



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

January/February 2007

2007 - A WILLING HEART

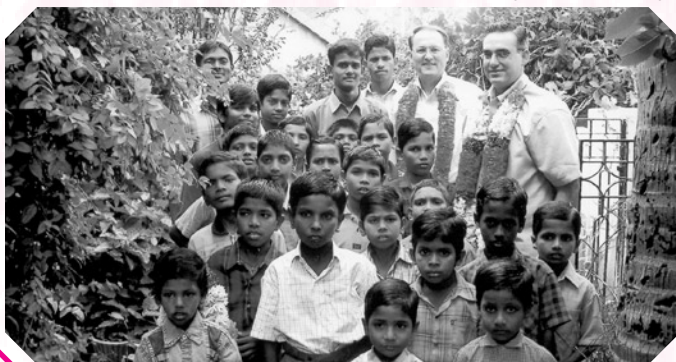
With 2007 There Comes A New Day. Yet You Are Willing, But You Plan To Stay. Then In Submissive Prayer You Say, Lord I Plan To Go, Yet If You Will, I'll Stay.

NEW YEAR'S MEMO:

Dear Friends:

Every victory The Voice in the Wilderness achieves is to the Glory of our Lord and Saviour and is a victory for you personally. We are "labourers together" in Christ and your partnership and prayers extend from your hand to the regions beyond. God has taken your faithfulness as good stewards and made amazing things possible. In this edition of *The Voice in the Wilderness*, our trip to India is just a sampling of the wonderful work of faith you are involved in. You have recognized the unique ministry The Voice in the Wilderness is doing and Thank You for supporting this endeavor.

2007 will be a victorious finish line for some and could be that trump for all. Let us join hearts and hands to run the race faithfully. When you finish reading this edition of *The Voice in the Wilderness*, please view the thrilling info at www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org. If you do not have a computer, ask a friend or relative to view the website with you from their machine. You will want to see additional video, photos and reports!



The resources in India are endless. Many only focus on becoming an economic world power, but think of the potential for Christ and eternity. Pray for the many young precious faces under the gospel influence.



MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends:

As many of our readers know, I was saved in 1971 at "The Wilds" Christian camp. Almost daily I recall with thanksgiving and joy that life changing eternal decision. In the Fall 2006 Newsletter for The Wilds, Dr. Ken Hay in his President's report made the following announcement:

"The Future is Bright"

"As of December 31, 2006, I am stepping aside as President and CEO of The Wilds Christian Association, Inc. No, I am not retiring or leaving The Wilds after 39 years of ministry, but it is time to place the daily operations of the ministry into younger but capable hands."

Dr. Hay went on to say, "As I look to the future, I have great confidence that The Wilds direction, philosophy, burden for local churches, and evangelistic and discipling goals will be taken to an even higher and stronger level."

The Wilds incoming President, Ken Collier, then stated in his report:

"Four decades have literally raced along under the leadership of Ken Hay. It just seems natural and right for him

to be at the helm. Now comes that intruding and uncomfortable word 'transition.' I ran across a definition for this interloper. It reads, 'a change from one place, state, or stage to another.' You can rightly say that The Wilds is in transition."

Bro. Collier went on to comment about Dr. Hay's consistent teaching to The Wilds staff that "it's not personality, but biblical philosophy that wins the day. Because he preached biblical philosophy, not personality, we know what we need to do.... Handing over the reins is very consistent with his biblical philosophy."

Just as The Wilds is, so has The Voice in the Wilderness faced transition. Year 2007 marks the first year without our founder, Dr. J. Royce Thomason. Yet, because The Voice in the Wilderness is God's work and this is not about personalities but about our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the future is indeed bright for The Voice in the Wilderness ministries.

Thousands each month around the world are continuously blessed and challenged by this printed missionary.

Then, many missionaries and pastors look to The Voice in the Wilderness for support in the work the Lord has called them to. It is sobering to think that precious brothers and sisters in some very difficult places endeavoring to do their best for Christ look to you for the next meal to feed their family. When I make appeals and give prayer requests for ministries needs, I am always reminded of those who truly know sacrifice. They daily pay an extreme price to preach Christ and reach the lost. Yes, the future is as bright as the promises of God. But be reminded, the hour is urgent and we must be about our Father's business! May God help us to be faithful. I sent this note to Dr. Hay.

December 2006

Dear Dr. Hay:

I just read "The Future is Bright" in The Wilds Newsletter and wanted to jot a note of appreciation. In the spring of 1971, I came to The Wilds with a group of young people. At that retreat you preached and God moved in my heart.

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The Voice in the Wilderness is a nonprofit, independent incorporation, founded by Rev. Dr. J. Royce Thomason D.P.D. Ph.D., evangelist and medical missionary. The organization is dedicated to the spreading of the whole gospel to the world, especially in foreign lands. The program consists of building mission stations, supporting American missionaries and native pastors by partnering with the local church in various areas of ministry and preaching Christ to the lost. We are supported by the gifts of those who care. Contributions to The Voice in the Wilderness for projects or to support the ministry of a missionary will be used as indicated by the donor following approved policies and procedures. Gifts are tax deductible and should be made out to The Voice in the Wilderness. The Voice in the Wilderness Magazine is a fundamental publication, published each month in behalf of the work of the Lord and preservation of the liberties of our United States. Printed material from other sources does not necessarily imply an endorsement from this ministry. There is no subscription charge; all interested people of good will may have a copy sent regularly to their address simply by requesting it. Address all correspondence to: The Voice in the Wilderness, PO Box 7037, Asheville, NC 28802.

