



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

August/September 2005

A COWBOY SONG

O' carry me back
To the Lone Prairie
Where the coyotes howl
And the wind blows free.

And when I die
You can bury me
Beneath the western sky
On the Lone Prairie.

Empty guns covered with rust
Where are you tonight?
Empty boots covered in dust
*Are you wrong or right?

Empty saddles in the old corral
My tears would be dry tonight
Empty saddles in the old corral
*Would he, could he, maybe, might?

*And as that sun—a lonely set
*Yet there is a place for me
*So face to face, I humble met
*This place, yes now I see?

*The truth they told
*Though come what may
*In heart you hold
*With love they say.

These words came home
And so mournfully
Not to be alone
Was the cowboy's plea.

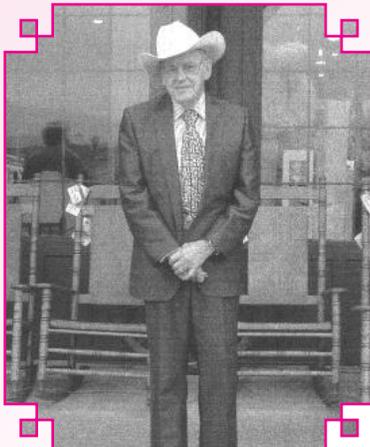
On his dying bed
At the close of day
*With dreams in head
He began to pray.

Then bury me not
On the Lone Prairie
In a narrow grave
Just six by three.

Give me back my saddle
Give me back my gun
Give me back my bronco
That I used to run.

*Now he understood
*His friends were there
*Not those who would
*But those that care!

*-Compilation of various verses by "Sons of the Pioneers" *- RLW*



Founder's Edition



MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends:

This is “Founder’s Month.” In this edition, *The Voice in the Wilderness* reviews events in the life and ministry of Dr. J. Royce Thomason recognizing God’s hand over the years developing this unique outreach. Praise the Lord for the great things He hath done and is still doing through this publication and missionary endeavor.

In 1953, Bro. Royce sent the first newsletter from Birmingham, England. Over the years he wrote about his travels and ministry opportunities updating a growing constituency. From the first church construction in Jamaica to missionary work scattered around the globe, many began to support various projects with their prayers and

finances. In 1974, the first 16 page, two-color *The Voice in the Wilderness* rolled off the press. With Mark 1:3 as the key verse, *The Voice in the Wilderness* has contended for fundamental Christianity and American freedom for over 52 years.

In September 2001, Bro. Royce became very ill while preaching in Ohio. After hospital and rehab stays, he returned home. In 2005, the decision was made by Bro. Royce and his “power of attorney” to move him to Lawton, OK, where he now resides at the Fort Sill Veterans Center.

I still remember Bro. Royce’s secretary of many years telling me shortly after my arrival in Dallas that Bro. Royce was indeed living a wonderful life.

Being independent, traveling all over the world, and participating in countless gospel opportunities for over 65 years, James Royce Thomason has truly enjoyed a rich and rewarding lifetime. Yet, his abrupt halt due to illness was difficult. It has been a lengthy transition, but thank the Lord, the work still continues. Your prayers, support, partnership and friendship have been so very precious to us all. On behalf of some godly board members, missionaries and all of us at *The Voice in the Wilderness* ministry – God Bless you all! Keep praying as together we keep on for Jesus! Amen!

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



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 *The 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!

“...YE SHOULD EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH WHICH WAS ONCE DELIVERED UNTO THE SAINTS” JUDE 3

Still Contending...

In the 1970's at a Pastors' Conference, I saw a publication on the host churches literature table entitled, *The Voice in the Wilderness*. Mark 1:3 was the key verse on the front cover, *The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight*. Then the two statements followed: *Contending for Fundamental Christianity* and *Contending for American Freedom*. From that day to this, Ronnie Williamson was a subscriber. Few weeks went by that I did not use material from *The Voice in the Wilderness* publication in a Sunday school class, sermon or church bulletin. It would be years later when I would personally

meet Dr. J. Royce Thomason, yet *The Voice in the Wilderness* had been a long time friend and help to my ministry. Thank God today; this unique ministry is “Still Contending”!

Standing on
the Word of
God as our sole
authority for our
faith and
practice.

“...ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” Jude 3.

For all those who have read and supported *The Voice in the Wilderness* ministry for many years, as well as new readers to *The Voice in the Wilderness* publication--with conviction, compassion, and commitment, we intend to continue to “earnestly contend for the faith.” While many churches and pastors I know have compromised on standards, music, associations, and modernistic trends, this ministry remains a committed and compassionate voice crying out to God's people for conviction firmly rooted in

THE BOOK, THE BLOOD, and THE BLESSED HOPE of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Contending For the Faith Is:

1. Standing on the Word of God as our sole authority for our faith and practice.
2. Submitting to the Holy Spirit of God for leadership and to guide us in all truth.
3. Surrender to holy living as a people who believe, love, and fear God our Heavenly Father.
4. Sweet with our words of truth in love to those in danger or gone astray.
5. Steadfast, unmovable, always abound in the work of the Lord even when misunderstood, criticized, and lied about by the opposition.
6. Strengthening those preachers, churches, and brethren who faithfully hold forth the Word of Life!
7. Share the gospel of Christ and the goodness of God toward those within and without the household of faith.

