



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

June 2005

DEAR DAD!



Dear Dad what you taught
I remember still
But more than taught
I caught the spirit of your will.



I heard you say,
"Don't do this or that,"
But better yet, was pickin' it up
And wearing your hat.



It's not just "Do as I say,"
But "Do as I do"
For in your step
Then the way I knew.



So often you would say
I'm not tellin' you again
With that stern lookin' brow
But quickly followed with a grin.



And so Dear Dad
I watched you each day
Learning more from example
Than from what you had to say.



-RLW



MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends,

What I am about to share will require deep commitment by faith of many who believe in our Lord's working through The Voice in the Wilderness. Wisdom, strength, and courage to seize the precious opportunities before us is an urgent prayer request. I earnestly pray you will join us as together we embrace this vision. There are the critics and detractors – even skeptics will cast their stones. But we must not get stuck in their rut nor be side-tracked with things other than God's will. So hang on to your hats and here we go.

Hudson Taylor said, "God's work done God's way will never lack God's supply." The Lord has truly been faithful as we have seen new churches started, missionaries take the gospel to their appointment and this little publication continue its trek around the world. Now, I am so pleased to introduce to you the "Aquila/Priscilla Ministry". Lord

willing, very soon a young couple will join Terry and me as missionaries for The Voice in the Wilderness. From the outset, they will learn the daily office responsibilities and administrative side. Travel to local churches and Christian schools sharing The Voice in the Wilderness missionary vision will be scheduled. Pray with us that some new churches will catch this vision and take this couple on in monthly support. We certainly need to encourage their dedication to our Lord and a servant's heart to serve Him, by supplying their needs for expenses and funds to set aside for their missions work. Just contact our office, if you would like to be a part. We presently have two countries we are considering for their future work. The "Aquila/Priscilla" ministry will focus on "Teaching the Teacher." Classes in local churches, Bible Institutes, and orphanages will be set up to train lay and full-time workers in leadership, discipleship training, Sunday school teaching

and other areas. Also where needed, English as a second language, will be taught. This is a many faceted opportunity, and my, what a joy to see the potential!

Pray, pray, pray – that's our request. It is humbling to be used of our sweet Lord, and yes, at times overwhelming. The body and mind does get tired, but thank God daily the "renewing like the eagle." Your faithfulness and HIS provision keep us pressing "toward the mark." This is God's calling for us and must be with the immensity of the task. There are needs all around us and the hour is urgent. As HE brings us to mind, please pray! Then, as the Lord has provided, please support this ministry financially. In advance, may I say THANK YOU for your faithfulness and willingness to be a blessing. Amen!

With each and every opportunity the Lord gives, the old Devil rears his

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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, supporting American missionaries and native pastors by partnering with the local church in various areas of ministry and preaching Christ to the lost. We are supported by the gifts of those who care. 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 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: The Voice in the Wilderness, PO Box 7037, Asheville, NC 28802.

IS GOD'S WORK IN YOUR WILL?

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

Thank you!

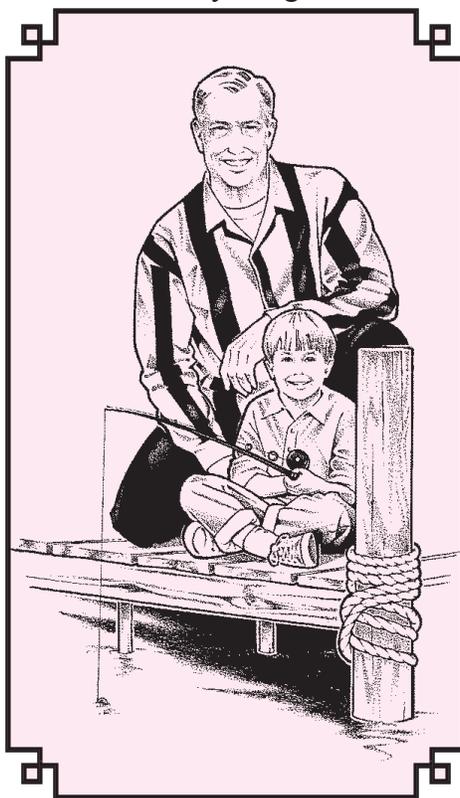
FATHERS

Though Father's Day was not set aside for special recognition until 1910, from ancient times, people have paid respect to father in some fascinating ways. The ancient Egyptians believed that disrespect to a father was one of the seven most deadly sins.

The Ancient Greeks honored their fathers by always serving the head of the house first at mealtime. Dad was given the choicest morsels at the dinner table, and a libation was poured to honor all the fathers of the tribe living and dead.

Some of the fathers of Ancient Greece sat down to meals in their own special throne-like chairs. At banquets it was considered respectful for sons to anoint their fathers with oils and perfumes.

Julius Caesar was the first man to be called "Father of his country." But there have been many others since his day. In our own dear America our youngsters know



as a tribute to her father, who had devotedly raised his family of six children after the death of his wife. She asked that all who had a living father wear a red rose. Those whose fathers had passed on were to wear a white rose. Although ever since then Father's Day was celebrated in many states, it was not until 1936 that the third Sunday in June was officially designated as Father's Day.

Someone has said the following about fathers –

A father is a thing that is forced to endure childbirth without an anesthetic.

A father is a thing that growls when it feels good... and always laughs very loud when it's scared half to death.

A father is sometimes accused of giving too much time to his business when the little ones are growing up.

That's partly fear, too!

Fathers are much more easily frightened than mothers.

A father never feels entirely worthy of the worship in his child's eyes.

He's never quite the hero his daughter thinks... never quite the man his son believes him to be. This worries him, sometimes.

So he works too hard to try to smooth the rough places in the road for those of his own who will follow

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George Washington by the same title, "Father of his country." Along with Washington we have had the Pilgrim Fathers, Puritan Fathers, and the Founding Fathers who framed the Constitution. For more than a century the senior member of the House of Representatives was called "Father of the House."

