



CONTENDING FOR  
FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIANITY

# The Voice IN THE Wilderness

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

Mark 1:3



CONTENDING FOR  
AMERICAN FREEDOM

October 2005

## APOLOGIES FROM AMERICA

Over the miles, and even across the sea  
They watch this home of the brave – land of the free.

No, not the stock market or Hollywood stars  
Not the athletes or our expensive cars

Nor the fancy homes and clothes galore  
Or all the amenities from shore to shore.

I'm talkin' religion, or still better yet  
The church, the Christian – for they have met

It's not true, this "One nation under God"  
It's not real, just a form and fake *façade*.

What Bible and prayer – for could they hear  
With that "rockin' rollin'" blare, O' dear?

HIS still small voice is just "drowned" out  
Amid the crankin' amps and frenzied shout.

Their noise and dance – Moses' anger waxed so hot  
And today the church is full of stain and spot.

But is there hope with another "Missions Team"  
Or is this the fad with a steady stream?

To take a group to visit the Hottentot  
All dressed like the world when they are not.

And the missionary on field so far away  
Must make excuse – to his people say,

Now we don't dress or sing like them  
Our standard is to glorify HIM.

The Americans came, but we must pray  
From the Book to the world do they stray!

Their money and labor they came to share,  
But sad, in much, they lay naked and bare.

Their material things and the world projects  
They look and sound as the mirror reflects

A worldly age of music and dress  
Looking for the new, and without rest.

But the MISSION is more than song and dance  
More than travel with a helping chance

To lend a hand and do some good  
But to glorify our Lord in all we should.

So **APOLOGIES from AMERICA** and just this plea,  
Before you go over land and sea,

A *Standard High* when we consider others  
May mean far more to our sisters and brothers.

For their custom and culture and Bible stand  
Just may differ in their church and land.

-RLW





# MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends:

The sign in the airport stated: "If you are resting on your laurels, your laurels are on the wrong end of your life." By the way, the posterior will find an uncomfortable seat attempting to rest on the past. As a child of God, we are to look up and press on. "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." We will reap if we faint not. Trust in the Lord, don't worry about anything, and pray about everything. Hallelujah, Jesus is coming soon!

These are days of great opportunity. Jesus told us He would build His Church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail. Let us not quit but get involved in our Lord's work around the world.

Most should have received the letter introducing the Aquila/Priscilla Ministry. Thus far, Steve and Rebekah have shared this unique outreach in several churches. By the time this edition reaches you, they will be ministering in the Spanish Church at Beacon in Raleigh, NC. Lord willing, they will go to Venezuela in 2006. Please keep this young couple in your prayers.

Shortly, I hope to have a report on the construction projects in Venezuela and India. As funds are available there are many other projects for us. Your partnership and prayers are essential. Ask the Lord to help you get involved.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find an update on Bro. Royce. Thank you for praying

during this transition period. These have not been easy days for Bro. Royce. Others have been in charge of his personal affairs, and I have not always been privy to the decisions. Opinions vary and life's circumstances do not always reflect our preference. Thank the Lord He is working all things for the good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

A special THANK YOU to those who responded to the Founder's Edition Envelope. Your support and gifts are deeply appreciated. God Bless!

For Christ and Souls,  
Ronnie L. Williamson



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!

JOHN 20:21 "AS MY FATHER HATH SENT ME, SO SEND I YOU."

## Apologies From America

Inevitably as I travel to the mission field, groups from all around the United States have gathered in airports to visit missionaries from Mexico to Peru, to India and the Philippines. It has become quite fashionable to take a "Missions Trip." Yet, I am embarrassed and indignant about the testimonies these American church groups are exporting around the world.

It was a Sunday night and my wife, daughter, son-in-law and I were in the car planning to visit a church we had been told about by a friend. As we drove into the parking lot it immediately became apparent that there was either no evening church service or we had missed the time. There were only a couple of automobiles and two or three individuals in sight. I drove up to one gentleman and ask him, "Do

you have a church service tonight?" He replied, "Well, no, our sports teams meet on Sunday evening, and we have some small groups meeting in homes." So we thanked him and proceeded back out to the highway. I knew of another church not very

**Proverbs 11:30,  
"He that winneth  
souls is wise."**

far away. We headed to that location, thinking they surely had an evening service - but again, the same thing - a practically empty parking lot. About the time we arrived, two men drove up in their car and proceeded toward the church door. I drove over to them, stopped, and asked, "Do you have church tonight?" The answer was rather shocking, "No, Sunday nights are movie nights. Tonight we are showing *Gods and Generals*. You might get a little religion out of that," the man responded. So, back out to the highway again! It's now getting rather late, and we are not sure if we will find a church open tonight or not. There's one more opportunity close by. Sure enough, there is a parking lot full of cars, but no one in sight, so obviously the service has already started. The four of us entered the rear of the auditorium and took a seat near the back, while a group of rather interestingly dressed folk sang

from the choir loft. Now, to make a long story short - this church group had just returned from a "Missions Trip" to Mexico. The 47 member missions team, male and female, were wearing white T-shirts with their church emblem on the front. They sang a number of choruses and *Kumba-ya* type songs. There were also a number of testimonies in which the individuals seemed sincere. Then there was a slide presentation.

Later that evening my wife asked me if I noticed anything particularly interesting about the slides. My immediate observation was that the Mexican church people were dressed far more appropriately than the American missions team. The Mexican ladies wore dresses while the majority of the American women wore jeans.

Several years ago, I had the privilege to take an outstanding group of college age young people to Venezuela. After our nine day visit, the national pastor, as well as the America missionary, told me how much they appreciated the testimony, spirit, and standards of our group. We had ministered in song, preaching, house-to-house soul winning, and had a very fruitful missions trip. Some time before our group went to Venezuela another team had visited in which their dress and ministry was unacceptable. The Venezuelan pastor was even forced to refuse them opportunity to sing in his service, due

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Contributions, Address Changes,  
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to their inappropriate dress.

