



CONTENDING FOR
FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIANITY

The Voice IN THE Wilderness

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

Mark 1:3



CONTENDING FOR
AMERICAN FREEDOM

July 2004



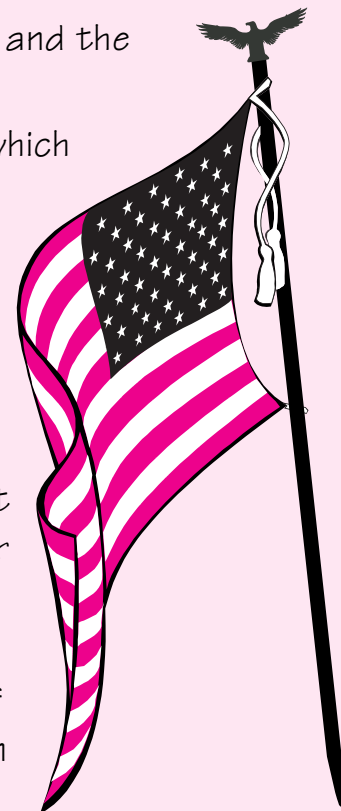
"It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible." - George Washington

"Here is a Book worth more than all the other books which were ever printed." - Patrick Henry

"No educated man can afford to be ignorant of the Bible." - Theodore Roosevelt

"I have read the Bible through many times, and now make it a practice to read it through once every year. It is a book of all others for lawyers, as well as divines; and I pity the man who cannot find in it a rich supply of thought and of rules for conduct. It fits a man for life—it prepares him for death." - Daniel Webster

"Pray over the Scripture, it is as the treading of grapes in the wines vat, the threshing of corn on the barn floor, the melting of gold from the ore." - C.H. Spurgeon



"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." - Jesus Christ

As The Declaration of Independence was being signed, Samuel Adams stated,

"We have this day restored the Sovereign to Whom all men ought to be obedient. He reigns in heaven and from the rising to the setting of the sun, let His Kingdom come"



MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends:

This issue of *The Voice in the Wilderness* poses a special, yet pleasant challenge. Because this is the July edition it is typically filled with history of America, accounts of the founders and patriotic stories. But having just returned from Venezuela, I am compelled to divide between the two.

In four months, American voters will go to the voting polls in this country. Please pray and get involved! Opportunities abound for each child of God to let his or her testimony ring clear. It is such occasions when Biblical truth and principle can be set forth as the final authority for decision-making. Issues come to the forefront. There is a right and a wrong. But why and how does one know? Are decisions based on polls, popular opinion or political parties and personality?

This is the opportunity to stress what

the Bible has to say and emphasize that Christians have an absolute authority for faith and practice in every arena of life. Am I talking about mixing politics and religion? I am talking about Jesus. Seizing precious opportunity to open the Book and present the person that can change lives and countries. Not politics and religion, but the person and relationship that brings lasting, eternal change.

Yes, America has problems. It is not abortion, perversion, economics or terrorism. The problem is *SIN*! The solution is found in the person, power and precious blood of Jesus Christ. Let us pray, let us vote, and let us witness to the only hope of America and the world – JESUS!

What a privilege it was to teach and preach in Barquisimeto and Sabana de Para, Venezuela, for six days in two different churches. The students in the

Bible Institutes were such a joy and blessing to our hearts. Pray for our brothers and sisters in Venezuela. They are committed servants of the Lord. Many are coming to know Christ and are being trained in the work of the ministry.

Thank you to those who have supported the efforts in Venezuela. Please note the missions' report elsewhere in this edition.

Today, as I write for this edition, it is May 26, 2004. The Daylilies have begun to flower and rhododendron is in bloom. Summer is here and often it is difficult to maintain the same level of missions giving during June, July and August. On behalf of all our missionaries, thanks to all who so faithfully give to make this work possible. Your prayers and generous gifts are deeply appreciated.

Pray for Terry and I as we travel and work here in the office. Bro. Royce reports that he is doing quite well and even made it to the services in New Mexico again this year. Thank you for holding us all up before the Lord. Your friendship is so very precious.

Thank God for you, good friend of mine,
Seldom is friendship such as thine;
How very much I wish to be
As helpful as you've been to me.

Some day I hope with you to stand
Before the throne at God's right hand,

(Continued on page 12)

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 TREASURE OF AMERICA IS IN YOUR HEART

During the pioneer days in America, an old man found his way into a western settlement. He was very poor and desperately looking for food. As he walked through the town, someone stopped to talk with him and noticed a pouch around his neck. Explaining that it was given to him many years before, the old man opened the pouch, removed an old crumpled paper, and handed it to the inquirer. Upon closer examination, the inquirer discovered that the paper was a regular discharge from the federal army. Signed by General George Washington himself, the discharge entitled the man to a lifetime pension. Can you imagine how surprised this old soldier was to find out that he had been carrying around a promise that his needs

would be met, but because he had never claimed it, he had spent years in wandering and hunger! -Copied

On October 19, 1781 at Yorktown, the British army commander Cornwallis surrendered to General George Washington. It was decisive – Freedom was born, and the American dream was underway. A dream dedicated to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

From the very beginning, our nation has had a unique spiritual dimension – firm in the doctrine of separation of church and state, at the same time recognizing the value of our religious institutions... thereby creating the climate and conditions in which those institutions could flourish.

From the days of the colonial clergy and early circuit riders to the present time, there is an unbroken line of preachers and religious leaders who have ministered to the spiritual needs of the nation and the world. Christian beliefs are evident all about us.

Before me, I have a one-dollar bill – which acknowledges “In God We Trust!” It’s not our great riches, nor our military power for defense to which we trust. It’s not the U.S. economy or strength of the dollar.

Between the Atlantic and the Pacific lies a magnificently varied land: rugged mountains, rolling plains, arid deserts, endless forests, mighty rivers and placid lakes. Our forefathers—rugged pioneers—carved out our liberty in the grandeur

of this wilderness. They have, bequeathed to us the responsibility for this great land. Patriots—we should “Praise God for our great land.”

