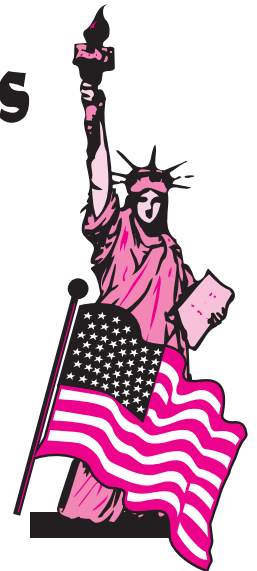


The Voice IN THE Wilderness



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

CONTENDING FOR
FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIANITY

Published Monthly
Free Subscription

CONTENDING FOR
AMERICAN FREEDOM

October 2003

LESS THAN ALL?

My Savior's will, God's charge to keep
now hear His voice, all ye sheep,
To tell His story of things above
of Jesus' Glory, of Jesus' love.

Arise and wake from slumber and sleep
a time to sow, a time to weep.
O 'tis thy servant, Dear Lord prepare
fit for battle thy armour to wear.

Should it be I have cause to fear
or again this world seems too dear.
Take me back where mine eyes can see
thy raptuous Glory, from sin set free.

And then renew that vision of love
with affections set on the things above.
So those wandering ones that You seek
his ears may hear Thy voice so sweet.

'Tho skin and language be not mine
O that soul, to Thee be Thine.
Then together from far away lands
voices join the blood washed band.

The love of God no tongue can tell
releases chains and powers of hell.
My Savior's will, His commission and call
for you and me, to give less than all?



Missions Month

RLW



MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends:

This has been an interesting morning. Terry and I just returned after a meeting with one of our missionaries and had several faxes on the desk along with a stack of letters to answer. Terry just typed four letters and I hand wrote six "Thinking of You" cards to several of our generous partners. All that to say this: If you write me and do not get a reply, it may be due to one of several reasons. Sometimes I simply do not receive your letter. By-and-large our US Postal service does reasonably well, but there are shortcomings. Then at times, the volume of mail is beyond my wife and I. Priorities must be set; and regretfully, some things go undone. Please forgive us. If it was important

to you, do not hesitate to write me again. Also just a note to those writing from foreign countries. Some of your letters never arrive in the United States. Then, time often simply does not permit me to answer everyone individually. Faxes are not clear many times but it is a good alternative if you provide a working fax number for a reply. Recently, several fax numbers given did not work. We try to respond if possible. Thanks for understanding.

I am trying to get a jump on this issue due to commitments at our normal deadline for material. Many of our readers here in the states and especially on the mission field cannot even relate, I know, to the following. However, recent statistics show the median existing home price in this

country according to the National Association of Realtors has risen to \$182,100 in July 2003. Government reports say the annualized rate of housing starts in July rose to 1.87 million units, the strongest in 17 years. Interests rates are climbing after reaching a near 40-year low. With the dramatic loss of jobs, 44,000 in July, making the sixth consecutive month of declining employment, the huge national debt, along with bad immigration policy, give away programs and war time, something must change.

My wife and I have never owned a home. We did in a previous ministry purchase a singlewide trailer and thanked the Lord for that. However, our income has never been substantial enough to purchase a house. I never cease to be amazed at the young families buying homes and cars. Their indebtedness must be enormous. The Bible has a lot to say about finances and money. American Christians have been blessed; and yet, the present economy and thirst for the material has placed some ministries in a difficult position. Believers often express their sensitivity about money. Please bear with me for several requests. Pray and give as the Lord leads and as you so purpose. Two overseas trips are needful at this time. As many know,

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

The Voice IN THE Wilderness

SERMON of the Month

“Lead with Vision.” That is how the plaque on our office wall reads. Then Proverbs 29:18a is quoted below. “Where there is no vision, the people perish.”

Terry and I were there and glad that I heard it. Over one thousand were present when the pastor announced the urgent need for \$100,000 for a project their church had undertaken. He stated that he was glad their church was not one that argued over the carpet color and such trivial matters. He spoke of ministries that are constantly fighting amongst themselves over non-essentials. By the way, the pastor said,

“If there is somebody here like that, please go somewhere else. We don’t have time for such nonsense.” Oh, yes, that pastor did get the \$100,000 to complete the project.

“Lead with Vision.” One thing is certain. I do not want to stand before the Lord and be guilty of no vision, or even clouding the vision with nonsense and non-essentials. However, I know those individuals who are so self-absorbed that they possess no capacity for vision. Someone has said, “A task without a vision is drudgery; a vision without a task is a dream; a task with a vision is victory.”

Proverbs 29:18 goes even deeper. As Christians we must bridge the gap between the vision and the perishing. If there is no vision the people, America, our youth, our families, and yes, our churches will cast off restraints and run wild, go naked. Are we not witnesses of this very thing?

D. L. Moody in his Bible notes writes, “If Christians should shrink back at every contrary wind that blows, they would never make their voyage to heaven.”

I. Fear of Vision

Why would it be that folk in our Bible believing churches would fear **vision**? Should pastors not be people of vision? Should the church members not be willing to follow their pastor’s leadership of vision? Often the lack of **commitment** is responsible for the fear of vision. I am not quoting this man because I believe in his philosophy of life, but this quote is worthy of note: Sir Edmund Hillary once said: “Nothing ever happens until one is **committed**. There is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness, concerning all acts of initiative and creation.

“There is one elementary truth – the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans – that the moment one definitely **commits** oneself, then Providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never have otherwise

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If there is no vision the people, America, our youth, our families, and yes, our churches will cast off restraints and run wild, go naked.

Sad is the life lived in drudgery with no real vision. Sad is the life lived in a dream that never materializes. Usually those individuals desire company for their misery. Do not participate.

“Where there is no vision, the people perish.” The Hebrew word for perish means “to go naked, to cast off restraints.” Does that describe America today and even much of the world today? Often we speak of the church having a vision of the lost or perishing world and that is true. However,

☺ **THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUBSCRIBERS** ☺

Sis. Terry and Bro. Ronnie Williamson have just completed seven years of ministry with The Voice in the Wilderness. The many letters, phone calls, faxes, emails, along with prayers and support over the last seven years have been a blessing and encouragement to our hearts. Thank you for making this wonderful work possible. Praise the Lord. As we begin our eighth year, we are anticipating an exciting time serving the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. ☺

The Voice IN THE Wilderness EDITORIAL

A NEW MISSIONARY BEACHHEAD



October 13th marks **Columbus Day**. Christopher Columbus said in his diary that it was the Holy Spirit that led him to take the Gospel of Christ to the New World.