When my wife, daughter, and I moved to Dallas, Texas, in 1996, Bro. Royce had seven

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automobiles. I suppose most of his life he had enjoyed cars. Three of those vehicles were older models - a Desoto, Keiser, and a Model "A" or "T" type car that was a beauty. He even had a yellow convertible Cadillac. Now each of those seven machines had a motor and four wheels providing reliable transportation for its passenger. But there was a vast difference between that antique jewel and Bro. Royce's Lincoln Town Car. There are many differences in the churches of America, Mexico, Venezuela, and Asia. However, there are fundamentals that cannot be compromised. In the early 1900's, someone shopping for transportation looked for essential features critical to the need. From the Model "A" to the Town Car, there are basics that are fundamental to the automobile.

Today, it is our responsibility as believers to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto" us. God's Word, Will, and Work have not changed! If we mix the contaminants of the world into the fuel of faith, there will inevitably be a break-down along *the way*. We must remain pure and unspotted from this present age -- thus the need to, the imperative to "earnestly contend for the faith."

The world's music, dress, and philosophy have no place in HIS church. Maybe the world's user-friendly, purpose driven methods have a place in some churches, but not HIS CHURCH. HIS CHURCH

is GLORY LED not Purpose Driven.

HIS CHURCH is to be:

1. A "glorious church," having not spot, or wrinkle – not Purpose Driven - Ephesians 5:27.
2. Found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ, not Purpose Driven – I Peter 1:7.
3. Full of glory, not Purpose Driven – I Peter 1:8.

Does the purpose *drive* me, or is my motivation to bring honour and glory to the Lord Jesus Christ?

Yes, we are "the called according to HIS PURPOSE," as stated in Romans 8:28. Then notice the last words of Romans 8:30, "...them He also glorified." In "earnestly contending for the faith," the question must always be asked, *Does this glorify the Lord?*

Does the style, beat, and volume of music glorify the Lord or please and insight the flesh?

Does the body piercing, tattoo, tight-revealing sensual dress glorify the Lord or appeal to the flesh?

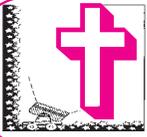
Does the purpose *drive* me, or is my motivation to bring honour and glory to the Lord Jesus Christ?

It was meant to be a critical, demeaning letter, but I took it as a compliment. The writer professed to be a Christian, yet with bitterness made remarks about my (Ronnie Williamson's) *version* of the Bible; and that I must believe in *pastoral authority*. Now, I assume this individual must have a problem with the KJV because I do believe and defend the KJV as the preserved Word of God for English speaking people today. I do not endorse the New King James, NIV, or the many other translations. These modern versions are based on revised, rediscovered, and rejected texts compiled by a list of "scholars/higher critics" who were German rationalists, evolutionists who promoted spiritism and racism denying biblical inerrancy. I will stand with the *Textus Receptus* and the *Masoretic Text* upon which the KJV is based. And yes, I do believe in pastoral authority not pastoral dictatorship or committee-run. The local New Testament church is to be autonomous. The pastor is the leader under the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible is the sole authority for our faith and practice. There are those who desire to dictate, deter, divide, even destroy God's work, but we are committed to "earnestly contend for the faith!"

May God help us. Will you pray that this ministry, The Voice in the Wilderness, will continue to go forward and be faithful to the Word of God. Amen!

-RLW



The Voice IN THE Wilderness

MISSION SPOTLIGHT

Winona Lake, IN – For many years The Voice in the Wilderness has supported Hephzibah House directed by Pastor Ronald Williams, a ministry of Believers Baptist Church. Bro. Royce introduced this work to me about nine years ago. Here is an excerpt from their recent newsletter: *...I am constantly struck by the contrast between the students that we now have in residence as compared to the students we used to have in the 1970's. It would have been a rare thing indeed for a student in the '70's to say that she did not believe in God nor did she have an interest in learning about salvation. However, that is not unusual at all for our current students. We have one in particular who adamantly refuses to be saved and very clearly and purposefully rejects the claims of the Gospel for her life. This is very alarming to those of us who are working with these youngsters to see such a hard hearted response to the merciful claims of the sweet, old, old story that "Jesus saves." Please pray.*

We surely appreciate your participation and co-laboring efforts with us in this soul rescue work. Working down at the "muddy end of the stream" is not always glorious and glamorous, but it does pay wonderful spiritual dividends as we see some of these youngsters gloriously saved and later on in their lives, becoming Godly wives and mothers.

Selby, South Dakota – Dear Ronnie and All, ...We want to again thank you dear people for your faithfulness
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in praying for us and the work here among the Sioux Indians. Thank you also for your generous support that enables us to minister to these people who so desperately need Christ. I know the Lord will reward and bless you for your concern and help in getting the Gospel to them. God Bless You!

Venezuela – *So far this year we have seen 28 professions of faith during our Sunday services... We now have three evangelists working in different areas. We are working to plant a new church this summer.. Only God can build His Church through us His Body. Please pray as we begin to organize all of these evangelistic efforts, mission teams, and material.*



NOTE: Last month we shared an opportunity for help in a project in Venezuela. I have talked with some, but thus far this project still needs someone with a burden to help out. So once again, I will list this opportunity.

Would anyone be interested in helping two Christian businessmen in Venezuela establish a bus service? Under the watch care of their pastor, this would meet two needs – employment for two faithful church members, and in addition the bus would be used by the church, free of charge, to transport people to church. This will require a six to ten thousand dollar investment. Call our office

828-649-1043 for more details.

Europe – Pray for these countries. Will Norway, Iceland and Switzerland remain out of the EU to protect their independence and wealth? The pressure is on to do business with the European Union - a bit of the One World push.

Northern Ireland has been a place of violence between loyalists who want to remain under Britain and republicans who want a united Ireland. Has a hardness gripped this island's heart?

