



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*

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Free Subscription



CONTENDING FOR  
AMERICAN FREEDOM

August/September 2004

## Founder's Month

### THE FOUNDATION

**Tools of choice – grub hoe and sweat,  
Mixed with a lot of determined mind;  
For every rock with resolve is met;  
It was only a matter of time.**

**And rising early from sunrise to set  
Reward comes from the fruit of pain.  
Then in that day there's ne'er regret,  
When toil is done and finish gain.**

**So dig it deep and make it sure  
The "Foundation" must always be done right.  
And tho' the world may yet allure  
Work on for soon comes the night.**

-RLW



# MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends:

It has been said that nothing endures but change. Now as believers, we see the events of life quite a bit different from those who perceive nothing to endure except change. Thankfully, I have the enduring, unchanging promises of my loving Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As a matter of "Truth" and "Fact" He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Yes men change, the old sin-cursed world changes, but I have, and I pray you do as well, an absolute unchanging TRUTH that life and eternity can stand upon. Even when circumstances about us change, we need not fear for He is our ROCK. Though storm winds blow, we shall not be moved. In Christ it is well with my soul!



On September 10, 2001, things changed. Bro. Royce (for those who may not know, Dr. J. Royce Thomason, the founder of The Voice in the Wilderness ministry) fell ill in Ohio. Then the very next day extremists filled with murderous hate committed horrendous acts upon this nation. Things did change. The Voice in the Wilderness ministry experienced change. America along with the world saw dramatic change. But God's Word did not change. Regardless of illness, attacks by hate-filled enemies or even satanic assault,

the Lord is faithful and His Word is True. As The Voice in the Wilderness entered a transition period and America experienced major adjustments, God's work continued. It has been amazing to see His provision through difficult times. Many of you have partnered with us in prayer and faithfully supported this missionary effort. Thank you so very much for your precious friendship.

It has been 35 months, almost three years since the Lord allowed some life changing events to come upon Dr. J. Royce Thomason. God did not change nor did His faithfulness. Yes, God knew and God makes no mistakes. Thankfully, the foundation of The Voice in the Wilderness had been firmly laid upon Jesus Christ and the work must continue. An interesting verse is Hebrews 6:1, "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God." In this walk and work of faith, it is God's will that we move forward, onward and upward for His Glory. We dare not get stuck in the rut of past memories or present accomplishments. By the way, someone said a rut is a grave with both ends kicked out. Stay out of and

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

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# Sermon of the Month

*"The Wedding of our daughter, Rebekah,  
and our new son-in-law, Steve"  
July 3, 2004*

God's azure sky canopies His jeweled Eden Garden. There the Lord God brought Eve unto Adam and in that pristine Cathedral the first marriage was divinely ordained. A prism of color streamed through the trees gently waving in the garden breeze. Diamond droplets glistened upon flower petals as their fragrant perfume filled the air. All God's creatures looked on in reverential awe at this Holy scene.

Now, July 3rd, 2004, our Heavenly Father once again grants us the privilege to take part in His blessed covenant. My - how the world struggles with such an event as this.

The world doesn't want to be alone. The world wants love, companionship, security and happiness. Yet, the world leaves out Christ... the answer for their soul.

Someone has said it takes three things

to be happy:

1. Something to do
2. Something to love
3. Something to look forward to

Something to do – that's Faith (Faith in Jesus Christ the Saviour and lover of our soul).

Something to love – someone to love, that's Christ.

Something to look forward to – that's Heaven (He has prepared a place for HIS).

Rebekah, Steven – Thank God your testimony to this congregation is one of Faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

Thank God your testimony is not just love for each other but a love for Him who unites you both in a love that transcends the mere mortal. Jesus said, "If ye love me keep my commandments." You have kept yourselves in purity for this day. And now present your lives in honour and love to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Keep your Faith in The Word of God. Keep your face in the will of God. Keep your feet in the way of God, and keep your fear in the wisdom of God.

Indeed we have much to look forward to. Life, life abundant and life everlasting. There is a great day of eternal reward and joy for the faithful.

For richer for poorer... - Being rich is not measured by what you have but by what you can do without. Being rich is not measured by what you have but by how you manage what you have.

In sickness and in health... - Peace is not the absence of sickness and trouble but the presence of Jesus.

To love and to cherish... - Your love for Christ will make pure, precious and perpetual your love for each other.

Till death do us part... - Thank God in Jesus Christ parting is only until the reunion. What a glad day that will be.

The world simply does not

understand this divine, spiritual event here today. Ephesians 5:32 in describing the marriage union says, "This is a mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the Church."

The world offers its pre-nuptial agreements.

The world signs contracts based on mistrust and suspicion.

God gave His marriage covenant based on commitment, oneness, and sacrificial love.

The world likes me, mine, give me, give me, and give me. Words like submission, honour, obedience, surrender, and character are a struggle for the world.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote:

*As unto the cord the bow is  
So unto the man is woman  
Though she bends him she obeys him  
Though she draw him yet she follows  
Useless each without the other.*

(At this point, Bro. Williamson used a bow and arrow to illustrate marriage and the home.)

The Master Designer crafts the bow and cord - Useless each without the other—but in concert, oneness – what a marvelous instrument. What beauty and strength. What power and

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*For Personal Correspondence,  
Contributions, Address Changes,  
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Write to us*

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## IS GOD'S WORK IN YOUR WILL?

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





# FROM THE MAILBAG

[My wife and I endeavor to read all the cards and letters that come into The Voice in the Wilderness office. Time simply does not permit a reply to each one even though that would be the ideal. An overwhelming majority are supportive and in agreement with the biblical position of this ministry. Even in the case of our articles on **“Divorce and Remarriage”** most appreciated and agreed even encouraging us to be steadfast in this day of compromise. There were, however, those who disagreed. Here is one such letter:]

“Dear Bro. Ronnie,

“Judging from the follow up article about divorce you must have received a lot of letters from readers who had a problem with the first article in the February 2004 edition. I really wanted to write you a letter after that publication, but felt you would not be receptive [of] any criticism, and let it go allowing you to have your views, but after the second article I felt as though you threw divorced people into the same class as homosexuals, and I just had to draw the line there!