The originator of this special day was Mrs. John Bruce Dodd. Dodd planned Father's Day in 1910

(Continued from page 3)

him.

A father is a thing that gets very angry when the first school grades aren't as good as he thinks they should be.

He scolds his son—though he knows it's the teacher's fault.

A father is a thing that goes away to war, sometimes.

He learns the ruggedness of a soldier's life and would run the other way except that the war is a part of his only important job in life, which is making the world better for his child than it has been for him.

Fathers grow old faster than other people.

Because they, in other wars, have to stand at the train station and wave goodbye to the uniform that climbs aboard...

And while mothers can cry where it shows... fathers have to stand there and beam outside... and die inside.

Fathers are men who give daughters away to other men who aren't nearly good enough... so they can have grandchildren that are smarter than anyone else's.

Fathers fight dragons... almost daily.

They hurry away from the breakfast table off to the arena which is sometimes called an office, or a workshop. There, with calloused, practiced hands they tackle the dragon with three heads; Weariness, Work and Monotony.

And they never quite win the fight but they never give up.

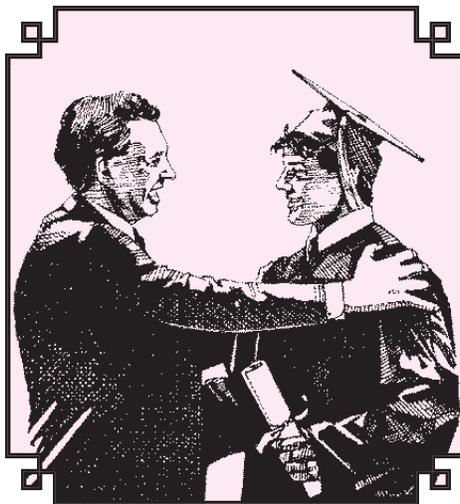
Knights in shining armor... fathers in shiny trousers, there's little difference as they march away to each workday.

I don't know all that good fathers do when they go to the life beyond, but I've got an idea that after a good

rest, he won't be happy unless there's work to do.

He won't just sit on a cloud and wait for the girl he's loved and the kids she bore. He'll be busy there too.

The Bible is clear in the fact that a man who does not provide for his family is worse than an infidel, and my hat is off to any father who works hard and long to make an honest living. However, that is not the most important thing in life. Fathers, don't let your "business" cause you to lose your children. So often we hear



someone say, "If I had it all to do over again, I would spend more time with my kids." I have heard others say, "My children used to want to talk with me, but I was too busy to listen. Now I want to listen, but they are too busy to talk to me." If you do not take the time to get acquainted with your children today, tomorrow they will be strangers to you.

Fathers, you have a tremendous privilege to build for eternity. Your houses will some day crumble. Your stocks and bonds will become useless one day. Your cars and boats will become outdated, but that child's immortal soul lives on.

Dad, I hope you are a praying father. If you are not, you are failing

in one of the most important fields. Effective prayer can never be that which is read from some prayer book. It can never be that which has been committed to memory and then said over and over. However, may I give you here a model prayer that will just about cover every aspect of your duty as a father? From it you can enlarge your sincere prayer to God.

"I have a boy to bring up. Help me, Lord, to perform my task with wisdom and kindness and good cheer. Help me to see him clearly, as he is. Let not my pride in him hide his faults. Let not my fear for him magnify my doubts. Quicken my judgment, so that I will know how to train him to think, and to be in all things, pure and simple.

"Give me great patience and long memory. Let me remember the hard places of my own youth, that I may help when I see him struggling, as I struggled. Let me remember the things that made me glad, lest I forget that the child's laughter is the light of life.

"Teach me the love that knows no weakness, tolerates no selfishness. Keep me from weakening my son through granting him pleasures that end in sickness of soul. Grant that I may love my son wisely. I have a boy to bring up. Teach me to give him the valued and beauty, just rewards of industry. Help me send him into the world with a mission of service. Strengthen my mind, that I may teach him that he is his brother's keeper, and to serve those who know not the need of service, and not knowing, need it the most. I have a boy to bring up. So guide and direct me that I may do this service to the glory of God... and to my son's happiness. Amen."

-Excerpts of VNW article 6/2001



The Voice IN THE Wilderness**BE A MISSIONARY PARTNER**

Among pastors, brothers/sisters in Christ, family and friend, you can be a *Missionary Partner* with *The Voice in the Wilderness*. This little printed witness has been a voice of encouragement and edification to countless readers for over 50 years now. With subscribers in all 50 states and many other countries, it is a privilege to be used of the Lord to minister with this unique tool. Thousands each month receive *The Voice in the Wilderness* paper in their homes and churches. This printed missionary is the life-line of our world evangelistic efforts through pastors, missionaries and their local churches.

Some have already enrolled as a *Missionary Partner*. Presently we are in need of more partners with a vision to reach others around the world. Would you help us? We need you to share your copy of *The Voice in the Wilderness* with a pastor, brother/sister in Christ, family member or friend of like-faith and vision for reaching the lost. You can help by supporting *The Voice in the Wilderness* financially and enlisting new supporters as well as praying for *The Voice in the Wilderness* Ministries.

STEPS TO BEING A MISSIONARY PARTNER FOR THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

- Share your copy of "The Voice in the Wilderness" with your pastor.
- Share your copy of "The Voice in the Wilderness" with a brother/sister in Christ of like-faith and vision for the Lord's work.
- Share your copy of "The Voice in the Wilderness" with a Christian family member.
- Share your copy of "The Voice in the Wilderness" with a business person who may be looking for missionaries to support.
- Schedule a Missions prayer breakfast in your area. Contact *The Voice in the Wilderness* office in Asheville, NC for additional information.
- Support financially as the Lord has prospered you.
- Support *The Voice in the Wilderness* outreach ministries through your daily intercession.

Thank you for committing to be a *Missionary Partner* with *The Voice in the Wilderness* Ministry.