The terrorist group ETA has killed hundreds in the struggle for an independent Basque homeland straddling Spain and France. This is a difficult mission field. In 2003, Spain received 470,000 immigrants from the Americas. Spain wants Gibraltar from Britain who has ruled for 300 years. Spanish authorities link the Madrid train bombing to Al Qaeda. Then France has the largest Muslim and Jewish population in Western Europe. Oh, they that sit in great darkness.

Thousands of illegal immigrants have died trying to cross from North Africa to Europe in the past decade. Asia is the largest source of immigrants outside the boundaries of Europe with some 100,000 Chinese adults living in Italy. Pray for the multitudes that need Jesus throughout Europe.

Uganda, Africa – *We have started preaching in a new prison here. Pray that many men will trust Christ as*

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REMINISCENCES FROM BRO. ROY



[Editor: I count it an honor during this Founder's Month issue to have a long time board member and friend of Bro. Royce to reminisce just a bit ! Thank you, Bro. Roy, for sharing a few thoughts]

June 29, 2005

I am Roy Estes. I have been a board member since sometime in the late '60's. My Dad, Jake Estes, worked with Bro. Royce in several of his tent revival meetings in the Weatherford, Texas, area in the '50's. I remember playing on the tent ropes as a child and helping take it down after a meeting. Later on, the meetings were held in a small church a few miles west of Weatherford. I remember the stories about tribes in the jungles of South America; how they lived; how they responded to the gospel. I remember the slide shows and the crude tools and artifacts Bro. Royce brought back. Once, he demonstrated the power of a blow gun and stuck a dart through the front door of the church.

He had a boys' ranch in Oklahoma for orphans and troubled young men for many years. I remember him staying at our home several times. Often several of the boys traveled with him. He had a heart for the Lord and the Lord's work and he worked hard at it. He was the only missionary I knew for many years.

He worked a circuit. Part of the year he was in India, Venezuela, the

Middle East and other places. The rest of the year he held meetings in small towns from New Mexico to North Carolina to raise funds for the missionaries he helped support in the various countries.

I do not remember when he started *The Voice in the Wilderness* paper. It seems like it has always been there.

In the '60's, Bro. Royce moved his headquarters to Dallas, Texas. By then most of his original board members lived out of state or had passed away. He asked me to be a board member. I was honored. Norwood King was the other board member. Norwood and his wife carried most of the load of taking care of the daily mail, sending out the *Voice* each month and taking care of the office while Bro. Royce traveled. We had board meetings almost every year. I do not recall Bro. Royce ever suggesting something that I or Bro. Norwood voted against. I considered my position primarily ceremonial. It was a requirement for him to have board members to have a legal organization. He was the leader. It was his ministry and we supported him.

In the '90's Bro. Royce brought on Bro. Ronnie to continue the ministry after he was gone. The ministry had grown considerably during 50 some odd years, and many missionaries were being supported by *The Voice in the Wilderness*. Bro. Ronnie, like Bro. Royce, has a heart for preaching and missions. Their styles are very different. Bro. Ronnie is more detail oriented. The

transition has not been without some differences of opinion. Throughout the times of differences, I asked Bro. Royce if he wanted to continue the transition. He told me over and over again "yes" he did. The primary differences were between Bro. Norwood and Bro. Ronnie. I often remember God's Word through Paul in Philippians chapter 4, "I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord." This example in the scriptures reminds us that the difference between people serving the Lord have existed for a long time. I look at my own life, and I am grateful that God works with imperfect vessels. I like the phrase: "Please be patient, God is not through with me yet." I believe that phrase applies to all still breathing.

I believe the most important contribution I made to the ministry Bro. Royce worked at for so many years was in the transition period. I was allowed to help in the addition of three new board members that Bro. Royce had known and trusted for many years and that wanted to work with Bro. Ronnie. All ministries are ultimately God's work and his ministers are temporary. May God bless *The Voice in the Wilderness* ministry HE started with Bro. Royce and is now continuing through Bro. Ronnie. May it continue to bless others for generations to come. It is my privilege to continue to stand with Bro. Ronnie and our board as we see *The Voice in the Wilderness* go forward for our Lord's glory!

- Roy Estes

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BACK TO SCHOOL - *Protecting Our Children*



As newlyweds 32 years ago, my wife and I made the commitment to never place our children in public education. That decision was not a preference but a conviction. No matter the cost, time, or sacrifice, we stood firm. As bad as public education was then, with all the kindness possible, I simply cannot comprehend a Christian parent subjecting their vulnerable, impressionable baby to today's public education system. *The Christian Law Association* recently gave these alarming numbers:

“Statistically today, only 75% of those Americans who profess to be Christian attend a local church. Only eight percent of all American teenagers attend any church. And statistically, it can be shown that eighty percent of all beliefs are set for life between the ages of four to sixteen.

“America's public schools currently spend more than \$380 billion attempting to influence what our school-age young people think and believe about life. More than half of all three- and four-year-olds are already enrolled in school. Nearly two-thirds of all five-year-olds spend their entire day in Kindergarten.

- *Nearly one-third of all school-aged children are at least one grade behind in their academic performance level.*
- *Fewer than three out of ten fourth*

graders can read at grade level.