America needs a patriotic people. America needs a people willing to recognize God as the one from who all blessings flow.

*He promises to hear, He
promises to heal and He
promises to forgive!*

*In allegiance to His name all
idols we will break,*

*When we spread abroad His
fame, our nation may awake.
America we need to bow before
God seeking His will and way.*

Are we going to respond?

*“...I will yet plead with you,
said the Lord, and with your
children’s children will I
plead....”*

The treasure of America is in your heart. Where you are—be what you can be. Be what you should be. Allow good and right to reside in your heart. Do good where you can and whenever you can.

The Psalmist wrote: “The righteous God tests the hearts and minds.” “In God We Trust.” Fill your heart and mind with the good and right. Reach higher, still higher above the base, sensual, carnal wallow of the world. Be not a worldling, but a child of the King. Let this royal reside in your heart. This is what America needs.



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NEWS BITS

FROM HERE AND THERE

IT'S OFFICIAL – "LEFT WING?"

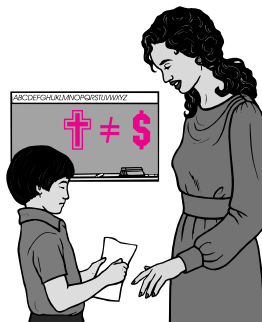
- George Washington University in Washington, D.C., held its annual commencement exercises May 16 on the Ellipse behind the White House. After all the degrees had been awarded, several students prematurely shouted and threw their mortarboards into the air. But the, according to graduate student Timothy Shaw and his family, university president Stephen Joel Trachtenberg said, "For those of you who still have your caps, you may move your tassels from right to left, just like I hope you have moved your politics in the time you've been here." There seemed to be no levity in his tone or demeanor, Shaw told *Human Events* 5/24/04. "Those were basically the last words spoken at the graduation."

WORLDVIEW – WHO DO YOU LISTEN TO?

- You would have thought that the discovery of an actual weapon of mass destruction in Iraq would be big news, especially since it was aimed at American soldiers. The Iraqi Survey Group, which is tasked with searching for Saddam's WMD, confirmed an artillery round containing weaponized sarin nerve gas was detonated in an improvised explosive device (IED) aimed at U.S. troops recently. Thankfully, the IED didn't kill anyone, and the sarin components dispersed without causing real harm because the 155-mm shell had not

been used as an artillery round, as intended. Instead, the device detonated in an IED, and most of the three to four liters of sarin were not activated. [Most newspapers carried the story buried deep within its paper, if at all. We all need to think beyond what the media puts before us. We need to have a Biblical Worldview not a Secular Worldview] *Human Events* 5/04. It seems even our President guards reading and listening to media reports as he commented in a recent interview. President Bush comments, "I don't watch the nightly newscasts on TV, nor do I watch the endless hours of people giving their opinion about things [...] I don't read the editorial pages; I don't read the columnists," In fact, Mr. Bush said he barely "skims" four newspapers delivered daily to the Oval Office: "*The New York Times, The Washington Times, The Washington Post and USA Today.*"

The Washington Times 5/2004



PUBLIC EDUCATION COSTS – In a recent study, the United States average cost per student in public school education

was \$7,524. It is amazing what Christian schools are able to do without government (tax payer) money and for 1/2 to even 1/3 the cost per student. Also there are a number of Christian Colleges that charge tuition, room and board all for the total of what it costs the "per student" amount in the public schools.



GOVERNOR: ATHEISTS NOT WELCOME

- Gov. Bill Owens and Mayor Lionel Rivera declined to extend an official welcome to the Atheist Alliance for its national convention. Rivera said he thinks the group's request for a letter of welcome was the only one he had turned down in his 11 months in office.

"I'm disappointed that the state of Colorado has this kind of leadership that is looking to exclude people," said a member of Freethinkers of Colorado Springs.

Rivera said he refused to offer a letter of welcome in part because the group scheduled its convention during Easter. *ACT* 2/04

KIDS ON DRUGS – Thanks to the rapid rise in prescriptions for costly behavioral drugs, Americans spent more last year on medications like Ritalin than on any other kind of

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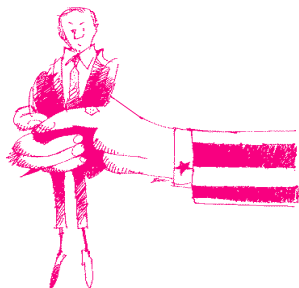
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medicine for kids, according to a new study by Medco Health Solution. Spending on medications to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, depression, and other behavioral conditions went up by 77 percent between 2000 and 2003 among the 300,000 children studied. *U.S. News & World Report*, 5/31/2004

BRITNEY "WANNA BE'S" –

"Young people are 'sexualized at an earlier and earlier age,' said Susan N. Wilson, director of the Network for Family Life Education at Rutgers University. "Stars like Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera have long been criticized for exploiting their sexuality for profit. The next generation can already be seen emulating its older sisters – literally." Britney's sister, 13-year old Jamie, attended Nickelodeon's Kids' Choice Awards in a form fitting top, miniskirt and heavy makeup....

"I think [young people's] need for answers is more intense these days given what's happening in the media and the Internet," Miss Wilson said. "We use sex to sell everything in this country. Kids must be very perplexed." *Fox News* 4/04



ARE YOUR TAXES PAID? –

Australian economist Wolfgang Kasper has figured out the day on which the average citizen has earned money enough to pay his taxes, so that he can then begin earning money

for himself instead of for the government. For Singapore, that date is March 31, for the United States April 21, for Germany July 1 and for Sweden August 5."