NOTE: Please have all new subscribers for *The Voice in the Wilderness* paper to write to our office personally with their name and address information. We are happy to enroll all that are interested, but desire to not impose on those that have no interest even though you may like for them to receive the paper. All correspondence should be sent to: *The Voice in the Wilderness*, PO BOX 7037, Asheville, NC 28802. Or if you prefer, you may phone our office at 828-649-1043.

THESE ARE CRITICAL DAYS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

- Days of Discernment – "...of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do;" I Chronicles 12:32; Heb 5:14. Are we discerning of the issues of our day?
- Days of Discrimination – "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" Isaiah 5:20. Is discrimination wrong or should God's people be discriminating people – discriminating between good and evil, dark and light, bitter and sweet.
- Days of Declaration – "...declare His righteousness... declare, I say, at this time His righteousness: that He might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Romans 3:25-26. It is time for God's people to take a stand, speak up and declare His righteousness. He is not the "buddy upstairs." God is Holy and righteous!

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES Meeting February 15-22, 2005 Reported by Dr. Ralph G. Colas

Extending the proverbial "olive branch" to Evangelicals, Pentecostals, Charismatics and Roman Catholics, recently-elected General Secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC), the Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia declared, "Our table is big enough for all of us." But the discerning person understands that the WCC will not only be the host but also decide on what the menu must be.

In a private interview Dr. Kobia underlined, "The World Council is doing everything in its power to establish and maintain a very positive relationship with Evangelicals, Pentecostals, Charismatics and, of course, the Roman Catholic Church."

As proof, Kobia referred to the work of the Global Christian Forum where WCC leaders along with Evangelicals and others spend several days in discussion to find a new ecumenical engagement. At least one of the Forum meetings was held on the campus of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA.

In addition to the Global Christian Forum, it was announced that a major

conference on World Mission and Evangelism is scheduled for May 9-16, 2005, in Athens, Greece. More than 500 representatives from all continents and all major churches and denominations will be in attendance. The Roman Catholic Church as well as Pentecostals and Evangelicals are invited.

At a press conference where this meeting in Greece was promoted, Dr. George Nathan Nalunnakel, an Orthodox theologian from India and a member of the WCC's Commission on World Mission and Evangelism, gave additional details. He emphasized that while Evangelicals and Pentecostals are invited, only those who are "sympathetic to the WCC and none can be militants" will be there. He related that there will be 40 Roman Catholics and at least 50 Evangelicals in attendance.

This conference is very important because it will be held in a venue where the Orthodox Church is prominent and even because of the very title (World Mission and Evangelism) chosen. The subject of proselytism comes to the forefront often at WCC meetings. This is mainly because many Orthodox Church bodies strongly resent missionaries or evangelists coming to their area. One leader declared,

"They come to our land and not only seek to win our members to Christ, but they then urge our members to leave Orthodox churches."

Dr. Kobia explained that the only requirement for church groups seeking membership in the WCC is baptism. He added, "When you are baptized then you are a Christian." He completely ignored the need of being born again by receiving Jesus Christ as personal Savior—it was baptism that made one a Christian!

...The WCC now has 347 denominations in its membership... for the WCC's Ninth Assembly, which will be held in Porto Alegre, Brazil, February 14-22, 2006.

This will be the first Assembly to take place in Latin America. It is intended to be the platform which the ecumenical journey of the WCC, Evangelical, Pentecostal and Roman Catholic churches will take to bring about new heights of cooperation....

During this meeting, the Central Committee sent a special greeting to the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) as it will celebrate its centennial world congress July 27-31, 2005, in Birmingham, England. Rev. Ruth Anne Bottoms, a Baptist minister who moderates the Council of the

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Baptist Union of Great Britain, told the Central Committee that the president of the BWA is a friend and strong supporter of the WCC....

The WCC has now begun settling issues not by a majority vote, but rather by “consensus.” To understand this, one needs to review what transpired in Harare, Zimbabwe, Africa in 1998 at the WCC’s Eighth Assembly. The relations between the Orthodox and Protestants had reached a boiling point. At least two Orthodox church bodies withdrew from WCC membership and others threaten to do the same.

The Orthodox were outnumbered and their concerns, such as women preaching at WCC functions, were ignored for the most part. Since the balance was about 75% Protestant and 25% Orthodox when business was presented which was opposed by the Orthodox, the majority would determine the outcome. Now all of this is different since the WCC has changed to a procedure of consensus decision making....

For more than forty years the WCC has dealt with the issue of sexual orientation. The Gay and Lesbian Caucus had numerous meetings that came to a crisis in Harare back in 1998. As the WCC looks toward the Ninth Assembly in 2006, they have agreed not to issue statement of condemnation, but to “celebrate the gift of life and human bodies instead of a narrow focus on guidelines.” ...The leaders of the WCC evade the issue of homosexuality by providing space for everyone.

The former General Secretary of the WCC, Dr. Konrad Raiser, when challenged by a member of the press in Harare regarding the Bible’s condemnation of homosexuality, declared, “The World Council of

Churches has no authority to agree or disagree with the Bible!” Thus much time is spent by the WCC condemning the abuse of women around the world, but not once will they acknowledge the terrible abuse and murder of the unborn—because they defend abortion instead of condemning it. Their conclusion on the subject of human sexuality is in real life experience rather than sacred traditional theology.” By so doing, they continue to exalt human experience above the Scriptures.

The final policy statement adopted in Geneva dealt with the war in Iraq. It said in part, “We firmly reject assertions of the so-called ‘global war on terrorism’ as justification for the war in Iraq. We stand in solidarity with churches that question the war.”

At the press conference following the approval of the policy statement, a reporter from Belgium reminded the leaders that both President Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair held membership in WCC denominations. Dr. Bernice Powell-Jackson, once of the WCC presidents and a member of the United Church of Christ (USA), acknowledged that President Bush was not listening to the counsel of the United Methodist Church bishops.