- *By eighth grade, only one-third of students are reading at grade level.*
- *Only one-fourth of eighth graders are proficient at math.*
- *Eighth graders rank tenth in science and twenty-first in math when compared with students of equivalent age in twenty-five other industrialized nations.*
- *Children aged two to seven average nearly twenty-five hours a week of mass media input – primarily computer games and TV. That figure grows to nearly forty-eight hours per week for children from eight to thirteen.*
- *The Internet has also become the favorite entertainment medium for children, with fifty-four percent of children under eight, and seventy-three percent of children from eight to twelve preferring the computer screen to TV or other entertainment media.*
- *One in five children between ten and seventeen have received a sexual solicitation over the Internet.*
- *Three million children under seventeen visited adult web sites during one month.*
- *Twenty-one percent of teens say they have looked at something on the Internet they would not want their parents to know about.*
- *Sexual content is featured once every four minutes on network TV, with ninety-eight percent of all sexual content having no subsequent physical consequences; eighty-five percent of sexual behavior having no lasting emotional impact; and nearly seventy-five percent of participants in sexual activity are portrayed as unmarried.*
- *Sexual content on prime-time TV has more than tripled during the past ten years.*

“Public education programs claim to play an important role in protecting children from the adverse consequences

of an overly sexualized society. How are they doing?

- *Forty-two percent of boys and thirty-three percent of girls between fifteen and seventeen have had intercourse.*
- *An estimated eighteen percent of fifteen-year-old girls will have a baby before age twenty.*
- *One in twelve children is no longer a virgin by age thirteen.*
- *Nineteen million teens are infected with Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) every year in America, yet sixty-eight percent of teens say they are unconcerned about STDs. Compare these STD numbers with statistics from previous generations. In the 1960s, at the start of America's "sexual revolution," one out of every thirty-two students was infected with an STD. By 1983 that number had jumped to one in eighteen; and by 1996, the number was one in four. Today, there are over thirty new STDs not previously seen, and thirty percent of these new strains are incurable.*
- *Sexually active girls are nearly three times more likely to attempt suicide than girls who are not sexually active, and sexually active boys are eight times more likely to attempt suicide than boys who are not sexually active.*
- *Twenty-six percent of teens think it is embarrassing to admit they are virgins.*
- *Calls to the CLA office indicate that more and more public schools are engaged in positive programs to urge school children to accept homosexuality as an alternative lifestyle that has no moral consequences. Gay clubs are proliferating to compete with Bible clubs; and same-sex couples are going to court to gain the right to attend high school proms.*

“There are nearly 93,300 public schools in America. Of that number,

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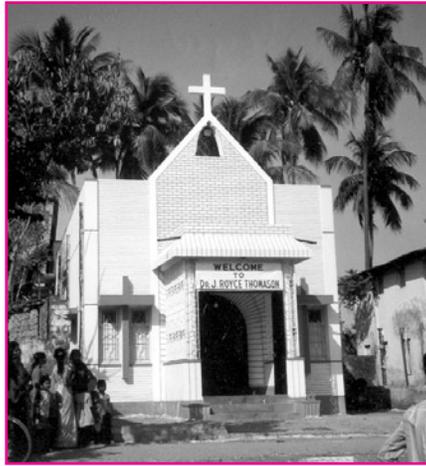
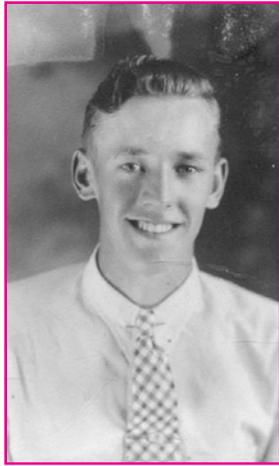
FOUNDER'S EDITION TIMELINE

Dr. J. Royce Thomason
Born 1917 in Frederick, OK



- 1936** Bro. Royce's first full revival meeting in Brush Arbor at Boehler, OK.
- 1941** Camp Wolters, TX, 4½ years in US Army, Service in WWII.
- 1950** Funds raised for first church construction in Jamaica.
- 1953** The first mimeographed copy of *The Voice in the Wilderness* goes out from Birmingham, England.
- 1954** First professionally printed issue of *The Voice in the Wilderness*.
- 1974** *The Voice in the Wilderness* has its first 16-page issue.





1989 First church built in India.

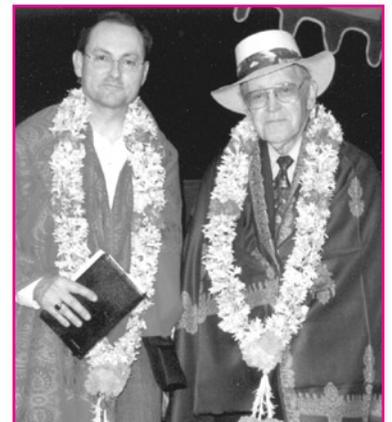
1996 The Williamsons join *The Voice in the Wilderness* ministry in Dallas, TX.

2001 Banquet, Pigeon Forge, TN, - Bro. Royce's 65th year in ministry.

2002 Bro. Royce named President Emeritus. Honorary Fellowship, Cranberry, Beckley, WV.

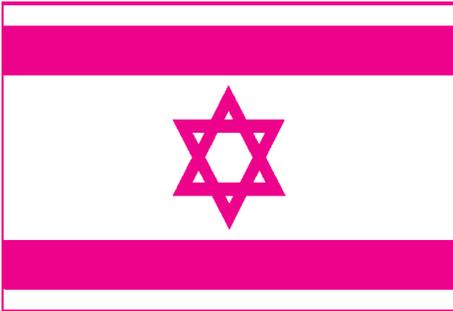
2003 *The Voice in the Wilderness* celebrates 50 years of ministry.

2005 Praise the Lord for the continued ministry of *The Voice in the Wilderness*. Bro. Royce now resides in Lawton, OK. 📖



RELIGIOUS NEWS

& NEWS FROM HERE & THERE



ISRAELI ANTI-TERROR EXPERTISE – While the United States leads the world in the fight against terror, its law-enforcement agencies have a great deal to learn from Israel counterterrorism, Steven Pomerantz - former assistant director of the FBI - told *The Jerusalem Post* while in Israel:

Israel is the preeminent expert on terrorism in the world, Pomerantz said. Not only is it a country that needs to fight terror but it needs to fight under democratic principles.