“First of all I grew up in a very dysfunctional home where I did not have any spiritual influence. My parents were divorced when I was about 12, but before that I saw my parents date others while they were still married. I married at the age of 17 and after just one year we got a divorce mostly due to being too young to even understand what true love was, and because he wanted his freedom to go do his thing. The years following that I was so in the world and the life of sin that it was said of me that there would be no use to witness to me because of my lifestyle. I married again when I was 21 and moved to another city. The Lord placed me right next door to a preacher,

and he used to come over and try to get us to come to church. My husband was addicted to the dog races and was also to the point of being sick with jealousy. By the end of that year right after my 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday I was already living in despair, knowing that this marriage was probably doomed as well. Then that preacher came by and had told his wife, I will try one more time to invite them to church. They were having a revival and he gave me a flyer and invited us to come to church. I asked my husband if he would like to go; and he said NO! So I called his mother who was a little old saint of God. She was more than glad to go with me. That night in that little Baptist church in [...] with an elderly preacher from [...] preaching the word of God, I went down to that old fashioned altar and gave my life to Christ, and at the time I didn’t even know what I was doing, but I did know that the load of sin and shame I had been carrying was lifted from me. Praise His Holy Name!!!!

“I know I have gone on and on, but I really feel like it is important for you to understand where I am coming from. The church where I was saved welcomed me into their family, and I began to grow in the Lord. I had my first child a couple years later and I was so happy that he would have the opportunity to be raised by a Christian mother rather than what I used to be. I was working for the [...] company when he was born, and was the first woman to be promoted to an engineering position in the company. I was offered a big raise to return to work after he was born, and I told my boss “there is no amount of money in the world that can buy me from my son.” The Lord blessed me a couple years

later with a second son. What a blessing to be entrusted with two precious lives. What a calling!!!!

“The road of life from that point was one of living in total despair, and just trying to live for my Lord. My husband continued to go to the dog races and we lived in want due to his addiction. I won’t go on and on about all that we went through, but the hardest part was his verbal abuse to me and the boys. He dealt with his guilt of always being gone to the dog races by trying to beat us down to the point that we felt like this is all we deserved. There were many times we came to the point of going our separate ways, and that same preacher would come over time after time and try to help us work it out. Promises would be made and things would get a little better for a while, but each time he went back to his sinful lifestyle it always got worse. After 13 years of this, he had done so much to kill our love, that it would not have even mattered if he had quit the gambling. The finances got so bad that I had to go to work, and even though the boys were older and in school, it still hurt me beyond words that it got to this point. I even got angry at God because He had let things get to this point, but looking back I can see that anything He had done to him would have hurt us also in the process. The week he left home we were about to lose our home and if it had not been for my mother we would have. There were warrants out for his arrest because of bad checks, and they turned off our lights that day because he didn’t pay the bill when he said that he had. Even our pastor told him I can’t in good conscience ask her to give you another chance when we have been through this



so many times before. He tried to hold the church and my relationship with the Lord over my head, saying that because he had never committed adultery I could not divorce him. There are more ways to commit adultery than with another woman. I had no way to compete with that other love.

"During this 13 years of suffering, my relationship with the Lord was all that kept me going. I believe in my heart that GOD had no part in this marriage. When the vows were made I did not know anything about the Lord or His word. The thing that made me hang in there for 13 years was that I knew God never wants a marriage to end. I had purposed in my heart that I would not put my boys through the hurt that I had seen in my childhood. My boys who are now grown [...] ask me so many times, 'Mama how did you live with him that long?' The judgmental influence he has had on their life has caused them both to go away from the Lord.

"After about a year of being alone with my boys, the Lord brought back a man in my life that I had dated when we were teenagers. He had also been through a bad marriage. He married a lady with three little girls, and took on that responsibility, and then they had one little girl together. When she was three years old he came home early one day and found her in bed with another man. He had been alone for 8 years. It was like a dream to have someone who was so good to me and to my boys. I was so afraid to give marriage another chance, thinking that my life would have to be void of the joy of what a true love relationship could really be like. I took that chance and I thank God everyday that I did. I was 35 years old at this time, and had never known the feeling of unconditional love, other than the love that the Lord had for me. We have now been married 19 years and in all that time we have never even

raised our voices to each other. Our love is built on respect, and the Lord is the center of our home. We felt led to move away from [...] when the boys got grown. Their dad had always put such a negative influence on our home, questioning our authority, and was stalking me to the point that he threatened my life and we had to get a restraining order. If I had not had my husband to help me through this I believe in my heart I couldn't have made it. The Lord knew who to send to me. He never ever had anything but my best interest in His mind.

We have lived here in [...] for 10 years. My husband and I got into a small church, unlike the church we came from in [...] and we couldn't hide there. The Lord forced us out of our comfort zone and called us into a jail ministry a couple years ago. Satan fought us with all the demons in hell to try to stop us from following this call. One thing that the devil used was the attitude of most Christians that once you have been divorced you are no use to the Lord. That is a lie straight from hell!! I recall in the scripture that the Lord told the disciples on one occasion, "that I must needs go through Samaria." Do you think that this woman was one that most churches of today would reach out to? The one reason I think the Lord chose us for this jail ministry is because we know how it is to feel like you are outcast, and that you have gone to far to come back.