IS GOD'S WORK IN YOUR WILL?

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

Thank you!



The Voice IN THE Wilderness

MISSION SPOTLIGHT

INDIA – FROM MY JOURNAL RLW

Entry #1 – 10/23/2006

It's 4:00pm and we have passed through security and waiting at Gate A-1 for our Continental flight to Newark New Jersey. Steve Lilly and I will meet Pastor Hemant Patel in Newark and then fly overnight to Delhi, India.

Entry #2 – You will not believe this. It is snowing in Asheville, NC. Our flight has been delayed and my wife said via cell phone that the "white stuff" is coming down. The big concern at this point is not the weather in Asheville, but the strong winds in Newark, New Jersey. Will we make our connection for Delhi, India?

Entry #3 – The flight attendant just announced this direct flight to Delhi,

India is 13 hours 12 minutes in duration. Can you imagine sitting in a seat smaller than a modest home recliner for over 13 hours? But "ain't God good!" Steve, Bro. Hemant, and I have been given a complete row of three seats each, all to ourselves. We will be able to recline and sleep in reasonable comfort. This is almost as good as First Class. Thank you Lord!

Entry #4 – We are directly over Kabul, Afghanistan and about 1 hour and 20 minutes from Delhi. Of course we know what a troubled region of the world Kabul has been. But at 37,000 feet altitude and traveling 598 mph, the world below is only a blur. For the child of God our sojourn here is but a fleeting tick of time. May God help us to leave improvement behind.

Entry #5 – The lights of New Delhi now appear from below as we descend into the great country of India. The descent from the mountains of Afghanistan and Pakistan was a bumpy one, but we have an easy, smooth landing in our 777 after a 13 hour and 12 minute journey. As everyone retrieves carry-on luggage from the overhead storage, an American mother with her three daughters needs a little help with a rather heavy roll-on. Her husband is working in Delhi and they have come for their first visit to India. The heavy roll-on is full of homeschool books. Standing in the aisle waiting to deplane, I learn they use some A Beka Book material. Many of our readers may recall that my family and I worked for A Beka and homeschooled for ten years ourselves. It was interesting to chat with these folk, especially having

just met in, of all places, India.

Entry #6 – Steve Lilly – Welcome to India. Bro. Hemant, Steve, and myself are greeted at the airport by Bro. Babu and Bro. Raju. In the car, and we are off to pickup Raju's sister Jenny and what a pleasant surprise. Several years ago it was my privilege to teach two inter-term courses on missions at Southeastern Christian College. Of course in such a setting, I must always relate my experiences and travels in India. In one of those classes a young lady named Shea was a student who happened to be from India. Shea moved to America at age 11 and was now a Christian attending a Christian College. Well it has been quite a while since I had seen Shea. That is, until arriving in Delhi. What a pleasant surprise to learn that Raju and Shea are engaged to be married in 2007. Plans are to come to the states to be married and then return to India. What a small world indeed.

Entry #7 – Remember "outsourcing?" Many times the voice on the other end of the line had that distinctive accent. Repeatedly I have asked where the Customer Service Representative was located. The most frequent response has been "Delhi, India." Think about it. Your account numbers, address, phone, financial information, etc., in the hands of numerous people 10,000 miles away. I saw the phone centers that have sprung up in just the last few years. Most of these phone operators are very young people now making exceptionally good

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Bro. Steve & Pastor Patel arrive in India. This will be a fast-paced trip with many stops, people to encourage & decisions to be made



Good Samaritan Orphanage built a large memorial with pictures of Bro. Royce. After the passing of Dr. & Mrs. Jacob, their son, Hemanth Kumar assumed leadership. Please pray for GSO and its future ministry. India was a special place for Bro. Royce. For many, many years, this was the only mission field he traveled to, in addition to his ministries in the States.



(Continued from page 3)

money, especially on the India standard. There are modern shopping malls, not one or two, that have been built around these business centers. India is changing before my very eyes. It has become a world economic power. American retail names and products are everywhere, and India is on the move. Over the past ten years I have witnessed dramatic changes in the country of India.

Entry #8 – From Delhi we fly South in preparation to visit with those involved in the Nellore and Kavali Orphanages. As happens often in India, logistics can be a bit nerving. With complications and traffic, all four of us, barely make our flight. When we arrive down South, the monsoon is dumping heavy rains and a cyclone is brewing. Water is standing in the roads and travel is a bit tenuous. But safe at last in our hotel, with a hot bowl of soup and rotti. Then 4 hours sleep and a 4 hour train ride to the orphanage.