One of the weaknesses in the U.S. law enforcement system - which failed to prevent 9/11 - is the lack of cooperation between the various law-enforcement agencies, Pomerantz said.

Israel's ability to fight terrorism is unprecedented. This open, social nation, based on Roman principles and laws, has achieved higher levels of security than any other country. Doubtless this is the beginning of the promise recorded in Isaiah 54:17: *No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This*

is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD. – News from Israel July 2005

A LIFE OR SPECIMEN – *National Geographic* July 2005 pictured an aborted baby entombed in a glass container of preservative as a museum specimen. The caption stated: *For those who believe life begins when sperm and egg collide, the image of an aborted fetus may provoke sadness, pity, or even fiery moral anger. Many abortion opponents apply the same feelings to embryonic stem cells – condemning research that causes embryos to be destroyed. The only difference between an embryo, a fetus, and a baby, some argue, is time – and all deserve the same protection.*

Then on the opposite page photographed by an electron microscope was the eye of a needle with a tiny five-day old embryo (life) inside the eye of the needle. Life is richness graciously given by the The Creator; so precious that the profit of the whole world cannot compare to a man's loss of his soul. And is it no easier for a rich one to navigate the eye of a needle than enter the Kingdom of Heaven? Yet, with his fancy electron microscope and yea powerful telescope, the mighty, miraculous signature of the Sovereign is so obviously denied by the brilliant smallness of depraved minds.

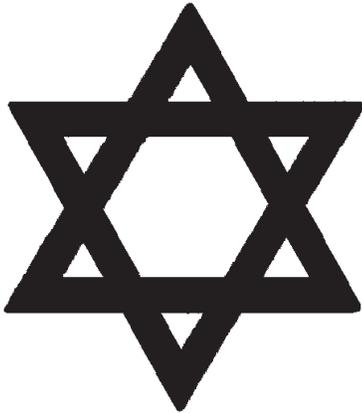


SUPREME COURT VACANCY – Just as we are going to print, we have all heard that Justice O'Connor has resigned from the Supreme Court. This may very well be a pivotal time for our nation. The Supreme Court has proven repeatedly to enact evil upon this country. This oligarchy has violated the Foundation, the Founders, and the Constitution of this land. Let us pray that President Bush and those in positions of leadership will have the courage to take a stand in defense of faith, families, and the sanctity of life. Immediately the outcry of liberals indicates fierce opposition to conserving biblical principles and values held by the founders, and I believe, by the majority of "grassroots" America. True, a biblical worldview is diminishing rapidly in this nation. However, God's people continue to speak out and take a stand at critical moments. Indeed the chasm broadens; and therefore, the lines become distinct as to who stands where. YOU do make a difference, so please let your voice be heard. Pastors must boldly present *thus saith the Lord* as HE speaks to

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the issues of our day.



ISRAEL AND JEWISH NEWS

– When elections were held in the West Bank and Gaza, Fatah, Yasser Arafat’s old party was challenged by HAMAS, the militant Islamic terrorist group that has been responsible for most of the terrorist attacks and suicide bombings in Israel in recent years. The fact that HAMAS make Fatah look moderate in comparison speaks volumes. Yet in these recent elections, HAMAS won in the largest jurisdictions where voting took place: namely, Qalqilyah in the West Bank, and Rafah and Beit Lahia in the Gaza Strip. The HAMAS flag now flies over these towns.

There are too many Palestinians who are not interested in coexisting with a Jewish state. On the contrary, they want to destroy Israel, and that, in fact, is the official position of HAMAS. Now the fact that HAMAS has won control of three of the most populous Palestinian townships shows that their constituency is growing and that they now have the support of the majority in those areas.

The United Nations, the European Union, and the U.S. State Department are going to continue pushing Israel to let these thugs have their own

country (*Palestine*).

Our response must be to redouble our efforts to reach out with the Gospel to both Jewish and Arab hearts in Israel. Jesus the Messiah is the only One who can bring true, lasting peace to this troubled region—and ultimately, that will only happen when He returns to rule and reign.

...For the past several years a group called the Monarchists has conducted extensive research into the lineage of several families in an effort to discover who has the closest bloodline to the biblical King David – a requirement for any future Jewish king.

Rabbi Yosef Dayan from Psagot, known for his recent threats to place a death curse on Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, is said to be a leading candidate to become the *King of Israel*. Dayan is said to have two documented ancient sources which draw a direct line between him and the males in his family to King David some 3,000 years ago.

...Canadian archaeologist Russell Adams and his team of colleagues have found information that points to the existence of the biblical kingdom of Edom existing at precisely the time Scripture claims it existed.

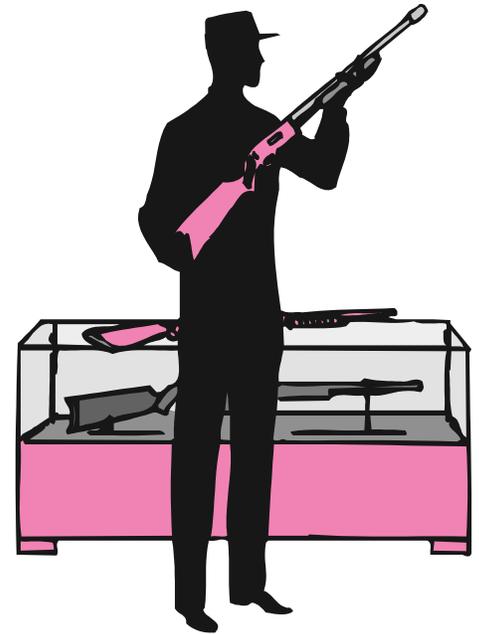
The evidence flies in the face of a common belief that Edom actually came into existence at least 200 years later.