Is it compromise? Has the Word of God changed? Does music, dress, philosophy and standards shift with the times and culture?

Probably 30 years ago, I first heard a dear brother and pastor preach. My what a pulpiteer. Such an impression his messages had on this young preacher. Repeatedly, I heard him as again and again he challenged my life. Then, I received an e-mail that this man of God was about to cross over to glory. In that e-mail the writer gave a wonderful tribute and closed with II Timothy 4:6-8. The passage was copied from the New American Standard version. It has been a long time since I have heard this brother preach, but years ago, it was the KJV all the way. Possibly, he would have objected to the NASV quote.

Then during that very same period of time, a mailing came out from a Bible College that I respected for many years. It was an advertisement for their "Senior Days." Listed as requirements for dress, the brochure stated, "Men should wear a collared shirt and dress pants to classes and chapel. Jeans and athletic pants can be worn for other activities (no shorts, please). Women are asked to wear a skirt or dress to classes and chapel. Jeans, khakis, capris, or knee-length culottes are appropriate for free time (no shorts, please)."

There was a time in recent history that this school would never have allowed jeans or capris on the young ladies. And those culottes have become "walking shorts" and a joke among the young people. So you mark it down, the parentheses will disappear from their literature real soon.

There will be severe accounting for the ungodly export by American

churches of this modernistic, carnal compromise to the regions beyond. It is our own *United States of America* standing in need of mission teams from afar coming here holding for the pure, uncompromised Word of Life.

For almost nine years I have been traveling to India. It has been quite grievous to repeatedly encounter American groups bringing worldly philosophy, standards, multiple Bible versions, and contemporary music to India. Again, it's often the case where

**God's business... is:**

- I. A serious business.**
- II. A soul winning business.**
- III. Our Sovereign's business.**

many of the Indian church members have much higher regard for Biblical separation than the mission teams from America. With many readers from other countries around the world, I feel compelled to apologize for the confusion often created by the steady parade of American trekkers purporting to represent Christ in your countries. It is inconsiderate and thoughtless, let alone, unbiblical to misrepresent our Lord in this manner. Please count this as an apology from America. Should we not have higher regard as ambassadors for the One whom we represent?

The apostle Paul writes in II Corinthians 10:16-18, "To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand. But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For not that he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth." I heard one preacher describe this section as glory giving and glory living. It should be our desire to do all to the glory of God.

After all, we are doing God's business, and this business is:

- I. A serious business.
- II. A soul winning business.
- III. Our Sovereign's business.

Yes, this business of carrying the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a serious business. To preach the Gospel in the regions beyond requires us to be sober and vigilant (I Peter 5:8). Again, this is a serious business – a life and death venture. We are dealing with the eternal, never dying souls of men.

"What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36). Do we see the value of one's soul here as weighed against the value of the whole world? And then, Proverbs 11:30, "He that winneth souls is wise." When we venture out with the gospel from Jerusalem to the uttermost – to preach the gospel in the regions beyond – it is indeed a serious business, a soul winning business.

Could those who dare go to foreign shores claiming to be on a mission do so without recognizing that this is our Sovereign's business? Jesus said in John 20:21 "As my Father hath sent me, so send I you." Whether in Mexico, Venezuela, India, or just next door, people are watching. How do we represent Christ? Again Jesus said, "As my Father hath sent me...." It is inconceivable that the Father sent or Jesus went in such a casual manner as we see so many go today. The dress, attitude, and total demeanor do not reflect the spirit in which the Father sent His Son. This is our Sovereign's business; as the Father sent the Son, we are being sent by the Son to represent the Father in the same manner in which Jesus represented His Father. (Please read the poem *Apologies from America* on the front of this edition.)

RLW

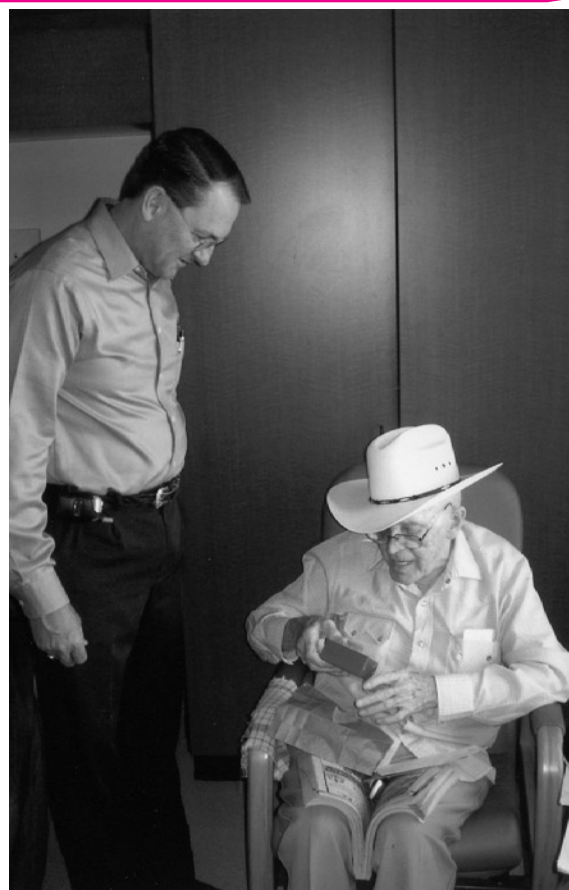
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# A VISIT WITH BRO. ROYCE

On August 15, 2005, Terry and I flew to Dallas, Texas, rented a car driving north to Lawton, Oklahoma for a visit with Bro. Royce. As many of you know, he has resided in the Fort Sill Veterans Center for about a year. In this publication we have given updates, as information was available. For those who have inquired, I have endeavored to answer. However, it has been our policy not to disseminate second hand, possibly inaccurate information. In Ohio on September 10, 2001, Bro. Royce had several episodes that hospitalized him and resulted in his inability to continue the previous life style and ministry. After months of rehabilitation and rest at home, Royce and his *Power of Attorney* made some critical decisions. The past four years have brought difficult challenges, and Bro. Royce told me in August of 2005 that he regrets certain choices he made and should have accepted different counsel.