Entry #9 – 4:15 am – Shower, shave, dress and a delicious breakfast help jump-start a long, busy day. Babu, Hemant, Steve, and myself are joined by Bro. Sagar who makes all our train reservations. What a prince of a guy. The Lord has amazingly brought some incredible people into my travels and missionary work. Bro. Royce knew there were some weak links and urgent needs in the India work. For me, traveling to this land for the past 7 years without Bro. Royce, has only been possible through God's direct provision and blessing. Flights, translators, trains, cars, food, accommodations, meetings, etc., I believe have been orchestrated from above. As one Indian pastor stated, leaning across the lunch table, "I perceive the Holy Spirit has revealed some things to you." Indeed he was right on. It has

been a Holy Spirit led ten-year journey. God has been so gracious. Far more than this preacher deserves. Keep in mind, there has been declared hostilities for several years determined to destroy The Voice in the Wilderness. These hostiles have even written and phoned The Voice In the Wilderness ministries in India to sow discord and lies. One renegade advocate of the devil even accosted a member on this trip in attempt to sow the venom of the American Judas Iscariot. But as has been true, over and over again, spiritually discerning brethren who are fruitfully and faithfully engaged in the Lord's work see through the abominations of Janes and Jambres. You mark this down. These detractors are not actively involved in a strong Bible preaching church. They are not systematically, hermeneutically studying God's Word nor regularly winning souls for Christ. They are bitter, busy bodies, selfishly persuing a carnal agenda.

Well, enough of that. Now at the orphanage we meet with a half dozen folk about future plans. Just as with the passing of Dr. Thomason, a new chapter begins with The Voice in the Wilderness, a new chapter begins for the orphanages with the passing of Dr. and Mrs. Jacob. Pray with us that the Lord will provide the urgently needed leadership.

Entry #10 – It is now a ten-hour overnight train ride to Nidadavole and Apparaopet to visit with four of our pastors. A new church building is under construction. It is my prayer great fruit will be seen from this new project. During this phase of our travels, I learn that my Dad is critically ill and on life-support in the states. The next few days will be difficult.

Entry #11 – Very few outsiders have seen this countryside and people. It is a beautiful region with palms, rice fields, sugar cane, and bananas. The

farms stretch far and wide. There are mountains and rivers running through the countryside. We have moved from the coast to the inland villages --Shrimp farming, to cotton and cashews. These towns and villages are like nothing I've seen in India before. This is my first time in this region of India.

Entry #12 – Several pastors are going self-supporting. I saw for the first time a church building that a faith supporter of The Voice in the Wilderness made possible. Another building could not be accessed due to the current dangers in the area. Pray about the dangerous hostilities in this area. The monsoons are flooding the region and have resulted in the deaths of many. Sunday it is raining heavily and because the new building has no roof yet, services were held in a very small room with people standing on the porches and braving the rain. Pastor Patel and I both preached. Over 100 or so gathered for the service. This is a very young group with much to learn. Pastor Samuel will be studying with Pastor Patel and Bro. Babu. By the way, Bro. Babu will be ordained soon and has already been a tremendous blessing and asset to The Voice in the Wilderness. Please pray for him, his wife, and daughter. The rains continue as we make a two hour drive to the train station and a seven hour late night train ride to Chennai. It's to bed at 2:00am and back up at 5:30am.

Entry #13 – Word comes from my wife that my Dad is very critical. I am now making the necessary arrangements to return to the states. Thank you for your prayers during my Dad's home going. Your cards and memorial gifts have been such a blessing. Bro. Babu continued the trip in my absence. Thank you, Bro. Babu, for the following report.

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Tradition says the Apostle Thomas went to India preaching Christ, and was martyred by the Brahmin priesthood.



The city of Madras, now called Chennai, lies just below the Mount of Thomas



Into the wee hours, our train took us to visit Pastors and their churches. Pray as TVNW heads towards new horizons of opportunity in India

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INDIA REPORT

By Brother Babu

Rev. R. Williamson greetings to you in Jesus' name.

It is wonderful to know the Lord, love the Lord, live for the Lord and moreover with the **will of the Lord**, preach the Lord. After you both left to the States, Pastor Patel (due to circumstance could not accompany me) and I thought of reducing the dates of visiting in Calcutta and Hoogly. I tried to change the tickets in Bangalore, Hyderabad, and Calcutta, but somehow canceling and changing the tickets was not a possibility in that short of time. So we decided that I would continue to visit the churches in Hoogly and Calcutta. I landed in Calcutta on October 31, 2006 by 10:30 pm and went to the hotel that Pastor Dayaraju booked for me. When I reached the hotel, two young men (Mark and Joseph) were sent by Pastor Dayaraju to visit me. They told me about the program for the next day.

First Day (11/1/06): I reached Chinchura by 11:30 am. Pastor Dayaraju was waiting for me with some of his church members. From there we went to Dunlop. This is the same as the Dunlop tire company, which is 12 km away from the church. The tire company had been closed 9 years, but fortunately on October 31st, it was re-opened. Many people were happy about this. Pastor Dayaraju accompanied me there and we reached it by 12:40 pm. He introduced me to a widow named Ratnamma. She came to know the Lord by the Telugu Evangelical Church Evangelism. Her husband, Venkata Rao, died in 2003 due to a brain tumor. He also was a believer and was baptized. A church deacon, Mr.