The Pilgrims came to these shores to establish the church and worship their God and Savior Jesus Christ. These early settlers came to America for the Glory of God and the establishment of the Christian faith. This was not a land founded by generic religion worshipping some assortment of gods. Even the Continental Congress recommended and approved on September 11, 1777, that the Committee of Commerce “import 20,000 Bibles from Holland, Scotland, or elsewhere,” because of the great need of the American people and the great shortage caused by the interruption of trade with England by the Revolutionary War.

The early founders agreed that they came here for the building up of the Kingdom for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Patrick Henry stated that America was not founded on religion but upon the Gospel of Christ and not by religionists but by Christians. On July 4, 1821, John Quincy Adams said, “The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity.”

By 1776, historians tell us that 98% of the people in America

professed themselves to be protestant Christians - 1.8% declared themselves to be Roman Catholic - 2/10ths of 1% declared themselves to be Jewish. America indeed was founded as a Christian nation.

Thomas Jefferson was the head of public education in Washington, D.C. at the same time he was President. He insisted on two books being taught in the public schools – the Bible, and Watts Hymnal. That was Thomas Jefferson, supposedly the one so often quoted as wanting to get rid of the Bible in our schools, but he was the one who insisted on the Bible being taught in public schools. Then separation of church and state is not found in the Constitution of the United States. It is found, however, in the constitution of the Soviet Union. It was originally stated in a letter by Thomas Jefferson to the Danbury Baptist when he said that they need not worry about the religious activities and freedoms being interfered with by the federal government because congress had established a wall of separation between church and state to keep the federal government from interfering with the church. That has been completely turned around. The so-called wall of separation is being used to keep the church from saying anything about the government. Did Thomas Jefferson mean what is taught concerning separation of church and state today? It’s interesting to note that Thomas

Jefferson attended church, the very Sunday after he wrote that letter to the Danbury Baptist. In fact, he attended the largest congregation of Christians in America. Not only did he attend that church the next Sunday, but also he attended that church virtually every Sunday for the next seven years of his presidency. What was the largest church in America, and where did it meet? It met in the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress every Sunday for years and years and years!

Revival fires were already burning when Whitefield first preached in America in 1738. Jonathan Edwards was missionary to the American Indians in 1750. The young black poet, Phillis Wheatley (1753-1784) thanked God for bringing her to America where she could trust Christ as her Savior. Then there were the Wesleys and the “shouting Methodists.” Salvation and separation was their theme. Bible societies were founded to print and distribute the Word of God. David Brainerd (1718-1747) even under the scourge of tuberculosis preached the love of Christ to the Indians. George Liele, possibly the first ordained black preacher in America was freed from slavery so he could preach Jesus. Liele hired himself out as an indentured servant in Jamaica so he could preach and eventually start Jamaica’s first Baptist Church. By the way, that church grew from four

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(Continued from page 4)

members to 500 members in eight years. On that story goes.

On this American missionary Beachhead some estimate fifty colleges were founded as a direct result of revival – The Great Awakening. Francis Asbury, Peter Cartwright, and Charles Finney stirred the flames of revival.

The famous slave John Jaspers came to know Jesus on a Virginia plantation. Throngs came to hear this fiery man of God. From the land of America, the glorious message of Jesus Christ was carried around the world. *(Sources: America's God & Country, William J. Federer; Center for Reclaiming America, Dr. D. James Kennedy)*

Truly America continues to be a blessing to this old sin cursed world. Many write to express appreciation for The Voice in the Wilderness ministry.

Every month we receive correspondence from brothers and sisters across this country and around the world serving faithfully the cause of Jesus Christ. Bro. Pelfrey from Belize wrote in appreciation for our support, as well as, the printing ministry of The Voice in the Wilderness. Because of one of the articles we wrote about believers in some of the Hindu and Islamic areas, Bro. Pelfrey now says he prays regularly for these dear folks serving Christ under extreme conditions. Pastor Nirmal David from New Delhi wrote: "Greetings to you in the name of the Lord and to your family. My family and I are sending you belated birthday greetings, wishing you a long, happy and prosperous life. We are also wishing you and your good wife a very happy and blessed married life. May the good

Lord use you both for His service and Glory. Please accept my deep sense of gratitude for the financial support. It is very helpful. I am confident that the Almighty God will provide you enough funds to carry on your ministry. My regards to Dr. Thomason and with regards to you, your wife, and daughter." Another greeting came from Dr. and Mrs. Jacob, "Greetings in the precious name of our Savior Jesus Christ. Received the checks and thank you for the same. Praying for all the needs of The Voice in the Wilderness. Our prayers go with you. The boys are doing fine as well as ourselves. Thank you for your prayers, with regards and prayers, yours in Him." Pastor Abednego wrote, "...this is to bring you kind notice that Rev. A. Daya Raju has been pastoring in Chinsurah Church since April 11, 2003...The church in Chinsurah is running smooth. Meanwhile, Bro. Samuel, eldest son of Bro. Daya Raju is tending the sheep of Appa Rao Peta." The Chinsurah church had temporarily closed due to some problems and lack of pastor leadership. We trust that Bro. Daya Raju will have a fruitful ministry in his new pastorate. Another letter came from Partha Dutta, updating us on some of the conditions in India, as well as, many deaths due to the rainy season and hot spell. Partha states that they were able to use some of The Voice in the Wilderness funds to help one of the men with admission to the cardiac facility.

As we prepare this article, I just spoke with Bro. Carte, our missionary in Venezuela, about the Bible Institute. As I mentioned last issue, we plan to teach and assist with the three month training program in hopes that several Venezuelan men

can be equipped for church planting and other ministry needs. At present, the funds are not available for this endeavor, but we are trusting the Lord will provide. Will you make this an urgent matter of prayer?

The last six months have necessitated some very difficult decisions in The Voice in the Wilderness missionary ministry. Due to a drop in financial support, there have been several months where insufficient funds did not allow us to meet our projected faith giving goals. Letters have gone out to numerous missionaries explaining this situation. Several have graciously written back expressing their prayers and understanding. It is very encouraging and refreshing when those who are so dependant upon your contributions are at the same time so very understanding when difficulties arise. Missionary Dave Chapman wrote: "Thank you so very much for your faithful praying for us and your support on a monthly basis. We appreciate all the years you have been behind us and know you will continue.