However, those who have authority over his personal affairs and assets must now make those determinations. I will say the Veterans Center is a new, modern, extremely clean and beautiful facility. Every amenity needed is available and the staff all seemed on top of their jobs. Times such as this are not easy. Transitions and change are not always of our choosing. Thank God, for His grace is sufficient.



*Bro. Williamson presents to Bro. Royce a Veteran's Belt Buckle in appreciation of Bro. Royce's service in the Army during World War II.*



*This is the beautiful Lawton/Fort Sill Veterans Center where Dr. J. Royce Thomason has resided for about a year. Bro. Royce and his Power of Attorney made the decision to move Bro. Royce from his Dallas home to the Veterans Center out of concern for daily needs. This is a modern, state of the art facility offering private rooms and a wide variety of amenities and comforts.*



*Bro. Royce brings Bro. Williamson up-to-date on some of the latest at the Veterans Center.*



Is there any question that the celebration of Halloween is satanic, connected to the Druid Festival of the Dead? The devilish mixture of religion produces a destructive instrument. Pope Boniface IV consecrated the Roman Pantheon to the Virgin Mary using it as a temple to pray for the dead and added the ungodly, unscriptural teaching of Purgatory. Then Gregory IV added to the confusion, and the feast became known as All Saint's Day. On the contrary, *Malta Network* reports that Cardinal Ratzinger (current Pope Benedict XVI) applauded German writer Gabriele Kuby for "educating the public" concerning Harry Potter's "subtle seduction" that is "undermining the souls of Christianity." The *Network* continues by saying, "Kuby was concerned that Harry Potter may be part of a plan of making the world get used to the occult." How interesting that the Catholics could convey a need for caution, while a Christian Congregationalist Minister touted that the book was not "corrupting children's minds" but helping them to "follow the teachings of Jesus" (*Wikipedia.com*). Going a giant leap further is John Granger in his book *Looking for God in Harry Potter* which states that "the gospel has rarely, if ever, been smuggled into the hearts and minds of readers so successfully and profoundly" (*ChristianityToday.com*).

Still another form of this seduction that is invading our children today is the card game Yu-Gi-Oh. Focus on the Family Online reports that the cards originated in Japan and "were a flop until the artists included mild cartoon erotica." Now this fad has spread to our American homes as a child's game of fun and a Saturday morning cartoon. The cartoon includes the dark, the evil, the Ouija board, mysticism, etc. (*Focus on the Family.com*) Beware of seducing and evil spirits. Please know the Scripture:

- [1] *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;*
- [2] *Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;*
- [3] *Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.*
- [4] *For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:*
- [5] *For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.*
- [6] *If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.*
- [7] *But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.*
- [8] *For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.*
- [9] *This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.*
- [10] *For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.*
- [11] *These things command and teach.*
- [12] *Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*
- [13] *Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.*
- [14] *Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.*
- [15] *Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.*
- [16] *Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.*

*I Timothy 4:1-16*



# A LEGACY LEFT BEHIND?!

Steve Lilly

Recently, my wife and I went on family vacation with my parents to visit my uncle and aunt in Connecticut. While there, we visited my Dad's old stomping ground of Northfield, Massachusetts, which is also the birthplace, homestead, and grave site of D. L. Moody.

This was Rebekah's first trip to the Moody homestead. It was inspiring to walk the same ground where a great man of God once lived and ministered. As we walked up to the birthplace, my Dad began to retell some of my family's stories of the Moody family. As a nurse, my Grandmother took care of Mrs. Will Moody (D.L. Moody's daughter-in-law) and attended her Bible studies for women. My Grandfather also worked for Moody as a carriage driver and carpenter. Granddad would set up tents so that thousands of people would be able to stay on the campus and hear the Word of God.



*Birthplace of D.L. Moody. The right porch is an entryway to his study where his books, Bible, and Sankey's organ are currently housed.*

Dad told of how Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Moody were out for a carriage ride and saw two girls on Northfield Mountain making straw hats for income. Mr. Moody turned to his

wife and said that these girls should have an education that they may learn not only academically but also spiritually. This was the start of the Northfield Seminary for girls (a seminary in those days was considered a high school).



*A plaque has been placed to the right of the front door of the birthplace of Moody.*

We approached the house, and noticed that no one was there to give a tour. In fact, there was a flyer saying that we could call someone to come, but it was only "by chance" that we could get in. We were disappointed, but we walked around the house and looked in the windows. As we came around the final corner before going to the car, Dad told us that this was Moody's study. His chair, Bible and other books were there, as well as Ira Sankey's organ. If only we could have gone in, we would have been able to look through them. Amazingly though, while Northfield School has been responsible for the upkeep of the site, no one has carefully preserved this important aspect of our Christian heritage.

As we walked a few yards from the birth site, in the shade of a sprawling tree, two simple stones marked the graves of Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Moody. It was interesting to see what people had left there for "good luck." On top of his gravestone

someone had left a quarter. Others had left patches from years in which they had graduated from the school; while some had left scarves and pieces of cloth - all for "good luck." Despite the present-day secularism of "luck" decorating the site, the Moodys' legacy of being buried facing east for the coming of the Lord, left a greater testimony for the faithful.