Observation by Dr. Ralph Colas:

1. Some Bible believers have suggested that there is no real need to be concerned about the liberal wing of Protestantism because they are not a threat anymore. “No [fundamentalists] need to fight theological liberalism within our movement today” wrote someone recently. That attitude is one of error because the giant National and World councils of Churches are impacting our pastors and people in negative

ways. The liberals are now taking the lead in “Mission and Evangelism” which sounds like they are returning to a more conservative position. Thus, they prepare the “table” for unsuspecting and untaught churches and individuals. These leaders of world communions, numbering more than 347, are communicating their message that to some appears to be very attractive. They are weaving a web that ensnares those who are uninformed.

2. Dr. Samuel Kobia, the new General Secretary of the WCC, is a man of vision and skill of leadership. He acknowledged the WCC must move to a more conservative stand because “in Kenya, young people by the thousands are leaving the Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian churches because they could not find spiritual fulfillment in the mainline churches.” He declared there has to be greater cooperation with Independent churches around the world!

3. The World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) has found a positive relationship with the WCC. This is an organization linked to the National Association of Evangelicals. The WEA is in 121 nations and claims to represent 335 million Christians. It says it is “rooted in historic biblical Christianity” but in practice it rejects separation from such liberal, apostate groups like the WCC.

4. A statement made several times in Geneva was “we intend to stay together on the ecumenical ship.” Their goal of “visible unity” in a one-world church will see its climax as recorded in the last book of our Bible. Very clearly our God declares, “Come out of her my people, that ye be not partaker of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues” (Revelation 18:4).

-Dr. Ralph Colas – amcouncilcc.org

NEWS BITS

FROM HERE AND THERE

SCHIAVO CASE – LIVING WILLS

The following are excerpts from *The Sword of the Lord*, Dr. Shelton Smith, relating to the Schiavo case: **Living Wills** – A “living will” is really about death.... ‘A living will outlines a patient’s wishes on whether doctors should prolong his life artificially if the patient is terminally ill and incapable of making such decisions’ (*USA Today*, 3/14/05). But our advice is –be very careful! In fact be very slow to sign your life away on a living will....The medical establishment is obsessed with getting your signature on a variety of documents that (1) give them control of your health care and (2) protect them from liability when things go wrong. If you believe that ‘your’ doctor and ‘your’ local hospital will make life and death choices with your best interests at heart, I urge you to rethink your position....Several recent articles in the press, including several in *USA Today*, indicate that living wills are not always followed by doctors and families. It may tell them what you want them to do, but they may still not do it....**Schiavo’s Killing Galvanizes Opposition to Liberal Judges** – Even though jurists who occupy the seats of authority in our court system are pervasively liberal in philosophy and dominated by the ‘culture of death’ advocates, the ‘culture of life’ still has strong support in the general population.

The judges gave us abortion-on-demand! They are giving us same-sex marriages. They are heading us toward infanticide and euthanasia. Should ideology be an issue? Of course it should! Ideals affect judgment, and judgment is the business of judges. Any candidate for any court who is not a ‘strict constructionist’ in reference to the Constitution should not (in my judgment) be confirmed. We believe there should now be a major effort by all conservative voices in the country to demand a purging of our liberal judiciary in favor of sound, sane, reasoned appointees.... **Government by the Judiciary Is Unconstitutional** – For the past fifty years the courts have become more and more aggressive and have absconded with an increasingly larger slice of the governing pie. Read the Constitution! IT IS NOT their duty to enact the law. It was never intended that the judiciary should dictate to the legislative and executive branches. **Hopefully, We Look Ahead** – (1) Hopefully we will all come to our senses before the peddlers of death come calling at our bedsides. (2) Hopefully Congress will enact legislation to forestall or totally stymie the movement toward euthanasia. (3) Hopefully Christians and other voices of reason will not cave in to the pressure and the trends. (4) Hopefully our pastors will stand in their pulpits with courage to oppose

these evil forces. (5) Hopefully the moral compass of each of us will center itself in the truth of Holy Scripture. (6) Hopefully our nation will repudiate its modernistic thinking and revert to the values and views of our heritage. (7) Hopefully... you understand that Terri Schiavo is just one person, but what she represents is a much larger issue. The larger picture affects all of us and will someday soon have a life-and-death effect on you or on someone you love.



U.S. OFFICIALS NEED TO BE ALERT TO CHINA’S GROWING INFLUENCE IN LATIN AMERICA

– Beijing has sought closer ties with Fidel Castro’s Cuba, controls shipping ports in Central America and may be gathering intelligence in the region as it has done in the United States for years, officials have said. China also is moving closer to Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, a popularly elected leftist who regularly criticizes the United States and has been seeking partners in an anti-U.S.

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coalition. China is searching for more sources of energy as its economy expands to the world's sixth largest and its appetite for oil grows. Venezuela is the United States' No. 3 foreign supplier of crude. China is bankrolling a military rearmament that includes more nuclear weapons and a larger long-range navy. Chinese military activities in the Western Hemisphere, including arms sales, pose a direct conventional threat to the United States or its friends and allies. *National Weekly Edition* 4/11-17, 2005

WALTER CRONKITE LASHES OUT AT RELIGIOUS GROUPS

– Walter Cronkite long projected the image of the respected, objective newsman who didn't allow his personal view to enter the public square. No more, says the retired CBS anchorman in a direct mail letter he has sent out across the nation. The Cronkite letter comes from "The Interfaith Alliance" – a liberal New York based coalition of religious groups that oddly includes "agnostics and atheists." The group's letter bears Cronkite's photo on its envelope, identifying him as the "Honorary Chairman" – with this blunt quote: "For years I kept my opinions to myself. But now I must speak out."... "...I have watched with increasing alarm as the Christian Coalition and other Religious Right groups manipulate religion to further their intolerant political agendas." Cronkite continues.