WHO CANNOT BE A BLOOD DONOR? –

Sometime ago, the editor of *World Magazine* went to the Red Cross where he regularly gives blood. But this time seemed to be a little different. It seems Mr. Belz had time to notice a few signs and brochures during his visit and relates the following story:

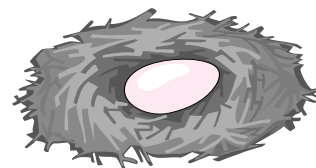
"Walk into the lobby, and you're handed the book, a bulky three-ring binder you're asked to read through to see if you qualify. The book gives you half a dozen opportunities to disqualify yourself before anyone sees the first drop of your blood.... Next stop.... is 'the clipboard' in the next room. Here, you're asked to check off more than 50 separate fine print questions... Here's the point that leaped off "the clipboard" with startling clarity: Under the heading, 'Who can not be a blood donor,' was disqualification No. 7: 'If you are a male, [and have] had sex even once with another male since 1977....' In other words, no honest practicing male homosexual can be part of the blood-donor system in our culture. Granted, 'the clipboard' also makes it clear that others may not give blood.... But not a single one of those conditions involves a conscious lifestyle choice like that exercised by homosexuals." [Comment: I wonder if the Red Cross will be considered prejudice or intolerant of lifestyle choices that people make? Or is it that they are saying that the homosexual lifestyle is an unnatural and unhealthy way to live? Of course, God says it is SIN.]

PLAYBOY CULTURE TREATS WOMEN AS SEX OBJECTS, PREGNANCY AS A DISEASE, ABORTION AS THE CURE –

Statistics indicate the total cultural victory of pornography in America today. Hollywood releases 400 films each year, while the pornography industry releases 700 movies *each month!* Porn is, as a minimum, a \$10 billion a year business. And online sex addiction is no longer just a male problem. Nearly one in three adult Web visitors is a woman. *Calvary Contender* 1/2004

POLITICALLY CORRECT "PHOBIA" –

A former city planner has been canned from his new job in New Orleans before he even started. The City Planning Commission voted to rescind its job offer, because he offended some commission employees when he used the phrase "tar baby" at his first meeting with staff. In describing his eagerness to plunge into his new job, he told the commission's staff that he wanted to "grab the tar baby by the ears and jump right in." *ACT* 4/04



ABORTION OF CHILD OK, BUT BETTER NOT DESTROY AN EAGLE EGG –

It's legal to kill a human baby by a horrendous procedure. Yet in California it's illegal to destroy an eagle egg, and there's a large fine. We hear no debate about at what stage the eaglet becomes an eagle or has "meaningful life." You break an eagle egg; you kill an eagle. It's all so simple. *Calvary Contender* 4/04

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RELIGIOUS NEWS

AND COMMENTS

CHURCHES SHIFT TO CONTEMPORARY

—According to a newly released study, more churches incorporate non-traditional music, diverse styles of worship, and modern technologies into their worship experience. This report shows a big increase in contemporary worship styles in America's Protestant churches over the last five years. While 44 percent reported no significant change, 15 percent said their churches had moved in much more contemporary direction, while another 36 percent said their worship had become a little more contemporary. Only 5 percent said their worship had become more traditional during the time period. Contemporary worship outpaced traditional by eleven to one. Larger churches and churches led by younger ministers were most likely to have shifted toward more contemporary, and Pentecostal churches were over twice as likely to move that way. A big change found was in the use of electronic media—computer graphics, music videos, movies, drama, etc. Praise and worship choruses during worship rose from 38 percent in 1999 to 74 percent today. The use of Christian rock, pop, or country music in worship rose from 9 percent five years ago to 25 percent today. Ninety-five percent of churches pass an offering basket or plate; 88 percent sing traditional hymns; 89 percent celebrate communion; 85 percent use

a printed bulletin or order of service; and 78 percent use hymnals at least once a month. Today the average minister preaches for about 31 minutes. *Agape Press via Calvary Contender 4/2004*



THE AMERICAN MEGACHURCH

—After a rousing live performance of “Jesus is better than Life,” broadcast over three Jumbotrons in the Compaq Center, Victoria Osteen steps to the podium in front of 16,000 cheering Sunday worshipers and proclaims: “We’re going to rock today. This place has been rocked a lot of times, but it’s never been rocked for Jesus.”

The Compaq Center took on a new role as city leaders officially turned the keys over to Lakewood church—the largest congregation in the United States, with more than 25,000 attendants each weekend,

according to Church Growth Today.

Gone are traditional religious dogma, rituals, and symbols, replaced by uplifting songs and sermons. Congregants are taught that-through God-they are victors, not victims. The messages are encouraging and easy to swallow, and no one is called a sinner. It’s “Jesus meets the power of positive thinking.” “There’s none of that old-time religion; none of that hell-and-damnation, fire-and-brimstone preaching. The message tends to be more upbeat, one of empowerment. And it seems to be working. These churches are packed,” says Alan Wolfe, director of the Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life at Boston College.

In 1970, there were 10 megachurches nationwide (defined as non-Catholic churches with at least 2,000 weekly attendants). Today there are 740, according to Church Growth Today, a Bolivar, Mo., organization. *The Christian Science Monitor 12/03 [Excerpts from “The rise of the American megachurch” by Kris Axtman] via The Berean Call.*

WORLD HAS CONVERTED THE CHURCH

—Through “contemporary Christian music” and “contemporary worship,” the church has been converted to the “religion” of the world! Some of the largest presumably evangelical churches

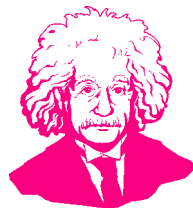
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have designed their Sunday morning services based upon what the ungodly want. Missing are the fear of a holy God's wrath against sin... Seeker-friendly churches must not "offend" with the Truth, but pamper with the flattering "gospel of self-esteem, self-love, and positive thinking—a "gospel" that cannot save. As Paul foretold, 'they will not endure sound doctrine...' (2 Tim. 4:3). Creating large, rich churches is not new.... The Roman Catholic Church—the world's largest and wealthiest—grew out of a marriage between the Roman world and the church, making "Christianity" the state religion. Historian Will Durant explains: "...the world converted Christianity.... [Paganism] passed like maternal blood into the new religion, and captive Rome captured her conqueror..." *Dave Hunt, The Berean Call 2/04 via Calvary Contender*