"Do not worry about having to cut back. God will provide. He has promised. So you do as the Lord leads and He will go before you and us and give wisdom. Thanks so very much. Because He lives we can face tomorrow." What a joy to know some dedicated folks who are determined to serve the Lord regardless the circumstances.

Also, in the last few months The Voice in the Wilderness Board, Bro. Royce, and I had the unpleasant task of sending a letter of caution to one of our long time missionaries. About 6-8 months later, The Voice in the

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RELIGIOUS NEWS

AND COMMENTS

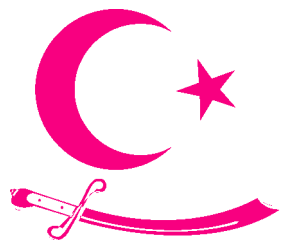
HALLOWEEN IS NOT A CHRISTIAN HOLIDAY –

Though many believe that its roots are planted in Christian history and tradition, this is erroneous. Halloween commemorates a pagan, that is, a Satanic festival occasion. In early Great Britain, the powerful druidic religious sect held a festival known as Samhain. This was held in honor of the Sun God, the universal deity among pagans and their Lord of the Dead, Samana. Samana was the ghostly skeletal figure, sickle in hand, that came to be known as the Grim Reaper. Samhain (or Halloween) was said to be the time when the dead were loosed from their realm to mingle with the living. It was a time in fact, when the two realms, spiritual and physical, were thought to merge and become as one. Halloween was thought to be the one time of the year when the veil between the dead and the living is lifted. The festival of Samhain, while being an ancient practice, is not confined to the centuries of the past.

In a book published in 1986, it is stated, “Another organization with a history of indoor gathering is the Church and School of Wicca. Since the late 1970s, they have held an annual Samhain Seminar, with worship, rituals and guest speakers. Approximately 40,000 students have taken some part of their course of study” (*Drawing Down the Moon*, Margot Adler, p.423). [I’m sure the number of students taking such courses has increased since the writing of this book]

Many children today look forward to Halloween with great anticipation. However, it is important

to know the historic background of holidays. Almost every major holiday has been tainted with some form of paganism, but there is none so deeply immersed in the occult, as is Halloween. Christian parents should consider the true meaning of this holiday. It is legitimate, scripturally, to ask whether or not Christians should participate at all in Halloween festivities and goings-on.



CIVIL RIGHTS A TOP PRIORITY FOR MUSLIMS THIS ELECTION –

Rachel Zoll of the AP wrote recently about the United States and its politics, elections, and campaign issues – one such being “civil rights,” particularly for Muslims. The article states “In 2000, many Muslims made their first unified endorsement in a presidential race, backing George W. Bush thinking he would take a harder line against Israel...and protect the rights of immigrants facing deportation. Muslims say they were disappointed on both counts. Now, feeling the additional sting of being scrutinized in the domestic hunt for terrorists, they are mobilizing to express their anger at the polls in 2004.

“National Muslim leaders announced plans to register 1 million Muslim voters and make civil rights a top issue in any endorsement of a presidential candidate.

“After the September 11, 2001,

attacks, Bush won points with American Muslims by visiting a mosque and declaring Islam a peaceful religion. But since then, the federal government has detained hundreds of immigrants, shut down U.S. Muslim charities suspected of terrorist ties, and gained broad new powers to monitor citizens under the USA Patriot Act. The Bush administration said these moves have been crucial for U.S. security. American Muslims say they are being scapegoated.”

The real peril for this nation comes not from beyond our borders. The enemy is within and our own government has permitted, encouraged, and subsidized a beachhead for invasion.

CHRISTIANITY FADES IN THE WEST –

In England, the percentage of citizens who are in church on a given Sunday is 27 percent. West Germany has a church-going rate of 14 percent. In Denmark and Norway, only 5 percent bother to attend church on Sunday mornings. In Sweden, Iceland, and Finland, only 4 percent go to church. Theological liberalism is at the core of this decline. 7/26 *World via Calvary Contender*

THE FIRST OPENLY GAY EPISCOPAL BISHOP ELECTED –

In August 2003 Gene Robinson became the first openly gay Episcopal Bishop elected. He is a divorced father of two and has been living with his male partner for over 13 years. The Episcopal Church has

(Continued on page 7)

2.3 million members. Leaders say while some are now breaking relations over this homosexual issue, more congregations and clergy would leave if they weren't tied to property and pension benefits, including medical insurance, they would lose. My question is, "Do we just throw out principle?" God has already spoken on this matter. The Episcopalians are not only guilty of compromise and violation of God's Word, but the waste of a lot of valuable time, money, and resources even bringing the matter to debate.

"IS WAR WITH IRAQ JUSTIFIED?"

– Pastor Vernon Long in his church newsletter quoted Dr. Woodrow Kroll from his article 'Is War with Iraq Justified?'

"Does going to war with Saddam Hussein fit the criteria of justice? The idea of a 'just war' is as old as warfare itself. The Bible even hints at ethical behavior in war and the concepts of fighting for a just cause, but the most systematic treatment of a just war in antiquity belongs to Thomas Aquinas. He outlined what is now considered to be 'just war' theory. He not only discussed justification for war but what activities were permissible in fighting a just war. From Thomas Aquinas and later writers, these principles have become accepted as 'the rules of engagement' for a war that is justified:

Principles of the Just War

§ A just war can only be waged as a last resort after reasonable attempts to bring justice have been exhausted.

§ A just war can only be waged by a legitimate authority. People, vigilantes, terrorists do not wage just wars; only a legitimate government is permitted to wage a war that can be considered justified.

§ A just war can only be fought to redress wrongs that have been committed. A first strike attack on a

nation that has committed no atrocities cannot be considered justice; that's aggression.

§ A just war can only be fought with 'right' intentions. War is not justified to gain control of another nation, it's assets or it's people. If the right intention for going to war is not present, justice is not present.

§ A just war can only be fought if there is a reasonable chance of success. Deaths and injury incurred in a hopeless cause are not morally justifiable.

§ A just war can only be fought if the ultimate goal is to re-establish peace. More specifically, war is not justified if the situation in a country cannot be reasonably expected to be better after the war than before.

§ A just war must never allow the force used to be disproportional to the need. Nations must be prohibited from using force not necessary to attain the limited objective of addressing the wrongs that have been committed.

§ A just war must employ weapons and tactics that discriminate between combatants and non-combatants. Innocent civilians are never permissible targets of war, and war can only be just if every effort is made to avoid civilian casualties.

