



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

Published Monthly
Free Subscription



CONTENDING FOR
AMERICAN FREEDOM

November 2006

All In Christ, No Less, No More!

Bro. J. Royce Thomason - 1916 - 2006

With feet of clay in cowboy boots,
Yet a life to yield from faithful roots.

Until his country gave a service call,
Bullet and Blood and Pain and Pall.

Denim, no lace, a durable sort,
Dirt and farm, not a palace court.

From the war of men to a soldiers cross,
When the fires of God claim the dross.

From walking in the steps of Dad,
Learning the way as a little lad.

The Voice in the Wilderness in tent and church,
Preaching Christ and for souls to search.

Then a big brother so lanky and tall,
To his siblings so innocent and small.

And around the world God did lead,
An amazing tapestry the Lord would weave.

A man's boots must the boy wear,
And now take on a family's care.

'Til stilled by stroke these feet of clay,
Were no longer able to tread the way.

So again we gather, as we've done before,
It's all in Christ, no less, no more!

RJW



Brother Royce Thomason



Bro. Ronnie and Bro. Royce – Two preachers, two servants, two pioneers – One ministry for the Lord.



Farewell until then.



MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends:

The Apostle Paul said, "...I have finished my course...." He knew the end of the journey in this world was near. He wanted to encourage Timothy, as well as those of us who would read those precious words.

On August 17, 2006, Pastor and Mrs. Wayne Brown along with my wife and I visited Bro. Royce (Founder of The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc.) in Ennis, Texas, unbeknownst to us, this would be our final get-together in this walk of life. (On September 23, 2006, Dr. J. Royce Thomason went to his eternal reward). As we entered the nursing home room Bro. Royce looked up and said, "I sure am glad to see you!" It became clear that there were a number of things he wanted to say – so he proceeded to update all four of us at that time. Now, let me say, I was apprehensive as to whether he recognized us. Pastor Brown serves on the board for The Voice in the Wilderness, and he and his wife have known Bro. Royce for years. Bro. Royce has been in the Brown home many times.

As the visit continued it was obvious that Bro. Royce was not certain who Bro. Brown and Sis. Elizabeth were. Nor do I believe he even recognized my wife. We continued to fellowship and help with a few concerns he had with his room and facilities at the nursing home. A member of the nursing home staff came in the room so we discussed his issues with the facility. She kindly addressed those areas and brought us up to date on his care. We had our camera with us and ask if we could take some pictures. Bro. Royce has always enjoyed having his picture taken and readily agreed. He even stopped after the first picture and said, "Wait a minute, I need my hat on!" The staff member then graciously agreed to take a picture with all four of us standing with Bro. Royce. After the picture, Bro. Royce then said, "Put that one [the one after he had put his cowboy hat on] in the paper." We then showed this staff member the September 2006 edition of *The Voice in the Wilderness* and explained that Dr. J. Royce Thomason



Pastor and Mrs. Wayne Brown along with Sis. Terry and Bro. Ronnie Williamson (from right to left), visited Bro. Royce in August just shortly before our Lord called him away.

was founder, evangelist, and medical missionary. He enjoyed these moments and it became clear that Bro. Royce indeed knew me (Bro. Ronnie). As his mind was clear and now focused on The Voice in the Wilderness he again began to speak on issues that he needed to address. It seemed he wanted to have me understand clearly a few things, and so, all four of us kindly listened, acknowledging his statements, reminding him that our precious Lord

(Continued on page 10)

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!

"...THE CHURCH...THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH." I TIMOTHY 3:15

MISSIONS – What I Did Not Know

2006 has been an incredibly interesting, and yes, productive year for The Voice in the Wilderness. It has also been good to reminisce a bit about the past ten years of ministry my wife and I have had with The Voice in the Wilderness.

During my first 12 months with this ministry beginning in 1996, I learned and was exposed to aspects of missionary work I never knew existed. This account is related to you, our readers, to emphasize the biblical importance of your local church and ministries like The Voice in the Wilderness. Prayerfully, each reader is spiritually mature enough to discern and assimilate, as edification, the following accounts. Names and countries are omitted not desiring to impugn any particular ministry. However, be forewarned. This is difficult material. You will be surprised, shocked, and saddened, but again, prayerfully educated to the extent of greater stewardship. Be assured prayer and discernment are absolute to world missions and evangelism. May God help us to have an even greater burden to reach the lost in obedience to HIS commission. In so doing, Lord help us exercise wisdom in dealing with people always seeking our Lord's guidance and HIS scripture in all matters.

I. Farming out or Faithful Obedience

Daycares are full of precious children dropped off early each morning by many moms and dads on to work chasing the elusive dollar. Dear families, this country and our children have paid an awful price as parental responsibilities are farmed out. It breaks this preachers heart time and time again to see the consequences in "Christian homes," when young people go astray and moms and dads are AWOL.

The same is true in Missions. Churches have farmed out biblical responsibility. Mission boards and denominations have become the "Missionary Daycares." Often the church and pastor look to other organizations to send missionaries and plant churches. The local church simply collects money and deposits the funds into some clearinghouse that disperses the support and maintains the accountability and standards of the missionary work. There are a lot of different scenarios, but is it New Testament?

For many years The Voice in the Wilderness has endeavored to make the scriptural connection. By introducing churches in America to what God is doing in some needy place,

that American congregation can then partner with believers in South America, Africa, or Asia to assist that work toward independent status. The New Testament teaches the responsibility of the local church in carrying out the Great Commission. It is so special for my family personally and this ministry, The Voice in the Wilderness, to be a part of our local church and the vision Heritage Church has for planting new churches and reaching unto the uttermost with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are not farming out that responsibility to a denomination or board. Thank God for pastors faithfully obeying the New Testament model and our Lord's commission to His Church.

Lesson

Scripture:

"I am debtor..." Romans 1:14-17

"...how thou oughtest to behave..."

I Timothy 3:15

"the church...the pillar and ground of the truth." I Timothy 3:15

"...we are persuaded better things of you..." Hebrews 6:9-12

(Continued on page 14)



For Personal Correspondence, Contributions,
Address Changes, New Subscriptions,

Write to us

Dr. Ronnie L. Williamson
Dr. J. Royce Thomason Memorial
Voice in the Wilderness

P.O. Box 7037

Asheville, NC 28802

Voice (828) 649-1043

Fax (828) 649-9784

www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org

Email for address changes only:
visionpartners@thevoiceinthewilderness.org

GOSPEL ABC'S

A ccept the Bible's written assessment: "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one." Romans 3:10

A dmit man's attitude: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Romans 3:23

A cknowledge your own aversion: "For if when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son..." Romans 5:10

"...**B**y one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" Romans 5:12

"**B**ut what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith which we preach;..." Romans 10:8

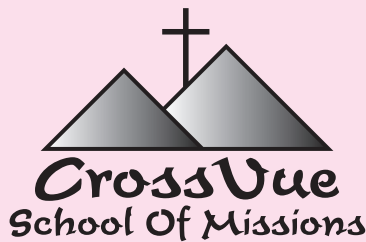
"**B**elievest thou this?"