*Pictured here are the gravestones of Mr. and Mrs. Moody. They are facing east so that they will rise to meet our Saviour face to face. The caption under Mr. Moody's dates reads, "He that doeth the will of God dwelleth forever." Mrs. Moody's caption states: "His servants shall serve Him and they shall reign for ever and ever." Notice the pieces of cloth and patches that were placed there for "good luck."*

Driving through this campus that now was being used for secular purposes, we approached the auditorium. Dad told us this was where Moody held his crusades many years ago. It was here that men like R.A. Torrey would come and preach to the multitudes that gathered. Dad continued to tell stories as we drove down to the house where Moody and his family lived while they were in Northfield (it is now the offices for the Northfield Schools).

We then drove about ten minutes to the school Moody built for boys. Mt. Hermon was started as a school

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# NEWS BITS

## FROM HERE AND THERE

### THE LAST 30-60 DAYS HAVE BEEN AN ENORMOUS PERIOD OF BREAKING NEWS

– These pages simply will not permit the coverage we would like to give to so many important issues. We do request your prayers for all our brothers and sisters who experienced the devastating results of Hurricane Katrina. This will be a long and difficult recovery. Thank you to all those who have sacrificed and given in so many ways to help those in need.

Possibly this will be a wake up call for a city that has catered to gross perversion. It is interesting that on August 31-September 5 a homosexual festival “Southern Decadence,” very similar to the Mardi Gras, was scheduled in New Orleans. I have been in New Orleans. There was an overwhelming oppressiveness that I believe was Satanic. After Hurricane Katrina, the mayor of New Orleans used God’s name in vain and spewed filth from his mouth blaming others for lack of response. This is a city of Mardi Gras, Southern Decadence, and a region economically driven by casinos and gambling. Is the corrupt government of New Orleans any secret?

**HARMFUL BOOKS** – Fifteen scholars recently ranked the 10 most harmful books from the last two centuries. Here is the ranking:

1. *The Communist Manifesto* by Karl

Marx

2. *Mein Kampf* by Adolf Hitler
3. *Quotations from Chairman Mao*
4. *The Kinsey Report* by Alfred Kinsey
5. *Democracy and Education* by John Dewey
6. *Das Kapital* by Karl Marx
7. *The Feminine Mystique* by Betty Friedan
8. *The Course of Positive Philosophy* by Auguste Comte
9. *Beyond Good and Evil* by Friedrich Nietzsche
10. *General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money* by John Maynard Keynes. (No Darwin, No Freud, etc.?)

*Human Events via World 5/18/05*

### TRADITIONAL DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE SAVED

– In a close vote, the traditional view of marriage was saved in California. “AB 19” was a bill that was presented to the California lawmakers that would sanction same-sex marriage. Conservative activist Brian O’Neel “predicts that within 10 years, . . . we’re going down.” The state legislature allowed for the reconsideration of the bill. *World 5/18/05*

### CEO EDUCATES SCHOOLS

– CEO Patrick Byrne is suggesting that schools should spend 65% of their budgets on teachers salaries and classroom costs. The claim is that this would put \$14 billion

into the classroom without raising taxes. His claim is that there is not enough funding for the classes. *Time 5/27/05*

**PTA AND GAYS CLASH** – *The Washington Times* reports (7/4/05) the National PTA convention and the annual Columbus Gay Pride Parade collided this year during a break of a workshop at this year’s convention. Hotel security had to remove signs that questioned PTA’s barring of the group Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays and Gays from the convention this year. State Rep. Diana Fessler stated, “The PTA has used its position of power to bully a minority group. They’re certainly not practicing what they preach when it comes to inclusion.” [Typically public education and perversion does not clash. This speaks of the aggressive militancy of homosexual and liberal groups.]

### PBS FUNDED BY PLAYBOY

– “The Education of Shelby Knox” was a PBS documentary that was partially underwritten by the Playboy Foundation. The documentary is about a young girl who believes in abstinence of sex before marriage, but advocates sex education that teaches contraception and condom use. She also fights for a homosexual-heterosexual student alliance in her school. Some House of Representatives Republicans are

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looking into the connection between PBS and Playboy. *Washington Times* 7/4/05

**PAYING FOR ILLEGALS** – In their July 2005 issue, *NewsMax* reports that tax-paying Americans are paying millions of dollars each year for medical bills of illegal aliens. Mexican residents of towns on the US border will drive to US checkpoints in emergencies and seek medical help. The state of Arizona reported losses exceeding \$150 million in 2002 as a result of treating illegals. The law states that hospitals must treat any emergency case that is brought to them. As a result, hospitals and medical centers cut jobs because they have to bear the cost for the illegals seeking medical attention. Mr. Bush, stop funding illegals. This will help Americans. By the way, cut funding to illegals and there will be help for disaster relief.

**CHARACTER OF TODAY'S YOUTH** – In July of 2005, *NewsMax* gives the following statistics about today's youth:

1. *Half of youth cheated on homework or a test in the past 12 months, with 16 percent saying they have cheated five or more times.*
2. *The use of alcohol is prevalent among youth. One quarter drank a full glass of alcohol or can of beer in the past 12 months, with 14 percent saying they have had an alcoholic beverage five times or more in the past year.*
3. *Nearly a quarter of youth took part in a group fight, and 10 percent say they hurt someone badly enough to need bandages or a doctor.*
4. *Youth are experimenting with*

*drugs, with 16 percent saying they smoked marijuana in the past year and 8 percent indicating they have done so five or more times.*

5. *The incidence of violent or delinquent behavior increases as adolescents move into their teenage years.*
6. *Boys are more likely than girls to engage in violent or delinquent behaviors.*

### **FAMILY VS. VILLAGE**

– Senator and former First Lady Hillary Clinton wrote a book in 1996 contending that “It takes a village” to raise a child. Recently Senator Rick Santorum has rebutted this argument stating, “It takes a family.”

Senator Santorum's book promotes family over the village (or big government) that was promoted by Mrs. Clinton. *Washington Times* 7/18/05 [Editor: Let us not forget who the Bible instructs to “train up a child in the way he should go...”]