When you look at these criteria, the United States seems to have a pretty strong case to stop the threat that Saddam Hussein poses to humanity, especially his own people. The US Government is a legitimate authority and does not bear the sword in vain (Rom 13:4). Besides, Psalm 81:4 commands us to "Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked." As long as the intention of war with Iraq is to redress wrongs and not to acquire the assets of the country, and as long as required inspection for banned weapons is repeatedly rebuffed, I believe war with Saddam Hussein is both legitimate and just.

"Hussein has shown himself to be

an evil dictator. He has consistently lied about his chemical and biological weapons program. He has been less than forthcoming when pressed by the UN weapons inspectors, both after the Persian Gulf War and in advance of this one. He has brutally murdered untold Iraqis who have dared to resist him. These facts are indisputable. Without question, he fits the description of those who are rightly condemned and against whom war is justifiably waged."

THE VATICAN, THE POPE, AND THE EURO

– The Vatican is the euro zone's smallest member state and issues its own euro coins bearing the head of Pope John Paul II. Coin collectors across the continent are feverishly anticipating that a new Pope means new Vatican euro coins, bearing the image of the new Pontiff, sending the value of John Paul II coins into orbit. Will the pope be credited with Europe's financial miracle, as well as the rest of the world as the euro surpasses the value of the U.S. dollar? - *Financial Mail on Sunday/Midnight Call 8/03*



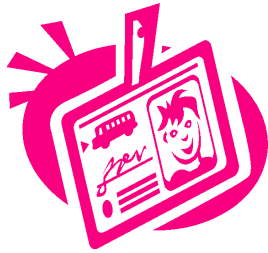
TEXTBOOKS SAY ADOLF HITLER WAS A "HERO"

– In India, a new textbook prepared for school children portrays Adolf Hitler as a "hero" and makes no mention of the German murder of six million Jews during the Holocaust, the *Press Trust of India* reports. The book is entitled *Contemporary India* and was approved for use in the nation's schools by the government's National Council for Educational Research and Training.

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NEWS BITS

FROM HERE AND THERE



IDENTITY THEFT – The fastest growing crime in America is “Identity Theft” with 750,000 people stung in 2001 costing financial institutions an estimated \$11.9 billion (some research shows even higher numbers). The basic homeowners policy does not cover “Identity Fraud Expense” but many companies are able to add it by endorsement for a specified amount, normally \$15,000 for expenses incurred by you as the direct result of any one identity fraud commenced during the policy period.

Covered expenses include costs for notarizing fraud affidavits or similar documents, certified mail, lost wages as a result of time taken off from work to meet with law officers or credit agencies, fees for loan applications, and reasonable attorney fees. *AAA Go Magazine 10/03*

MTV – THE SHOCK OF SIN DRIVES DEEPER – Advertising for this year’s MTV Video Awards was promoted as “What kind of shocking show opener would Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera, and Madonna give to kick off the 20th annual celebration? Typically, MTV’s award show takes a back seat

to wacky antics, barely there outfits, and eye-popping performances. So what was the “shock” this year? While Madonna sang her new song, “Hollywood” in an all-black outfit, she shared an open-mouthed kiss with both Aguilera and Spears – proving the former teen stars have come a long way since their Mouseketeer days. Why is the major news media so “shocked” at such depraved activity? After all, they have an agenda to promote such. The behavior of Madonna, Spears, and Aguilera is nothing short of predictable behavior when ones life is given over to sin. These three women, along with a multitude of others, have denuded themselves of all that is decent and good. Their performance on MTV is simply a further progression toward the ultimate destruction the Scriptures give as the consequence for sin.

OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AT WORK – To erase the Arkansas budget shortfall, an assemblyman wanted to use \$3,000 of state money to play other state’s lotteries – there isn’t one in Arkansas...The House in Maryland drew up a bill to make walking the official state exercise...The city council of Bend, Oregon, wanted to ban smelly people from local buses... The Pennsylvania House and Senate were locked in a fierce debate – over which should be the official state cookie, sugar or chocolate chip.

RUBBISH INDEED – *Readers Digest August 2003* reports on

America’s recycling program with the following: “When you pitch the daily news into the recycling bin, or cash in empties at the supermarket, you’re taking part in a booming industry – scrap exports....We shipped \$5.2 billion worth of scrap last year: \$1.2 billion of it to China, up from just \$194 million in 1997. Waste paper – not cars, cotton or semiconductors – is now the largest export from the port of Los Angeles....Some of our scrap has a round-trip ticket. We ship our old cardboard boxes to China, and then they ship us goods packed in boxes made from our boxes. What’s inside may also be made from your discards: car parts, tools, toys—even polyester clothes.” Here we go again, the continued selling out of America.

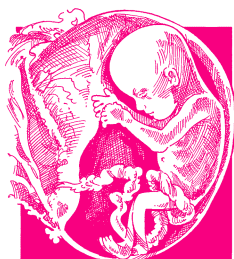
DIVORCE RATE SLOWING DOWN? - Marriage is the foundation of civil society. When the family falls apart, so does the nation and culture. It seems a strong effort to reinvent marriage is afoot. Countless times we read of those fighting to extend “marriage” sanctions to couples of the same sex, domestic partners, and those living together. Many Hollywood stars are choosing to live together and have children without getting married. *Calvary Contender 9/03*

SHOULD ENGLISH BE THE “FIRST LANGUAGE” FOR AMERICA’S SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS? - In Lawrence, Mass., Superintendent

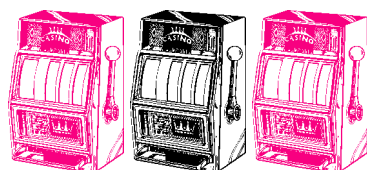
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Wilfredo T. Laboy points out that English isn't his first language and that is why he has flunked a routine literacy test three times. Laboy, who has suspended two-dozen teachers for failing basic English proficiency – is in jeopardy for the very same reasons. Massachusetts requires all educators to pass the standard exam, which measures such basic reading and writing skills as capitalization, vocabulary, and spelling. Mr. Laboy, a Puerto Rico native, who was eligible for a raise this past August that would bump his salary to \$156,560 still had four more opportunities to pass the test by the end of the year....On this same note, did you know that bilingual programs currently consume over \$28 billion education-dollars a year because 1 child in 20 now can't speak English adequately – even though bilingual education has been proven to be an ineffective way to teach English.



LANDMARK RULING RECOGNIZING UNBORN CHILD AS PERSON WITH RIGHTS - The Mississippi Supreme Court issued a decision that said a child who has developed so that he or she moves in the mother's womb is a legally defined person protected by Mississippi law.



