings and the ordination of openly gay or lesbian clergy. The pressure to reconsider the issue has come largely from Conservative rabbinical students, 88 of whom wrote to the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards insisting that the Torah “can offer us a Jewish way of celebrating...loving same-sex relationships.” No decision is expected from the committee, a 25-rabbi council, until 2004.

PRO-FAMILY LEADER SAY ‘GAY THEOLOGY’ IS DANGEROUS, UNDERMINES SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY

– An ordained United Methodist minister is out with a new book that claims Jesus Christ was a homosexual. The book by Chicago Theological Seminary professor Theodore Jennings is called *The Man Jesus Loved: Homoerotic narratives from the New Testament*. In it, Jennings argues that Christ had a homosexual relationship with John – who the Bible refers to as “the disciple Jesus loved” – and says the Bible affirms homosexual relationships and celebrates the erotic. Bob Knight of the Culture and Family Institute says Jennings is another in a long line of “gay theologians” who are rewriting the

Bible. He adds that he wishes a publisher would not even consider the book worthy of publishing, and that Pilgrim Press ought to be ashamed of itself for publishing it. “For a guy like this to have the credentials he does says a lot about where the Methodist Church has gone,” Knight says. “It’s time for Bible-believing Methodists to set down some standards and ensure that people who are speaking in the name of the Methodist Church really do understand the authority of scripture – and can convey it accurately.”

There is a movement by some members of United Methodist Churches in Mississippi to renew and restore evangelical tenets within their denomination. Jeff Switzer, pastor of a United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, Mississippi, launched Mississippi Fellowship of United Methodist Evangelicals. The new fellowship has a two-fold purpose – to contend for the historical, classical Christian faith and to proclaim the apostolic faith. Switzer believes the denomination is headed in directions that would be very disturbing to John Wesley, founder of Methodism. He sees the church abandoning traditional Scriptural principles in order to look more like other world religions. Switzer says the fellowship must express opposition to bureaucratic Methodist leaders who prefer tolerance over Biblical truth and universalism over conversion. *Agape Press via Christian News* 5/03

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS INTERNET PORNOGRAPHY FILTERS FOR LIBRARIES

– In a 6-3 decision, the United States Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of a federal statute requiring internet pornography filters in all public libraries that receive any federal funds. The majority decision included two justices who cited as a part of their reasoning the fact that adults could request to have the

filtering removed for their use of the internet. The Court also found that the inevitable filtering of some non-pornographic material did not give rise to a violation of the First Amendment, because of the allowance of adult access. *The Pacific Justice Institute* 6/03

IN BRIEF – New treatment for liver cancer: A year ago one patient underwent treatment for liver cancer. The diseased liver was removed from the sick body, treated to kill the cancer and then returned to its owner. The patient is still living!..... Ariel Fletcher resigns as Bush press secretary. He wanted to return to the private sector and do something a bit more “relaxing” like disarming live nuclear warheads!..... A carpenter’s tool belt, made of heavy canvas, dropped to the knee, and pleated all around. That’s what the Seattle-made UTILIKILT is. An everyday riff on traditional Scottish garb has leapt from idea to over 10,000 sold in just three years. Most men prefer however the \$175 Workman’s model, with adjustable hammer loop, saddlebag tool pockets, and, for the prudent roofer, a “modesty snap” between the knees..... Numbness, weakness, dizziness, loss of vision, slurred speech—these are the early symptoms of stroke. In a recent study of 400 stroke patients, ReoPro was shown to be effective in improving neurologic recovery and reducing disability in those treated within three to six hours..... Well, here’s another penmanship thought. If your medical records are hard to read or inaccurate, they can hurt you, says Rhoda Orin, an attorney representing policyholders. Life and disability insurers review these files before issuing policies. Misread files could mean higher premiums or denied coverage.... “We know by experience that music has a secret and almost incredible power to move hearts.” – John Calvin..... The

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FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERING

Do we shrink from suffering for Christ and the Gospel? Keep in mind that blessed are those who are persecuted. Paul said, "That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death." Is it our desire to know Him and have His resurrection power but not the fellowship of His sufferings? Brothers and sisters around the world daily give the full measure for their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Enter in this fellowship with them and share in sustaining God's work around the world.