SEEKER FRIENDLY CHURCHES – This is now all the rage, church services geared to getting in the unsaved. Church is made to order for the ungodly. The churches must be easy-going and entertaining. There is no fear of God; neither is their judgment, sin, repentance or hell! The people they are trying to win will not come and listen to those things. However, one researcher said that in reality, only 10%-15% of the attendees are from among the unchurched. Most of their "converts" are siphoned off from smaller churches, being drawn by the carnal attractions. A recent visitor at one such church spoke of swans gliding across a mirror lake and an extensive eating area supplied by five vendors, where one can watch the

service on a giant screen while enjoying a meal.... Most, if not all, of the churches sponsoring this sort of thing have rock bands, short sermons filled with jokes or amusing stories, a come as you are philosophy, etc. It is religion designed to please the carnal nature of the unsaved. They are getting people in, but they are not bringing people to a true knowledge of Jesus Christ. How can you do that without preaching on sin, hell and repentance? God's message never has been popular – just read the Bible. About one hundred and twenty-five years ago Spurgeon spoke of a similar trend: "The tendency of the time is toward bigness, parade, and show of power... men are getting tired of the divine plan; they are going to be saved by the priest... by the music... by the theatricals.".... *Christian News 5/2004* [Just a thought—Many churches now employ "worship leaders." Musicians, singers and such are the leaders of "worship." Is that Bible? Oh..., what ever happened to the biblical office of PASTOR? – It must have been lost in the *translation(s)* somewhere.]



EINSTEIN CALLED CHRISTIANS "MANIACS" - The renowned scientist Albert Einstein, who died in 1955, considered Bible-believing Christians "maniacs." This was revealed in the diary of Johanna Fantova, who was known as Einstein's "last girlfriend." The diary was discovered in February at Princeton University's Firestone

Library. Fantova revealed that Einstein spent his last years telling jokes to his parrot and avoiding visitors by feigning illness ("Diary by Einstein's confidante," AP, April 25). The diary also describes how some Christians wrote to Einstein in an attempt to convert him, but he complained, "All the maniacs in the world write to me." Well does the bible say, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." (Prov. 1:7) *David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Info. Service 4/04*

COMMISSION WOULD ADD TO LIST OF NATIONS THAT VIOLATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM – A watchdog organization on religious liberties recommended that six nations be added to a State Department list of the world's worst violators of religious freedom. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom recommended that Eritrea, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan and Vietnam be added to the State Department list. The commission, the world's only government-sanctioned organization that investigates and reports on religious freedom, was formed by Congress in 1998 and bases its assessments on provisions of international human rights law. Their recommendation on Saudi Arabia echoes last year's, when it named Saudi Arabia, a U.S. ally, and the world's worst violator of religious freedom. However, Sec. Colin Powell has not added it to the State Department's CPC (Countries of Particular Concern) list. It could not

(Continued on page 14)



Bro. Carte writes below.

MISSIONARY TIM CARTE

VENEZUELA, SOUTH AMERICA

"training the national, winning the lost, planting churches, publishing literature"



Dear Pastor and Church:

These last two weeks of April have been exceedingly busy. Evangelist Ronnie Williamson and Pastor Randy Bray from the Temple Baptist Church in Asheville taught during the ninth week of the training center. I interpreted over twenty-five hours of classes, taught a Bible Study Method Class and a Mission Class, held two children's rallies, preached four sermons, helped move the church to a new meeting place, and hung over fifteen light fixtures. Six people prayed to receive Christ during these two weeks.

We praise the Lord for the eight students in the Pioneer Baptist Church that have completed ten weeks of Bible, Theology and Christian Leadership courses. All the material could not be given but will be covered in the following weeks as they continue studying. The Lord used the classes of each pastor and teacher in a powerful way. Please continue to pray for the Pioneer Baptist Church as they grow and reproduce themselves.

Moving the church to a new location is a great blessing. Forty percent inflation makes it difficult for the church to pay its own way, but now things are leveling out and moving to the new location is helping. Please continue to pray that peace will be kept in Venezuela. The opposition plans to correct over one million signatures at the end of May. If these signatures are corrected the country will then be on track again to have elections to recall the president.

Please pray for the salvation of the parents of the Bible Club children. Several parents have trusted Christ as Saviour but others are not receptive. One club has over fifty children present every Saturday. Many of these children have received Christ and are faithfully attending the church. We are working to reach their parents so that they can be baptized.

Thank you for your help and prayers.
 Laboring in His Harvest,
 Missionary Tim Carte Acts 20:24

REPORT FROM VENEZUELA

Two years ago Terry and I led a Missions Team to Venezuela for nine days of ministry. Praise the Lord, 96 adults and young people prayed to repent of sin and trust Christ as Saviour. When I returned and gave a report to The Voice in the Wilderness Board, one of our members asked if all of those people were truly saved, and how were we going to follow-up on those decisions? Well, the Lord knew, and thank God for Missionary Ramos who not only followed-up but has established a new church with those very converts! Hallelujah! Now, we are thanking the Lord a local church in North Carolina is underwriting this new church with monthly support. So it's on to the next step in the Lord's plan. From Sabana de Para, to Yarataqua, and then on to San Felipe to start another church. If there should be a pastor and congregation here in the states that would accept the vision and burden to establish a sister church in San Felipe, Venezuela, please contact me as soon as possible. Now is the time and day of salvation.