GAMBLING – Bill Bennett, former secretary of education, and www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org

author of *Book of Virtues*, for years squandered time and millions of dollars in gambling. He now apologizes, says he is done with gambling, but says, "Gambling's not a sin in my church." Catholic Bingo often leads to a sinful gambling habit that equates to addiction....The Internet has hooked millions of teens to easily-accessible gambling, lottery tickets, sports-betting. Experts say those who start young are the most likely to develop addiction problems. A study shows that gamblers are more likely to drink, smoke, and do drugs. Over 80 percent of American adults gamble at least occasionally – a possible reason for a worrisome tolerance of youth gambling. *Calvary Contender 9/03*

LEGAL WATCH HERE AND THERE

– While Bill Clinton's lawyers were busy trying to stick the American taxpayer with the Clintons' \$3.5 million independent council tab, Clinton himself was overseas sealing a deal for a luxury holiday home at an exclusive Irish golf club. He paid approximately \$1 million for the suite, which has two bedrooms, one with an en-suite bathroom, a living/dining room, kitchen, and two bathrooms....Fidel Castro recently murdered three freedom seekers and severely wounded a 10-year-old boy as they attempted to flee the island prison by boat. In April, Castro executed by firing squad three innocent men who tried to flee Cuba on a ferry. Judicial Watch filed a lawsuit on behalf of the sister of one of the murdered men, Jorge Luis Isaac. Judicial Watch's Cuban clients met privately in the Oval Office with President Bush to discuss Castro's recent round of executions and persecution. In that meeting, a tearful Blanca Gonzalez,

(Continued on page 11)

QUESTION: One of the most common questions we hear is 'why is this world full of death and suffering?' What's the answer?

ANSWER: The Bible makes it clear that death is a consequence of sin. Because the first man, Adam, rebelled against his Creator, God judged sin with death. Right through the Bible you find that sin and death go hand in hand. That's why Jesus Christ suffered death on the Cross—this was the penalty for our sin. Because He was raised from the dead, those who trust in Him will live forever with Him in heaven—where there will be no more death! But sadly, people are being indoctrinated to believe in the evolutionary idea that time and death go together—not sin and death. They're being taught that death has always been here—that it's part of the process that enables life to evolve. They believe that death brought us into existence, and so death will end our existence. We must share the answers from the Bible—death is an intrusion, an enemy—and death does not end your existence. When you die, you will live forever—either in heaven or hell. *Answers in Genesis 7/03*



TEENAGERS!!!

Tired of being harassed by your parents?

ACT NOW!!

Move out, get a job, pay your own way
(While you still know everything...)

(Continued from page 9)

who's son was sentenced to 25 years in a Cuban jail cell, told President Bush that America must continue to lead the world in opposing inhumane treatment by tyrants such as Fidel Castro...In his latest book, *Off with Their Heads*, syndicated columnist and Fox News Channel political analyst Dick Morris points an accusing finger at the many ways the public has been lied to and misled, pick pocketed and endangered: "In hindsight, Clinton left us naked and unprepared for the perils of terrorism." *Judicial Watch, 501 School Street S.W., 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20024*

HAMAS – ANY SOLUTION?

– Israel is experienced in the Middle East and does not imagine that Hamas will now or ever stop killing people. Israel's Defense Minister said this is a fight to the bitter end. Hamas is in the business of killing people. It knows no other business. The Middle East has chewed up and spit out outsiders for generations. Prophetically, we know what the last chapter will be.

IRAQ IN PERSPECTIVE –

Iraq should be three nations right now, Sunni, Shi'ite, and Turks. Iraq has six neighbor nations with 2,000 miles of borders across which an assortment of guerillas, who do not like outsiders, can intrude and hit and run from Iran, Syria, and Saudi Arabia. It is frustrating for the Western intellect to encounter zealots who prefer war. These people do not cherish peace.

HOMELAND SECURITY –

Our homeland security is adding 5,000 more armed agents to commercial airline flights.



FLYING THE FRIENDLY SKIES –

Are you planning to fly in the near future? Possibly you are one of those frequent flyers. If so, you know a lot has transpired since 9/11/01 concerning the airline industry. Terrorism remains a major concern. "A wobbly world economy set off by the collapse of the stock market bubble, a war in Iraq then Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) – all combined to kick off the worst crisis in the history of commercial aviation, according to the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

"Today, security hassles are a fact of life, domestic food service is a joke, lineups are longer, flights are fewer and entire routes have been eliminated. Whole airlines have disappeared. Most of North America's major airlines are operating in the red. American Airlines, the world's largest airline, recently survived almost certain bankruptcy by eliminating \$4 billion annually in expenses although it is still foundering because of huge expenses. US Airways and United continue to fight for survival, cutting costs under Chapter 11 protection from creditors. In April, US Airways made \$1 billion in wage cuts, trimmed flight schedules and laid off 890 flight attendants. Delta lost \$466 million in the first quarter of this year. Flight attendants at United Airlines took a \$314 million per year wage cut over the next six years.

"US Airways was the first to end "transfers of nonrefundable tickets." Now if you miss a flight, unless you contact the airline by midnight of the day of your flight, you may forfeit the value of your ticket. Starting Jan. 1 this year most major U.S. airlines cut standby activity by charging from \$25 to \$100 just for the privilege of waiting for a standby seat.

"September 11, 2001, catapulted the major airlines into forming global partnerships of up to 15 airlines to fill each other's planes, sharing expenses rather than competing. In other words, on a flight from Seattle, passengers who booked with United might fly Lufthansa with fellow passengers who booked on SAS or Thai. The result is flights that are full, which means fewer choices with flight times, more competition for available seats, hard-to-obtain upgrades and more restricted air miles seats. Now just getting a decent seat can be difficult.

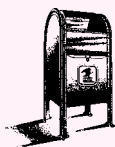
"Most airlines have reduced meal services. They're also cracking the whip on the size, number and weight of luggage. Over packers will find themselves slapped with heavy fees that could translate into hundreds of dollars." *Excerpts from Helena Zuykowski –AAA Go Magazine 10/03*



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!





FROM THE MAILBAG

FROM THE MAILBAG

Dear Bro. Ronnie:

I enjoy reading "The Voice in the Wilderness." I miss Bro. Royce but I'm glad God has someone appointed to carry on the great work for lost souls. Enclosed is a check to use for the mission work where needed most. Take courage and be faithful until Jesus comes.

Virginia

To Staff:

Your publication is one of the best out there for true Christians. You offer a variety of topics – the inspirational, the controversial, current events, and trends, prophetic, etc. Hope you continue to publish.