Y. Ratnam led her and her husband to the Lord. It had been three years since she and her daughter Pinky (12 years old and in the 8th grade) have been living by themselves. Pinky has a major sickness on her body. In spite of all these things, both mother and child continue to be faithful to our Lord, by witnessing as much as they can. They come from a Hindu background. When I went there, they had three neighbors come and visit. All three have just recently trusted the Lord as their Saviour.

Visit #1 - Deepa Swan; R. Sing. Swan - Her husband was sick and hospitalized due to cancer. T. E. Church came along with Ratnamma and Pastor Dayaraju to pray for her husband. At that time, Pastor Dayaraju shared with them that God loves them and also shared about His sacrificial love, forgiveness, and eternal life not only for them but also for all humanity. Both husband and wife trusted the Lord as their personal Saviour, after He dramatically meets their financial and physical needs. Now her husband has NO CANCER, and moreover he is a faithful witness to the Lord. Both are ready for baptism. (They were supposed to be baptized if Pastor Patel or you would be there.) Some times they go to T. E. Church to attend the worship services.

Visit #2 - Basanti Devi. R. Raut - This woman and her husband R. Raut received the Lord as their personal Saviour through the Swan family (they have a personal acquaintance). They were amazed to see God working in the lives of broken people. The Word of God also touched them as Pastor Dayaraju preached it. Mr. Raut works in a cosmetic company called Himani. Their children Santosh and Pinky also have trusted the Lord as their Saviour.

Visit #3 - Nirmalamma - She is also a widow with one son, Sunder, and three

daughters. The evangelist ministries of T. E. Church and Pastor Dayaraju helped the oldest daughter, Rupa be saved. After that the mother and Sunder were saved. Lastly Padma, the second daughter, received Jesus as her Saviour. The last daughter is not saved. Since the Dunlop factory was closed, the only way to get money was through Sunder to work by daily wages. He was able to find work and take care of the family.

Rupa has been diagnosed with T. B. and Padma with breast cancer. Still they haven't left their love for the Lord. Sunder is a dedicated man to the Lord. In spite of all these problems, he gives to the Lord cheerfully. Occasionally the church will help them (this is when Pastor Dayaraju told me after I asked about them and saw their condition.) After all of these people arrived at Ratnammas house, I preached to them in Hindi on the topic WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD (John 1:10-14 and John 3:16). We were not born of flesh, or by blood, or by the will of men, but by God by just trusting in Him. It was nearly 2pm and we needed to leave.

Visit #4 - Daulati Devi - Mother to Basanti Devi, she received the Lord as her personal Saviour when there was a lot of family and financial problems as well as illness. By that time, the Dunlop Company had been closed for 8 years. Ratnamma and church people came to visit her and shared the Gospel. She was convicted of her sins and trusted the Lord and obeyed Him in baptism. Pastor Dayaraju baptized her on April 16, 2006. Now she says that she is really enjoying the life of forgiveness.

Visit #5 - Suma - Another daughter of Daulati Devi, Suma received the Lord after seeing her mother and sister's lives and listening to the Word of God

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Precious souls are waiting for you to make it possible for them to hear the good news of Jesus



Pray as TVNW, with your partnership, continues the work of the Great Commission.



Standing on the porch and in the rain – some of the young men look and listen as Bro. Williamson preaches. Pray for these precious souls.

Mission Spotlight

(Continued from page 5)

carefully. She has two daughters and one son. They all love the fellowship, but are not yet saved. They are all in their teen years (19, 15, and 13). Her husband is not against her being saved, but has not yet trusted the Lord.

Visit #6 - Uma Raut - She also trusted the Lord when she turned from her sin sick idolatry to worship a loving and living God. She was baptized on April 16, 2006, as well. Do not know much else about her.

Visit #7 - Dinesh - He is the son of Daulati Devi. He has many doubts to clear, but since Pastor cannot speak Hindi or Bangla, it will be more difficult. The churches deacons and other have helped him, but that does not seem to be sufficient. I talked to him for a while. We hope that God will penetrate his heart also, and lead him to a knowledge of Him.

Visit #8 - Madan and Rupa - This is the son-in-law and daughter to Daulati Devi. Both of them have trusted, love and are living for the Lord. Their daughter, who is six, sings very nicely for the Lord. They were also to be baptized at this time. At this time, I encouraged the other women present to witness to their husbands with their lives and shine for the Lord. There was also a number of children gathered, so I preached to them from the book of Romans (3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9-10,17). WE ALL ARE SINNERS, BUT BY FAITH, AND THROUGH GOD'S GIFT, GOD SAVES US. These are all Hindi and Bangla speaking people from Bihar and U. P., so they were blessed to hear God's Word preached in their language. It was 4:30 by then, so we left to go to Nirmalamma's house (who was at Ratnammas' house) and left there by 5 or 5:15 to go to another house.