HOW?

1. Your Prayers

✋ Stay informed about your missionaries and pray for their specific needs.

✋ Each week or month research a different country or mission field and pray for the needs and missionaries in those regions.

✋ Pray for the political leaders of various countries and furtherance of the Gospel in those countries, i.e. Communist and Muslim countries.

2. Your Participation

✋ Go to the mission field and visit your missionary. Help with tract distribution, soul winning, VBS, construction projects, as well as in many other ways.

✋ When you return, bring video back and share the burden and vision

of the missionary with your church family and friends.

✋ Many have partnered with The Voice in the Wilderness by financially supporting various missionary projects and missionaries around the world. Thank you for praying about a gift today. Please use the enclosed envelope for your contribution. God Bless!

3. The Voice in the Wilderness Prayer List

The Voice in the Wilderness Publication – Over 20 thousand read this 16-page newsletter each month. Pray for our missionary points.

Africa – Uganda • Agra, India Bible College Students – students studying for the ministry – Many are from Kenya. • Belize • Christian Law Association • Haiti • Hephzibah House • India – We have

14 individual missionary projects that have urgent financial needs • Indian Reservation – South Dakota – Bro. May • Jewish Missions – IBJM – Gibsons • Moldova – Newman • Philippines – Johnson – students at Marietta Bible College • Pilot – Chapman • Roloff Ent. • Source of Light • Southeastern FWB College • Special Projects – RI, CEF, Camps/Wilds, SWRC, Short Term Missions, Books • Syria – Chedid • Venezuela – four different missionary projects

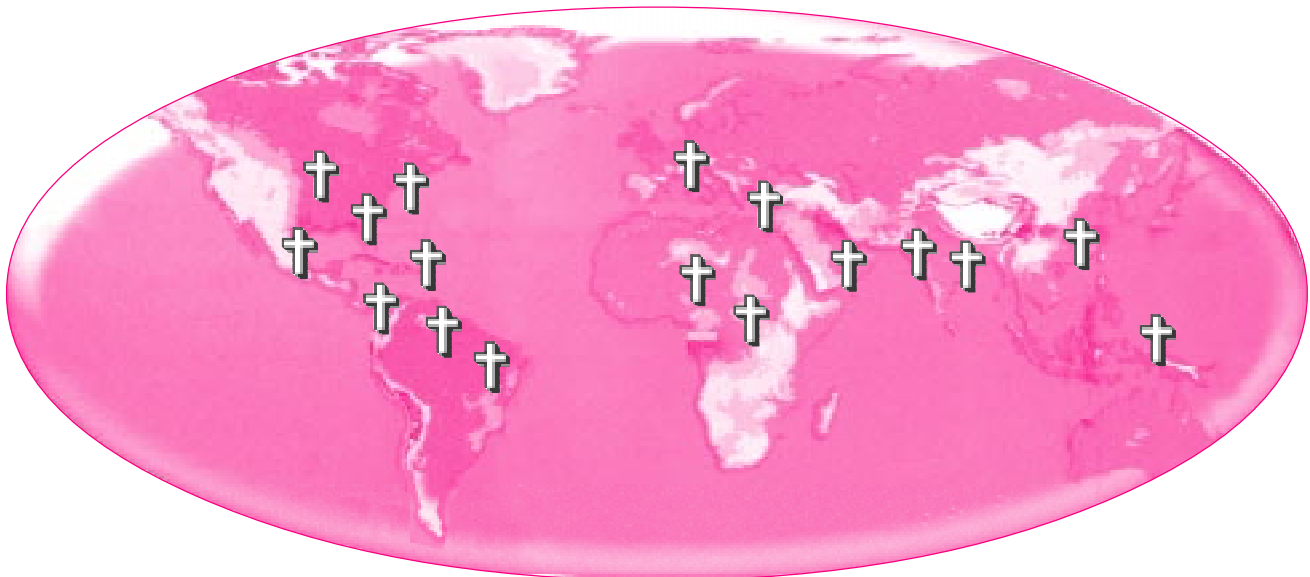
J. Royce Thomason

Ronnie and Terry Williamson

Pray for safety while we travel many miles in this Gospel work.