C onfess with thy mouth...

C all in Faith...

C ommit your heart, your all... Romans 10:9, 13

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner and Jesus died on the cross, shedding His blood and rose from the grave for me. Forgive me of my sins and thank you for salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen."



Study The Word

The Voice in the Wilderness has been involved in Asia and that part of the world many years – from Damascus, Syria, to India, to China, to Korea, to the Philippines – we have seen the challenges in this region of the world.

The early New Testament church took the gospel from Jerusalem throughout the world. To the capital of the Roman Empire, countries north of the Mediterranean and even the land of India, the church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, grew.

As we study, note the characteristics of the first century church:

1. Self-propagating
2. Self-governing
3. Self-supporting

It is evident the believers obeyed and practiced “all that Jesus began both to do and teach...” Acts 1:1. Every failure and deficiency in our church ministries today can be traced to a departure from the New Testament model. May God help us return to His BOOK.

Are You A Success For God?

As soldiers of the truth, many of us desire to be a Great Success for God whether in our personal ventures or ministry's call. But what determines success? In weekly church services, daily e-mails, or chats with friends grand tallies are given for souls saved, baptisms, new church memberships, etc. Does God determine our success through tally marks?

Struck by a debilitating childhood disease of the spine, Mary became completely paralyzed except for her right arm, confining her to bed for the fifty years of her life. Because her ability to speak had also been taken by illness, she struggled with her desire yet lack of ability to be of great service to God. In a letter to her brother, she wrote, “I wish we may be more conspicuous for God.” Nevertheless, daily she strove to serve while teaching a Bible study from her bed by writing her words on a slate, praying incessantly for her missionary brother's work, and writing letters of encouragement to him consistently. Few people have heard of Mary's story, yet surely, her one ability to faithfully intercede on behalf of his efforts in India, led William Carey to be called the “Father of Modern Missions.”

How many Marys have lived and died without earthly notice and scores of tallies? May the Lord see each of His children serving mightily, not to obtain

success in the eyes of man, but simply using their own abilities to impact the world for Christ.

[Quote taken from: S. Peace Carey, M.A., William Carey, D.D: Fellow of Linnaean Society (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1923), 40.]

*Do you know what happened on that day,
When burdened for souls you tried to pray?
Did you think you'd failed to reach God's throne
When your lips were dumb, your prayer a groan?*

*Over the sea in a hot, dry land,
A sower sowed with a faltering hand.
But lo, in that hour refreshing came.
God's servant found new strength again.*

*And souls long held in the grip of sin
Turned from despair to new life in Him.
Away from their bondage they turned to God,
And found their peace through Jesus' blood.*

*For your faith had touched God's mighty hand –
And the rains came down in a desert land.*

- Author Unknown





Sophie Muller Unleashing the 'Sword of the Spirit'



PLEASE NOTE: Next month a full report and update on the jungle Bible Institute and continued work of Sophie Muller will be printed in *The Voice in the Wilderness*. A disclaimer has been placed elsewhere in this publication concerning a new organization called "The Voice in the Wilderness Missionary Foundation" based in Waxahachie, Texas. According to those presently in charge of Sophie Muller's work and funds received to date for the continuation of Sophie's ministry through the jungle Bible Institute, NO contributions have been received from any individuals associated with "The Voice in the Wilderness Missionary Foundation." If you have any questions, please feel free to contact *The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc.*, Asheville, NC. 28802, or phone 828-649-1043

In 1944, Sophie Muller accepted God's call, and under New Tribes Mission, she ventured to Colombia as an artist for their *Brown Gold* magazine. Sophie had hoped to enter into the jungles with a missionary couple, but through God's leading, she walked through the jungle doors alone.

Battling jungle life along with opposition from the government officials and her own people's apprehension about a lone woman missionary, she began her work with the Curipaco tribe. It was through these first fruits that God gave Sophie specific jungle methods to spread the gospel. Traveling from tribe to tribe, she would begin by learning the language. Next, she would translate books of the Bible and instructional materials for the villages, and would teach them how to read their language. This remarkable ministry did not follow the world's book of "this is how it should be done," but in contrast her ministry was through the leading of "His Voice." Sophie plunged through the jungles as a single, American woman, not knowing the language, culture, or demon possession of the Indians. She found that through literacy, Christ and His salvation could be given to the Indians. As Sophie's work progressed, her NEWS spread through the jungle grapevine by the new believers. Soon other tribes were "ripe unto harvest" when she arrived. She "unleashed the sharp, two-edged 'Sword of the Spirit'," with thought-provoking questions throughout the selected verses to be memorized. Sophie said, "Some people say that it cramps the Holy Spirit to have everything written down in order for the services, but I know that it really cramps the Devil." As a result, she translated hymns and leader books that included order of services, how to conduct baptisms, funerals, the Lord's Supper, etc. Sophie diligently translated these booklets into the many tribal languages with the help of a few willing bilingual believers. The modern conveniences of publishing were not available at the time; therefore, Sophie made duplicate copies with her hand-turn mimeograph. After twenty years of jungle work, three different translated New Testaments were complete, two others had been started, and 200 churches were established

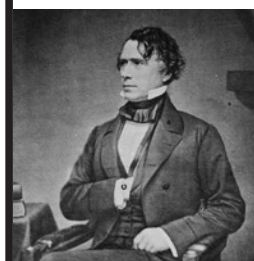
and under leadership of the indigenous pastors.

The Indians across Colombia changed their lives so drastically that the government began to suspect Sophie of performing her own witchcraft. Because she did not want the harassment to affect other missionaries, she left New Tribes Mission and became independent. Although doors seemed to be closing at this point, a contact of Sophie's led her to meet with the Major General of the Security Department of Colombia. He was sympathetic toward Sophie's work and made it possible for her to continue teaching the Indians.

In her last years, Sophie was completely cut off from entering Colombia, because of armed revolutionaries who are still in control of a large portion of the jungles today. Nevertheless, by the time of her death, she had made alphabets and translated Bibles or at least a portion of eleven tribal languages. Word of Life (the ministry which Sophie was saved under) founded the Sophie Muller Bible Institute on the Venezuelan-Colombian border to continue the training of Indian believers.