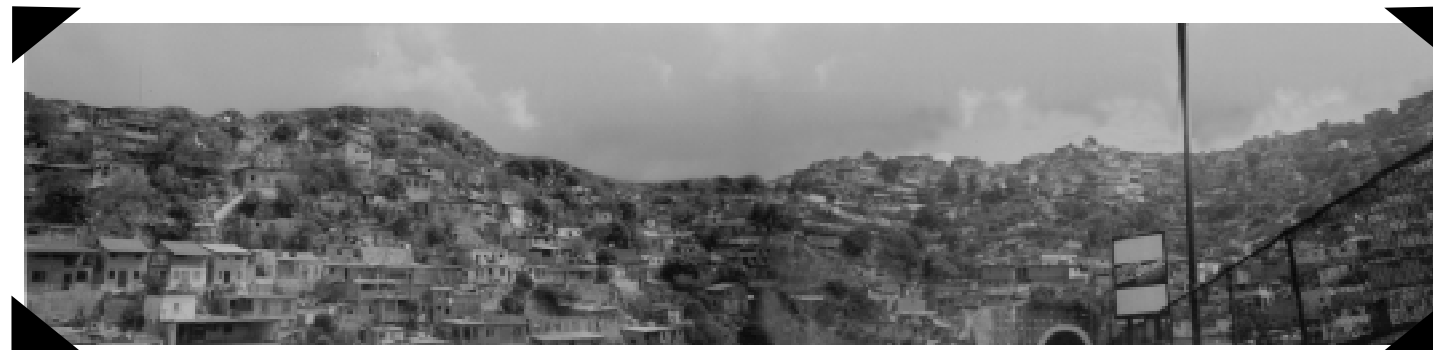
Bro. Williamson and Bro. Carte teach at the Bible Institute in Barquisimeto. Missionary Tim Carte answered The Lord's call to Venezuela several years ago. Pioneer Baptist church is now touching many lives for time and eternity.



Bro. Carlos Ramos and Bro. Estelvio Garcia send greetings to all our partners in Missions Venezuela. These godly, dedicated men are winning souls and planting solid Bible believing churches. What a joy for Bro. Williamson to preach and teach the wonderful believers these men pastor. God's hand is indeed upon this work.

Praise the Lord for the brothers and sisters in Barquisimeto who have given many hours to the study of God's Word in order to be better equipped for ministry. These precious folk rearranged work schedules, family plans, etc., and gave four hours and more each day for intense study and training. Thank the Lord for their vision and sacrifice. Please pray for their labours.

Would you consider a special gift to help with the monthly expenses for the building they rent? The economy along with politics is difficult in Venezuela, and this young church is struggling to keep a good location in the city for their congregation. Pray for the church finances as well as the personal needs of each member. They are experiencing difficult times and need our support.



From Caracas to Barquisimeto and across Venezuela, millions are waiting to hear a clear presentation of the Gospel. Thank the Lord many dedicated brothers and sisters are presently doing just that. The inspired Word of God is being faithfully preached, souls are coming to Christ, and churches are being planted founded upon the uncompromised truth of Jesus Christ. It is a privilege for The Voice in the Wilderness to be a small part of this great mission.



Bro. Carlos Ramos (pictured here on the right back row) stands with the Bible Institute students in Sabana de Para. This is a dedicated group of young people who exhibited a wonderful desire to know God's Word and will. Bro. Nathan Arce (Left, back row) translated for us and did an amazing job. Bro. Arce's parents and family are faithfully involved in church planting throughout Venezuela. In a land of political unrest, a sensual culture coupled with religious oppression, the Lord has raised up committed men and women to reach this country for Christ. What a blessing to be a small part of what the Lord is doing in Venezuela!



REPORT FROM VENEZUELA

(Left) Bro. Andy translates for Pastor Bray. The Lord provided dedicated men to assist with translation for preaching and teaching. Brothers Carte and Arce also did an excellent job! Preachers who have used translators know how critical these assistants are to conveying the message and burden to the hearer. We are thankful for those who poured their heart into the meetings. Everybody's voice held up throughout the many demanding hours!

(Right) Jesus loves the little children. The market place is busy early in the morning with shoppers and children. Venezuela's population is young and desperately needs the Gospel message. These young people received a tract telling them about God's love and got to meet the "gringos" from the United States. Two years ago Terry and I led a team of workers on a mission to Venezuela. Many trusted Christ as Saviour during the nine days of preaching, soul-winning, open air and church meetings. Resulting was a new church established in one of the towns where we ministered. The open door was the youth. They came by the hundreds to the parks and many were saved. Bro. Ramos followed up with teaching and discipleship and has now established a new church from these converts. The harvest field is white in Venezuela. The Lord is doing a mighty work in this land filled with so many precious young souls.

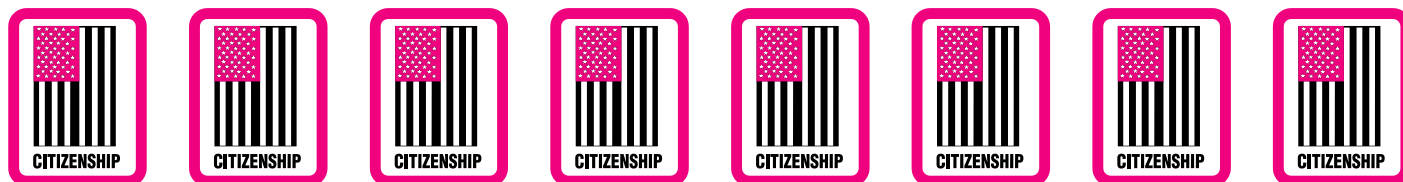


Thank you Pastor Bray and Missionary Carte for making this wonderful opportunity of ministry in Venezuela a success. Also, pray for Brother and Sister Carte. They experienced a miscarriage with their first child. Often we forget the personal trials our missionaries face along with the spiritual challenges on the field. We love you Bro. Tim and Sister Laura. May our Lord's best be yours.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR VENEZUELA