Pray for fruitful meetings in churches and conferences.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT!



State of the Ministry Address

August 2003

I. WHO WE ARE

II. WHAT WE DO

III. WHERE WE ARE GOING

Many years ago Bro. Royce placed these words on the front page of *The Voice in the Wilderness*. "Contending For Fundamental Christianity" and "Contending For American Freedom."

I. Who We Are

Three or four years ago I was preaching in Maryland. Before the service began, an elderly lady approached me and without introduction said, "So you're the one taking Bro. Royce's place." A bit caught off guard, my response was, "No ma'am, nobody's gonna' take Bro. Royce's place, I just want to do what God called me to do." She just turned and walked away.

Since then, many have asked me, "is The Voice in the Wilderness a Mission Board?" "Is The Voice in the Wilderness a church?" "Who is The Voice in the Wilderness?" The answer is quite simple. The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc. has been, simply two Evangelist, J. Royce Thomason and Ronnie L. Williamson preaching "The Book, the Blood, and the Blessed Hope, trying to encourage the saints, win a few sinners, and support some of God's choicest servants striving against Satan around this earthly sphere in some very difficult places. My wife and I throughout our marriage have endeavored to support our local

church. Here in Asheville we enjoy the fellowship and opportunities our local church affords us. The Voice in the Wilderness endeavors to assist pastors and local churches in their vision to reach the lost world for Christ. With a missionary emphasis and this monthly publication, tens of thousands of dollars go out each year to support missionary work presently in Africa, Central America, Haiti, India, Europe, Philippines, Syria, Venezuela, as well as several Christian Colleges, printing ministries and a number of ministries here in the states like Christian Law Association, Jewish Missions, and Roloff Enterprises to name a few. Page three of this publication will expand on who The Voice in the Wilderness is. Our theme verse is Mark 1:3 "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." May the Lord be our helper as we preach from Pulpits, on the mission field and through the printed page Christ crucified, risen and coming again with life and liberty to all who believe!"

II. What We Do

We preach, pray and plod away. Through our preaching ministry it has been a joy to see souls saved, backsliders repent, and saints move forward in their commitment to Christ and even some entering full time ministry as preachers and missionaries. We have focused on helping nationals equip to reach their

families, people and country for Christ. The Voice in the Wilderness believes the biggest bang for the missions buck can be realized through the national. There is no way for the church to be faithful and obedient to the great commission without reaching, training and sending the national to plant churches and reach his own people for Christ. We pray regularly for preachers and missionaries around the world. Prayer is the work. When men pray, God works.

William Carey said he was a plodder. There seemingly is never enough time, money or personnel. We must keep plodding forward, ever forward, trusting Him day by day. Thanks goes to all who partner with The Voice in the Wilderness in this eternal endeavor!

III. Where Are We Going

The Voice in the Wilderness is going to continue preaching the inspired, infallible Word of God, naming sin and error from the White House to our house. The Lord's will is for this ministry to be faithful to His Word, good stewards with all resources and have a servant's heart. We are not going the way of apostate denominationalism, modern Bible versions, doctrinal compromise, ungodly-worldly music, and unscriptural carnal dress. Lord Jesus, help us stay by the Book, hate sin, seek to win the sinner, love the brethren, and do all to the glory of

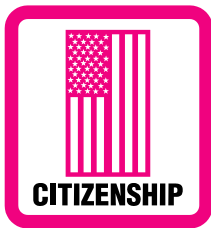
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Washington Times writes that a bill signed by Pennsylvania's governor on December 3 which gives homosexuals statewide protection against hate crimes and verbal harassment targets preachers who use biblical texts against the homosexual lifestyle.

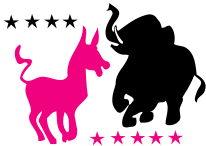
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE COMMEMORATES MUSLIM HOLIDAY -

Can you believe that our United States Postal Service would issue a first class holiday postage stamp honoring, and remembering the EID MUSLIM holiday? Have we so quickly forgotten the attack on the Twin Towers and Pentagon on 9/11/01?



ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE? -

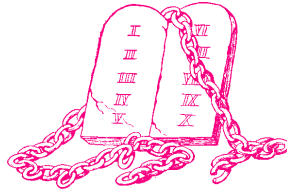
This is a reminder to us all that we can make a difference. Please be sure you are registered to vote. If you have missed your states Primary Election deadline, please be sure to register as soon as possible so that you may vote in the November General Election.



REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS -

As of the last election, the House Pro-Life Caucus reports that 31 of the 33 new Republican members are pro-life (94%) while only 4 of the 21 new Democrat members are pro-life. In fact, over recent years several pro-life Democrats have become so uncomfortable with their party's rigid pro-abortion stance that they have switched parties. Republicans protect

and advocate for life (and traditional moral and religious values) while – with very few exceptions – Democrats lobby for abortion (and against traditional moral and religious values). *The Wallbuilder Report Winter 2003*



COURT RULES TEN COMMANDMENTS CAN STAY -

A federal appeals court says a Ten Commandments plaque that's hung on the facade of a suburban Philadelphia courthouse for 83 years can stay. The court found that a reasonable person familiar with the plaque's history would regard the decision to leave it in place as religiously neutral, rather than evangelical in nature. The court said while the message of the Ten Commandments is "inherently religious," there can also be secular purposes for posting them and historical reasons for leaving them in place. The plaque in question is 50 inches tall, and was attached to the Chester county Courthouse in West Chester in 1920. The courthouse was built in 1846 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Members of the Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia, an atheist group, filed suit against the county, contending the plaque violated the constitutional separation of church and state. *Agape Press 6/03*

ARE YOU WILLING TO GIVE UP PRIVACY RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS? -

Polls indicate Americans are willing to give up privacy rights and freedoms in order to increase security. Alan Keyes is one outspoken critic of new security efforts that he says are costing Americans their liberties. Keyes says this is more of a danger than terrorists. He believes the increased security efforts are taking

the nation down a road that will fulfill a prediction voiced by Abraham Lincoln and other great American statesmen – specifically, that "the death of American liberty would not come from enemies without, but rather from our own surrender of liberty within." In the wake of 9/11, increased security and more surveillance leeway given to police agencies have caused alarm in many corners of the country. Critics claim if more liberties are taken away, then terrorism has triumphed. *Agape Press 6/03*

TEEN PREMARITAL SEX AND DEPRESSION -

25.3% of sexually active teenage girls said they were often depressed, compared to 7.7% of girls who are not sexually active. The study certainly casts doubt on the idea that premarital sex is a path of happiness and fulfillment. *World 6/03*



State of the Ministry Address

(Continued from page 11)

God!

The past seven years have presented many challenges for The Voice in the Wilderness. When my wife and I moved from Montana to Dallas officially beginning our ministry with The Voice in the Wilderness ministry, times were very difficult. Bro. Royce had not received his salary check for three months and finances were in his words, "on a shoestring" budget. Space does not permit me to detail the incredible things the Lord did during those early months. In less than four years it was a joy to report on expansion of our missionary outreach, the relocation of the corporate office with the new property debt free and many opportunities for this work. At present, the devil is not pleased and

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some have presented opposition to what the Lord is doing through The Voice in the Wilderness ministry. Just this month a pastor stated to me over the phone that he believes there are errors in the Bible. If that were the case, it would be up to each individual to do that which is right in their own eyes. There would be no absolute authority. When it comes to our families, our country, our churches – issues like dress standards, music, etc., there would be no final voice for any of us to rely on. For example Answers in Genesis proposed the following question:.....

Question: What is the real crux of the creation/evolution issue?

Answer: A lot of people, when they think about evolution, think about so-called ‘apemen,’ fossils, the age of the earth, dinosaurs, and so on. But, evolution is much, much more than this. Evolution is a whole philosophy of life. It’s really an attempt by fallible, sinful man to try to explain life without God. In other words, with evolution, people build their whole worldview on human opinions. The creation/evolution issue really is one concerning authority. Do we accept that God is the absolute authority of fallen man? Christians need to accept that we must obtain our answers starting with the authority of the Word of God.