North Carolina

Bro. Ronnie:

I've "known" Bro. Royce for so many many years now. I don't mean to slight the great work you are doing there also! Glad to read about Bro. Royce doing well. At 83, I'm "crotchety" in many areas but remember "I cried because I had no shoes 'till I met a man who had no feet!"

Washington

Dear Ronnie:

This is perhaps the last letter from this feeble old almost 96-year-old man (September 7, 2003). I have

been a subscriber and supporter of your wonderful paper for about 25 years....I am very feeble and expect to go home to Jesus soon. I will be glad for a phone call or letter, or this letter printed in *The Voice in the Wilderness*. [Editors note: This dear soldier of the cross has indeed been a blessing and encouragement to me. He often writes and is always praising the Lord for His goodness to him. Bro. Hickman and his wife met at church in 1938 and were married in 1940. He writes that they have lovingly raised six children who are now serving the Lord. They have one son and five grandchildren and their spouses who are in fulltime ministry. What a joy it is to hear the testimony of such faithful people]

Lanham Hickman
Summerfield, FL
Used by permission

Bro. Ronnie & Sis. Terry:

Thank you for your encouraging note, and especially for praying for me. The summer has started off busy, but very good. I finished translating the lessons for VBS, and we started the first session today. Tomorrow, I will teach my first Bible lesson entirely in Romanian. I'm excited. Glad the Lord will be helping me. Certainly can't do it without Him. We are praying for 100 kids to be saved in the VBS sessions this

summer.

Bro. Ronnie, I thank you again for your part in my coming over here, that sermon you preached my senior year at SE college about being planning to go & willing to stay. So glad I'm here!

For His Glory,
Shanna Newman
Moldova

[Editors note: Here is some updated info on this missionary serving in Moldova. This past summer her apartment, as well as all contents were burned completely. Everything was lost. Also, Sarah Trent, a new teacher missionary, had just arrived in Moldova. Her belongings received quite a bit of smoke damage. We praise the Lord no one was injured, but there was extensive loss. Please pray that funds will be available to help these precious ladies replace their needed possessions.]

Dear Bro. Ronnie:

I am very impressed and thankful for the way you are working at The Voice in the Wilderness. Your articles are encouraging that you are holding forth true Bible doctrine and principles.

I feel you are truly God's man for the hour. God bless dear brother, Love and Prayers. P.S. I met Bro. Royce some 25-30 years ago now. I hope to meet you sometime in the near future.

Maryland

Special gifts recently received by The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc. Ministry.

Given by: Maxine H. Warren-Powers

Given by: M/M Stephen Foister

Given by: Nancy Nicklas

Given by: Mr. Roy Adrian

Given by: Maxine H. Warren-Powers

In Memory of: Wm. G. Powers, husband

In Memory of: Pastor Donald Newton

In Memory of: Rev. David Nicklas

In Memory of: Mrs. Vera (Roy) Adrian

In Honor of: Dr. J. Royce Thomason

We would like to express our thanks to those who have given a memorial gift to **The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc.** ministry. These names will be added to a plaque and displayed in our office. If you would like to give a special memorial gift or honor someone, please send your gift along with the person's name (legibly printed) you would like listed in an upcoming issue to:
The Voice in the Wilderness, PO Box 7037, Asheville, NC 28802.

(Continued from page 7)

The book reportedly defines Nazism as a “fusion of German nationalism and socialism” but makes not mention of the virulent anti-Semitism that was a key component of Hitler’s ideology.

Members of India’s Federal Parliament voiced outrage, with Congress Party member S. Jaipal Reddy saying the book was rewriting history and had committed a “paramount injustice” by praising Hitler. *The Jerusalem Post* 5/03. A country far away with no shared borders with Israel committing such “paramount injustice” confirms the Scripture that defines all nations outside Israel as united in their effort to oppose God’s land and people. *Midnight Call* 8/03

FORMER PRESIDENT GERALD FORD – Recently the former president announced that he is adding his name to the Honorary Committee of the Presidential Prayer Team. As a former Oval Office occupant, Ford says he knows first-hand the responsibilities and pressures of serving as the leader of the free world. When asked what he would ask God for on his 90th birthday (July 4th), Ford said he would wish for God to “protect President Bush and bless him with continued wisdom, strength and resolve to fulfill his noble mission.” Ford says he prays for President Bush daily, and in this he is joined by the more than three million members of the Presidential Prayer Team – Americans who are praying daily, not only for America’s president, but for the nation, its leaders, and its military as well. *AgapePress* 8/03

PROPOSED BILL MAY LIMIT CHRISTIAN FOSTER PARENTS – At the writing of this issue we have not heard the outcome of this bill. However, just the proposal for such a bill shows how we must stay abreast of issues that

could implement steps that would take away our religious freedoms. Read on: “The Pacific Justice Institute reports about a bill (AB 45*) in Sacramento, California, that would require foster parents to affirm homosexuality went to Governor Gray Davis’s desk to be signed into law. The law could actually require the state to discriminate against Christian foster parents who want to raise their foster children in accordance with their religious faith and convictions. It also makes no allowance for foster parents to arrange for a child to have counseling to constructively resolve issues of gender identity or orientation. Instead, if a child says that he thinks he is a homosexual, the foster parents would be required by this bill to outright affirm and support the child’s notions and behavior, no questions asked. In addition, to creating new rights for foster children who feel they may be homosexual, the legislation would also require special pro-homosexual sensitivity training for all foster parents.” Brad Dacus, President of the Pacific Justice Institute said, “We at the Pacific Justice Institute have pledged to represent any foster parents who are discriminated against because of their faith.” www.pacificjustice.org 8/03

THE WORLD SETS A STANDARD: NOW, WHAT ABOUT THE CHURCH? – School has begun in Greenville County, SC, and students are trying to follow the new dress codes. Each schools dress code is a bit different, but overall, this year male and female students are being forced to tuck in their shirts. One student interviewed said the dress codes at her school are in place to prevent sagging pants on boys and scantily clothed girls. “You can’t wear spaghetti straps, can’t wear halter tops, they have index cards and if the strap is shorter than the index card, then your shirt is

inappropriate because you’re showing too much skin.” Students who do not follow the dress code are sent to in-school suspension or sent home. Many of the young people at church youth group meetings could not pass this public school’s dress code. Recently, I’ve seen several reports where public schools have to take a stand concerning this out-of-control dress situation. Believe it or not, some public schools are now turning to uniforms for the student body. Yet, churches continue to cry, “legalism verses liberty,” and talk in terms of secondary and gray areas. Pastors even go so far as to teach there are no specific guidelines in the Bible for dress today. Christian parents, by in large, are a part of the problem. The sensual, ungodly dress by many young people in our churches is subsidized and condoned by those we consider upstanding church members. The church seems to keep pace with the world in areas of dress and music. Or maybe the church has now outdone the world. Isn’t it amazing when the unsaved seem to recognize the inherent problems, and against great opposition endeavor to at least put a band-aid on the situation.