The former "most trusted man in America" says The Interfaith Alliance, however, "offers a

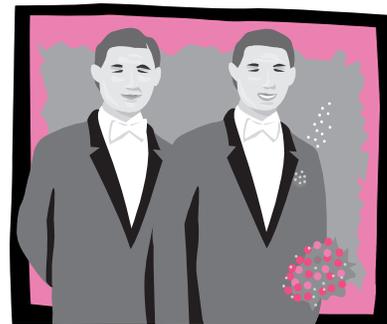
mainstream alternative for people of faith and good will to stand in opposition to the extremism of the Religious Right." In other words, it will remain staunchly intolerant of Americans with traditional religious views. *Newsmax.com* 4/5/05

ARE YOUR CHILDREN GIVEN THE MORAL AND INTELLECTUAL TOOLS TO SUCCEED IN LIFE?

– The Friedman Foundation states: ...In our system, where real broad-based choice is non-existent, nearly 90% of American children are enrolled in the public schools or government schools. The government schools are funded with our tax dollars, controlled by entrenched teacher unions and are accountable to special interest and bureaucrats, certainly not parents. The government school monopoly operates like most government monopolies – very poorly. The expensive and bureaucratically top-heavy government school system is simply failing to educate children adequately. This failure is having a dreadful impact on children and on our ability as a nation to compete in the global economy. You [must be] aware of the poor test scores, escalating violence, and pervasive secular "political correctness" that now mark so many public school systems – urban, suburban, and even rural.

President George W. Bush has recently asserted that the spread of freedom and liberty around the world is our nation's solemn duty. Yet ironically, right here at home, the cause of freedom is betrayed daily. The current education system not only betrays the cause of

freedom...it is also dragging down our nation's children. [Ed: Again, dear Christian parent, it is not the responsibility of the baby-sitter, day care or government school. God will hold us as parents accountable for the teaching and training of our children.]



SAME-SEX MARRIAGE AND THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

– Legislators tell us that proponents of same-sex marriage, when asked if students have the right to believe that homosexuality is morally wrong, will universally say no, students do not have the right to that belief. The school, they say, is responsible for training students that such a moral belief is bigoted and hateful.

Parents must consider the serious implications of this position for our children and for the schools. The March 29th issue of *National Review* magazine features an article by David Frum entitled, "A New Word, A New Day," in which he describes a concept that will take hold in school curricula everywhere if same-sex marriage becomes the law of the land. The concept is called "Hetero-normative," and it means that words are homophobic if they imply "that standard sexual relationships are only between males and females."

For example, a controversy

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RELIGIOUS NEWS AND COMMENTS



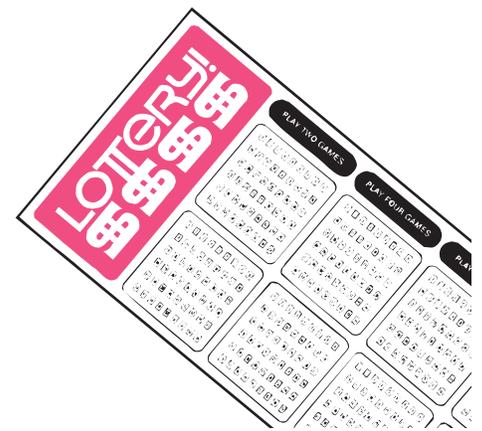
HYMNS MAKE A COMEBACK WITH TOP ARTISTS

– The oldest Christian music may again become the hottest – if the term “hot” can be applied to hymns, that is. Over the coming months, several Christian artists will release their versions of hymns. In the recent past, that’s been a job for Bill Gaither, who appealed to a decidedly older audience. Now, folk rockers Jars of Clay and Ashley Cleveland, MercyMe leader Bart Millard and urban sister trio Out of Eden are rolling out their first takes on the classics; Amy Grant is releasing her second such project. Trend-watchers prognosticating the next twist in modern worship may find what’s next is more like “what’s past.” Part reaction to the worship music craze hitting a saturation point, part churchgoers’ desire for more lyrical depth in their worship, hymns are poised to retake their former place in churches, and take a shot at the radio charts as well. According to many artists, it’s about time (Religion News Service, Volume 3, number 13, April 7, 2005) via

ONEWORLD COMING SOON

– By the end of April, oneworld will be the first airline alliance to offer interline e-ticketing. This will enable you to book an entire journey on a single e-ticket, using different carriers within the oneworld alliance. One e-ticket will take you anywhere in the extensive oneworld network – over 550 destinations in 132 countries worldwide. – How many political and religious leaders could you count at the mass and funeral of Pope John Paul II? Yes, the stage is made ready for the oneworld. In 1986, 1993, and 2002, Pope John Paul II held his “Day of Prayer for Peace” at Assisi, Italy. Leaders from almost all religions came together for these events. Mother Teresa and Catholic Bishops encourage Hindus to maintain their traditions and values. Mother Teresa’s long time friend and biographer Naveen Chawla once ask her if she converted people. Mother Teresa’s reply was, “Of course I convert. I convert you to be a better Hindu or a better Muslim or a better Protestant. Once

you’ve found God, it’s up to you to decide how to worship him.” Even in Africa, Haiti, and South America, Catholic Priests allow tribal witchcraft, voodoo rituals to remain a part of their convert’s practices. All indicative of the ONEWORLD push.



CAN'T CHRISTIANS RALLY TO STOP LOTTERY?

– In a recent letter stating why a lottery is a “trap”, Ferrell Blount, NC Rep. Chairman stated the following: “...A state lottery turns the government into a bookie, succeeds only on the basis of false advertising, capitalizes on broken dreams and personal irresponsibility, and places the burden of taxation most heavily on those who are least able to afford it...” He then listed the following points why having a lottery is a “loser:

1. A lottery would balance the budget on the backs of the poor

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(Continued from page 10)

– marketing trends in other states show that the areas boasting the highest sales of lottery tickets had four things in common: largest minority population; highest poverty rate; lowest educational attainment; and lowest median household income... He then continued stating that North Carolina should offer these communities a real opportunity for success, not like South Carolina Power Ball that offers a 1 in 120,526,770 chance of winning.