The Voice in the Wilderness is committed to God as our absolute authority and His Word is the inspired and infallible source for all our thinking. Please hold us up in prayer that His will be done and that The Voice in the Wilderness goes forward for our Lord’s honor and glory!



The Power of the Pen

“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.”
Proverbs 25:11

For 50 years this printed missionary has made its monthly journey home and abroad to inform, encourage, and challenge many a faithful reader. Yes, there is power in words and thank the Lord for Godly men and women who have taken up pen to the blessing of so many for time and eternity. One of Bro. Royce’s favorites, Paul Harvey, put it this way:

“There is no instrument, however sharp, that is as sharp as the ballpoint pen. With that lethal instrument, you can destroy a man or subvert a government. Vancouver’s professional writer, Jerry Buchanan, put it this way; “In the end, it will probably be the written word that will save the world or destroy it.”

The writings of Charles Dickens finally exposed and abolished the sweatshops of England. Hitler’s book, *Mein Kampf* stirred and mobilized Teutonic hate and plunged the world into war.

Presently, social issues of immense proportion are being influenced by writers who can put pertinent words on the lips of actors and actresses. So manipulative are human emotions that a gifted writer can move you to take sides with the Sopranos against the FBI.

News writers especially have an awesome responsibility, the power to make us laugh at what we should blush at, the weapons and skills to make us so white-hot angry that we will mobilize ourselves, arm ourselves with ballpoint pens of our own and spend half the angry evening writing letters to editors and congressmen, and other officials, whoever.

[We can teach children constructively or we can scar them permanently with our words, if even for a fleeting moment, we direct and control human emotions on love, on politics, religion, marriage, philosophy or morality.]

None of us, not one of us would volunteer to drop a weapon of annihilation on an alien civilization, and yet potentially the power of a wordsmith is infinitely more devastating. And, with modern media we hurl them, hurtful words or helpful words we hurl them at human targets we may never see, God help us!”



MISSION SPOTLIGHT

New York City Mission Trip

The many hours, yea days of planning and hard work in preparation, cannot be gainsaid. A mission trip requires a huge effort on the part of many to make a successful venture. My heart is genuinely overwhelmed by the passion and commitment of faithful servants of the Lord who labor behind the scenes with little recognition attending to the multitude of critical details. Tirelessly, these dedicated few give time and energy that many may be blessed.

This June two Pensacola Christian College graduates along with five students and one graduate from Southeastern FWB College accompanied my wife and I to New York City for what proved to be a very eventful mission trip. By the way, the "Big Apple" has received some bad press. We met some wonderful people who graciously opened their hearts, churches and ministries to our ten-member mission team. We all experienced an enriching eight days serving the Lord in NYC.



Let's go soul winning. Thank the Lord for the opportunity to share the Greatest Story Ever Told!

On Friday night June 13th we all met in Raleigh for our final planning session and orientation. Then at 7:00 Saturday morning we loaded the van and departed for points North. On Sunday morning our young people played the hand bells, ministered in song, guitar and gave their testimonies at South Baptist Church on Staten Island. Thank you Pastor Stagno and Bro. Robelen for allowing us to share with the good folk at South Baptist.

After a delicious lunch we headed out towards Queens, NY. The traffic was bumper to bumper—stop and go—on the Staten Island Expressway. Then it happened! A Lincoln Town Car cut right into the side of our big 15-passenger rental van. Thank the Lord no one was injured, but it was quite nerving. With both vehicles now on the shoulder of the road next to the guardrail, I exited my vehicle to access the damage. Of all people here comes this Catholic priest saying, "I don't know what I was thinking, my insurance is going to go up now!" He was obviously at fault. Then while we were on the cell phone calling for assistance a New York Police car drove by and did not even stop! Mrs. Stagno told us on the phone if there were no injuries, the police probably would not come. Just exchange information and proceed on our way. After doing so I asked the Catholic priest the question, "If you were to die today are you sure you would go to heaven?" He immediately replied, "No, do you?" I responded, "Yes, I do." He said, "How do you know that?" My answer was, "The Bible tells me so!" Interesting enough, the license plate on the Lincoln Town Car read, "ABOUNDA" meaning father in Arabic. This priest was Lebanese. When I told him I did not know "ABOUNDA" but I did know ABBA, FATHER and proceeded to give him scriptures, he hurried off to his automobile. By the way, the Catholic priest now claims to his insurance company the accident was my fault!