Visit #9 - S. Sharma and Sumitra -

They are from Kanpur, U. P. Their oldest daughter Kavita is married but she has had some problems, so she is living at her mother's house. She was ill because of stones in her stomach. Pastor Dayaraju and his evangelistic team visited them with Gospel literature, prayed for their salvation and Kavita's healing. Mother and daughter were convicted of their sin and accepted the Lord as their personal Saviour. Pastor Dayaraju preached to them to just TRUST THE LORD. Now Sharma's son Veeru is coming to the Bible study. The church people have prayed for them, and they (Sharma, Kavita, and Veeru) say that God has taken away all their burden and given them peace of mind. I preached to them: WHEN WE FIRST SEEK GOD, THEN HE TAKES CARE OF THE REST (Matthew 6:33-34 and 5:5-14). We left there and went to Kapansdanga gate no. 3 about 6:15.

Visit #10 - Mr. Devullu - At his house they prepared a lunch for us, but we unfortunately were not able to make it in time because of our visiting. I told him that I was sorry for that. There were about 75 men, women, and children gathered there by 6:40 pm. By 7, Pastor Dayaraju started the meeting. The singing service lasted till 7:30. The theme for the week at their church was from John 8:12, and Pastor Dayaraju asked me to preach from that passage of Scripture. Because I had no preparation for this Scripture, I had to completely depend upon the Lord. This was a real test for me. I also read from Mark 10:46-52 and preached on the thought A BLIND MAN KNOWS ONLY BEGGING. Because Jesus is the light of the world, whoever walks or follows Him will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life (eternal). I gave the example of Saul becoming Paul, and how the Power of Light can

change a man's darkness into the eternal light of life. I concluded the message with my own personal testimony. I preached about 30 minutes and gave an invitation for all to receive the Light so that they will not walk in darkness. I could see great joy in the eyes of the believers after the meeting. Praise the Lord for everything. I was so excited and thankful to God for what He is doing. The service was concluded by 8:30. We ate supper at 9 and I started to return to Calcutta by 9:30, which I reached by 11:30 pm.

Second Day (11/2/06): I arrived in Chinchura with my luggage by 10 am. I called Mr. Partha, but he had left for Calcutta. I asked him to meet me tomorrow morning. Because today is a local holiday, the church here arranged for a special meeting. The service started at 11 am with 25 men, 60 women, and 15 teens and 15 children present. I started preaching at noon from Acts 2:42-47. Learning how to be like a first century church. **The ingredients for a living church are: doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer.** I concluded in verse 47 and gave the example of Faith Church in Agra. About 12:45, I gave the altar call, and it was surprising to see the number of men who came forward to pray. Again, I praise the Lord for His doing a work. We fellowshiped till 1 pm at the church and left for Apparao's house (the 11th member visited). He provided lunch for us and we departed from his house at 3 pm. We left to go to Simla (15 kms from Chinchura), which we reached by 4 pm.

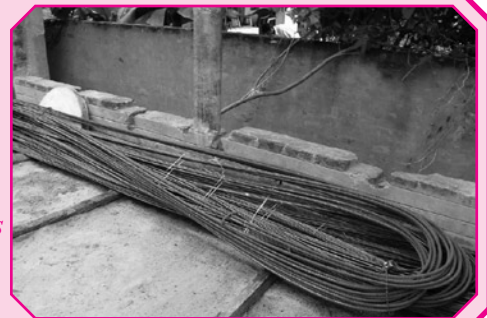
Visit #11 - Mr. Sukumar Biswas - We had a meeting at his house and three of his neighbors attended. They don't know Hindi, but they do hear the message whenever the T. E. Church

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Pastor Samuel and Bro. Babu in the Village of Apparao in India.

Re-bar for the new church construction. Thank you to those who have given over \$7,000.00 for this project.



(Continued from page 6)

team comes and preaches in Bangala. Biswas is an electrician that had worked at T. E. Church and was led to the Lord and baptized by Pastor Joshua. Since then he has moved and has difficulty getting to church. At 4:15, we started a service and I preached from John 10:10- "Jesus is the good Shepherd" who gave His life for His sheep. This was an encouragement to the children. I preached in Hindi, and Mr. Taraka Rao (an elder in the church) translated into Bangla. I know that he was translating it correctly. After prayer and fellowship, we returned to Chinchura and arrived by 5:40.

Visit #12 - Mr. Apparaor - He lives at number 3 gate. He is a municipal labor who trusted the Lord through his wife Laxmi. She came in contact with T. E. Church's women's fellowship, and by their evangelism trusted the Lord. They both are very young Christians. Their parents are not yet believers, but they don't oppose their children being Christians. Here I preached from Romans 1:19-26 (CHANGING THE TRUTH INTO A LIE) and gave examples from Genesis and I Corinthians 1:18 (THE CROSS AND ITS POWER) and concluded with Romans 1:16. After prayer, many of them came and thanked the Lord for the message that He gave to them through me. I was also thankful to our Lord for His love and doings.

Visit #13 - Mr. Veera Swami - He was once opposed to Christianity and church activities. He is considered to be an important man here. Pastor Dayaraju led him to the truth of the Bible. In no time, he confirmed in his life the love of God for humanity and his love of the cross. Thank God that his is a faithful witness. He is effective in church and attends faithfully all of the churches activities. We just had a time

of prayer there, then left to Apparao's house for dinner. At 9:30 we went to the church, had a time of prayer with Pastor Dayaraju, and I spent the night at the church.