1. Churches in Barquisimeto
2. Church in Sabana de Para
3. Church in Yarataqua
4. Funds and workers to start church in San Felipe
5. Missionaries and families – Carte, García, Ramos
6. Students studying in the Bible Institutes
7. Additional financial support needed for Venezuela Missions
8. Safety and good health for our brothers and sisters
9. The political and economic needs in Venezuela

FLAG ETIQUETTE



"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, UNDER GOD, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

FLAG DISPLAY DAYS

News Year's Day	January 1 st
Inauguration Day	January 20 th
Lincoln's Birthday	February 12 th
Washington's Birthday Observed (President's Day)	3rd Monday in February
RESURRECTION SUNDAY	Date Observed
Mother's Day	2nd Sunday in May
Peace Officers	
Memorial Day (half-staff until sunset)	May 15 th
Armed Forces Day	3rd Saturday in May
Memorial Day (half-staff until noon)	last Monday in May
Flag Day	June 14 th
Independence Day	July 4 th
National Korean War	
Armistice Day (half-staff until sunset)	July 27 th
Labor Day	1st Monday in September
Patriot Day (half-staff until sunset)	September 11 th
POW/MIA Recognition Day	3rd Friday in September
Constitution Day (Citizenship Day)	September 17 th
Columbus Day	2nd Monday in October
Navy Day	October 27 th
Veterans Day	November 11 th
Thanksgiving Day	4th Thursday in November
National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (half-staff until sunset)	December 7 th
Christmas Day	December 25 th
...and such other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States; the birthdays of states (date of admission); and on state holidays. The flag is never flown in inclement weather except when using an all-weather flag. The flag can be flown every day from sunrise to sunset and at night if illuminated properly.	



(Continued from page 2)

And say to you at journey's end,
Praise God, you've been to me a
friend.

Author Unknown

For Christ and Souls,
Bro. Ronnie
Isa. 40:31 "Happy Trails"

(P.S. By the time you receive this edition, we will have celebrated, Lord willing, the marriage of our daughter, Rebekah, to Steve, July 3, 2004. We count it a great joy to add our new son-in-law to the family, and are excited about God using them as they serve as full-time Christian School teachers and workers in a local church.)

VA. BAPTISM BAN

The Rev. Todd Pyle thought it was the perfect spot to baptize 12 new members of his church. The river was calm and shallow, and there was a shaded area offshore for people to stand.

"It was a very serene place," he said. "It was special."

But officials at the Falmouth Waterfront Park, a public park just outside Fredericksburg, weren't pleased. They tried to break up the ceremony, claiming it might be offensive to nearby swimmers or other people using the park. Pyle was able to finish the baptism, but then he was asked to leave.

The incident has outraged free-speech advocates.

"These people are being discriminated against because of the content of their speech," said the Rev. Patrick Mahoney, who heads the Christian Defense Coalition. "It's one of the most egregious violations of the First Amendment I have ever seen."

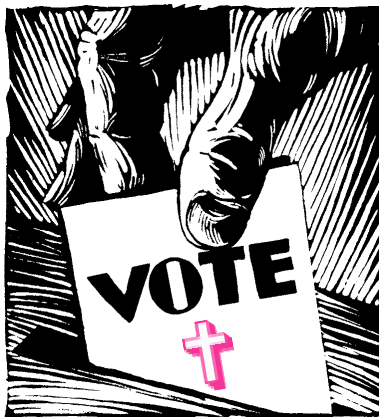
-AP



TEN KEY FINDINGS OF NEW POLL ON EVANGELICALS

The source for the following poll was Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research

1. Attend religious services more than once a week: 35%
2. Believe Bible is actual Word of God: 66%
3. Believe evangelicals are part of mainstream U.S. society: 75%
4. Believe evangelicals have to fight for voices to be heard by American mainstream: 75%
5. Think only born-again Christians go to heaven: 48%
6. Read religious books, newspapers or magazines weekly: .. 58%
7. Watch or listen to religious broadcasting weekly: 57%
8. Believe it is important to spread their faith: 90%
9. Believe only hope for salvation is through personal faith in Jesus Christ: 84%
10. Oppose gay marriage: 83%



VOTING WITH A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

1. Should the Bible-believing Christian vote for a political program or an individual law that contradicts the fundamental teaching of God's Word?
 2. Should the Bible-believing Christian vote for candidates who propose to advance programs and laws contradictory to God's Word?
 3. Should the Bible-believing Christian vote for a candidate that supports, abortion, euthanasia, fetal stem cell research, human cloning, and homosexual "marriage"?
- May we all pray, think, and search for a Biblical world-view on issues and then GO and exercise our RIGHT TO VOTE!!!!

How YOU can make a Difference

1. **Pray** – Pray for our country and elected officials.
2. **Witness** – Get involved in your local church and outreach to personally share the Gospel with the lost in your community.
3. **Fly your Flags** – Purchase a Christian Flag and the American Flag to display at your residence and business.
4. **Vote** – Go to the polls and let your voice be heard.
5. **Volunteer** – Look for opportunities to get involved on the local, state, and national level.
6. **Write** – Send letters, emails, editorials, to express your biblical position on the issues. Always be kind in this effort.
7. **Support** – Your police, fire, ambulance, and military personnel need your support.





FROM THE MAILBAG

[The following letter comes from a subscriber in appreciation for the ministry of *The Voice in the Wilderness*.]

I am writing to tell you how much I enjoy your wonderful magazine and how it strengthens and blesses me. Thank you so very much for sending it to me. It is like a cold, refreshing drink of water in a dry and weary land. It refreshes my soul not only to read your publication but to know faithful men are still serving our Lord and His cause in this evil and doomed world. God bless all of you who partake in this ministry.

I am unable to give very much to your efforts, but God has blessed me with my daily needs and a bit more. So I am privileged and glad to send this small gift of ten dollars. It is only a pittance, I know, but perhaps it will be of some help.