...Messianic Jews have been considerably reinforced by recent immigration waves and now comprise some 10,000 Israelis, according to messianic leaders and their Jewish opponents.

Eitan Shishkoff, who heads the messianic community in Kiryat Yam outside Haifa, said there are 10,000 members in roughly 80 messianic congregations across the country. This

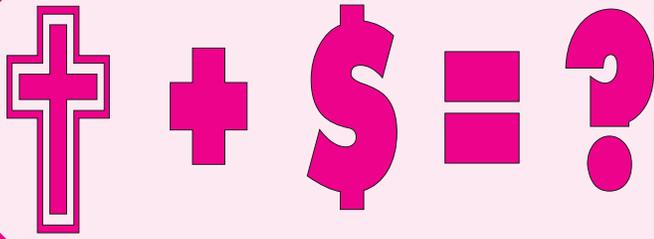
figure has approximately doubled since the wave of immigration from the former Soviet Union began in the late 1980s.

-Via CJF Ministries 5/2005



FIREARM RIGHTS – In a recent interview Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the constitutional right of Americans to own guns is as important as their rights to free speech and religion. Rice said she came to that view from personal experience. Her father, a black minister, and his friends armed themselves to defend the black community in Birmingham, Ala., against the White Knight Riders in 1962 and 1963. She said if local authorities had had lists of registered firearms, she did not think her father and other blacks would have been able to defend themselves. She continued by saying that Americans must be “very careful when we start abridging rights that the Founding Fathers thought very important.” “I don’t think we get to pick and choose from the Constitution. The

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SECULAR/SACRED MONEY CONNECTION

World Magazine recently printed an article entitled *Out of the Ghetto* with the caption: *BOOKS: Christian publishers reach for a share of the secular market, mainstream publishers jostle for Christian market share—and readers win from the competition.*

[Do we detect the biblical root of all evil here? Obviously money connects some dots as *World* states:]

“Since Bruce Wilkinson’s *The Prayer of Jabez* (Multnomah) was published in 2000, it has sold 9.3 million copies. The 12 *Left Behind* books by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins (Tyndale House) have sold 62 million copies over the last decade. Rick Warren’s *The Purpose Driven Life* (Zondervan) has sold a million copies a month since it was published in 2002, making it, according to *Publishers Weekly*, the bestselling hardback in American history.

“Such numbers have caught the attention of even secular publishers and booksellers. *Evangelical publishers have managed to turn out a steady stream of blockbusters in recent years*, observes *Business Week*, making religion the hottest category in books.

“No longer are Christian bookstores the sole outlet for evangelical books. Now evangelical titles—from inspirational meditations to Christian fiction—can be found at Barnes & Nobles, airport bookstands,

grocery stores, and Wal-Mart’s.”

[The *money-driven/what sells* secular publishing industry is very interested in the big-bucks market of religious books and particularly evangelical books. Must there not be an end-time blurring of the lines for the One-World Union to occur? Note this statement in *World*:] “Christian publishers are taking advantage of their newfound respectability in the publishing industry by opening new lines specifically designed to attract readers who are not necessarily Christians.” [Do we not want non-Christians reading Christian books? We note the continuation.]

“And the reverse is also true: Secular publishers are opening new lines specifically designed to cross over into the evangelical market.

“Not too many years ago, Christian titles were excluded from the mainstream publishing world. No matter how many copies a title from a Christian publisher might sell, it would never make the *New York Times* bestseller list. That influential cultural index only surveyed a carefully selected sampling of mainline bookstores, never deigning to include Christian bookstores, and the mainline stores seldom deigned to carry books from Christian publishers.

“Now, Christian books enjoy a presence in the marketplace. But are they having an impact in the marketplace of ideas? Or does this commercial success come at the

price of theological integrity?” [What about the “price of theological integrity?” Are the lines so blurred that this secular/sacred market has become one and the same?]

“Moody has a division called Northfield Press, which publishes self-help, business, and family-relationship books. NavPress has Piñon Press, which publishes self-help, family and adoption, and even medical books on Attention Deficit Disorder and dealing with stress. *While NavPress titles assume that the reader is a believer*, explains the website, *the goal of Piñon Press is to present a biblical worldview to those outside the kingdom of God.*

“Thomas Nelson is experimenting with tying in to another once-neglected but huge field: conservative politics. Nelson president and COO Mike Hyatt had long pushed for more sales in the broader market, a vision that bore fruit in the form of a partnership with WND Books, the book-publishing arm of *WorldNetDaily*, a conservative online news site. The imprint published edgy, politically conservative books that reflected, or at least didn’t conflict with, a Christian worldview.” [Yes, definitely do not conflict or ruffle any feathers. It must be acceptable, user friendly, Market Driven. What about this line of thought?]

“Because they often report controversial history and current

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events, Nelson Current books also sometimes include coarse language. *Because the books are intended for the mainstream market, we have a little more latitude there*, Mr. Miller said. *We don't want the language to become gratuitous, but the story is the story*. He added that Nelson Current uses salty or provocative language only when it's relevant and appropriate to the truth of the subject. *It's not in your face all the time*, he said."

[The sacred takes on the secular and then what?] "Just as Christian publishers are trying to reach the secular audience, secular publishers are trying to reach the Christian audience—sometimes simply by buying a Christian publisher. That is what happened to Zondervan. Acquired by HarperCollins, it became part of the even bigger media empire of the international media tycoon Rupert Murdoch, whose holdings range from Fox News to the Los Angeles Lakers. Secular publishers also form partnerships with Christian publishers, as Penguin/Putnam is doing with Strang Communications.