"Sweet Hour of Prayer" and "Amazing Grace" - The hand bells were a beautiful complement to our services in Queens and Staten Island.



Mission Team NYC at All Nations Baptist Church of Woodhaven preparing to go door to door with the Gospel. Pray for the seed sown in NYC.

Thank the Lord we made it to Queens in time for a wonderful service at Woodhaven Baptist Church and All Nations Bible Baptist Church. For the next seven days our team testified, sang, ministered with hand bells, conducted service in a Jewish Nursing Home, did subway ministry and went door to door with tracts and witness for our Savior. What a joy to preach, teach, do children's ministry and even cut grass, carry out garbage, vacuum and clean the church. Thank you Pastors Dan Shafer, Ray Nilsson, and Paul McCardel of All Nations Baptist Church of Woodhaven for your wonderful hospitality, fellowship and giving us the opportunity to serve. (This church is an amazing story on its own.)



Song time at the Jewish Nursing Home.

I must also share a highlight of the trip. Two young men in their late teens trusted Jesus Christ as their Savior. What a joy to pray with these fellows and hear them repent of sin and receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Out of the hundreds of tracts, smiley face gospels, church brochures and Jewish literature many lives were touched. We had

(Continued on page 15)

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prayed for many souls to be saved and trust there will be additional decisions forthcoming. The seed was sown, and my, what a mission field – New York City.



Missionary John Gibson plays his clarinet at the Nursing Home Service.

A special THANKS to John and Joy Gibson. The Voice in the Wilderness and our local church in Asheville support the Gibson's in their missionary work among the Jewish people of New York City. The International Board of Jewish Missions as well as All Nations Baptist Church of Woodhaven share with the Gibson's in a very unique ministry to the Jewish people of NYC. With over two million Jews, Bro. John and



Subway Ministry – We unfurled the colors, said the Pledge and sang "God Bless America." Then the team distributed Gospel tracts to all.

Sis. Joy and their precious little boy, Zachary, have been given a very special opportunity and ministry. Pray for them as they share Messiah with the Jewish people of NYC. Thank you John and Joy for helping us with all the details and logistics. We could not have done it without you. God Bless!



Smile! It's fun working for Jesus. The team enjoyed the children's ministry.

One final word - amidst the tract distribution in Manhattan and the subway ministry our group was able to see many of the very interesting sites offered in NYC. Among them were the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and the Empire State Building. We even made a visit to ground zero and were again deeply moved by the events of 9/11. Our hearts were challenged and changed by this trip. We will continue to pray for the brothers and sisters serving in NYC as well as the millions of souls who need Christ.



God Bless America! What a privilege to see some of this great country's history and heritage. By the way, these young people raised the funds to make this trip at no expense to The Voice in the Wilderness. THANK YOU young folks!

PLEASE CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

Honor someone you love with a memorial gift to *The Voice in the Wilderness*

Please send card to:

In memory of:

Rev./Dr./Mr./Mrs./Miss

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Rev./Dr./Mr./Mrs./Miss

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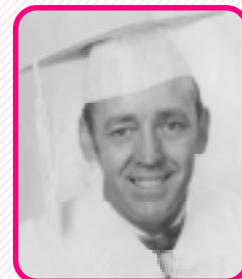
☐ Please check box if you would like this memorial gift listed in the next issue of The Voice in the Wilderness.

Amount of Gift _____

Please mail to The Voice in the Wilderness, PO Box 7037, Asheville, NC 28802

RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR MEMORIAL GIFT

Parting Thoughts



2003 MARKS THE 50TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION FOR *THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS*. WE THANK THE LORD FOR USING THIS MINISTRY AND THE LIFE OF DR. J. ROYCE THOMASON.



Dear *Voice in the Wilderness* Subscriber,

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

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