2. A lottery will introduce North Carolina's newest industry: [leach sucking, tick-biting economics]. With the possible exception of border counties, every dollar spent on NC lottery tickets is a dollar not going toward NC's local economy. Agriculture (food), textiles (clothing), construction (housing) are all industries that will take a loss when numerous family budgets are busted to divert finite resources to lottery spending. In addition, when a family diverts spending from consumer goods to lottery tickets, local municipalities lose a significant source of tax revenue estimated as high as \$31-36 million statewide....

3. Like a gambler, when a state is hooked on gambling, restraint goes out the window. Lottery states have found that in order to sustain the same revenue stream once the lottery's novelty has worn-thin, a larger share of the gross revenue most go toward larger jackpots, fresh effective advertising and more enticing games to compete with neighboring states. The effect? Less money goes to the state; more money is eaten away by the lottery's

overhead expenses.

4. Did you say that having a lottery won't mean larger government? Don't bet on it! Lottery revenue will supplant existing education dollars. Experience in other states show that once a lottery revenue stream is introduced, money originally earmarked for education is diverted to satisfy an ever-growing appetite for legislative pork. Unlike tax dollars, lottery revenue is not a reliable source of income; it ebbs and flows from year to year. Once education becomes dependant on lottery revenue, education will ultimately suffer from under-funding.

5. An "Education Lottery" will finance college degrees for the rich, on the working man's dollar. A lottery that funds a general scholarship program will create a wealth transfer from the mostly poor and working-class people who play a lottery, to the mostly upper-middle class families who children win an overwhelming percentage of the scholarships. In Georgia, the *Atlanta-Journal Constitution* found that lottery players in poor communities were largely financing the "HOPE" scholarships for students in upper-middle class neighborhoods....

LOCAL COLLEGE IN QUANDARY OVER HOMOSEXUALS:

A local college in our area recently made the news. They were having a discussion and vote as to whether to allow a homosexual activist group to be recognized and meet on campus. The catch – this local college was started as a Baptist institution. The denomination stated they would withdraw support if the college

allowed this. While on the other side, there was talk of lawsuits if they didn't. Money would seem to be an important issue here! Read on.....

Hugh Pyle of *The Sword of the Lord* recently reported, "Stetson University in DeLand, Florida was once the pride and joy of Florida Southern Baptists. When I was in my first full-time pastorate, I was on a committee to get after Stetson leaders not to allow girls on campus in shorts or announce anything that even resembled dancing, on or off campus. This was sixty years ago. The school was considered orthodox if not fundamental – certainly not liberal.

"They have long since departed from their heritage and recently had Bishop John Shelby Spong speak to the student body on 'Living in Sin.'

"Spong is author of *Rescuing the Bible From Fundamentalism*, as he obviously abhors the literal interpretation of God's Word. This super liberal believes the virgin birth of Jesus is a myth, the resurrection is not physical and 'gays in the church' should be debated as 'a refreshing subject.' Sex should be enjoyed by those who make 'a loving commitment,' though he prefers marriage.

"Modern students probably eat this up in a religious school! Imagine sending your preacher boys to a place that honors such trash!"

Pastors and Christian school administrators have been making excuses, backing up on standards, acquiescing to the demands of unregenerate or backslidden parents and allowing the devils crowd to walk right in and take over. You call

(Continued on page 14)

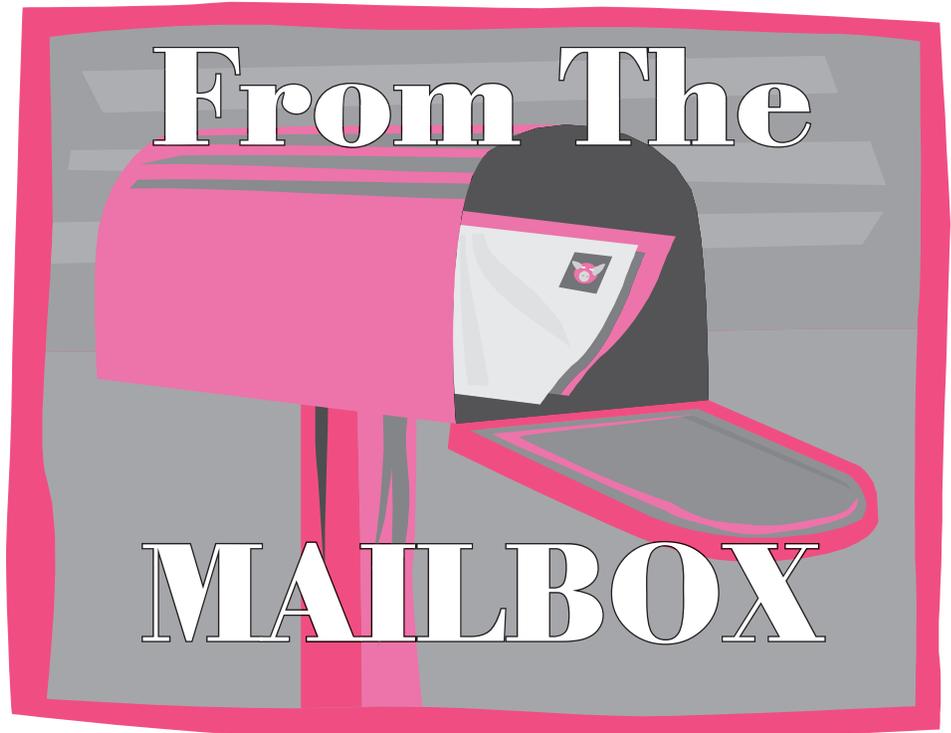
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raged last February when a Harvard speaker described her life this way: “Women, you can have it all – a loving man, devoted husband, loving children, a fabulous career. They say you gotta choose. Nah, nah, nah... You can do whatever you want. All you have to do is want it.”