Here are some **GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR BELIEVERS’ DRESS:**

- Let the **WORD**, not the world, determine the matter.
- There are four basic principles to follow, all seen in 1 Timothy 2:9,10. We are to follow all four, not just one. (a) Modesty – nakedness covered by clothes that are not: **TOO LOW** at the top, **TOO SHORT** at the bottom, **TOO TIGHT** or **TOO THIN**. (b) Propriety – “becoming” fit, appropriate, seemly. (c) Femininity (or Masculinity, if a man) – Some things are “becoming” to a man that are not to a woman. See Deut. 22:5 here. God made the sexes distinct. Our dress is to reveal that. Women’s britches? Men’s dresses? (d)

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

Identification – The sincere Christian must not dress in a manner in which anyone would be surprised to hear you say that you are a Christian. We should value our influence so much that we will not count proper dress a sacrifice. Fads and mod styles will not be our practice. This includes such things as hairstyles, too. When the world takes it over and uses it as a flag of rebellion, the person in union with Christ must avoid that thing. We are not in their army, don't fly their flag!

- Listen to and value even above your own opinion the teaching and convictions of other, older, and more learned and mature Christians, including those from the past. Today's generation is flying in the face of the great men and women of the past and their convictions. See Proverbs 11:14. There is such a thing as pastoral authority also. See Heb. 13:7, 17.

- Ladies, a godly man can help advise you. Men, a godly woman can help you. We know what appeals to the wrong kind of interest in the opposite sex.

- When there are problems, change the activity for the standard, not the standard for the activity!

- Above all, a believer must have a right attitude toward the whole issue of right and wrong to come out on the right side. We must be willing to do right, not just know it. We must have a heart for holiness. The timeless principles Paul laid down for the troubled Corinthian church must be followed. He cautioned them about demanding their own "rights" (1 Cor. 8:9; 9:12,18), urging them instead to be careful not to offend weak believers (8:10-12). In a verse that answers it all, he said, "Whether, therefore, ye eat or drink, or whatever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31).



(Continued from page 5)

Wilderness was forced to take action and disassociate with this missionary based on policy and scripture. This was a very difficult decision, however, some have not been interested in the facts and truth of the matter. Yet The Voice in the Wilderness is committed to doing what is right, and is convinced of God's leadership at this time. We do, however, praise the Lord and are thankful that these situations seldom occur; and as you have read the above letters from current missionaries on the field, many are joyfully serving Him faithfully. Please pray for us, as from time to time we must make some difficult choices. Thankfully, The Voice in the Wilderness is going forward for the cause of Christ, and

we give our Lord the Glory for providing the every need of this ministry.

America has a rich heritage. Along with our Lord's many blessings comes even greater accountability. The evangelistic and missionary zeal of our forefathers places before us not only the responsibility but also the privilege to carry the Gospel from this beachhead even unto the uttermost part of the earth. Your partnership with The Voice in the Wilderness enables us to do just that. Even in a small way there will be souls rejoicing throughout eternity as a result of your prayers and sacrifice. Thanks for standing with us.

-RLW



Nuggets of Gold

1. Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.
2. Life is like an onion: You peel off one layer at a time and sometimes you weep.
3. Life is 10% of what happens to you, and 90% of how you respond to it.
4. When we don't contribute or make an investment in a cause or project, we should honestly have neither say nor control in the matter.
5. In all church affairs, authority should be given to those who have committed themselves to the job both spiritually and financially.
6. Following the path of least resistance is what makes rivers and men crooked.
7. When it comes time to die...make sure all you have to do is die.
8. It is easier to point the finger than to offer a helping hand.
9. The only time some people dislike gossip is when gossip is about them.
10. You will never have a friend if you must have one without a fault.



(Continued from page 3)

occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decisions, raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen incidents, meetings and material assistance that no man would have dreamed would have gone his way.

"Whatever you can do or dream you can do, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it. Begin it now!"

We have reared a generation of young people that are not **committed**. Too often I've seen young men who drift aimlessly without any real goal in life. Even in our churches it is showing up in the dramatic increase of divorce. People simply are not committed to their Lord, to their vows, and to doing what is right even when it is difficult to do right.

Secondly, without the willingness to **pay the cost** there is fear of vision. It will **cost** you to do what is right. Obviously, when people are not committed they will not be willing to pay the price. Our Lord Jesus Christ is worthy of us stepping up and willing to sacrifice and pay the price to get the job done.

Thirdly, without **courage** there will be no vision. We must come boldly in our faith. I'll come back to this matter of courage in just a moment. However, there does exist a casual and passive attitude among us today. The devil's crowd is aggressive, and persistent in their agenda. The church of Jesus Christ should be contending for the faith – ever on the move, advancing for God's Glory. Never should we "hunker down" in the survival mode.

Finally, there is no room for **compromise**. From the life of Charles Spurgeon we have this illustration: "The choir is not narrow because it does not include those who can only make discords, nor is the sheepfold intolerant that refuses to include wolves, nor the medical society that excludes quacks, nor the church that does not invite the unregenerate to its membership.

"A classic on Christian separation is Charles Haddon Spurgeon's letter to

Mr. P. T. Barnum, then head of the Barnum Circus Association.

"Barnum had invited Spurgeon to come to America to speak in a large tent at his traveling circus. He made every concession to make the offer attractive to Spurgeon. Barnum would provide the musical talent, unless Spurgeon wished to provide his own. He would also provide any equipment or manpower Spurgeon desired to make the meeting a success. Spurgeon could speak as long or as short as he wished. There was only one basic stipulation: Barnum Circus Association would take the gate receipts and would pay Spurgeon \$1,000 per lecture.

"This was indeed a generous offer for Spurgeon's day, and any new evangelical would surely have exclaimed: "What a wonderful opportunity to reach people with the Gospel!"

"Not Charles Haddon Spurgeon. He knew how contrary to Scripture it would be and how it would debase the Gospel to join hands in this way with the world. His reply is a gem:

"Dear Mr. Barnum: Thank you for your kind invitation to lecture in your circus tents in America. You will find my answer in Acts 13:10. Very sincerely yours, Charles H. Spurgeon.