Here is a woman whose service for the Lord may not be recognized worldwide, nor appears in history books, yet, truly, she will receive many diamonds in her crown for the thousands of lives that she influenced for Christ and the priceless hours she spent translating the Scriptures, for some 55 years.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY



Two months before being elected America's Fourteenth President, his eleven year-old son, Bennie, was killed as their campaign train rolled off the tracks. This happened to Franklin Pierce, who was born this month, November 23, 1804. Elected to Congress at age 29, he was a US Senator at 33. After one term, he resigned and enlisted in the army as a private. Promoted to brigadier general, he served in General Winfield Scott's campaign against Mexico City. President Franklin Pierce stated: "It must be felt that there is no national security but in the nation's humble, acknowledged dependence upon God and His overruling providence." (AmericanMinute.com)

NEWS BITS

FROM HERE AND THERE



HELPING HILLARY-

While Mrs. Clinton is causing us all to wonder if she will run for the presidency in 2008, she is taking in donations from

Hollywood stars. People like Tom Hanks, Jennifer Lopez, Owen Wilson, Chris Rock, Billy Crystal, James Caan, Bette Midler and Rob Reiner have helped Mrs. Clinton raise \$43 million. Just between the months of April to June, she raised \$5.7 million. Do you think that she will use this money for her senatorial campaign or a presidential one? www.nranews.com



SECURE BORDERS, SECURE HEALTH-

With the recent outbreak of the E-coli virus in spinach, more and more Americans are being concerned with their health. So your question now

may be is what does our borders have to do with our health? The following is a list of diseases, some of which have been completely eradicated, that have been brought into the US by illegal aliens: Leprosy, Chagas, Tuberculosis, Dengue fever, West Nile Virus, Malaria, Polio, E-coli, Hepatitis A, and Hepatitis B. The question

now is: Are we going to put enough pressure on Congress to secure our borders? *The Phyllis Schlafly Report* 7/05

NO STANDS FOR NEW ORDER-

After Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast, the mayor and police department of the city of New Orleans initiated a seizure of guns from law abiding citizens. After denying for several months that this ever occurred, Mayor Nagin did, in federal court, state that the city had two trailers full of seized firearms. The court ruled that the police department needed to allow the citizens to retrieve their firearms; but, due to the lack of notification and proof of ownership, many gun owners did not or could not recover their property. Congress has also weighed in on the issue. In July, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 5031, and the Senate passed H.R. 5441; both of these bills blocked the government's involvement in the funding and confiscation of firearms. *Americas 1st Freedom* 10/06



GET OUT NOW!!-

Or do we need to? With the elections around the corner, we will see or

hear a number of commercials about the involvement of the US in Iraq. There are many who say that we need to "Get out NOW! We are losing too many soldiers over there." Let us take

a quick look at the wars that the United States has been involved in since its inception. According to statistics, only the War for Independence and the Gulf War have had fewer deaths per day. This rate in comparison to the current population shows that the totals deaths are tied with the Gulf War as the lowest of any war fought. Incidentally, the war which had the most deaths was the Civil War. So, do we need to get out of Iraq; the answer should be, "Yes, after our job there is completed!"

World 7/3/06



CULTURE LITERATE- So how would you do on a survey about culture and history? A Zogby poll taken in August gives us some idea of how mainstream Americans think. "The poll showed that 74 percent can name the Three Stooges, but only 42 percent can name the three branches of our government [. . .] The poll also showed that 60 percent can name Bart as Homer's son on the TV show 'The Simpsons,' but less than 21 percent can name one of the Greek poet Homer's epic poems,

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

'The Iliad' or 'The Odyssey.' Finally, the poll showed that about 75 percent of Americans know the names of at least two of the Seven Dwarves, but only 25 percent can name two of the nine Supreme Court justices." *The Washington Times* 9/4/06 {If you have a chance, ask a young person these questions and notice their response.}

LOOK IT UP- Speaking about the coming elections, we need to be informed about the candidates that are presented before us. If you are interested in their track record, check out the following web site: www.nrapvf.org. This will let you know where a candidate stands on certain issues. *America's 1st Freedom* 10/06

CLONING CURRENT?- Concise *Biology ICSE* has made the claim that "The first human clone has been successfully produced in Italy recently." The problem is that there has been no documentation of any kind of successful cloning. Dr. Prithviraj Paul said, "I too, have read that some mavericks have cloned humans. But these are all unconfirmed reports and cannot find a place in a biology textbook." *Midnight Call* 10/06

MARRIAGE AND HUMAN RIGHTS- In Israel, it is against the law to have a "civil union." Supreme Court President Aharon Barak, when asked a question from a delegation of US Conservative Jews, said, "The lack of civil marriage in Israel is a major violation of Human Rights." The Israeli law states that all citizens "must marry under the auspices of their faith, and mixed marriages are not allowed." The New Family Organization would like the courts to overturn this law so that people who do not want or cannot

have Orthodox weddings can still be married. *Midnight Call* 10/06

WHO IS THE CRIMINAL?-

Take a look at this story and figure out who the criminal is. In Brighton, Mass., a man was recently cited for not making his home's outdoor staircase strong enough. The officials cited the owner after a man fell to his death while trying to kick the door in on the second floor during a burglary. *World* 9/9/06

U.S. POPULATION REACHES 300 MILLION -

Soon the U.S. population is projected to reach 300 million. In times past, reaching such a demographic milestone might have been a cause for celebration. In 2006, it is not.

With births exceeding deaths by nearly two to one, the U.S. population grows by almost 1.8 million each year, or 0.6 percent. Adding nearly one million immigrants per year brings the growth rate up to 0.9 percent, raising the total addition to 2.7 million. As things now stand, we are headed for 400 million Americans by 2043. Water shortages, food consumption, traffic congestion, fuel and energy costs are related concerns.

New York City, generates 12,000 tons of garbage a day, a flow that requires 500 tractor-trailers--fully loaded--to leave the city each day headed for remote landfills in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Ohio. Trucking garbage to ever more distant landfills makes us more dependent on distant sources of oil. Lester R. Brown, Earth Policy Institute.

Then to complicate the whole is the politics of it all. By the way, the "Foreign Mission Field" is now right out our back door and just across the street. Wake up church!



Nuggets of Gold

1. "Perhaps it takes a purer faith to praise God for unrealized blessings than for those we once enjoyed or those we enjoy now." (A. W. Tozer)
2. "For a Christian thanksgiving, we must give thanks."
3. "Some people complain because God put thorns on roses, while others praise Him for putting roses among thorns."
4. "Thank you, dear God
For all You have given me,
For all You have taken away from me,
For all You have left me."
5. "God's work done God's way will never lack God's supply." (Hudson Taylor)
6. Begin to weave and God will give you the thread.
7. The winds of God are always blowing, but you must set the sails.
8. Who does not thank for little will not thank for much.