Third day (11/3/06): Mr. Partha came to see me. We talked for a while and I handed over the check that you had for him (he was a little upset because his name was spelled wrong). He said that he would try to convert it in spite of the misspelling. He asked about the church in Agra, sent his greetings to the church and Pastor Patel, and said that he could not accompany us because he is too busy with teaching school.

Visit #14 - Merupo (Santhosh Kumar) - We met him and his wife Bibibai. Santhosh (Merupo) is very sick and has lost a lot of weight. Also their oldest daughter Emeema (lives in Bhilai) is diagnosed with cancer. She also has a small baby girl (2 ½ years old), which also makes the burden harder. Merupo said that he has not been able to contact you (he said that it has been more than a year and a half) because of his health problems. I asked God to give me wisdom on what to do here. I encouraged him to trust the Lord with all of his heart and not to depend on one hand or the other. I gave him the example of Job, and told him that we needed to trust the Lord and be faithful to Him until death and God will surely help us overcome our problems. Then He will reward us with a crown. It was about 9:30 am and we started out for Sirampur, where we arrived by 11:15 am. We spent time with a school principal and told him about our church in Agra. I also shared with him about the work in Chinchura and other places. Then, with his permission, we went to see Dr. William Carey's library, the college, and his graveyard. Our hearts were broken when we saw the condition

of the graveyard because it was grown over with plants and unclean. Also the watchmen were drunk. We left and returned to Chinchura and started the deacons meeting by 3:30 pm.

Deacons meeting - All were present except for 2.

We first prayed and then I took them to I Timothy 3:8 and talked to them about the topic: WHO IS A DEACON?

1. What does the Bible teach about being a deacon?

It is a highly responsible thing commanded by God for God's church.

Titus 1:5-16 What must a deacon not do? (vs. 6-7)

What must a deacon do? (vs. 8-9)

After the exhortation, we discussed the following matter:

1. What are the areas of evangelism? (Mainly the 4 places I went it seemed to be true, fruitful and genuine)

2. How many baptisms were given? (10 were done in April and 10 more are now ready)

3. How much is the minimum offering for a week and then for a month? (Rs. 2000-00)

4. What is the frequency of attendance? (135-150 people)

5. Why is the pastor not involved in most of the financial matters? (It has always been like that and till now no one has asked about the matter. I said that it must be changed and the pastor must be informed.)

6. Are you regular to church (all deacons and pastor) and faithful to give your tithes and offerings to the Lord? (Most of them are not at all up to the mark. I explained again and from now on I will seriously look into this matter. Next deacons meeting, we will vote and the only person who will be a deacon will be the one who is faithful

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The walls are up and we are ready to start the roof. Pray for the safe conclusion to this project as well as the financial needs of this church.



The hospitality and welcome in India are always special.

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in attendance and tithes and offerings. No excuse will be accepted except for special circumstances.)

7. Discussion about the matter of the property next to the church. (Not yet cleared. I have to speak with Rajamallik and Abednego about this because they and the relatives of the late Pastor Joshua are involved. I will look in on this when I go to Andhra Pradesh.)

8. Why is the pastor's wife not with him? (There is insufficient money to run the family here in Calcutta because the cost of living is high. I told them this is a silly answer and to bring your wife home. Continue the work with your spouse and not without her.)

9. What about the orphanage? (It is going to be in Apparaopet, not here in Chinchura.)

10. The following is a monthly budget:

Evangelism (8 people to 4 different places)	Rs. 320
Widows Ministry (1 each month)	300
Electricity	300
Water bill	100
Sound system	100
Pastor's salary	<u>1,500</u>
Total in rupees	2,620

The rest of the money they are not giving to the Lord regularly; that is why the financial matters here are weak.

After the deacon's meeting, we had a service and I preached.

16. Mrs. Bhavaani - Her husband passed away two years ago in a road accident and she has no children to keep her company. In spite of this, she is faithful to the Lord in giving and living. She was baptized this past Easter Sunday. At her house, I preached from James 4:10 (HUMBLE YOURSELVES). Why must we humble? So God may lift us up for His glory in His time (example of Daniel in Daniel 6:22-26). I concluded in James 4:8. After prayer, I had the privilege to lead Meetu and Eshwaramma to the Lord. Praise God for the wonderful and great work. I urged Pastor Dayaraju to follow up these women. We had dinner at Bavanni's house, after which I started to go back to Calcutta where I arrived at 11:40 pm. The next morning I returned to Agra via Delhi.

Observations and Comments by G. Babu

By looking into my report, you may also feel the same as I do- this church is doing its best to reach the un-reached with the Gospel of Jesus.

It is a blessing to the church even though the pastor is unable to speak Hindi and Bangla languages, yet there are plenty of groups in the church and nearby areas that are being reached by the deacons, pastor, and enthusiastic members. That's great, but **it must continue in the right direction, such as regular Bible studies and discipleship classes.**

There were 10 baptisms in April and 10 more ready to be baptized. This would have been done if Pastor Patel or Rev. Ronnie had been with them.

I would like to see not only older people going out on evangelism, but also the youth. I see a great potential in the youth for singing and playing instruments for the Lord.