"The attitude of so many Christians today are like the religious leaders in the Bible. The Lord got on them more about their holier than thou attitude than any other sin. I agree with the teaching and preaching of the Word of God that divorce is not what the Lord designed for marriage, but I have a problem with Christians who put this sin in a category of being the unpardonable sin. You can hear of an ex-con or person delivered from some

life of sin who gives his life to Christ and then surrenders to preach the Word and people will get all excited about going to hear him preach and give his testimony, but a man or woman who has been through the pain of divorce, many Christians treat them like they are of no use anymore. Who are we to judge? We have not walked in their shoes. God called us all to be a witness and that calling as He told us in His word is to reach out in love to all. There

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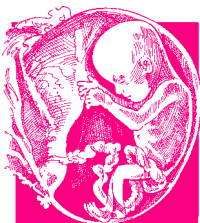


## Nuggets of Gold

1. The reason many successful people are so lonely is because they sacrificed too many friends on the way up.
2. Prayer can *keep* us out of trouble a lot easier than it can *get* us out of trouble.
3. A man hopes that his lean years are behind him; a woman hopes that hers are ahead.
4. An error doesn't become a mistake until you refuse to correct it.
5. Envy is usually the mother of gossip.
6. When all is said and nothing done, it's time for the meeting to adjourn.
7. It's frustrating when you know all the answers, but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
8. Success is the result of backbone, not wishbone.
9. Followers do not usually go any farther than their leaders.
10. Nothing dies quicker than a new idea in a closed mind. 

# NEWS BITS

## FROM HERE AND THERE



### FEDERAL JUDGE DECLARES PARTIAL- BIRTH ABORTION LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL

– In San Francisco, CA, on June 2, 2004, District Judge Phyllis Hamilton ruled that the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, passed last fall and signed by President Bush in November, was unconstitutional because it “poses an undue burden on a woman’s right to choose an abortion.” The Federal judge made her decision in spite of the exhaustive factual findings obtained by Congress during the hearings leading up to the passage of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. The findings clearly indicated that procedure is never medically necessary to preserve the health of the mother.

“This judge’s usurpation of the will of the President and Congress to protect the unborn is a clear act of judicial activism,” said Brad Dacus, president of the Pacific Justice Institute.

The judge’s ruling applies to the over 900 Planned Parenthood clinics and their doctors, who are responsible for roughly half of all abortions in the United States. [info@pacificjustice.org](mailto:info@pacificjustice.org)

### LINES BETWEEN “NEWS” AND “ENTERTAINMENT” ARE BLURRED

– During one month, five hours of the “news” magazine’s programming went for coverage of “The Apprentice,” “Frasier” and “Friends.” The chairman of the broadcast department at Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism and former NBC News executive, told the Associated Press that “the line between news and entertainment is so blurred that I don’t think people are concerned whether or not ‘Dateline’ does a serious, tough journalistic story and next week does a little fluffy thing that promotes their own network.” At this same time, the competing CBS chairman, defended their network by saying they aired editions of ‘60 Minutes’ “that will change the world forever.” He was referring to the televising of photos of alleged prisoner abuse by Americans in Iraq, a programming move by “60 Minutes II” that sparked a media feeding frenzy, potentially compromising the lives of those stationed abroad. [Where do you get your “NEWS?”]

### HOW WE DRESS - IMPORTANT OR NOT?

As I read and search for current news for this little paper, I’m always amazed at how often I find articles on “Dress” written from those outside of the pulpits, Bible Colleges, etc. Please read on: “How we dress when paying

respects to the deceased says a lot about our cultural slide,” was the title as Jane Edwards wrote quite frankly in the *Asheville Citizen Times* on June 21, 2004, after seeing the dress of American citizens filing past the casket of former President and Statesman, Ronald Reagan. Jane Edwards feared being called “a relic of bygone days” maintaining “there are times and places where shorts or jogging ensembles are simply inappropriate.” She thought most of the “mourners” looked like they were “en route to Disneyland.” “Stunned” and “saddened” were words she used to describe disappointment with “how far our society has strayed from basic civility.” “I also acknowledge that how people dress is a reflection of how they wish to convey themselves to the social milieu in which they find themselves at a given time. I will even readily concede that, when preparing myself to attend a viewing of the deceased, I would spend more time thinking about the person and her/his family than about my outfit – this is not the time to be making a fashion statement. It is a time to show support to the family and pay respect to the deceased. Most important, of course, is being there. But being there respectfully is also important.”

“The rituals we perform around death are outward demonstrations that this is a serious, somber occasion

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to honor the person who has died, and to comfort the family.”

It was very interesting how Jane Edwards asked and then answered the question: “What is conveyed to the family of the deceased when we show up to pay our respects in shorts and a tank top? It shows that we are merely “stopping by” on our way to the next event of our day – like stopping by the cleaners on the way to aerobics.” She then concluded her article stating: “I know failure to observe protocol and other courtesies is not an earth shattering problem, and that the cosmos will not implode if no one makes the extra effort. I simply regret how the general population has come to such a point of communal ignorance of standard protocol and simple etiquette.” [Originally from Durham, Jane Edwards has an M.S. from UNC-Chapel Hill. A veteran of the first Gulf War, she retired from the U.S. Army after 20 plus years of service, and lives in Asheville, NC.]

Please keep in mind this article was not written by a Bible-thumping preacher desiring to impose his legalistic views on his church members. Whether Jane Edwards is a Christian is unknown, but obviously from the above bio her experiences are broad. Too often it is Christians and preachers even, taking a very compromised position on this dress issue. Some do not believe the Bible speaks to this subject, thinking dress standards are legalistic and that times have changed. Yet daily, secular newspapers and magazines write about the issues of dress in our culture. Too often the world understands while “Christians” excuse the inexcusable and

unbiblical dress that has invaded churches across America.

“**A city with a dress code for its night clubs**” – is this prejudice, bias, intolerant against the blacks and poor in Louisville, Kentucky. That was the headline on the news. Regardless, it is of interest that the world is constantly debating and litigating this dress issue while many in churches and pulpits say dress standards are a secondary issue. Often they label this issue as legalistic, intolerant and judgmental.