### **“PROFANITIES” IN CHINA**

– Microsoft is accommodating China by blocking out certain words from its new internet portal. Democracy, freedom, and human rights are among the few words that one can no longer find on the internet in China. Also in May, the Chinese police raided 100 house churches because of their immense growth. *World* 7/2/05

### **WHEN TO HAVE SURGERY**

– The July/August issue of *AARP Bulletin* states when it is the best time to have surgery. Doctors-in-training usually begin their internships in July, therefore this month may not be the best time to have surgery scheduled. Dr. David Shereer says, “But if you're having

surgery that can wait, it's probably wise to postpone it for a few months. I certainly wouldn't want to be the patient at a teaching hospital who gets open-heart surgery on July 2.”

### **“BEWARE OF FALSE ‘NEW FRIENDS’”**

– “Q.) My 83-year old father befriended a young couple and their children two years ago. In the last year I've found out he has given them most of the money in his savings and checking accounts. He only has his house left, and I'm afraid he'll lose that, too. It doesn't do any good to talk to him. How can I protect him? A.) What you describe could be a classic case of financial exploitation. It often begins when a ‘new friend’ connives to isolate a person from his family, then slowly takes control of his finances. When the money is gone, the ‘friend’ may disappear, leaving the person heartbroken and destitute. You can report your concerns-anonymously if you wish- to the hotline of adult protective services, the local agencies that are responsible for investigating suspected financial exploitation. Investigators are trained to distinguish between cases of genuine friendship and exploitation. If wrongdoing is suspected, they will turn the case over to law enforcement authorities.” *AARP Bulletin July/August 2005*

### **GET OUT OF DEATH FREE**

– A recent case that the Supreme Court ruled on said that any murder that a person committed under the age of 18 would not be held accountable by the death penalty. This ruling will give any teenager the license to commit murder without the Biblical consequence. *Pacific Justice Institute July 2005*

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# RELIGIOUS NEWS

## AND COMMENTS

### NEW MOVIE SACRILEGIOUS

– Ron Howard’s new movie starring Tom Hanks is based upon a book by Dan Brown called the *Da Vinci Code*. The book makes the following claims:

1. Jesus is not God; he was simply a man.
2. Jesus and Mary Magdalene were married.
3. Mary Magdalene needs to be worshiped as a goddess.
4. Jesus and Mary Magdalene had one child - a daughter.
5. The Bible was composed by a pagan Roman emperor.
6. The Gospels have been distorted to support Christian beliefs.
7. Mary Magdalene’s job on earth was to institute the Church.

Even though this book is fiction, some have taken it to be based on history. The author claims that all of the documentation is accurate. The first page of the book was titled “Facts.” The question is will the movie also contain these “facts?” *NewsMax/August 2005*

### POLITICAL CORRECTNESS OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

– The Presbyterian Church office in Washington wants their members to push for state and federal laws to change in favor of “same gender unions.” They would like the laws to state, “all civil unions licensed and solemnized under state law to apply in all federal laws that provide benefits, privileges, and/or responsibilities to married persons.” *World 6/18/05*

### CHURCH OF ENGLAND RECOGNIZES GAY PARTNERSHIPS

– The clergy of the Church of England will no

longer be disciplined for registering for benefits under the Civil Partnership Act in England. The House of Bishops will pass this proposal that would allow gay clergy to live together, as long as they remain celibate. This act also would allow gay partners to receive benefits that married couples enjoy. *World 6/18/05*

### MILITARY OR RELIGIOUS COLLEGE?

– Several alumni of the Air Force Academy are upset due to the religious atmosphere on campus. David Antoon, a retired Colonel from the Air Force and graduate of the Academy, was upset when he took his sons to the Academy and found several Bible studies and several people saying “Amen” and “Hallelujah.” He is not alone in his objection to the religious atmosphere on the campus. Captain McLinda Morton is a chaplain in the Air Force that was assigned to the Academy, but recently reassigned to Okinawa. She claims that the reason for the reassignment was her questions about the evangelistic outreaches from ministries in the area to the Academy. She claims that some of these ministries “have Bible studies and classes in which faculty members can learn how to evangelize in their opening statements to students each year.” The debate has also been made in the House Armed Services Committee. *Time 6/27/05*

### SUPREME COURT CHALLENGES GOD’S LAWS

– In a recent case before the highest court in our land, the justices decided that the Ten Commandments could not be displayed in a courthouse in the state of Kentucky. The five justices that voted against the display of these laws of God

said that they did not “play a significant role in the foundation of our system of law and government.” The whole controversy is over the “separation of church and state.” Justice Souter stated “the First Amendment mandates government neutrality between religion and religion, and between religion and nonreligion.” Justice Scalia, one of the four who voted for the display, disagreed with his colleague by saying, “Who says so? Surely not the words of the Constitution. Surely not the history and traditions that reflect our society’s constant understanding (of the First Amendment’s Establishment Clause).” The ruling does allow for the display of the Ten Commandments inside courthouses. *Washington Times 7/4-10/05*

### SUPREME COURT HAS TOO MUCH POWER

– In a recent letter to the editor, the *Washington Times* (7/4/05) printed the following: The justices of the Supreme Court rules from their benches “ex-cathedra.” They ignore the other branches of government and consider them to be nothing more than “messenger boys.” They ignore the reference of the Declaration of Independence to a “Supreme Judge of the World” and “Creator.” They have taken our “unalienable rights” and completely disregarded them. Case and point-Terry Schiavo. They took her “unalienable Right to life and liberty” and reduced it to the “Right to death and nihilism.” They change decisions made by electors, subsidized abortion, promote Darwinism, Freudianism, atheism, infidelity, amorality, pornography,

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promiscuity, relativism, Marxism, and religious cleansing (just to name a few). [We have an opportunity now to change the court-if President Bush puts a Godly man to take former Justice O'Connor's place.]