Church worship is in the right way. Discipline in the order of worship is good. The leading of the songs, playing of the instruments, specials and Sunday school are done right, not in the Charismatic way. Yet they must know to give priority to the altar call and prayer for themselves at the end of the service. I know that these are minor things but must be considered to give glory to our dear Lord.

Doctrinally they are like us at Faith Church Agra. I have seen Pastor Dayaraju leading the service, explaining the songs, importance of worshiping the Lord in the right manner (bring many souls through personal Evangelism), Bible reading and encouraging believers by giving to the Lord.

About communion, they only take it monthly. I think that this is not bad and not important to change or put more detail in it. Next time I go, I will try to participate in one of their communion services.

More than 12% of the money is given to 3 widows each month. According to them, the church helps Nirmalamma, Ratnamma, and other women each month alternatively. I am not against it, but the church must share the needs and it is not right that we ignore the immediate needs of the church. The immediate need is Pastor Dayaraju.

The believers need to be encouraged to give more to the Lord and share in the expenses of the church.

Tithes are very, very less. . .

As we decided in 2003, every deacon of the church must give his tithes and offering regularly, this must be maintained for the good of the financial record of the church.

We have good books given to Pastor Patel that I can translate for them into Telegu and give it to Pastor Dayaraju. We also have Shishya Thomson's tracts and CD's with the good gospel message as well as audiocassettes with Gospel message. This will be translated into Hindi.

I informed Pastor Dayaraju to write me in Telegu. He has no problem with this. I also asked him how he communicated with you the past couple of years. He said that he had someone help him. Now he will go through me in order to communicate with you.

There are some other pastor's letters that you gave me to read. I have and now want to visit them to see how genuine they are and will report back to you. I will find out if they are real or if they are after money only.

Pastor Patel told me to coordinate The Voice in the Wilderness in India. I have no problem doing this, but if you don't mind, would you write all the brothers a small letter concerning this. I hope that this will give a clear understanding to all and will help me to serve the Lord without any unnecessary hindrance. Also give me your mandate, goals, thoughts, and opinions.

May the Lord of Harvest continue to use us for His glory.

Psalm 23 and Philippians 1:21

Yours in Him faithfully,

G. Babu

Faith Church Agra

Editor: *The Voice in the Wilderness has a green light to proceed with oversight of the various ministries and partnerships in the country of India. Pray for Bro. Babu and his family as well as Pastor Patel and Faith Church. They will be training and preaching on behalf of The Voice in the Wilderness. Then, remember the work in Apparaopet. Two young men were killed tragically and four died with chikungunya fever. Your prayers, support, and partnership is so critical.*



MEMORIAL GIFTS

Received by The Voice in the Wilderness

In Memory of Albert Williamson

Given by: Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Jones • Mr. and Mrs. Tim Rains
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas G. Little • Mr. and Mrs. Karl Kissinger
Reece Twilley • Bessie F. Barefoot • Wilkesboro Baptist Church
Alan and Denise Whittington • Nena Rosenquist • Annette P. Hawley
Douglas James • Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Kline, Jr.

In Memory of Dr. J. Royce Thomason

Given by: Mr. and Mrs. Homer Bullard • Pastor and Mrs. Johnny Pike
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Sutton • Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Kline, Sr. • Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Kline, Jr.
Anonymous Memorial Contributors • Walter Bullington
G. McCracken

In Memory of Mary Baker Given by: Nancy Seymour

In Memory of Mike Springer Given by: Denise Eggert

If we inadvertently omitted a memorial gift, please let us know.

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

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

A SWEET LESSON IN HUMANITY

Years ago, a 10-year-old boy approached the counter of a soda shop and climbed on to a stool.

"What does an ice cream sundae cost?" he asked the waitress.

"Fifty cents," she answered.

The youngster reached deep in his pockets and pulled out an assortment of change, counting it carefully as the waitress grew impatient. She had "bigger" customers to wait on.

"Well, how much would just plain ice cream be?" the boy asked.

The waitress responded with noticeable irritation in her voice, "Thirty-five cents."

Again, the boy slowly counted his money.

"May I have some *plain* ice cream in a dish then, please?" He gave the waitress the correct amount, and she brought him the ice cream.

Later, the waitress returned to clear the boy's dish and when she picked it up, she felt a lump in her throat. There on the counter the boy had left two nickels and five pennies. She realized that he had had enough money for the sundae, but sacrificed it so that he could leave her a tip.

The moral: Before passing judgment, first treat others with courtesy, dignity, and respect.

Adapted from *A Lifetime of Success* by Pat Williams

*In Memory of Edward Schroeder
from his loving wife*

YOUR DAILY WALK

BY Edward J. Schroeder

Was Jesus allowed
In your life today?
When you awoke this morning,
Did you take time to pray?

Did you thank Him
For your night of rest?
And ask that your day
Might truly be blessed?

Did anger or selfishness
Push their way into your life,
Causing unkindness to others
Because of your strife?

Were you a good example,
Of sharing a Christian's love?
That special gift that God has given,
Freely sent to all from above?

Did you share a bit of your time,
In a really friendly way?
And listen to others around you,
And what they might need to say?

A handshake, a smile,
A kind word or two,
Could lighten one's burdens,
And even help you.

Find rest in the Saviour
As you lean upon Him.
Call on His Name.
Let your life begin.