The gay and lesbian groups filed a complaint because “the content was specific to male-female relationships. “Similarly, the governor of Massachusetts was chastised by the *Boston Globe* for “mean spirited politics” when he stated that every child “has a right to a mother and a father.” Praise for the traditional family is bigoted in the new world of gender-free marriages.

Frum makes the point that “same-sex marriage does not extend marriage. It transforms marriage.” Husbands and wives, mothers and fathers will be required to be removed as concepts from law – for every citizen, not merely for homosexuals.

Where do these ideas lead us? Frum tells us: “This is not a debate about extending an institution; it is a debate about overthrowing a norm; not about reconstruction, but about destruction.” This is what schools will be required to teach our kids – that hetero-normative language is hate-speech. (EdWatch, Issues and Action in Education, April 22, 2005 via *The Berean Call.org*) [How far have we gone? Now the feminists and liberals are being attacked by the perversion that they themselves planted seed for.]



The Voice in the Wilderness has been given many opportunities to minister in a variety of different ways. Some efforts we support regularly, while there are others that we are able to help only once or even just from time to time financially, as well as with our prayers, and still others by way of simply providing a copy of *The Voice in the Wilderness* magazine subscription free. Our hearts are always encouraged as we hear how the Lord is working. In our “Mailbag” section, we like to share with our “Missionary Partners” a few of the notes this office receives.

Dear Friends:

I pray this finds you well and growing in His glory. Thank you, for the encouraging letter and the information.

This ministry is a “never ending” ministry. It is

imperative that these men receive Jesus Christ while they are incarcerated! We endeavor to help these men receive Christ and gain a new life before they are turned back out into the world. Two men on Sunday night received Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior!!!

My desire is that these men will be new Daddies and husbands and good churchmen for our Lord as they go back into society. The world has no solution, Jesus Christ is the only solution! Only He can change lives! Each dear soul in prison here that receives Christ changes not only the history of his family, but literally the history of the world. Isn't the Lord good! He loves us so. Thank you again for your love for our Lord and your service to Him and “the travail of His soul.”

I treasure your prayers for

(Continued on page 14)

www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org

REMEMBERING SOPHIE MULLER

Praise the Lord for the men and women throughout the history of the church who have given themselves to carrying the gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost around the world. One such dedicated servant was Sophie Muller. For almost 50 years she served in the jungles of Colombia and Venezuela teaching natives how to read, and of course ultimately, how to read God's Word. Through the tool of literacy God saved many lost souls, raised preachers, and established churches up and down the Orinoco River.

The Voice in the Wilderness for many years had a small part in the amazing ministry of Sophie Muller. Even today, several missionary organizations continue the support of the gospel ministry pioneered by this dedicated servant. Each year teams of doctors,



(Actual print is in Full Color)

preachers, and other workers go to the jungle to assist with various opportunities. I understand that four or five couples, along with as many as sixty-eight individuals, are now living and working at the jungle Bible Institute where Sophie once lived. They continue to conduct various ministries with the Indian brothers and sisters that were associated with Sophie's outreach. There is now a house and aviation work in Puerto Ayacucho, Venezuela, that is affiliated with the jungle ministry. After talking on April 28, 2005, with one of the brothers assisting with Sophie's work, his enthusiastic report reflects the continued vibrancy of this gospel endeavor. We thank the Lord for those who took the baton and continue to run the race.

It has been a privilege to stay in contact with some of Sophie's family here in the states. They have extended a generous offer to The Voice in the Wilderness family. Possibly the only full-color painting still in existence by Sophie while on the mission field has been made available in prints to those who would be interested throughout our readership. The print paper size will be 16 X 20 with the actual painting size approximately 12 ½ X 10 ¼. We have one displayed in our office in matting and framing that was purchase "off the shelf" at a very reasonable cost. This format size has been selected because it gives an individual the ability to mat and frame this beautiful print at a very reasonable price without the extra expense of customizing.

If you would like a copy of this beautiful print by Sophie Muller, a gift of \$100 will cover the costs of reproduction, printing, mailing and shipping, as well as a contribution toward the missionary work of The Voice in the Wilderness. Please send your gift of \$100 to: The Voice in the Wilderness, PO Box 7037, Asheville, NC 28802 earmarked "Sophie Print". It has been the ongoing policy of The Voice in the Wilderness to not engage in the business of selling any of the materials offered by this publication. That still remains the case, and therefore, your gift will simply cover expenses and any remainder will continue missionary efforts of this ministry. No tax-deductible receipts will be given for this offer.

Due to production schedules, **this offer is limited until July 15, 2005, only.** Your request must be postmarked no later than July 15, 2005, to qualify for this limited edition print. Please include, clearly printed, your name and complete mailing address, and zip code. We will be unable to ship to a PO Box. Please send us a physical street address. Allow approximately 6-8 weeks from July 15, 2005, to receive your order.

(Continued from page 11)

yourself a Bible believing Christian, maybe a fundamentalist – well be warned. The tattooing, body piercing, homosexual, anything goes crowd is on your doorstep, sitting on your committees, boards, and ready to move in on the kill.

BBC PRODUCER RESIGNS OVER BLASPHEMY

– Senior BBC radio producer Antony Pitts has resigned in protest of the broadcast of the blasphemous musical ‘Jerry Springer—The Opera.’ In his resignation letter he said, ‘Having now watched the show in its entirety and the hour-long introductory broadcast, my conclusion was that the blasphemy was far, far worse than even the most detailed news reports had led me to believe.... I feel a corporate responsibility for what has happened – aggravated by the fact that the BBC did not give sufficient attention to the overwhelming level of listener protest in advance.’ Examples of the blasphemy included ‘the ridiculing of the figure of Jesus on the cross, dressed to imply sexual perversion’ and ‘the repeated mockery of the wounds of Jesus, linked to acts of crudeness.’ Pitts quoted legal authorities that defined blasphemy as ‘contemptuous, reviling, scurrilous or ludicrous matter relating to God, Jesus Christ, or the Bible’ (*BBC Producer Resigns, The Guardian, Jan 12*) We applaud Mr. Pitt’s courage of conviction. The hypocritical BBC would not dream of broadcasting something along these lines dealing with Mohammed. *O Timothy – Vo. 22 Issue 2*



this ministry. You are in our daily prayers.