**TRUE COLORS** – Bald is officially a color in Montana. When applying for driver’s licenses, bald men no longer have to report what color their hair once was and can now simply claim baldness as a hair color. Montana residents may also choose bald as an option when applying for fishing licenses online. “It’s a newer option, along with other hair colors, such as sand,” said an official with the state Motor Vehicle Division.

*World 6/19/04*



### **FROM “THE JUDICIAL WATCH” “VERDICT” FILES**

– During a December 2001 public meeting at the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, Jesse Jackson, who runs the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, hosted the event which featured

speakers from Toyota announcing the company’s “21<sup>st</sup> Century Diversity Strategy.” During a question and answer session, Reverend J. L. Peterson asked a Toyota representative whether or not they would consider helping a black conservative who is not affiliated with Jesse Jackson or his group. “Over the next several minutes, the crowd grew and escalated into a very loud, unruly, and threatening mob,” Judicial Watch alleged in its complaint. And Reverend Peterson justifiably feared for his life. “After the meeting finally ended, I tried to leave my seat and [Jesse Jackson’s son] Jonathan came from across the room to where I’m standing and he shoved me. I said to him, ‘You’re not allowed to touch me. Why are you touching me like this?’ And by this time, Jesse Jackson came over and I found myself encircled by people yelling and screaming. Jackson cursed me, saying, ‘Get this [expletive] out of here.’ People were calling me “n——” [Judge Mathis] was cursing and Jonathan was using obscene language as well.”

A trial court dismissed the civil rights claim while allowing the assault claims to continue. Judicial Watch appealed, and won. Now, six of the seven original claims at issue will continue. “Jesse Jackson has gotten away with a lot – but he won’t get away with assaulting Reverend Peterson,” said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton.

In another file: Mr. Peter Paul’s campaign finance case against the Clintons can be traced back to August 12, 2000. On that night, celebrities such as Cher, Brad Pitt, and John Travolta paid tribute to Bill Clinton during a star-studded Hollywood

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# RELIGIOUS NEWS

## AND COMMENTS

### CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY OF DARRELL SCOTT –

Many of you must be saying, “Who is Darrell Scott?” Recently I had the privilege to read his testimony that he gave to a subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee on May 27, 1999. Some may have already read this, but perhaps many have not. It is worth your time to read. Darrell Scott is the father of Rachel Scott, a victim of the Columbine High School shootings in Littleton, Colorado, April 20, 1999. There is no doubt that God sent this man as a voice crying in the wilderness. The following is a portion of that transcript: “Since the dawn of creation there has been both good and evil in the hearts of men and women. We all contain the seeds of kindness or seeds of violence. The death of my wonderful daughter, Rachel Joy Scott, and the deaths of that heroic teacher, and the other eleven children who died must not be in vain. Their blood cries out for answers.

“The first recorded act of violence was when Cain slew his brother Abel out in the field. The villain was not the club he used. Neither was it the NCA, the National Club Association. The true killer was Cain, and the reason for the murder could only be found in Cain’s heart.

“In the days that followed the Columbine tragedy, I was amazed at how quickly fingers began to be pointed at groups such as the NRA. I

am not a member of the NRA. I am not a hunter. I do not even own a gun. I am not here to represent or defend the NRA – because I don’t believe that they are responsible for my daughter’s death. Therefore I do not believe that they need to be defended. If I believed they had anything to do with Rachel’s murder, I would be their strongest opponent. I am here today to declare that Columbine was not just a tragedy – it was a spiritual event that should be forcing us to look at where the real blame lies! Much of the blame lies here in this room. Much of the blame lies behind the pointing fingers of the accusers themselves.

“I wrote a poem just four nights ago that expresses my feelings best. This was written way before I knew I would be speaking here today:

Your laws ignore our deepest  
needs,

Your words are empty air.

You’ve stripped away our heritage,

You’ve outlawed simple prayer.

Now gunshots fill our classrooms,

And precious children die.

You seek for answers everywhere,

And ask the question, “Why?”

You regulate restrictive laws,

Through legislative creed.

And yet you fail to understand,

That God is what we need!

“Men and women are three-part beings. We all consist of body, soul, and spirit. When we refuse to acknowledge a third part of our make-up, we create a void that allows

evil, prejudice, and hatred to rush in and reek havoc. Spiritual presences were present within our educational systems for most of our nation’s history. Many of our major colleges began as theological seminaries. This is a historical fact. What has happened to us as a nation? We have refused to honor God, and in so doing, we open the doors to hatred and violence. And when something as terrible as Columbine’s tragedy occurs – politicians immediately look for a scapegoat such as the NRA. They immediately seek to pass more restrictive laws that contribute to erode away our personal and private liberties. We do not need more restrictive laws. Eric and Dylan would not have been stopped by metal detectors. No amount of gun laws can stop someone who spends months planning this type of massacre. The real villain lies within our own hearts.

**“As my son Craig lay under that table in the school library and saw his two friends murdered before his very eyes - He did not hesitate to pray in school. I defy any law or politician to deny him that right! I challenge every young person in America, and around the world, to realize that on April 20, 1999, at Columbine High School prayer was brought back to our schools. Do not let the many prayers offered by those students be in vain. Dare to move into**

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the new millennium with a sacred disregard for legislation that violates your God-given right to communicate with Him. To those of you who would point your finger at the NRA – I give to you a sincere challenge. Dare to examine your own heart before casting the first stone!

“My daughter’s death will not be in vain! The young people of this country will not allow that to happen!”