T..... is for our thankfulness for many joys and blessings...

H..... is for our homes so warm and bright.

A..... is for autumn, time for harvest and abundance..

N..... is for nature's beauty and delight..

K..... is for the kitchens where good food is cooked with love..

G..... is for the gathering of family and friends...

I..... for the inheritance we share...

V..... is for the vision that the Pilgrims held so dear..

I..... is for high ideals in all they planned...

N..... is for our native country brave and great and free...

G..... for God's great goodness to our land.

~~Author Unknown.~~



RELIGIOUS NEWS

AND COMMENTS



REVOLUTION IN CHINA-

Many of you may remember that China went through a Cultural Revolution; well, now they are going through a Religious Revolution. Due to the lack of men, the Muslim community is turning to women to become imams (priests). Wang Shan Zhen, one of the imams, leads 50 women in prayers at her mosque in China. "It's very important to have female imams in China. Women devotees don't understand Arabic and they need someone to help them," said Zhen. Currently there are 50 such imams in China. *Midnight Call 10/06*

TO TITHE OR NOT- Under current US laws, a person filing Chapter 13 bankruptcy needs to pay off all creditors before they can pay their tithe or make donations to charitable organizations. This is the judgment handed down by Judge Robert E. Littlefield of the Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of New York. "This change effectively closes the door for debtors who are above the median income from deducting charitable contributions as an expense." According to the

bankruptcy act, a person who has an income above the median for their state and declaring Chapter 13, are not allowed to make charitable donations. Henry Sommer, president of National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, said, "Many who practice their faith and believe they are bound by creed to tithe a portion of their income will find that Congress effectively decided that what credit cards want is more important than the deeply personal religious practices of Americans." *The Washington Times 9/18/06*



CHANGE OF POLICY-

The Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, leader of the Anglican church, has recently changed his view of homosexuals in the church. Prior to recent statements, Archbishop Williams wanted total inclusion of homosexuals in the church, even as bishops. That is until a recent interview with a Dutch newspaper in which the Archbishop said, "I don't believe inclusion is a value in itself. Welcome is. We don't say 'Come in, and we ask no questions.' I do believe conversion means conversion of habits, behaviors, ideas, emotions. Ethics is not a matter of a set of abstract rules; it is a matter of living the mind of Christ. That applies to sexual ethics." Rev. Rod Thomas welcomed the recent statement by

saying, "There is no doubt that he is distancing himself from the views that he has previously expressed. [. . .] The fact that he's saying this is a hugely welcome development." *The Washington Times 9/4/06*

ON-LINE RELIGION- Islamic organizations are using the Internet as a way to recruit more Muslims. An article by an atheistic newspaper in Berlin looked at 140 Internet addresses of which 15 were dedicated to religion. Most of the addresses asked the viewers to join Islamic fundamentalism and encouraged them to abide by the teachings of the Koran. There are several testimonials published on each of the websites. *Midnight Call 8/06*

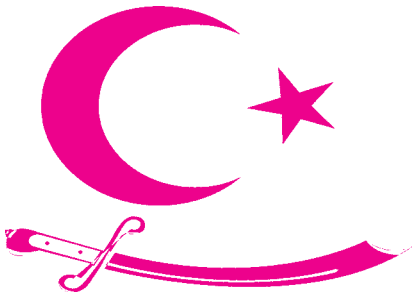
BIBLE DE-LITERACY PROJECT-

Wiley Drake, newly elected 2nd Vice President of the Southern Baptist Convention, said that he could not endorse the book "The Bible and it's Influence" that is to be taught in public schools. According to Drake, there are several problems with the book. When writing The Mayflower Compact, the authors left out the phrase, "Having undertaken for the Glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith." On page 38, the authors ask, "Do you think Adam and Eve received a fair deal as described in Genesis?" Another question is asked on page 156, "And if God allows evil things

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

to happen, can God honestly be described as good?" Other attacks on the Bible are: "Job is one of the most difficult books in the Bible in that it provides no clear cut moral or answer to Job's situation." "Remember not to try to apply current standards to the biblical accounts." "The Gospels are not histories-certainly not as history is defined today." www.irnnews.com *Christian Newswire* 9/26/06



WATCHING THE MUSLIMS-

In Indonesia last week, three Christians were executed by a firing squad from the May 2000 attack on a Muslim school. This week, the Christian community will be watching as three Muslims will be on trial for the 2002 Bali bombings. The courts in Indonesia have traditionally been more lenient on Muslims than on Christians. Regina Astuti, a lawyer with the Legal Aid and Human Rights Association, said, "Another question is why these three farmers were sentenced to death and were executed, while the real culprits responsible are still alive. Mr. Tibo (one of the three executed) named 16 former military and police officers he considered responsible for killing Muslims. These people were never called to the witness stand." Jusuf Kalla, Vice President of Indonesia, said that the executions had no "religious dimension." "They were the result of our judicial system. This is the way we work in Indonesia." www.irnnews.com 9/26/06

www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org



ISRAELI PARLIAMENT CHRISTIANS-

In Israel, there is a movement to allow Christians to serve in the Knesset (Parliament). This is due to the number of Christians immigrating to Israel and being politically involved. Avi Lipkin is an American born Israeli that is trying to start the Bible Bloc Party. Mr. Lipkin said that this party "will have Christian activists and Christian candidates running for the Knesset... because the Christian population in Israel has grown in the last 15 years from two percent to eight percent of Israel's voting population." *Zions Fire* 4/06



PLAN DUH- On August 24 of this year, the FDA gave its approval for the sale of the Plan B pill. This pill, also called the "morning-after pill", can now be obtained over-the-counter (which means there is no prescription needed). Any female that is under 18 still needs a prescription to receive the pill, but some lawmakers are pushing for that stipulation to change. Carrie Gordon Earll, who is with Focus on the Family Action, said, "It's just irresponsible for the FDA

not to see that (the FDA to enforce the u-18 rule). What this is going to do, very likely, is give a free pass to older men who want to prey on younger girls for sexual behavior. Plan B, in essence, becomes a free ticket to prey on teenage girls." *World* 9/9/06



Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Read All About It!