"And secular presses start religious divisions of their own, as with Time-Warner's two new divisions. Random House, in another example, started WaterBrook. These ventures were not a case of a big company venturing into a market that it did not understand. Lee Hough, a Christian literary agent, said that these secular publishers brought in editors and staff with experience from Christian publishing companies. But the greater financial resources and industry clout from the parent companies give them an advantage.

"Time-Warner in 2001 hired www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org

Rolf Zettersten, a senior executive at Thomas Nelson, to start Warner Faith. With his contacts, he signed best-selling Christian author Joyce Meyer, and with the Time-Warner distribution clout doubled her sales to 2 million. This success story attracted other big name authors, including Joel Osteen, whose Lakewood Church in Houston is America's largest." [Is there any Bible that warns about this "yoking up?" But of course there must be a reason "Purpose" in all this. Certainly there is. Listen to this:]

"You want Christian writers to be writing on the level as in the regular market. Mr. Arnold agrees: *Most traditional Christian fiction was less focused on the art of story and more focused on an agenda-driven approach*, he said. *The goal of many authors was to 'teach' the reader a doctrine through an often one-dimensional story. Ironically, it often wasn't a prejudice against Christian content that caused most of these novels to be rejected in the general market—the stories simply did not pass the test of great fiction.* ["Teach the reader a doctrine." Fancy that. Certainly Doctrine must not precede dollars! Listen to the following observation made in the article:]

"I am nowhere near as concerned about the effect of fewer Christian books being sold in Christian bookstores as I am about the poor theology being taught in the bestselling Christian books, said Brett Venable, a Christian bookstore manager. *It appears to me that the worst thing to happen is not the closing of Christian stores as a result of unfair business practices by publishers, but rather the propagation of loose theology making Christians more 'spiritual' but less godly.*

"Indeed, it is hard to accuse secular publishers of watering down Christian theology when Christian publishers have been churning out de-gendered Bible translations, Christless moralism, "have faith in yourself" tracts, and sentimental uplift—oblivious to sin, grace, and salvation—and all presented as Christian inspiration.

"The secular giant Random House is owned by Bertelsmann AG, a German media mega-conglomerate that got its start in 1835 as a publisher of Bibles, hymnbooks, and revival resources. The King James Bible - including the dispensationalist Scofield Reference edition - was published by Oxford University Press. And most of the great Christian authors published their works through secular presses. This was true well into the 1960s, from Catherine Marshall's *A Man Called Peter* and *Christy* (McGraw Hill) to C.S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity* and *Screwtape Letters* (Macmillan).

"Having our novels sell well in the general market is a way for us to salt and light through the power of story.... The great news is we're succeeding beyond our wildest dreams, said Mr. Arnold.

[Will the "wildest dreams" become a nightmare and a part of the confusion and blur lead to none other than prophetic fulfillment? Maybe if we stuck with THE BOOK, God's BOOK instead of the publishing proliferation, the devilish dangers would be obvious.]

World Magazine, July 2/9, 2005, By: Gene Edward Veith and Lynn Vincent

[Brackets are this editor's comments only.]



(Continued from page 11)

Second Amendment is as important as the First Amendment.”.....The hooded armed robber likely thought the older, female clerk would be an easy mark as he entered a Tampa convenience store, brandishing his gun and demanding money. He wasn't counting on confronting someone like Janet Grammer. The 64-year-old mother of 10, a former security guard, pulled her own gun from under the cash register and fired, hitting the criminal in the chest. “I think he thought I was an old woman and would just give him the money,” Grammer said after the incident. “My life was at stake.” Grammer, who also has 32 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren, later said she worried that she had killed the hospitalized assailant.”- *America's 1st Freedom July 2005*

PROGRESSIVECHURCHES

– Determined not to let conservative Christians dominate the faith, 14 area churches in the Raleigh, NC, area have banded together to convince wavering believers there is more than one way to be a Christian. *Progressivechurches* is the name of the new coalition, and it has taken out a catchy ad running in several area newspapers. *Almost given up on Christianity? We understand*, it reads. Pastor Doug Long of North Raleigh United, a United Church of Christ congregation, said, *We feel the primary understanding of Christianity in mainstream America is that of the evangelical right. We want people to know there are Christians who think of things in a different way. You can check it out for yourself at progressivechurches.org. TBC 6/28/05*



(Continued from page 7)

only 700 use abstinence-only sex education programs.

- *Despite what they are learning in school and hearing in the media, eighty-four percent of teens still instinctively know what's right and wrong and say pregnancy-prevention programs should teach young people to be married before they have a child.*
- *Two-thirds of U.S. teenagers who have had sexual relations wish they had waited longer, while twenty-eight percent say their personal experiences have made them more opposed to early sex.*

“Our children desperately need parents and churches to fill this role in their lives and teach them to be faithful to the Biblical message.

“A survey of today's thirteen-year-olds showed that only three percent had a Biblical worldview as the foundation for their decision making. The same survey showed that three-fourths of these thirteen-year-olds believe the following:

- *The devil does not exist – Satan is just a symbol of evil.*
- *A good person earns entry into Heaven by doing enough good works.*
- *All of the sacred books from different religious traditions (the Bible, Koran, Book of Mormon, etc.) are merely different expressions of the same spiritual truths and principles.*

“Two-thirds of these thirteen-year-olds believe the following:

- *Praying to deceased saints can have a positive effect on your life.*
- *The Bible discourages sin, but never describes it as an innate behavior.*

“Half or more of these thirteen-year-olds also believe:

- *Life either has no meaning or the meaning is realized through hard work leading to the production of resources to enjoy comfort and security.*
- *There are no absolute standards for morality and ethics.*
- *When Jesus Christ lived on earth, He*

committed sins.