**A QUOTE FROM RONALD REAGAN** – “The churches of America do not exist by the grace of the state; the churches of America are not mere citizens of the state. The churches of America exist apart; they have their own vantage point, their own authority. Religion is its own realm; it makes its own claims. We establish no religion in this country, nor will we ever. We command no worship. We mandate no belief. But we poison our society when we remove its theological underpinnings. We court corruption when we leave it bereft of belief. All are free to believe or not believe; all are free to practice a faith or not. But those who believe must be free to speak of and act on their belief, to apply moral teaching to public questions. I submit to you that the tolerant society is open to and encouraging of all religions. And this does not weaken us; it strengthens us.

... You know, if we look back through history to all those great civilizations, those great nations that rose up to even world dominance and then deteriorated, declined, and fell, we find they all had one thing in common. One of the significant forerunners of their fall was their turning away from their God. ... Without God, there is no virtue, because there’s no prompting of the conscience. Without God, we’re mired in the material, that flat world that tells us only what the senses perceive. Without God, there is a coarsening of the society. And without God, democracy will not and cannot long endure. If we ever forget that we’re one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under.”  
*President Ronald Reagan, 1984.*



**HINDUS WORSHIP AT FATIMA** – *The Portugal News* reported on 5/22/2004 the following: Arriving in Fatima the pilgrims made their way to the Chapel of the Apparitions, where from the altar a Hindu priest led prayer sessions. A commentary on the service was given by the TV reporter who explained: “This is an unprecedented unique moment in the history of the shrine. The Hindu priest, or Sha Tri, prays on the altar the Shaniti Pa, the prayer for peace.” The Hindus can be seen removing their shoes before approaching the altar rail of the chapel as the priest chants prayers from the altar’s sanctuary.

After worshipping their gods and praying in the chapel, the Hindus are

shown being escorted to an exhibition hall where a model of the controversial new basilica currently being constructed is on display. In a setting described as ambassadorial by the commentator, each Hindu is personally greeted by the Bishop of Leiria – Fatima, who bows to the Hindu priest repeating his gesture of greeting. The Hindu priest is then seen clothing the Rector of the Fatima Shrine and the bishop with a Hindu priestly shawl. “On the shoulders of the highest representatives of the Church in Fatima, the Hindu priest places a shawl with the inscriptions of the Bagavad Gita, one of the sacred books of Hinduism,” the reporter tells his viewers.

The newscast finishes with scenes of the Hindu priest lighting a candle at the shrine while his followers dance outside the Chapel of the Apparitions chanting praises to their gods. The TV commentator concludes by saying: “In 1982, a Guru, a high priest of Hinduism, came from Bombay to Fatima. ... He signed the book of honour right after Pope John Paul II and on the same page as Mother Teresa of Calcutta.”

In other reactions to the Hindu ritual, a long-standing member of the Leiria-Fatima diocese was less accepting of the opening of the sanctuary to other cults and religions, telling the *Jornal de Leiria*: “I understand the opening of the site to other religions. But I disagree with the practice of non-Catholic rituals at the sanctuary’s holiest site.”

Bishop of the Diocese, D. Serafim Ferrerira e Silva, has a different opinion. He told the regional newspaper: “We don’t want to be

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fundamentalist, but sincere and honest.”

[If the fundamentals are not true, what follows can only be sincerely wrong and dishonest.] *The Berean Call* 6/7/04

## LUTHERAN MINISTER PROCLAIMED THERE WAS NO GOD OR AFTERLIFE -

In Copenhagen, Denmark, a Lutheran minister who proclaimed last year that there was no God or afterlife was suspended for a second time for ignoring church orders not to repeat those beliefs from the pulpit. Rev. Thorkild Grosboell has been under strict supervision since he first was suspended after a May 2003 interview in which he said, “there is no heavenly God, there is no eternal life, there is no resurrection.” The overseeing Bishop for the diocese said that Grosboell “again has spoken in a strongly provocative, hurting and confusing way.” She cited an undated but recent sermon in which Grosboell allegedly said, “God had abdicated in favor of his son, hence in our favor. Therefore there is no longer a heavenly guarantee or an interfering might, there is only the godly kingdom (on earth) that is achieved by us and between us. So if it fails, there is nothing.” *The Berean Call* 6/18/04

## GIVE ME THAT BIG-TIME RELIGION -

Last month *The Voice in the Wilderness* ran an article discussing “Mega-Churches.” On Sunday, June 13, 2004, the *Asheville Citizen-Times/John Boyle* did a feature on Biltmore Baptist Church of Asheville whose congregational members number more than 4,600 with Sunday attendance of 1,400 and

4,000 worshipping each week. “Bill Leonard, Dean of the Divinity School at Wake Forest University and professor of church history, says mega-churches are a growing trend in the country, partly because they’re keeping up with modern families who want more options and even entertainment with their religion. They appeal to people who are less traditional and more informal.”

The mega church is a prime example of a growing trend in America toward enormous churches, often called mega-churches, which can drain worshippers away from other, smaller churches.

The Rev. James Walker, pastor of Biltmore Baptist, will tell you the line remains crystal clear – and the Bible delineates it. “If you’re going to do it, you’ve got to do it right, and to do it right you’ve got to seek the presence of the Lord.”

Biltmore Baptist is already in the mega-church category. Membership now exceeds 4,000 and the annual budget is \$11.4 million. The church has 87 employees, including 16 pastors on staff. It’s more than 100 years old, but when Walker joined the church 11 years ago, it was going through some tough times, with membership down to about 170 people.

To ensure that worldliness doesn’t obscure the message, the church has dozens of ministries – another hallmark of the mega-church – ranging from drug counseling to “Finding Your Place,” a ministry to help you find your niche in service.

The characteristics of the mega-church are:

1. A “celebration-style” worship featuring live music, television screens and lively, Bible-based

preaching.