Each month, *The Voice in the Wilderness*, passes through the USPS and is delivered to thousands across the globe. This printed missionary is also available online at www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org where readers can enjoy viewing the current issue as well as past issues, current prayer requests, pictures, and APM updates. In the midst of this tenth anniversary month for The Williamsons, the Lord continues to expand the influence of this ministry, with the creation of a new arm of *The Voice in the Wilderness*. Beginning the week of October 29, 2006, *The Weekly Voice* will be sent via e-mail to all interested subscribers. This new opportunity will allow partners of The Voice in the Wilderness to receive specific weekly prayer requests, "Rejoice with The Voice" notes, ministry updates, and a weekly nugget of gold, all sent in a half-page e-mail message. To become a more active participant in The Voice in the Wilderness ministries, please subscribe to *The Weekly Voice* by sending your e-mail address to membersnp@thevoiceinthewilderness.org.



My Personal Message

(Continued from page 2)

was in control, and concluded our visit with a sweet time of prayer. We personally believe that Bro. Royce knew his time on this earth was drawing to an end, and he wanted the four of us to witness him speaking out on these final issues, and that was why he said, "I sure am glad to see you!"

Now, at this point in my letter to our friends this month, I must address and "tidy up" some details in lieu of our founder's homegoing on September 23, 2006. Please forgive me, but it is important for many of our readers to understand some transition aspects of this ministry, as well as, some of the hostilities that have risen against The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc. in recent days. One indication that Bro. Royce did indeed recognize me (Bro. Ronnie) was the following statement: "I want you to know, I had nothing to do with that lawyer letter." An individual who claimed to be speaking on behalf of Bro. Royce hired two different attorneys to write letters to The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc. making certain demands of this ministry. This individual claimed that the demands were initiated by Bro. Royce. First of all, let me state, that such action is obviously a violation of 1 Corinthians 6. Then Bro. Royce wanted me to know that he had nothing to do with "that lawyer's letter." But Bro. Royce said he knew who was behind that letter. Much of what Bro. Royce had to say was quite disturbing. It is sad when an individual reaches that stage of life and those who had been entrusted responsibility do not perform in a fiduciary manner. So is the case in Bro. Royce's life. Repeatedly Bro. Royce stated in front of four witnesses his displeasure with the actions of those given the responsibility to act on his behalf. Now, keep in mind, that after several strokes and almost five years of confinement in and out of nursing

home type facilities, hospitals, etc., an individual's mental state can certainly be challenged. For a number of years now, I have reported to our readers Bro. Royce's difficulty in accepting this phase of his life. In relationship to The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc., I can only account for and give testimony to what Bro. Royce has said and written to me. It appears that at times, he made contradictory statements to others.

However, again, when it comes to the business of The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc., we are so very thankful that the Lord has provided a godly board



Pastor Brown and Bro. Royce in Texas. Bro. Royce wanted Bro. Williamson to put this picture in The Voice in the Wilderness.

who are all pastors actively involved in the Lord's work and have given biblical counsel and direction for this ministry. Also our CPA and corporate attorney have been invaluable in terms of documentation and counsel during this period of transition. Corporation minutes and notarized documents are all in order. With every good intention, The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc. and board have endeavored to honour Christ as well as respect the founder of this ministry in all business matters. Yes,

there have been some very difficult decisions. At times very complex issues have been dealt with. It has not always been easy nor has the cooperation of all parties made those decisions transpire in a seamless fashion. Yet, repeatedly, our Lord has intervened and answered prayer, given wisdom, making it apparent that it is HIS will for The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc. to continue the work God originally established through the life of Dr. J. Royce Thomason. Even during our visit on August 17, 2006, with Bro. Royce, the Lord confirmed the original intent of the founder, and it was as if Bro. Royce was saying his final good-bye and Godspeed.

This material you are reading in this November issue went to our printer even before the funeral service for Bro. Royce in Frederick, OK, had taken place. I will be giving you additional information and updates in future editions of this publication. However, at this point I would like you to note elsewhere in this issue the article on Sophie's work as well as the following.

Several individuals are claiming to represent The Voice in the Wilderness, and are soliciting funds. Those funds supposedly represent support for Sophie's work, India, and possibly other needs. However, The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc., Asheville, NC, has received counsel to advise our readership that such a **"Foundation" is not only unauthorized but is also a violation of fiduciary responsibilities related to Dr. Thomason's service on the board of The Voice in the Wilderness and past affiliation of certain individuals with The Voice in the Wilderness.** Therefore, it is incumbent on The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc. to publish this disclaimer concerning any "FUND" or "Foundation" established outside of The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc.,

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

Asheville, NC. Any questions that you may have, please feel free to contact The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc., PO Box 7037, Asheville, NC 28802 or phone 828-649-1043. Again, in lieu of the circumstances, this is an unpleasant task to have to deal with such matters. From a biblical standpoint, there is a way to handle disagreements and still move forward for the glory of Christ. Obviously, there are those who are unable to follow the scriptural model. The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc., is committed to do what is right, honour our Lord, and endeavor to respect individuals. But be it known, that this ministry will stand firmly and uncompromisingly against any and all who dare raise a hand toward the work God is doing through The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc.

What I do know about The Voice in the Wilderness:

1. Dr. Thomason and I began praying in 1995 about God's will for the future of The Voice in the Wilderness. We both agreed and it is stated in writing that it was God's will for Ronnie and Terry Williamson to come to The Voice in the Wilderness with the intent purpose of carrying the ministry forward when Bro. Royce was no longer able to do so.
2. On September 10, 2001, Dr. Thomason, as a result of serious illness, would no longer be able to carry on his ministry. The Lord obviously knew of these events, and preparation had already been made for The Voice in the Wilderness to continue without interruption.
3. Hard decisions had to be made and thankfully the Lord provided pastors and godly counsel that enabled The Voice in the Wilderness to maintain the strong, biblical, fundamental

- stand established through its founder.
4. There are, with any good ministry, those intent to distract and destroy. Satan will use individuals in an attempt to rob the glory of God and divert from the mission of reaching the lost with the gospel. After 10 years of ministry with The Voice in the Wilderness, I can testify of our Lord's faithfulness to this work and this preacher in preserving The Voice in the Wilderness for such a time as this.
5. My testimony to you our reader is that The Voice in the Wilderness is going forward for the glory of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Obviously, the devil is not pleased



Yes, the sign says 105 ° in Dallas, TX.

with that and will use whomever in an attempt to subvert God's work through The Voice in the Wilderness. For my first 5 years working directly with Bro. Royce, he never indicated to me a change of mind or heart concerning my leadership role. Bro. Royce, two of his long time friends and me comprised The Voice in the Wilderness board. Bro. Royce held the majority and could make any changes he wanted! Also, the individual presently heading another Voice in the Wilderness, attempting to undermine The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc., was associated with Bro. Royce for 30 plus years before I was asked by Bro. Royce to join the ministry,

and never did Bro. Royce name that man successor. Bro. Royce and I prayed and determined God's will. For 5 years that decision remained. It was not until his debilitating illness that hostiles rose up and stated their intention was the demise of The Voice in the Wilderness. Now in my 10th year with The Voice in the Wilderness Inc., God's protection and provision has repeatedly been evident. This I do know.