**HARRY POTTER IN CHURCH?** – “Saint John’s Episcopal Church in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, used a new curriculum for their vacation Bible School based on the Harry Potter stories this year. This summer’s theme is ‘Wizards and Wonders: The Journey with Harry Potter,’ as preschoolers take flying lessons on miniature broomsticks at a makeshift Hogwarts School of Wizardry and Witchcraft. Older students play a game of Quidditch, and more than 100 youngsters get Bible verse in their daily owl mail. A minister said the Bible and Harry Potter stories have what she calls a ‘slew of parallel lessons’.” *TheBereanCall.org* 8/22/05

**AMERICANS FLEE LIBERAL CHURCHES** – In her article “Conservatives Are Winning the Religious Wars,” Loredana Vuoto critiques Dave Shiflett’s book *Exodus: Why Americans are Fleeing Liberal Churches for Conservative Christianity*. According to Mr. Shiflett, people are turned off to a homosexual clergy, sexual freedom, and the abortion views of liberal churches. This book was written when Mr. Shiflett found out that a seminary student was out of favor with others for believing in God. This was not the only incident that was uncovered by Mr. Shiflett: Unitarians refusing to believe in the afterlife, and bishops rejecting the Virgin birth and resurrection of Jesus. Americans have become fed up with these beliefs and are returning to Conservative churches. They want their pastors to confront them with the Gospel, and not just another Sunday sermon. *HumanEventsOnline.com* 8/15/05

## CONTEMPORARY CHURCHES SPIRITUALLY EMPTY

– “In Europe, mass religious apostasy left its churches people-free, but the American megachurch could bring this irony: We, unlike the Europeans, have people in our big, empty churches.” This quote is from Clint Rainey of the *Dallas Morning News*. His whole contention is that the megachurches may be full but are lacking a spiritual element that is desperately needed today. There is no difference between the denominations in these megachurches. They do not preach strong on doctrine and sin but instead major on a contemporary worship with praise songs. These churches are producing generic Christians that are not grounded in the Word of God. Yes, our churches need to be full but also the people in the church need to be spiritually full as well. *World* 8/20/05

## INTELLIGENT DESIGN OR EVOLUTION

– Responding to a recent question about intelligent design in public schools, President Bush responded, “You’re asking me whether or not people ought to be exposed to different ideas, and the answer is yes.” The problem for evolutionists is that they do not want the idea of a Divine Maker taught to students. They say that the idea of intelligent design is not credible because it is not published, and it should not be published because it is not credible. *World* 8/20/05



*Images such as this have been printed in text books and painted in museums all across America. Along with the allurements of dinosaurs goes the teaching of evolution. Young impressionable school age minds have been indoctrinated and robbed of God, good and innocence. Any wonder why the depths of perversion are prevalent today?*



*Some shopping malls and entertainment centers of America host the “First Church of Evolution Worship Centers” for nomadic devotees. Even on vacation or just a family outing, a local Evolution center is available for the young and old alike.*

**EVOLUTION IS REAL** – The following was taken from the *Berean Call* July of 2005 quoting a public school teacher: “The reality of evolution having occurred and continuing to occur is every bit as strongly established as the knowledge that the Earth is round, that germs cause disease, that electrons exist, or that the speed of light is - - 300,000 kilometers/second . . . I live in an area where boll weevils often win the evolutionary race to develop resistance to pesticides . . . I have seen and touched and personally found the fossils of the now-extinct ancestors of living creatures.” [Isaiah 5:21 “Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!”]

**“PASS THE DOLLAR”** – The 25,000 member World Changers Church International has places for people to come and worship all over the globe. The pastor of this ministry is Creflo A. Dollar. Nicknames for this pastor are “Pass the Dollar” and “Cashflow Dollar.” Mr. Dollar teaches a “prosperity gospel” which is evident in his own life. He is not shy about the wealth that he has obtained by flaunting it with the purchase of 2 Roll-Royces and a Gulfstream-3 private jet. The WCCI has averaged between 2,000 and 3,000 new members per year with 5,000 joining in the last 3 months. *The Berean Call* 8/9/05



# THINK ON THESE THINGS

Rebekah Lilly



The film is developed! What an interesting picture! In just a glance, that moment in time is evident to the viewer. What is the picture? It is pages upon pages, neatly bound and creatively covered. It is the number one best seller in children's literature. You know! Even the media reports each time a new installment will arrive. People stand in line all night. They put their name on the early book reservation list. They even participate in special events to celebrate its unveiling. Children across the world are avidly reading this new literature. It must be good. It gets them excited about reading. Their imaginations are working overtime. They cannot put it down. All children should read it – Yes?!?

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As Christians, we know that our sin nature constantly requires daily reprimand. We seek the Lord daily for discernment and wisdom so that we can live in a righteous, godly manner. A small child's sin nature is, at times, very evident, but thankfully, instruction can train the child in what is right. For example, a child may desire and crave a bag full of Oreo cookies. He might even be unhappy if the "need" is not met. Yet wisdom maintains the danger of eating 60 cookies. Children, and even adults, will not just stumble into what is righteous and good. They must be taught, instructed, and trained. This applies not to just cookies but every area of life.

Back to our picture. Let's take another look. Have children stumbled upon a good read? Literature affects a person emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. If the author has developed a creative setting and intriguing character, the reader will immediately be captured by the story until the last page. Even then, the story lives on in the reader's world of imagination, consuming his mind and influencing his dreams and beliefs.

I remember even when I was young, reading of the prairie days, dreaming of living on the prairie, and believing that one day my life could exemplify the girl on the prairie. The imagination is a wonderful gift and books are an excellent way to inspire and cultivate an active imagination. Yet, with books being so influential

and gaining the access to our most inner thoughts, shouldn't some discernment and wisdom be applied to not just cookies, but what we read – especially what the children read?