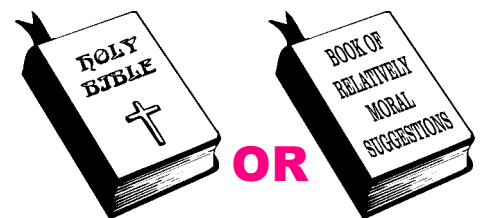
2. Mega-churches usually have more than 1,000 members, often several thousand. This size can provide a somewhat anonymous experience.

3. Mega-churches have dozens of ministries, ranging from Bible studies to drug abuse counseling. Bigger size allows for more professional staffing and more chances to get involved, even including mission work.

4. Mega-churches usually have plenty of classroom space and specialized meeting rooms.

5. They have a Wal-Mart principle: build in a place where people can drive to it easily. They draw seekers, but they also draw people from other churches.

[Obviously, not all churches with large memberships have taken the contemporary direction of so-called “mega-churches.” See article in the July 2004 edition of *The Voice in the Wilderness*.]



## WHERE COULD NEW BIBLE TRANSLATIONS LEAD? -

*World Net Daily* on 6/24/04 reported the following: A brand-new translation of the Bible – “Good as New” translated by former Baptist minister John Henson for the “One” organization, was praised by Britain’s archbishop of Canterbury. He describes it as a book of “extraordinary power” but admitted

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

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many would be startled by its content. The "One" organization that produced the new Bible translation is dedicated to "establishing peace, justice, dignity and rights for all."

In keeping with the times, translator Henson deftly translates "demon possession" as "mental illness" and "Son of Man," the expression Jesus frequently used to describe himself, as "the Complete Person." In addition, parables are rendered as "riddles," baptize is to "dip" in water, salvation becomes "healing" or "completeness" and Heaven becomes "the world beyond time and space."

Britain's archbishop praises Henson's translation for eliminating "the stale, the technical, the unconsciously exclusive words and policies" in other translations. Here, according to the *London Times*, are a few sample passages: *Mark 1:4 KJV Authorized version: "John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins."* New version: "John, nicknamed 'The Dipper,' was 'The Voice.' He was in the desert, inviting people to be dipped, to show they were determined to change their ways and wanted to be forgiven."

*1 Corinthians 7:1-2 KJV Authorized version: "Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband."* New version: "Some of you think the best way to cope with sex is for men and women to keep right away from each other. That is more likely to lead to sexual offences. My advice is for everyone to have a regular partner."



## WE NEED **50/50** VISION

The Voice in the Wilderness is a fundamental, Bible preaching faith ministry. There is no denominational or foundational support. There are few independent ministries like The Voice in the Wilderness still standing. In August and at Thanksgiving/Christmas, you receive an edition of *The Voice in the Wilderness* newsletter with an envelope giving opportunity to participate in this missionary outreach. Now, after reviewing our records, I have found that if only 50% of *The Voice in the Wilderness* subscribers gave \$50 per year, this missionary work, printing, and other ministries of The Voice in the Wilderness could be underwritten financially. At present, only 2-3% give financially, with an elite few carrying the load. I am aware of those that give sacrificially to this ministry, and you know who you are, and from my heart, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

For those of you who have never given financially, would you please help us by responding during this great opportunity? Right now, take the enclosed envelope and make a contribution to The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc. From August to December, I am going to ask 2,000 subscribers who have not contributed to The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc. to do so at this time. I praise the Lord for the faithful few. But please, will you join them and help get the gospel out to a world that sits in great darkness? *Thanks* for your consideration.



### SPECIAL GIFT RECENTLY RECEIVED BY THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS, INC. MINISTRY.

**Given by: Estate of Robert A. Hazard**

We would like to express our prayers and thanks to the family of Bro. Hazard and wife, Agnes, on behalf of The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc. Brother Hazard's name will be added to the plaque displayed in our office.

If others would like to give a special memorial gift or honor someone, please send your gift along with the person's name (legibly printed) you would like listed in an upcoming issue to: The Voice in the Wilderness, PO Box 7037, Asheville, NC 28802.





(Continued from page 2)

away from the ruts of life!

Yes, Jesus never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. But we must change. Change into His likeness and pressing toward the mark for the prize of the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus. He is Perfect. We have not arrived. We *must* move toward completeness in Christ.

Hebrews chapter 5 and verse 12 says, "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again...." We all can be a bit stubborn when the Lord allows or even brings into our lives events or circumstances not exactly to our order. Here, these folk should have been teachers, but they did not want to step out by faith and step up to responsibility. Hebrews 6:1 said to "go on unto perfection." Once the foundation is laid, then the walls and roof along with many other details must receive the efforts and energy of the builders. Jesus said to "Work... while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." The great gospel preacher Robert Murray McChesney stamped on every letter he wrote the words "Night cometh." The hour is late. There's no time for *picken', piddling, or puttering*. The pouty, preferential, personality thing must be set-aside for the Higher Calling. Thank God for The Voice in the Wilderness. Bro. Royce chose Mark 1:3 as the clarion. Let's cut to the chase. "The voice of one crying in the wilderness..." No time to waste.

This August/September issue commemorates Dr. J. Royce Thomason, founder of The Voice in the Wilderness. Along with this fundamental publication contending for *The Faith* and American freedom

many lives have been touched through the preaching and missionary work of this ministry. We thank Bro. Royce and give all praise to the Lord for the firm foundation established. During these last 35 months, the huge task of building and yes battling with the trowel and sword has befallen Ronnie and Terry Williamson – yet nothing profound or pronounced here – just old-fashioned plodding and perseverance. With some godly board members and you, our faithful partners and prayer warriors, The Voice in the Wilderness has pressed on for the glory of our sweet Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

History leaves behind for us some great challenges. The present holds before us a complex mix. We must occupy until Jesus comes redeeming the time because the days are evil. May our actions testify to the greatness of our Saviour. We transition into a new period of ministry, which demands a step of faith. Thank you again for your friendship and sacrificial support.