6. The Voice in the Wilderness board is unified and committed to continue God's call for The Voice in the Wilderness. The board presently consists of four preachers of the gospel involved full-time in the ministry. We are thankful the Lord has placed godly men in critical positions to lend direction for this ministry.
7. We are committed to do right and bring honour and glory to our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ. This is not always an easy path, but with your prayers and support we are moving forward.

Please allow me to conclude saying it has been a constant encouragement during my ten-year ministry with The Voice in the Wilderness to have those who were friends of Bro. Royce become my personal friends and continue their partnership with this ministry in God's call to carry the gospel throughout the world. Thank you so very much for your love, prayers, and support, and then a special thanks also must be given to all our new readers and supporters. Many newcomers have partnered with us and are helping to carry the torch as God calls home those who once did. May God bless us all as we faithfully do our best to serve HIM and do what's right. Amen!

For Christ and Souls,
Bro. Ronnie





MISSION SPOTLIGHT

PARTNER WITH AQUILA-PRISCILLA MINISTRIES

A Diary Of APM – Part III



Conclusion

6/22/06 Exam time! The seminary class was required to tell two stories and say the Gospel ABC's. Many hard workers sailed through telling the Bible stories as well as giving the plan of salvation through the Gospel ABC's format. But as seen in a typical class, a few did not come prepared. As their teachers, we are confident that these few seminary fellows are capable of completing this course, but they must spend quality time studying. Steve informed each that they must be ready to tell their stories before the awards time on Tuesday. We trust that they will commit to the task at hand and come out victorious for the Lord's glory. Today, we were also able to make a quick dash on the subway to purchase some local trinkets to take back to our family – departure is coming soon.

6/23/06 The MWF class took their exams tonight. Their exams were less concentrative than the

seminary class; nevertheless, they were required to tell two Bible stories in English. All did exceptional, even the three new girls from the community who showed what they have learned in such a short time. Everyone is really excited about singing together for special music in church on Sunday.

6/24/06 We participated in the visitation hike in the barrios again today. Usually we do not enter the homes, but today, the Pastor wanted to visit a sick and dying old man. As we visited in the home, we noticed a tiny little fellow who seemed to have taken up residence in the wash basin. Not long after, we saw he had several friends living near him on the stove. The Pastor's daughter, who was with us, asked if we thought there were any in the room we were waiting in. "Where there's one mouse, there's a family of them!" We made sure we kept in constant movement and held tight to our skirts. Soon, sure enough, several began to dart right in front of the sofa. It seems we had invaded their quiet surroundings. Needless to say, not only did we continue praying for the witness being given to the old man, but also, selfishly, for deliverance from the critters. In the midst of praying, tapping our feet, and

intense surveillance, Rebekah was bitten by a mosquito – "Oh mercy, Lord! Here we have come all this way to witness for You and now to die of malaria, typhoid" How easy it is for the Devil to distract us from the mission. Praise the Lord! – God is bigger than any nest of rats, mosquitoes or thoughts of disease – the old man trusted Jesus as his Saviour!

6/25/06 Our church day was very busy. We visited and observed the children's ministry during the morning church hour. Steve gave a short challenge (in Spanish!) to the children, and we also were able to give the children's ministry director many ideas for organization, teaching techniques, discipline, and incentives. He was very appreciative and looks forward to trying some of our suggestions. The children also enjoyed receiving the many balloon animals we had made just for them. After a quick lunch, we met with all three English classes and practiced the English song they were to sing in the evening service. They all sang with great heart about serving the Lord.

6/26/06 Because our time in Caracas is coming to a close, Mrs. Paez wanted to take us to

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

see a different view of the city. We climbed in a cable car and rode over a jungle valley to the top of Mount Avila. The scene from the top was impressive. Now we could really see how Caracas stretches on for miles. Once we stepped from the car it was a burst of refreshing air. No more fumes or smog! And it was surprisingly cool. We strolled through a beautiful park – is this Caracas? As we stood at the top of the mountain, on one side was the Caribbean Sea and the other Caracas. After our pleasant trip, we quickly drove to pick up the cake for the award time with our MWF class. During class time, we returned their graded tests and celebrated with a delicious cake a lady from the church made for us. We also surprised our class with a salvation lesson that we had learned in Spanish! Following the lesson, we confronted the three girls from the community with their need for a Saviour. The angels sang in Heaven as two of those young girls accepted Jesus. What a great conclusion to that class!

6/27/06 At the seminary class, the fellows who still needed to tell their stories, came fully prepared and did great. One student, Gregory, even told all of the stories from Creation to the Resurrection! We were very impressed and know that God will bless him for his efforts. Awards time was precious as

we celebrated with and spoke words of encouragement to each student. Without question, there are many committed servants in that class. Our evening class also was a joy to present awards to. Even Carlos, the homosexual, after missing two classes, came to the awards night. After our salvation lesson, we asked one of our students to talk with him about his salvation. Again, Carlos was given the plan of salvation and PRAISE THE LORD, he accepted Jesus' forgiveness and now has a home in Heaven. It is clear that God brought just the people who needed Him from the community and into our English classes to be saved.

6/27/06 It's packing day and time for our last lunch at the seminary. Our classes showered us with hugs and gifts of appreciation and the church folk urged us to return quickly. I think the cook will miss Steve calling her "abuelita" (little grandmother). After many goodbyes, the Pastor and family drove us to La Guaira where we could spend the night near the airport and also visit the church of Pastor Rafael, a seminary graduate. Pastor Rafael and his family took us walking along the rocky shore. It was beautiful as we watched the waves roll in and our last sunset in Venezuela.

6/28/06 An early alarm got us started and a breathtaking sunrise over the sea put some vigor in our step as we headed for the

airport. We were praying that we would not run into any trouble boarding our flight for America. Strangely, though, during our check-in we were told that our tickets had not been assigned seat numbers. After a long wait, we were finally given seat assignments and we hurried to go through security and customs. As we arrived at our gate the plane was already boarding. Now we are flying over US soil and 20 minutes from putting our feet on our homeland. Leaving makes you more thankful to come home. "Thank you, Lord, for a fruitful trip and may it continue to be a blessing to us, those we ministered with, and the people who hear of our trip. And we thank you and praise you for giving us this mission and the many more to come."