"No doubt Mr. Barnum looked it up. Here is what he read: "And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?"

If there are no prophets and preachers to expound and clearly delineate God's Word, there will be no vision. Yet, there will be consequences.

1. The people are made naked. This need not be. After the demoniac met Jesus in Mark 5, verse 15 says "He was sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind." Seeing Jesus will make the difference.

2. The people are ashamed. This need not be. Romans 10:11 says, "Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."

3. The people are made vulnerable. This need not be. The devil as a roaring lion seeks to devour, but

in 1 Peter 5:8 we are also told how to be victorious.

II. Fear with Vision

Gurnall said, "We fear men so much because we fear God so little." Ecclesiastes 12:13 says, "Fear God and keep his commandments." Without the fear of God, there will be:

- a. Doubt of divine purpose
- b. Doubt of divine power
- c. Doubt of divine provision
- d. Doubt of divine promise
- e. Doubt of divine providence

"The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong." Ecclesiastes 9:11

Duty is ours, events belong to God. "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me. We are more than conquerors through Christ."

"Where there is no vision, the people perish." But let's finish the rest of the verse. "He that keepeth the law, happy is he." When we fear God and keep His commandments:

- a. The people are made strong.
- b. The people are made successful.
- c. The people are made sure.

"God is our refuge and strength" Psalm 46:1. Read Joshua, chapter one. Note especially verse eight, do this and thou shalt have good success. "Blessed is that man that maketh the Lord his trust" Psalm 40:4. Psychologists tell us today man needs three things to make him happy:

- (1) Something to do.
- (2) Something to love.
- (3) Something to look forward to.

That's quite interesting. For the Christian, something to do is faith. Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is action. The Bible tells us that faith without works is dead. We have something to do that makes us happy in our dynamic faith in Jesus Christ. Then, we have something or I should say someone to love. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." And do I have a Hallelujah here? Do we ever have something to look forward to! He has gone to prepare a place for us. Heaven is sounding sweeter every day.

-RLW



(Continued from page 2)

The Voice in the Wilderness has supported numerous projects in India for many years. Over the last five years we have implemented procedures to lend accountability and stewardship among national workers. There are yet details to work out, and I pray my next trip to India will advance these efforts. **Folks, I need someone to help make this trip possible.** The Voice in the Wilderness does not presently have the income to support such a trip, but I feel I must go. **The only way will be if someone out there among our readers can help supply the finances. Accountability and expansion in India is contingent on this next trip.** Pray for wisdom and our Lord's provision in every way.

Then, we also have the opportunity to assist with training nationals in Venezuela. The Lord has opened doors of opportunity for The Voice in the Wilderness, and I pray we will not come up short. Obviously, missions, printing, preaching and teaching all require a partnership effort. From you to our office to the national, prayer and financial provision reflect our commitment as laborers together for Christ and souls.

You've heard the story about the little boy trying to pick out a puppy to take home from the pound. There they were. About a dozen puppies and the little boy wanted them all. But his Dad said, "Son, you can only choose one." The little boy finally selected one tiny, little mutt with a wagging tail in high gear! "Why did you choose this one," Dad asked? "Well, Dad, I want the one with a happy ending."

Folks, if we will choose to give and go with all our hearts, we are guaranteed a "happy ending." I have

read THE BOOK and the last chapter. Indeed it is more than a "happy ending," but rather a gloriously eternal beginning!

You've heard the story about the little boy trying to pick out a puppy to take home from the pound. There they were. About a dozen puppies and the little boy wanted them all. But his Dad said, "Son, you can only choose one." The little boy finally selected one tiny, little mutt with a wagging tail in high gear! "Why did you choose this one," Dad asked? "Well, Dad, I wanted the one with a happy ending."

The preacher announced one Sunday morning, "I've got good news and bad news." "The good news is, we have enough money for our missions projects. The bad news is, it's still in your pockets."

The preacher announced one Sunday morning, "I've got good news and bad news." "The good news is, we have enough money for our missions projects. The bad news is, it's still in your pockets."

The Bible contains more than five hundred references to prayer and almost five hundred references to faith, but there are more than two thousand references to money and possessions. Out of thirty-eight parables that Jesus told in the Gospels, sixteen deal with how we are to handle our money.

Jesus said more about money and possessions than about heaven and

hell combined. One out of every ten verses in the Gospels deal with money or possessions – 288 verses in the four Gospels. *The Voice in the Wilderness* is printed 12 times per year, and that is not frequent enough. Even if we mention the financial needs of our missionaries and ministry in each of those 12 issues, these worthy needs have not been enumerated enough. God has blessed us, we are His stewards, and repeatedly His Word says so. The faithful will sign off "with no regrets!"

My heart is deeply touched by the generous and sacrificial support you have so faithfully given. In no way do we want to risk wearying you with the constant talk of support. You have enabled The Voice in the Wilderness to extend help to some very special servants. God's provision through your open heart and open hand changes lives for eternity. For those who have given – THANK YOU! One additional step in your second mile walk would be to ask a friend of like faith and vision to read your copy of *The Voice in the Wilderness* and consider a partnership with this ministry. Do not, however, send us their address yourself. Ask them to read *The Voice in the Wilderness*; and if then they are interested, they can write us personally. To continue *The Voice in the Wilderness* printing and outreach ministry new subscribers/supporters must be enlisted. Can you help us with this urgent need?

Thanks for all you do for The Voice in the Wilderness and our sweet Savior.

For Christ and Souls,
Bro. Ronnie ☺ *Isa. 40:31*



Missions AND YOU!

- 🌐 If not you, who? – If not here, where? If not now, when?
- 🌐 Are you willing to go, but planning to stay – or planning to go, but willing to stay?
- 🌐 Why GO? Why not GO?
- 🌐 Your level of service will be determined by your degree of surrender!
- 🌐 As you GO, as you are GOING, GO preaching Jesus!
- 🌐 We have organized, glamorized, tour-ized, institutionalized, publicized, pasteurized and homogenized 'till we don't even recognize what MISSIONS is all about.
- 🌐 How are you obeying the Great Commission?
- 🌐 People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.
- 🌐 The mission field is the distance between yourself and a lost soul.
- 🌐 Missions – Blasting holes in the devil's darkness with the Glory of God.
- 🌐 Missionaries – Glory Restorers.
- 🌐 A.W. Tozer said, "Christians don't tell lies, they just go to church and sing about it: I Surrender All, Send the Light, Bring them In."



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

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

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