Chaplain with a State Correctional Facility

Dear Voice in the Wilderness

Hi, My name is _____. I really do appreciate the magazine that you send to me. I’ve been locked up for 20 years. This past March the 11th makes my 20 years. I have a life without parole sentence that I am serving. I will never leave prison alive and that’s okay. I would love to go home, but home will pass away one day. I’m looking at eternity and my eternal home. A home that is forever. I can only say thank you Jesus that I have a chance to be able to read some good Christian literature. I can’t send you any money, because I don’t have none, but what I do have is Jesus Christ. I send you my love and my prayers for you and your staff and I know that soon and very soon that your blessings will come down and fall on you like the rain from Heaven. Your paper has been a mighty inspiration to me spiritually. Please keep sending your paper my way. I really thank you so much.

Love ya,

Inmate in Prison

A dear friend in the Lord, Bro. Joe Norton, serves with Amazing Grace Ministries. Bro. Norton had the privilege to lead Kelly to Christ. Shortly after Kelly’s death, his mom wrote the following to Bro. Joe. We asked for permission to use an excerpt of this letter from Bro. Norton’s

personal “Mailbag.” What a thrill to hear how the Lord was able to reach Kelly.

.... [my son], he had a lot of problems. After you talked with him, he came home and told me he got saved. On 9/27/04 he went to rehab – for drugs. Kelly stayed 14 days, he tried to get off them. On 10/9/04 Kelly died. I want to thank-you for trying to help him. He came home and read the Bible. It’s been so hard for me and his Dad. I wanted you know that if not for you and God, Kelly would not be in the place he is now. Heaven! Thank you, Signed - The parents of Kelly



Nuggets of Gold

1. God didn’t promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow, sun without rain, but He did promise strength for the day, comfort for the tears, and light for the way.
2. What the heart gives away is never gone... It is kept in the hearts of others.
3. Remember that great love and great achievements involve great risks.
4. When you truly care for someone, you don’t look for faults, you don’t look for answers, you don’t look for mistakes.
5. Atheist and vehement anti-creationist Dr. Eugenie Scott, in a magazine interview, once stated: “I have found that the most effective allies for evolution are people of the faith community. One clergyman with a backward collar is worth two biologists at a school board meeting any day!”



(Continued from page 2)

head in opposition. Misinformation, gossip, and deliberate discord began to fly amongst the rumor-mill-workers the moment we announced the Aquilla/Priscilla ministry. A little information is a dangerous thing for some people. Then more information is more for misinterpretation by others. Yet, the Lord continues to bless, and what a joy it is to see His mighty hand at work confounding the enemies of our Saviour's work. Please know this – as progress is made, reports will be forthcoming. This little publication is a great communicator. By the way, this is "My Personal message" and from my heart thank you brothers, Johnny, Roger, Roy, and Wayne for your counsel, prayers and support. You are such an encouragement. Safety is indeed in a multitude of counselors and along with my partner/helpmeet, dear wife, the Lord has given me numerous dedicated brothers with vision and

discernment. Daily these serve our Lord faithfully in their appointed ministries. Thank God as labourers together a positive difference is being made for eternity. Usually the mule that's kicking ain't pulling. I'm glad for those who are helping pull the load. For "My Personal Message" and my heart, God bless you for pressing forward for God's glory. These are truly perilous days but far greater are His promises to those who will walk by faith.

Elsewhere in these pages note a special offer. Missionary Sophie Muller was a talented lady. For many years The Voice in the Wilderness supported the amazing work she did in the jungle. There are still several missionary organizations continuing the support and gospel ministry pioneered by this dedicated lady. I have been in regular communication with some of Sophie's family. They have extended a generous

opportunity and allowed The Voice in the Wilderness to offer a copy of a painting done by Sophie Muller. Those familiar with one of the greatest missionary stories will not want to miss this one-time offer. We thank the Lord for Sophie's commitment to Christ and success in teaching multitudes to read up and down the Orinoco. In turn, a great number came to the Saviour, and God raised up pastors and churches that today continue to hold forth the Word of Life. Through her vision, The Voice in the Wilderness continues to support gospel workers in that part of the world. We owe much to those who have gone before. The Voice in the Wilderness owes much to you our dear readers and partners in this endeavor. God bless you all. Amen!

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



THE FIVE FINGERS OF PRAYER!



1. Your "**Thumb**" is nearest to you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved one is, as C.S. Lewis once said, "a sweet duty."

2. The next finger is the "**Pointing Finger.**" Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.

3. The next finger is the "**Tallest Finger.**" It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for our President, leaders in business and industry and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.

4. The fourth finger is our "**Ring**

Finger." Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or pain. They need our prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.

5. And lastly comes our "**Little Finger,**" the smallest finger of all, which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

–unknown-via crossings



Lord, help me live from day to day,
In such a self-forgetful way,
That even when I kneel to pray,
My prayer shall be for – Others.

OTHERS

Help me in all the work I do
To ever be sincere and true,
And know that all I'd do for you
Must needs be done for – Others.



Let "self" be crucified and slain
And buried deep; and all in vain,
May efforts be to rise again,
Unless to live for – Others.



And when my work on earth is done,
And my new work in heaven's begun,
May I forget the crown I've won
While thinking still of – Others.



Others, Lord, yes – Others,
Let this my motto be;
Help me to live for – Others,
That I may live like Thee.

-Charles Meigs, via *The American Holiness Journal*



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