ON THE LIGHT SIDE

Included especially for *The Voice in the Wilderness* Junior readers:

- Q. Why did the turkey cross the road?
 A. It was the chicken's day off.
 Q. What did the turkey say before it was roasted?
 A. Boy! I'm stuffed!
 Q. How did the Mayflower show that it liked America?
 A. It hugged the shore
 Q. What's the key to a great Thanksgiving dinner?
 A. The turKEY
 Q. What do you get when you cross a turkey with an octopus?
 A. Enough drumsticks for Thanksgiving!



(Continued from page 3)

II. Kept in Reserve When “God Shall Enlarge Japheth”

Alexis de Tocqueville speaking of discovery said, “Just then [at the right time in history] North America was discovered, as if it had been kept in reserve by the Deity and had just risen from beneath the waters of the Deluge.” Is America included in Genesis 9:27 when “God shall enlarge Japheth...”? Japheth is of the Indo-Europeans and as Europe was settled by Japheth so was America settled from Europe. And it has been this America, God shed His grace on thee, that has taken the gospel from sea to shinning sea and sent missionaries to the uttermost.

Over the past ten years it has been my privilege to circle this globe numerous times in obedience to HIS command to GO. From Canada to South America, from England to India, yes from the islands of the sea to the interior jungles, I have found people of all language, color, and culture who love and respect America. Often these people in far away places think everyone born in America is a Christian – that this is a country of freedom, opportunity and prosperity. Certainly, America has enemies, but the liberal media wants us to think the whole world disagrees with the U.S. and all Muslims, Hindus, and religions of foreign lands hate Americans. My ten years of travel for The Voice in the Wilderness says that simply is not so.

God is doing a mighty work around the world; and thankfully, Americans have been in the forefront in the going and giving. I love America, and I have met some precious souls in far away places over my ten-year service with The Voice in the Wilderness that have taught me a great deal about my country.

III. Churches Reproducing Churches

Many mission programs have come full circle. For decades some pastors, churches, and denominations would only support American missionaries under a board. It might take \$50,000 per year or more to keep the American missionary on the field while a dozen or so nationals could be serving, soul-winning and starting churches for that same financial investment of one

American missionary.

Yes, I have heard all the rebuttals – “You will make national and indigenous pastors and missionaries welfare cases” – “There is no accountability” – “Nationals are not grounded and doctrinally sound.” On and on the arguments go. Yes, it is true that there are risks and challenges, but the same exists with American missionaries. People are people and that is where the local church in biblical context provides safe guards and guidance. The local church reproduces local churches.

What a joy and privilege it has been during the past ten years to see this New Testament truth practiced around the world. There are some pastors and congregations that have followed New Testament teaching such as the example of the great missionary Paul going throughout the world planting indigenous, autonomous local churches. I had never seen this up close and personal until ten years ago. God allowed me to not only witness but to participate. The Voice in the Wilderness has been and is involved with churches and brethren around the world as Christ builds HIS Church.

IV. Sharp Tongues and Bitter Hearts

More than ever before, it became evident to me ten years ago the cost and risk of loving people. Whether you venture around the world or just across the street there is vulnerability. Exposure to deception, exploitation, and abuse are hazards of missionary work.

The pastor had faithfully executed his call to preach, win souls, and love people to Christ. Yet in the midst of it all, his dear wife became quite ill. During a time of protracted trial and suffering there arose detractors that disagreed with this man’s ministry. Was the pastor perfect and right 100% of the time? Probably not. Were those that disagreed with him right in their criticism? Well, let us say for purpose of illustration that, “Sister I Disagree” was absolutely right in her observation or contention. Then in that confidence “Sister I Disagree” goes to the ailing pastor’s wife and says, “The reason you are sick is because God is judging your husband. This is the chastening hand of God for your wrong doing.” Then “Sister

I Disagree” goes throughout the church and community with her revelation of why pastor’s wife is suffering. Right or wrong? This is for certain. The spirit of “Sister I Disagree” is wrong – sinfully wrong. That kind of attitude and divisive talk is not Christ-like nor honouring. It is sad to say, but I have seen several examples of this recently. Individuals disagree and go about with a renegade tongue determined to champion some cause. With all there is to do in reaching a lost and dying world for Christ, how can anyone justify such actions? Be sure a wagging tongue, bitter pen or divisive spirit is never justifiable. To create confusion is not of God. I really did not know that those who profess to be saved, blood bought children of God could with the same breath speak such murderous words. Thank God for spirit filled servants with the courage and boldness to rebuke such wicked self-righteous gossip. It is one thing to disagree but quite another to go about with a sharp tongue and bitter heart sowing seeds of confusion and discord.

Lesson

Scripture:

“...an abomination ... he that soweth discord...” Proverbs 6:16-19

“Their throat is an open sepulchre...” Romans 3:13-18

“If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridled not his tongue...” James 1:26

“And the tongue is a fire... set on fire of hell.” James 3:6

Question: Do your thoughts, motives and actions toward others honour Christ.

Is your conversation out of genuine Christ-like love for others?

V. Failures in the Flesh

What a joy it has been over the past ten years to visit with and get to know dedicated godly missionaries - Men and women for the love of Christ who have given themselves wholly and yes holy to the Lord’s service. There are many, many more success stories than accounts of tragedy. Yet, it is important for God’s people to understand the price

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

paid by so many precious servants and their families. This exposure is to raise a greater level of stewardship on your part. To know the risks and enormous expense of energy is to require of you more prayer and intercession. This knowledge demands more support from sending churches and the home base. This is a challenge to sacrifice and revival not excuses and skepticism.

Monthly the checks went out to "Living Word Mission" (LWM—fictitious name, but true story) for the printing of Bibles. Several years passed and it was believed the Indians were receiving Bibles and gospel materials. Then in a casual conversation with LWM no one seemed to know where the money was and subsequently, reports from the jungle revealed no Bibles had been printed much less received by the Indian believers for years. Then further research uncovered two missionaries involved in adulterous relationships, one having an illegitimate child. To make matters even worse, a third missionary was charged with homosexual acts and dismissed by his mission board, yet never proven guilty. Again it became a gossip, divisive, confusing mess, and this missionary, in self-defense, engaged in the same ugly, gossip, methods resulting in a plea from at least five preachers to not sow discord. Sadly, this counsel was refused and divisiveness and confusion remained. Even years later brothers are still divided over that particular situation and the devil is glad of it. However, one rainbow in the storm – the money was recovered, the Bibles printed and delivered to the deeply appreciative Indians.

Lesson
Scripture:

"...ye go to law one with another."
I Corinthians 6:1-8
"...take heed lest he fall."
I Corinthians 10:12
"Prove all things..."
I Thessalonians 5:21
"Lay hands suddenly on no man..."
I Timothy 5:22
"Draw nigh to God ... cleanse your hands ..." James 4:8
"...try the spirits..." I John 4:1

Question: Are you more interested in self or the Saviour when trying to do

right or even right a wrong?