In this *Founder's Edition* you will find an envelope. Please, right now, will you let us hear from you and prayerfully include as generous a gift as possible to The Voice in the Wilderness ministry? We need your help at this time. Summer months are always times of lean support, but the financial demands are yearlong. I know our readers will respond as they can, so I thank you in advance for your sacrificial giving and appreciate all you do for the Lord's work. God bless!

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



(Continued from page 3)

precision.

God is the Master Designer. Marriage is His Ordination. Follow His plan and there is success, love and happiness.

What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder (Matt. 19:3-9). Departure from God's original law has plunged countless millions into incalculable sin, suffering, and sorrow.

Yet, today, we celebrate Christ and two Christian young people committing themselves not only to each other but in this blessed covenant to the glory of their Christ?

[Pastor Tim Rabon and Bro. Williamson officiated the wedding ceremony on July 3, 2004. Pastor Rabon recounted the salvation experience of Steve at the age of 5 and also the salvation of Rebekah at the age of 5. He told how, as pastor, he saw them each drawn to each other and watched their relationship grow, until now, their uniting in marriage. Rebekah and Steve were honored at their wedding with the presence of family members and special friends from college who served as the wedding party. Many friends and family were also present to celebrate this occasion. Greetings to this young couple were received from around the world. We all count it such a blessing to have been the recipients of your overwhelming participation and love for Rebekah and Steve. Next issue we hope to have some photos of the new couple. They are presently being developed as we go to press.]

- RLW



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

The month of August is also "Happy Birthday" for Sis. Terry. Thanks for all you do to help this editor with *The Voice in the Wilderness* publication.



(Continued from page 5)

is nothing that has happened in our lives that makes us unfit for His use as long as we are willing to let Him lead our lives. We have seen the Lord save souls through the jail ministry that He has entrusted to us. That is all the proof that we need to know that He has put His approval on our marriage. Look at what a mess David got his life in, but the Lord still used his life. In that first article you made it sound like a person who has been divorced should not have any chance for another marriage without it being a sin. I suggest to you that you can teach the Biblical view of marriage, which you should, but leave it up to the Lord to be the judge. There are way too many divorces due to just plain being selfish, and not having the Lord lead their lives, but that sin is no different from a Christian coming down in judgment on fellow believers without knowing the hearts of these people.

"It is my prayer that you will prayerfully read this letter, and not put your need to be right over doing what is right. You could tell from the attack you took on those who had wrote you

by calling them "TOLERANT" Christians that you are on a mission with this point, no matter who it hurts. In Christian love,  
*A subscriber*"

[Editor: This letter was printed with permission. I will simply allow each individual subscriber/reader think through this, independent of my comment.]

"Dear Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Terry:

"Thank you so much for your prayers for me concerning my diabetes. I know that you have prayed for me on this issue since I first informed you about my diagnosis. At the Missions Conference I mentioned briefly to you about the possibility of going on an insulin pump. God has graciously blessed me with one, and my blood glucose levels are doing great!! And it's so easy!!! And I feel great!!! And I was able to purchase a \$6,000 insulin pump, that only cost me \$160 out of pocket!!! (The exact amount of extra money I had left out of my paycheck that week!) Thanks again. We love you guys.....  
*Subscriber, Tennessee*"

"Dear Sir:

"We are sending \$...... which I know isn't much but is all we can afford. My husband has Parkinsons and has been diagnosed with Alzheimers and is on expensive medicine. We mostly live on S.S. So with our medicines, health insurance, and treatments there is not much left. At present he is having surgery for cataracts also has glaucoma and macular degenerative disease. He is 81 years old.

"I can understand if you can't keep sending the paper, but we really do get a lot out of it. I love the poems and nuggets of gold and read things we don't get anywhere else.

"We pray that God will bless you as you continue to do the Lord's work.

*Subscriber, Texas*"

[Comment: Thank you to those who give sacrificially to The Voice in the Wilderness. Your efforts help this little paper get to many who receive a blessing from it. May we always be able to keep this paper coming to those who love the Lord and receive a benefit from it.]



Aaron Brown



Darci Brown



David Childers



Johnny Pinkerton



Brad Askew

Pray for the families of these outstanding Christian young people from Crown College. While traveling to minister the gospel in local churches their vehicle was struck by a tractor-trailer coming into their lane. They were all killed on impact. They are with the Lord. They are remembered as the best examples of Christ-like behavior. We shall see them again with our Lord.

*We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:8*

(Following this incident and upon recovery of the burned vehicle two items remained. One was a plastic CD with the song "God Makes No Mistakes," and the other was a portion of "The Baptist Vision" paper with the words of a sermon by Charles Spurgeon, "Have Faith in God." Truly, God makes no mistakes even in the midst of events that seemingly have no explanation. Even though the van and everything else were burned beyond recognition, God's message remained.)



(Continued from page 7)

gala. The event, which was funded to the tune of at least \$2 million by Mr. Paul, grossed an additional \$1 million for Hillary's Senate campaign. Mr. Paul's contributions were not reported to the Federal Election Commission, as is required by law. The Clintons fraudulently induced Paul to fund the event in exchange for a position for Bill Clinton on the Board of Directors of Paul's company, and a number of other promises, none of which were kept by the Clintons.

Yet another file: In a 1992 oral history of the anti-war movement still on file at the University of Florida, VVAW leader Scott Camil took credit for offering a plan to assassinate members of the Senate who supported the Vietnam war. "My plan was that, on the last day [of the protest] we would go into the [congressional] offices – we would schedule the most hard-core hawks for last – and we would shoot them all." These documents reveal the radical nature of Kerry's Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW), including the organization's ties to the Communist party. In addition, they also show the Massachusetts Senator may have lied when he denied being present at a conference November 12-15, 1971 that, according to multiple press reports, included a vote as to whether or not to assassinate pro-war members of the Senate. Investigation continues.....