- *The Bible does not specifically condemn homosexuality.*

“Studies show that less than fifteen percent of the average church ministry budget is allocated to ministries for children and youth. If it is correct that the checkbook is an accurate indicator of priorities, young people appear to be a secondary concern for many churches. Trends have long indicated that, by the time they reach the age of thirteen, most children have already set the course for the rest of their lives with regard to spirituality and faith.

“The local church is this generation's only hope. *Pray that we reach this generation for Christ before it is too late!*”

- *The Legal Alert, March 2005*



Nuggets of Gold

1. To some, you are self-righteous if you believe something more strongly than they do.
2. People who wear their feelings on their sleeves need to be careful how they dress.
3. The law of gravity may seem to be intolerant, but it is still the law of gravity.
4. A gossip dumps his garbage on the listener.
5. A person who has a lot of friends either has a lot of money or is a good listener.
6. He is your friend who pushes you nearer to God.
7. When you put the two words “THE” and “IRS” together, it spells “THEIRS”?
8. When it comes to taking a stand, we have found that most people had rather be sitting down.
9. Beware of the half truth - you may have gotten the wrong half.
10. Long tongues will mean short friends.



(Continued from page 5)

their Savior. The other prison has borne much fruit and we are looking for God to work in this prison as well. The other prison ministry has produced a village pastor and two translators. We have also been in charge of soul winning for a number of weeks now and have had a good number of church members attending. Pray for direction from God in leading this ministry and for Christians to continue to be faithful to witness to others...Thank you so much for your faithful support and especially for your prayers! Your support allows us to be here and your prayers enable us to do God's work.

Corpus Christi, Texas – The Roloff Evangelistic Enterprises letter stated: *It seems that the Christian church today is being found in a struggle over the right doctrines to preach, the proper modes of worship and methods to reach out to the lost. I doubt it has ever faced the multitude of ideas presently before us that contradicts what the founding fathers believed when they landed on the East Coast.*

Some churches are flourishing while others are closing their doors. Both believe basically the same fundamentals of the Christian faith or at least did at one time. Compromise is certainly active today! It may be in the methods of worship practiced, the style of music used or of which translation of the Bible to use.

We see pastors coming and going from the church for one reason or another. It may be felt that they are "not relevant to the youth," others downloading the dress code to attract those outside of the church, while others struggle in maintaining

conservative Bible standards. One never wants to be deemed as "old fashioned," or "out of touch with society" – hence it may seem easier to go along with the tide instead of bucking it.

Some have lowered the standards to be more attractive to the lost! They disregard proper Biblical standards to get them in and then – "wham" – hit them with the Gospel. It would be hard to believe that this kind of church is building a strong spiritual foundation. The ideal Christian should be one that the world looks up to and admires and would want to say, "I would like to have what they have." If they are using the same music, going to the same entertainment and doing the same things, what need is there for them to change anything?

-Gene L. Price, Director of Communications

Aquila and Priscilla Ministry, Asheville, NC – Steve and Rebekah Lilly have temporarily rented an apartment in the Asheville area. We have already completed a week of training in The Voice in the Wilderness office. The Lilly's were able to have a meeting to discuss and obtain information concerning their new soul-winning outreach teaching English as a second language. Materials were purchased and they are now eagerly studying. As mentioned earlier, an opportunity to work with a pastor in Venezuela has been extended to the Lilly's. Please pray for wisdom and the Lord's direction. Over the next several months, the Lilly's will be doing some traveling for The Voice in the Wilderness. They will need to raise some support for their first project. Again this is an item of prayer. We will keep you informed as this new ministry develops!



FOUNDER'S MONTH

Each August an envelope is included for those who can and would contribute to *The Voice in the Wilderness* publication and missionary efforts. Summer is a lean period financially, but expenses and missionary commitments remain the same. An extra gift on the part of a few will make all the difference. Many of you are already so very faithful to this ministry on a monthly basis. We do send our deepest thanks. However, there might be others who read *The Voice in the Wilderness* each month that could take this envelope and send a special gift at this time to help out too. Please consider giving during our Founder's Month. God Bless!

SACRIFICE?

Here is David Livingstone's testimony

"For my own part, I have never ceased to rejoice that God has appointed me to the missionary office. People talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa.

"Can that be called a sacrifice which is simply paying back a small part, a great debt owing to God, which we can never repay?

"Away with such a word, with such a view, and with such a thought! It is emphatically no sacrifice. Say, rather, it is a privilege.

"Anxiety, sickness, suffering, or danger now and then, may make us pause and cause the spirit to waver and sink. But let this be only for a moment.

"All of these are nothing when compared with the glory which will hereafter be revealed in and for us.

"I never made a sacrifice. Of this we ought not to talk, when we remember the great sacrifice made by Him who left the throne on high to give Himself for us."

A great *without* has been written on heathenism. Men and women toiling *without* a Bible, *without* a Sunday to worship, *without* prayer, *without* songs of praise. They have rulers *without* justice and *without* righteousness; homes *without* peace; marriage *without* sanctity; young men and girls *without* ideals and enthusiasm: little children *without* purity, *without* innocence; mothers *without* wisdom or self-control; poverty *without* relief or sympathy; sickness *without* skillful help or tender care; sorrow and crime *without* a remedy; and, worst of all death *without* hope.

-Church Bulletin



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