History effectively gives a background on the growth of children's literature. In the 1600s, the Colonial Puritans believed in a sin nature, therefore, they strove to train their children to reject sin and accept the truths of the Bible. The literature of that day, Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* and the *New England Primer*, reinforced this same philosophy. The 1700s continued the same ideas of goodness, touching the heart of the child with its creativity. *Mother Goose* and *Robinson Crusoe* entertained while holding firm to Biblical truths. Children's literature blossomed in the Golden Age of the 1800s with the original publication of the *Brothers Grimm* and Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. Childhood entertainment had been discovered, but the honest, pure, and just were not forgotten in *McGuffey's Readers* and Noah Webster's *Blue-Backed Speller*. The Golden Age continued with Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*, which emphasized the virtues of goodness, and on into the early 1900s with *Just-So Stories* and *Uncle Remus Tales*. Sadly, the golden light was quenched in the 1960s with a Dark Age philosophy in modern dress. The pure and just of the Colonies was replaced

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[www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org](http://www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org)

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with a modernistic and realistic philosophy of Europe. Literature began to expound upon the struggles of man. It became depressing, and much was poorly written. Today, literature has become infested with complex symbolisms, pessimism, death, tragedy, and hopelessness.

Take another look at that picture. What do we see? Not just a book on the best-seller list, but a picture of our society. So many in America have forsaken God. They are depressed and hopeless, and it has polluted this new era of literature. Remember what books affect – the emotions, the spirit, and the mind. Do we want death, tragedy, fascination of evil, hopelessness, and depression influencing the minds, emotions, and spirits of our children? We must protect them, even from what they may have stumbled into that seems as good

as those 60 cookies.

Case in point: While working with a group of young people, I continually noticed one boy's constant obsession with the fantasy world. He fed his imagination daily

Literature affects a person emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually.

with the current fad of children's material, which included sorcery, magic, and the unbelievable. He was fascinated by the strange, the spooky, the eerie, the evil. He drew pictures, he wrote stories, he played cards – all devoted to this mysticism.

One day, while I was speaking with his mother, she voiced concerns over his apathetic and unwilling attitude. With fear in her voice, she repeated his conversation on how depressed he was with life and how he just wanted to kill himself.

He lived with the new era of children's fads, it invaded his mind, and it soon controlled his beliefs and dreams.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report: if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on **these** things."

-Philippians 4:8

RWL



## PREACHING:

### Preach To Make Them Sweat

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" - Acts 2:37

"I preach to my congregation week after week. And I pray that I may be able to preach with such convicting power that my people will sweat! I do not want them to leave my services feeling good. The last thing I want to do is to give them some kind of religious tranquilizer - and let them go to hell in their relaxation.

"The Christian church was designed to make sinners sweat. I have always believed that, and I still believe it. The messages preached in our churches should make backslidden Christians sweat. And if I achieve that objective when I preach, I thank God with all my heart, no matter what people think of me. Jesus is Victor!

"Lord, help me to preach with boldness - not concerned with 'what people think of me.' Amen."

-A.W. Tozer

## A Legacy Left Behind

(Continued from page 7)

to train young men to go into the ministry as preachers or missionaries. Next we came to the chapel where, in 1886, one hundred men willingly gave their lives to God for whatever He would have them do.



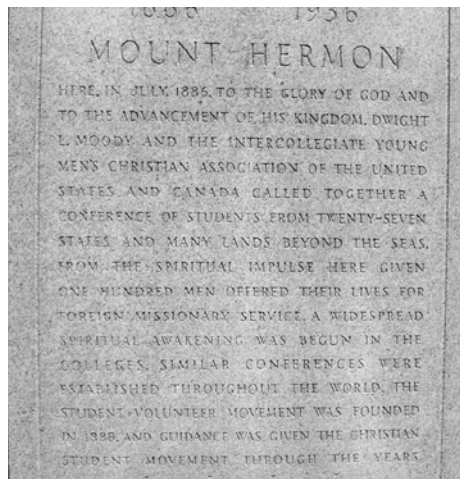
*When Mr. Moody and his family were in Northfield, Massachusetts, this was his residence. Above the porch, a plaque reads "Homestead 1829." The house is currently the offices for Northfield/Mt. Hermon Schools.*



*Mt. Hermon was originally started for boys to come and learn. The chapel still stands as a testament to days gone by.*



*This is the chapel on the campus of Northfield School. Currently, a female chaplain leads the student body each week. What a heritage?! What a monument to the past!?!*



*On this spot at the Mt. Hermon campus near the chapel, a monument was erected in remembrance of the 100 men who gave their lives to become missionaries on the foreign field.*

Today, the Northfield School's campus is being sold to whoever would wish to purchase the property. The Northfield School has been moved to the Mt. Hermon campus as a co-ed. This is not a Christian school setting or even atmosphere, but an elite boarding high school. Moody's vision of young men and women being trained to go into full time Christian ministry has become extinct on those campuses. We pray that someone who has the vision and finances would reopen the Northfield campus and use it for what it was intended -- to train up men and women for the glory of God.

STL



*The Auditorium was built in 1894. It was here that Moody preached to thousands that came for his evangelistic services*

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

Received by The Voice in the Wilderness

**SEIBERT KRETZER**

Given by: Estate of Seibert Kretzer

**MILFORD IRONS**

Given by: Vernice Irons

We would like to express our thanks to those who have given a memorial gift to The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc. Ministry. These names will be added to a plaque and displayed in our office. If you would like to honor a loved one, please send a Remembrance Memorial Gift or a Living Memorial Gift with the person's name (legibly printed). Your gift will be listed in an upcoming issue of this publication.

THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS • PO Box 7037 • Asheville, NC 28802

## CEHCK THIS OUT

Aocecdrnig to rscheearch at Crnabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttar in what oredr the ltteers in a word are, the olny iprmoetnt tihng is that the frist and lsat ltteer be at the rghit pclae.