I want you to know that I read every word of your magazine as soon as I receive it and after reading it several times, I copy out things, which are of help to me. Then, I pass it on to others as a witnessing [tool].

I was very impressed by the fact that you said that you read every letter that comes into your office. Also that your wife (Sister Terry) is your only assistant in this effort to read and answer these letters. That is very important to me to know that my letter counts, as I am sure it is to many other burdened souls. There are many out here who get discouraged and downhearted as we battle daily to be Christ's witnesses. It means so much to know that someone cares.

I want to thank you again and ask the Lord to bless and prosper you in all you do for His sake.

*Yours in Christ,
Subscriber, North Carolina*

www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org

[Many of our long-time subscribers/supporters know that we support a missionary in Syria. We never give out the name or specific location for his protection]

Dear Bro. Williamson: Thank you for your letter May 12, 2004. Thank you for sending "The Voice in the Wilderness" magazine – precious to my mind and soul. The Lord will never forsake your efforts of His ministries. We want revival before His coming!

I'm pleased and comfortable that our president, J.R. Thomason, who is Emeritus now, recovered from stroke now and preaching. The Lord recovered me also from stroke since three years ago; my wife and me can serve the Lord by many ways in our oldness. We have some health issues. My wife yesterday 5/24 had an operation for her right eye for cataracts. Praise God, was good operation.

Now I change of subject as you name it in last of "My Personal Message." I'm praying always for America this time more than any past time. I'm so zealous for America since my youth knowing that God established America. I'm praying to deliver U.S.A. from any harm. His hand builded America in history and will never harm what He did, although needing revival at now!

Your publication regularly received. God bless all. Thanks

*Missionary, Syria
P.S. Sorry of weak English*

[We thank the Lord for the gift of conscientious supporters. Many give sacrificially. Here is a good example of those who have a heart for this ministry.]

Dear Brother Williamson:

Enclosed please find our church check #xxx which represents our church budgeted gift for the year. We are still short of the amount it costs for us to receive..... copies each month, sent by priority mail, but we are heading toward the right direction in having doubled the amount of the gift this year! Maybe next year the pastor and congregation will see the need for further increase. One of the members reads "on-line" which helps in giving out the copies. Some read and return for others to share.

Last Sunday, when I gave out the copies, I gave one to an India national missionary who has been a great blessing to us in our church.... I also gave a copy to... .. who was visiting in our church the same morning. He told our pastor "The Voice in the Wilderness" impressed him, so you may also hear from him. I hope so.

Thank you for the blessings the paper is to us as we read each month. I'll also enclose a personal check for my own support... .. Subscriber, Bible Baptist Church, MN

During a 12-month period over 200,000 copies of this printed missionary are sent subscription free to believers, pastors, and missionaries worldwide. In addition, approximately 20,000 letters and correspondence are mailed from our office. Along with the support you give for Gospel work around the globe, and our preaching ministry, this partnership is proof that "little is much when God is in it."

Thanks to all who partner with us particularly during these summer months.

Yes, I want to help you continue publishing *The Voice in the Wilderness* newsletter. Enclosed is my gift of: \$ _____.

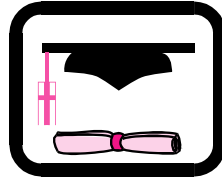
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be determined when or whether the State Department would change the list. *The Washington Times* 5/2004

PERSECUTION GROWING: FAITH THRIVING –

“The lists of suffering reads like Hebrews 11:32-39,” writes Ken Walker for the Baptist Press news service. “Churches seized, people dragged from meetings and beaten to death, seeing their homes destroyed, or being arrested for carrying Bibles.” Among recent reports are: The slaughtered 10,000 Christians in Indonesia over the past five years along with 1,000 churches destroyed and 80,000 Christian homes destroyed; Murder of Christian leaders by Vietnamese authorities, who are stepping up their campaign against minority Christians. Three Hmong Christians were beaten to death, including the 10-year-old child of a church leader; A campaign in Communist China where a Chinese house church leader died while in Chinese police custody after her arrest; A campaign against church leaders who dare to denounce drug warlords in Colombia, South America. *Christian Crusade Newspaper* 3/2004 Also *VOM* reports the following: “There has been a new crackdown on unregistered churches that were built before the Chinese Christian Manifesto of 1950. Many of these church buildings have been historic landmarks in their communities. Dozens of churches have already been leveled. Some believe the number is quickly growing into the hundreds. Believers who have attempted to peacefully protest the destruction have been dragged off. Some have been severely beaten.

Please pray for our Chinese brothers and sisters who are facing these assaults. Even a 70-year old church (founded through the efforts of Hudson Taylor) has been leveled by a large bulldozer.”



COLLEGE STUDENTS LOSING FAITH –

Currently, the most prevalent worldviews in American society are Secular Humanism, Cosmic Humanism (New Age) and Marxism. It is well documented that a significant number of university and college professors are secular, and many are also Marxists. This, in turn, is a primary reason that some 75-80% of Christian youth turn from their Christian faith by the second year of college. *Christian News* 4/2004

LUTHERAN SEMINARY IN S.C. TO TRAIN BAPTISTS –

According to *The Charlotte Observer* March 2004, a Lutheran seminary in Columbia has announced plans for a training program for Baptist students in South Carolina. The program will offer instruction to Baptist seminary students and provide continuing education opportunities for lay leaders and church staff members at Baptist churches. Virginia Barfield, a former professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, has been named director of the program. [There's a lot of dangerous courting and crossing of lines. It appears that doctrinal differences no longer matter. Anything goes in the name of marketing, education, money, growth and the appearance of success. Even

in some of the better Christian Colleges and Institutions the ability to “sing” and “look good” seems of more value than a good testimony and character. Beware!]