VI. "You have to go out...but nothing says you have to come back."

It is without question that the Lord has commanded us to go with the gospel. Inherent in the challenge to venture into the regions beyond are the perils present in a world opposed to the very message of life so desperately needed.

In days gone by on the coast of North Carolina, there were brave men who risked all to venture into stormy seas answering the desperate call for help. The graveyard of the Atlantic has claimed many a ship and sailor. Rescue crews periled life to rush into death in order to save a few. Pat Etheridge is credited with the bold statement "You have to go out and that's a fact, but nothing says you have to come back." Etheridge was a member of Creeds Hill Lifesaving Station. History records those that went out to rescue the perishing. The winds did howl, the lightening flashed, and raging seas encompassed all. Even the sharks and demons of the deep attempted to thwart every effort at rescue. As Etheridge indicates, some never came back. Yet in the spiritual warfare, there is a guarantee by our

Captain that all who in obedience "go" will doubtless come again rejoicing with a reward that far exceeds anything this world can imagine.

Yes, my 10 years with The Voice in the Wilderness have taught me many lessons. Things I did not know about people. An up close and personal look at missions, I pray, has helped me to have a greater vision for the harvest. May God help us all to be obedient servants of our Lord.

Lesson

Scripture:

"Go ye therefore..."

Matthew 28:19, 20

"Go ye into all the world..."

Mark 16:15

"...as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." John 20:21

"...ye shall be witnesses..."

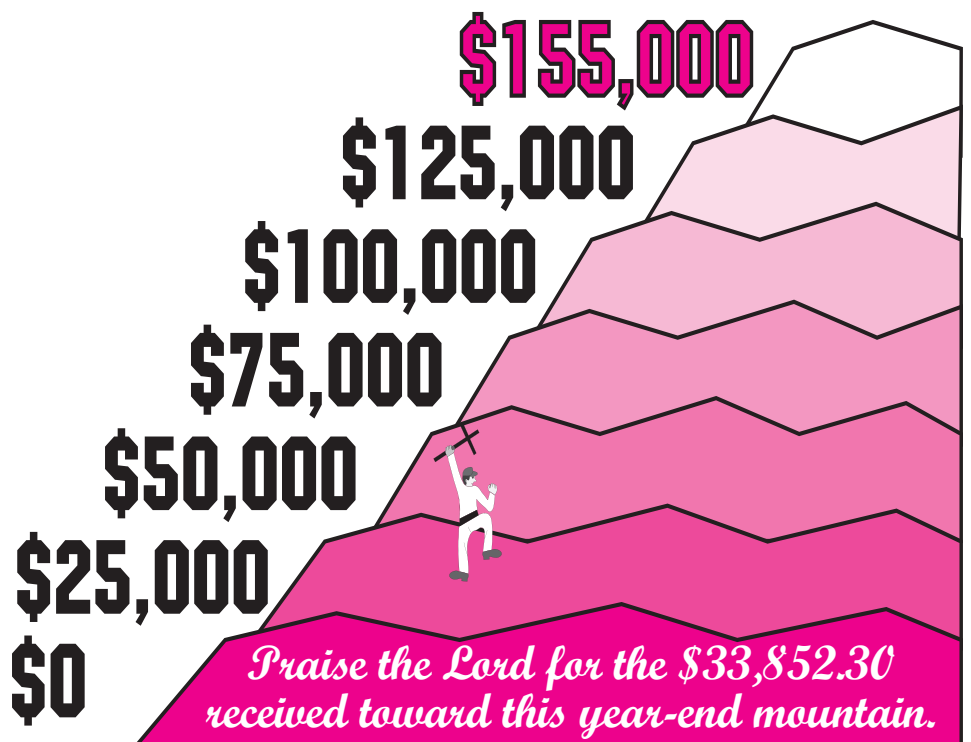
Acts 1:8

Question: How long since you led a lost one to Christ? Are you faithful in Time, Talent, Treasure, going with the gospel?

-RLW



VISION AND MISSION



IN CONGRESS - November 1, 1777

FORASMUCH as it is the indispensable Duty of all men to adore the superintending Providence of Almighty God; to acknowledge with Gratitude their Obligation to [H]im for benefits received, and to implore such farther Blessings as they stand in Need of; And it having pleased him in his abundant Mercy not only to continue to us the innumerable Bounties of his common Providence, but also to smile upon us in the Persecution of a just and necessary War, for the Defence [sic] and Establishment of our unalienable Rights and Liberties; particularly in that [H]e hath been pleased in so great a Measure to prosper the Means used for the Support of our Troops and to crown our Arms with most signal success:

It is therefore recommended to the legislative or executive powers of these United States, to set apart THURSDAY, the eighteenth Day of December next, for Solemn Thanksgiving and Praise; That with one Heart and one Voice the good People may express the grateful Feelings of their Hearts, and consecrate themselves to the Service of their Divine Benefactor; and that together with their sincere Acknowledgements and Offerings, they may join the penitent Confession of their manifold Sins, whereby they had forfeited every Favour, and their humble and earnest Supplication that it may please GOD, through the Merits of Jesus Christ, mercifully to forgive and blot them out of Remembrance; That it may please [H]im graciously to afford [H]is Blessing on the Governments of these States respectively, and prosper the public Council of the whole; to inspire our Commanders both by Land and Sea, and all under them, with that Wisdom and Fortitude which may render them fit Instruments, under the Providence of Almighty GOD, to secure for these United States the greatest of all human blessings, INDEPENDENCE and PEACE; That it may please [H]im to prosper the Trade and Manufactures of the People and the Labour of the Husbandman, that our Land may yet yield its Increase; To take Schools and Seminaries of Education, so necessary for cultivating the Principles of true Liberty, Virtue and Piety, under [H]is nurturing Hand, and to prosper the Means of Religion for the promotion and enlargement of that Kingdom which consisteth "*in Righteousness, Peace and Joy in the Holy Ghost.*"

And it is further recommended, that servile Labour, and such Recreation as, thought at other Times innocent, may be unbecoming the Purpose of this Appointment, be omitted on so solemn an Occasion.

Extract from the Minutes,
Charles Thomson, Secr

[Taken in its entirety from *Journals of American Congress From 1774 to 1778*]

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.

99999
John Doe
1000 Somewhere Street
Anywhere, USA 00000

The Voice In The Wilderness

P.O. Box 7037
ASHEVILLE, NC 28802

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #7742
SPRUCE PINE, NC 28777