The rset can be a total mses and you can still raed it wouthit problem. This is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the word as a wlohe. Amzanig huh???

(Continued from page 9)

## BIKE PATHS COST \$225 MILLION

– In the recent “highway bill” that President Bush authorized, \$225 million was designated for bike paths. This was the largest bill for highways ever passed by Congress. You may be asking yourself, “Where are they going to get the money for this?” The answer is from the gas tax. Only eight House members opposed the bill. Two of them were representatives from Arizona, Jeff Flake and John Shadegg. They requested that \$28 million (\$14 million each) of allotted appropriations be sent to the Arizona transportation department. Their request was rejected. The following is a list of the top 10 government officials who increased the dollar amount of the bill:

1. Sen. Joe Lieberman (D. - Conn.) \$14 million
2. Rep. Howard Berman (D. - Cal) \$5.2 million
3. Rep. William Delhunt (D. - Mass.) \$3.2 million
4. Rep. William Jefferson (D. - La.) \$3.2 million
5. Rep. Dave Camp (R. - Mich.) \$2.16 million
6. Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D. - N.Y.) \$1.84 million
7. Rep. Mike Castle (R. -Del.) \$1 million
8. Rep. James Oberstar (D. - Minn.) \$878,080
9. Rep. Zach Wamp (R. - Tenn.) \$800,000
10. Rep Sanford Bishop, Jr. (D. - Ga.) \$640,000

*Human Events 8/15/05*

**END OF AN ERA** – With the death of Peter Jennings and the retirement of Tom Brokaw and Dan

Rather, the majority of us have to look to new people to report to us the news, no matter how liberal it is. The former anchors of ABC, CBS, and NBC did have an agenda that was anti-war and very liberal in its presentation. ABC executives are taking their time to name Mr. Jennings replacement. *World 2005*

## WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROMISED LAND

– The withdrawal of the Israelis from the Gaza strip caused several protests not only from the residents but also from the former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who resigned from the job as finance minister. This is allowing Mr. Netanyahu to contend for the job as prime minister when the Israelis hold elections in 2006. The withdrawal is also controversial in the U.S. among the Jews and Christians who are divided over who should own the land. *World 2005*

## “STALINOUS” EASLEY AND HIS “MAFIOSO” HIT MEN RAMROD NORTH CAROLINA LOTTERY

– **Honor and integrity were sacrificed by a bunch of unscrupulous politicians in North Carolina.** Lottery backers worked all year to gain a majority in the Senate, but fell short by two votes. The Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight assured Senators that the session was over. “We are through for the year” and senators won’t be coming back to work until May. Then came the flip-flop. An email was sent out alerting members that a floor session would be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday. Basnight pushed a lottery vote while two “no” voters were absent. One was in the hospital and the other on his honeymoon. Lottery backers couldn’t win with these “no”

voters present so they waited until they weren’t. Even then, it took the Lt. Governor to break a 24-24 tie to put North Carolina in the gambling business. The constant cry was to pass the lottery for the sake of education in North Carolina. Check out the other states that have had lotteries. Did it improve their educational system? Gov. Easley opened his mouth and revealed his spiritual ignorance and his intellectual ignorance. Holding up a signed lottery bill he said now we have an education lottery. The truth is North Carolina was hijacked by Gestapo tactics. It’s about **SIN** – **GAMBLING** not education.



## Nuggets of Gold

1. Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.
2. Silence is often misinterpreted, but never misquoted.
3. Growing old is inevitable, growing up is optional.
4. There is no key to happiness. The door is always open.
5. A grudge is a heavy thing to carry.
6. Learn from the turtle - it only makes progress when it sticks out its neck.
7. Be more concerned with your character than your reputation. Your character is what you really are while your reputation is merely what others think you are.
8. I know now why they call this period of my life the “Golden Years.” Because it takes all of my gold just to get through them!
9. Our aim should be service, not success.
10. Some people go to church just to see who didn’t.



*Paul Revere was born in Boston in January of 1734 and died in May of 1818. At this site, it was sad to hear that an elementary student did not even know who Paul Revere was or what he had sacrificed for our country.*

## PICTURE OF A PATRIOT

Born of French Huguenot descent in December 1734, Paul Rivoire (later changed to Revere) entered the New World. At age thirteen, Paul got involved in ringing the bells at his church, and, along with his friends, organized the Bell Ringers Association. Young Paul studied in Boston, became a silversmith, and eventually served in the French and Indian War. As the Colonies' desire for freedom mounted, Revere became politically active as leader of the Boston craftsmen. He was one of those in the Boston Harbor on December 16, 1773. The Boston Committee of Correspondence and the Massachusetts Committee of Safety hired him as a courier. With these qualifications, he was chosen by a Patriot leader, Dr. Joseph Warren to warn Lexington and Concord of the eminent attack of the British troops. Riding quickly, Revere not only warned the Patriot leaders endangered of being captured by the British, but also alerted all other colonist to take up arms to defend their liberties. Amazingly, some were not interested in news of the British and demanded that Revere deliver his news more quietly. Revere adamantly replied, "Noise! You'll have noise enough before long. The regulars are coming out!" With this enthusiasm and determination, nothing could squelch this desire for a free country.



*Minuteman monument in Lexington, Massachusetts. It was erected 100 years after initial battle on April 19, 1775 in the American War for Independence.*

If only we could have more "Riders" like Revere for our Christian faith! Listen to the hoof beats coming..... WAKE UP! Jesus Saves! The rider would not be stopped or discouraged by the critical or uncaring, but only urged on. JESUS IS COMING SOON!

### PAUL REVERE ALSO....

- \*Manufactured gun powder during the war.
- \*Designed and printed the first Continental paper currency.
- \*Designed and produced the state seal, which is still used today by Massachusetts.
- \*Made the copper fittings for "Old Ironside."
- \*Started the first copper-rolling mill in the United States.



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