Following is an analysis of recent documents obtained by Judicial Watch through the Freedom of Information Act: In the days following the September 11 attacks, the federal government put into place strict restrictions on air travel. On

September 11 and September 12, the air space was completely shut down, and for several days after, only limited travel was allowed. For the most part, Americans were not permitted to fly back into the country, and yet, more than 160 Saudi nationals, including individuals related to Osama bin Laden were permitted to leave by the State Department. FBI officials claim the individuals were screened by the White House prior to their departure. However, Dale Watson, the former head of counter terrorism at the FBI, recently told *The Boston Globe* that departing Saudis "were not subject to serious interviews or interrogations." Judicial Watch has filed Freedom of Information Act requests to answer key questions about the Saudi flights. A letter from Thomas P. Banner, Director Field Programs, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, February 24, 2004, said in part, "You have requested various travel information regarding subjects of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, including but not limited to members of the House of Saudi and/or members of the bin Laden family. A thorough search has been conducted... [information] has been located and is enclosed."

According to the government, 15 of the 19 September 11 hijackers were Saudi nationals, and were led by known terrorist Osama bin Laden. As Judicial Watch's Freedom of Information documents showed, from September 11 to September 15, 160 Saudi nationals, some related to the bin Laden family according to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, were allowed to leave the country by the Bush Administration. Though the FBI claims to have thoroughly screened those who left, the records show that 49 of these

individuals left within 48 hours of the terrorist attacks, one on the very day of the attacks. With most of the government's resources mobilized to provide damage control in the wake of the worst attack against the United States in our nation's history, it is difficult to believe that the FBI could have conclusively determined that each of these individuals deserved an "all clear," potentially never to be available for questions again. *Judicial Watch, 501 School Street S.W., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Washington, DC 20024*

## WHO COOKS FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES?

- In early June 2004, the G-8 Summit was held on Sea Island, Georgia. The chef in charge of the meals was Tim Thomas. He said, "Cooking for the president was definitely a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity." Here are a few facts we found interesting:

1. There was a constant presence of Secret Service agents and two food and drug Administration agents.
2. A microbiologist collecting food samples and sending to the CDC.
3. An agent that made certain foods were cooked to the proper temperature and not exposed to airborne bacteria.
4. Had to feed hundreds of support staff and reporters on hand for the summit.
5. Main dining area was filled with 16 dignitaries – approximately 300 additional support people – advisers, translators, Secret Service agents, - eating at the same time in another dining room.
6. Italy's Prime Minister was allergic to onions and garlic. Every meal included one portion that did not contain either.
7. Planning was essential because

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everything had to be exact. "You couldn't just run up to another kitchen if something went wrong. For security reasons that kind of sudden movement just wasn't allowed." [Whew! My wife said she would sit that one out!]



*Teamsters President James P. Hoffa and Mexico President Vicente Fox during their meeting*

**WHY MEXICO'S LEADER CAMPAIGNS IN U.S.** – On 6/28/04 *Newsmax.com* reported the following: Mexican President Vicente Fox cannot run for re-election, but he is on the campaign trail... in the United States.

Fox has been traveling through Detroit, Chicago, and Minneapolis asking Mexican migrants to vote. Calling them "heroes" because of the \$13.3 billion in U.S. dollars they sent back home last year, that country's second-largest source of foreign revenue. Fox is asking his congress to let millions of Mexico's citizens abroad vote for president in 2006. Under Mexican law, those living in foreign countries must return home to vote. The law Fox proposes would allow them to vote outside the country. Nearly 10 million live in the U.S.

The real question would be how Mexican Americans will be integrated into our society if they are busy voting in a foreign election. "One citizen, one vote – it's the basis of democracy," said Fox. However, how many of these Mexicans in the U.S. will be double dipping?



## ACHES & PAINS!!

**Thought I'd let my doctor check me,  
'Cause I didn't feel quite right...  
All those aches and pains annoyed me  
And I couldn't sleep at night.**

**He could find no real disorder  
But he wouldn't let it rest.  
What with Medicare and Blue Cross,  
We would do a couple tests.**

**To the hospital he sent me  
Though I didn't feel that bad.  
He arranged for them to give me  
Every test that could be had.**

**I was fluoroscoped and cystoscoped,  
My aging frame displayed.  
Stripped, on an ice cold table,  
While my gizzards were x-rayed.**

**I was check for worms and parasites,  
For fungus and the crud,  
While they pierced me with long needles  
Taking samples of my blood.**

**Doctors came to check me over,  
Probed and pushed and poked around,  
And to make sure I was living  
They then wired me for sound.**

**They have finally concluded,  
Their results have filled a page.  
What I have will someday kill me;  
My affliction is OLD AGE.**

*-Author Unknown*

### ANDREW MURRAY'S FOUR TRUTHS

South African pastor Andrew Murray once faced a terrible crisis. Gathering himself into his study, he sat a long while quietly, prayerfully, thoughtfully. His mind flew at last to his Lord Jesus, and picking up his pen, he wrote these words in his journal:

"First, He brought me here, it is by His will that I am in this strait place: in that fact I will rest.

"Next, he will keep me here in His love, and give me grace to behave as His child.

"Then, He will make the trial a blessing, teaching me the lessons He intends me to learn, and working in me the grace He means to bestow.

"Last, in His good time He can bring me out again—how and when He knows.

"Let me say I am here,

(1) By God's appointment

(2) In His keeping,

(3) Under His training,

(4) For His time."



# PATRIOT DAY = ONE NATION UNDER GOD



9/11 REMEMBER... PRAY... STAND...

Americans are endowed with certain inalienable rights. Keep in mind that there are those, from without and from within, who desire to un-endow Americans.



Dear *Voice in the Wilderness* Subscriber,

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

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

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