LUTHERAN FASHIONS ECUMENICAL ROSARY –

When Dennis Di Mauro's Catholic wife first introduced him to the rosary about seven years ago, he was suspicious. After all, he is Lutheran, and good Lutherans don't pray the rosary. But after experiencing the rosary through a prayer Catholic group, he began fingering the beads and repeating the prayers focusing his mind, and meditating on Jesus' life and death. But Mary's intercessions through the rosary troubled him. He wondered if there was a way to reconfigure the rosary but not “butcher it,” in hopes that Protestants and Catholics might find unity in something that has often been divisive. “I don't want to put down the (original) rosary,” he insists. “I just want to introduce it to new people. It's really not about my aversion to the original rosary.”

So instead of 10 sets of “Hail, Mary, full of grace... pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death,” He prays, “Oh my Lord, I know that you are always with me; help me to obey your commandments and lead me to share my faith with others, so that they may know you and love you.”

Much of the traditional rosary remains intact with the same beads and some of the same meditative

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mysteries. What's missing are the most overt references to Mary, whose prominence in Catholic theology has been a stumbling block for many Protestants for 500 years.

Martin Luther, who launched the 16th century Reformation, had a mixed view of Mary. Scholars say he held her in high regard as a model of faith, and even believed in her perpetual virginity, but rejected her role as a mediator or intercessor between God and man. Even though tradition says he was buried with a rosary, and his symbol features a prominent rose – synonymous with the Virgin Mary – Luther deplored the church's promise of rewards in the hereafter for performing devotions like the rosary.

One professor of Reformation history says, "The way Luther has been interpreted doesn't do justice to how positive he looked on Mary." "But it's safe to say that he would not have approved any kind of prayer to Mary with the hope that Mary would help us. Christ would help us."

So far the reaction has been mostly positive to the Ecumenical Rosary. Conference calls to host group rosary prayers have included Catholics, and "no one has come to me and said, 'Boy, this is heresy,'" says Di Mauro. His website now gets 250 hits a day and he has mailed out 2,500 how-to brochures to Bible study groups, prison ministries and interfaith groups. Di Mauro is not alone in his rediscovery of beaded prayer. Growing numbers of Protestants are employing prayer beads and repetitive prayer as a way to merge physical sensation with spiritual transcendence. *Christian News* 4/2004 [Here we go through this ecumenical "fog" again.]



(Continued from page 5)

THE ILLEGAL ALIEN

"MAZE" – The House on May 18 overwhelmingly rejected a bill to require hospitals to identify illegal aliens before the federal government would reimburse the hospitals for their care. It was a severe defeat for immigration-control advocates, with just 86 Republicans and two Democrats voting for the measure and 331 members voting against it, including the House Republican and Democratic leadership. Rep. Dan Rohrabacher, sponsor of the bill, said the government has an obligation to U.S. citizens and legal residents before taking care of illegal aliens. "If we let this go through as it stands, what is going to happen is this: people who come to the emergency rooms who are American citizens or legal residents who have no insurance will be put at the end of the line, and the illegal immigrants will be put to the front of the line because the federal government is picking up the tab," Rohrabacher said. The proposal also would have required businesses that employed uninsured illegal aliens to cover their treatment costs, and would have told hospitals to send non-emergency patients to their home nation for treatment.

Most medical, hospitals and business groups that weighed in on the bill opposed it. They said it would turn hospital workers into immigration police, and said it could become a public health crisis by encouraging illegal aliens not to seek medical attention. "Let us not jeopardize our entire public health system in this misguided attempt to bring down health care costs and deport undocumented workers," said

Rep. Sanchez.

Mr. Rohrabacher's bill was considered on the House floor under special rules that require a two-thirds vote to pass, but it fell far short. "The thought behind it is correct, but the particular approach in the bill was not the best way to go about it," said Stuart Roy, a spokesman for Majority Leader Tom DeLay. Mr. DeLay voted against the measure. *The Washington Times* 5/04



Nuggets of Gold

1. A man's country is not just a certain area of land. It is a principle; patriotism is loyalty to that principle.
2. It's not a bad idea for a politician to remember that no newspaper can mis-quote silence.
3. A small town newspaper advertised, "Read your Bible to know what people ought to do. Read this paper to know what they actually do."
4. Today's kids call it "finding themselves." In the "good old days" it was called loafing.
5. Between tomorrow's dream and yesterday's regret is today's opportunity.
6. Some folks are very punctual in always being late.
7. We are sorely in need of a voting machine with a space for "Remarks."
8. Now we know why they call "politics" the most promising of all careers.
9. Soft soap in the pulpit will not cleanse the sinners in the pew.
10. Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there.



AREN'T AMERICAN "CHURCH FOLK" A PECULIARLY FUNNY BUNCH?

Funny how a ten-dollar bill looks big when you take it to church, but so small when you take it to a store.

Funny how big an hour serving God looks and how small sixty minutes are when spent playing golf, fishing or talking on the phone.

Funny how long a couple of hours are spent at church but how short they are when watching a movie.

Funny how we get thrilled when a football game goes into overtime; but we complain when worship service is longer than the regular time.

Funny how laborious it is to read a chapter in the Bible and how easy it is to read the newspaper or a best selling novel.

Funny how we believe what newspapers say but question what the Bible says.

Funny how people scramble to get a front seat to any game, but scramble to get a back seat to church service.

Funny how we brave any weather to get out to eat or to a mall, but stay home from church if it is a little rainy.

Funny how we need two or three weeks to fit a church event into our schedule, but can adjust it for a social event at a moments notice.

Funny how we can't think of any thing to say when we pray, but don't have any difficulty thinking of things to say to a "friend."

Funny how we are quick to take direction from a total stranger when we are lost, but are hesitant to take God's direction in order to be found.

Funny how people are so consumed with what others think about them rather than what God thinks about them.

Funny how so many churchgoers sing "Standing On The Promises" but all they do is sit on the premises.

Funny how everyone wants to get to heaven, provided they don't have to believe, or to think, or to say, or to do anything.

-Author Unknown

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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John Doe

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