*Southeastern Christian College Choir
warms up in preparation for the memorial
service in honor of Bro. Royce*



*Steve and Rebekah Lilly played the
Hand Chimes at the memorial service on
December 2nd, 2006.*



*Sis. Siebert did an excellent job on the
piano*

NEWS BITS

FROM HERE AND THERE

HERE PIG- You may remember the E. coli scare from a few months ago. Well, the reason for the outbreak according to investigators is due to wild pigs. A caught pig was tested for the same strain of the disease that was found in the spinach from Natural Food Selections LLC based out of San Juan Bautista, CA. The investigators do not know if the pigs, which broke into the spinach fields, polluted the crop firsthand or if they tracked it in from feces of local cattle. *World 11/11/06*

CHILDREN OR ADULTS? - In Dallas County, Missouri, the sheriff has come up with a way to deter the inmates from escaping. After a recent escape attempt, Sheriff Mike Rackley had the cells redecorated. With the thought of the inmates acting like children, the cells were designed to look that way. "Basically, if they are going to act like children and commit a childish act, then we'll make a childish atmosphere (he had the cells painted pink with blue Teddy bears). And it's a calming thing-Teddy bears are soothing. So we made it like a daycare and that's kind of like what it is, a daycare for adults who can't control their behavior in public... How do you feel tough in a pink atmosphere?" *World 11/25/06*

TEST FOR TEXTING- Also in the same issue of *World (11/25/06)*, we find the flowing insights to text messaging. In New Zealand, the Qualifications Authority will be

accepting essays submitted to them in the "shorthand" of text messaging. For those of you who are not familiar with the writing here are two examples. The first one is from Winston Churchill. "We shal fite dem on d beaches." The second is from Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*. "2b or nt 2b."

FCC RECANTS - *The Washington Times (11/13/06)* tells us of recent decisions by the Federal Communications Commission, whose job is to regulate radio and television broadcasts. The FCC decided to uphold two of the four charges leveled against Fox Television Stations, Inc. and CBS Broadcasting Inc. The charges against Fox have to do with the 2002 and 2003 Billboard Music Awards in which celebrities used obscene words and phrases. FCC Chairman Kevin Martin said, "Hollywood continues to argue they should be able to say the _____ - word on television whenever they want. Today, the commission again disagrees." CBS' charge had to deal with an "Early Show" program in which a "Survivor" cast member referred to another contestant with an epithet. Scott Grogan, spokesman for Fox, said, "Today's decision highlights our concern about the government's inability to issue consistent, reasoned decisions in highly sensitive First Amendment case. We look forward to court review and the clarity we hope it will bring to this area of the law." {Editor: Often when people want to say whatever they have a

desire to say, they hide behind the First Amendment. But Christians cannot have the same rights due to the phrase "Separation of Church and State" which is found nowhere in our Constitution.}

SAME SEX IN SOUTH AFRICA- The National Council of Provinces in South Africa passed a Civil Union Bill that would then have to be signed by President Thabo Mbeki in order to become law. This bill would allow gay and lesbian couples "the same legal status as married heterosexuals." Jeanette Vilakazi, who is associated with the Inkatha Freedom Party MP, said, "By approving this legislation, this house is at odds with the wishes of a majority of South Africans who have overwhelmingly rejected it. Why are we fast-tracking the passing of legislation that a majority of South Africans don't want; this is forgery." Some churches that wanted this legislation to be defeated now want the use of the word "marriage" to be removed from the bill. *www.irnnews.com 11/28/06*

SECURE OR NOT- After the recent war with Lebanon, a recent poll was done in Israel. Compared to a decade ago, 56% of Israelis feel that they are less secure. Also, an overwhelming 78% do not believe that Israel is in a battle for survival with the Arabs. The greatest concerns are the nuclear capability of Iran and

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the economic condition of northern Israel. *The Everlasting Nation* November/December 06

LEADERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS-

CPP Inc., a human resource firm, was hired in 2003 to help a branch of our armed services to “develop a better blueprint to pick the best and the brightest” for future leaders. The firm came up with 18 qualifications for their “portrait of a leader.” Among the traits that they are looking for are: self-control, self-confidence, understanding others, capacity for collaboration, and creativity. *U.S. News & World Report* 11/20/06

DEVASTATING DROP- “What They Didn’t Tell You Today” is a new blog (web log) on www.nranews.com. The author picks out news in which the major news sources do not tell you everything. He focuses in on Katie Couric on one of his blogs. Instead of looking at the glitz and glamour, Wayne LaPierre looked at the Nielson ratings and the Pew Research Center for the People and Press. In the Nielson ratings, “CBS Evening News” fell from first to last place and lost about 25% of their viewers. In the Pew Research, Katie Couric was described as “liberal” and had the “most negative ratings among men, women, and overall.” *America’s 1st Freedom* December 06



URGENT ACTION NEEDED -

“The Judicial Watch Verdict, we recently forced the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to release to us official documents which prove that Mexican government personnel committed over 200 ‘incursions’ over the U.S.-Mexico border over the past ten years.

“An incursion is the unauthorized crossing of a border. It appears that at least some of these incursions by Mexican government agents were to provide cover for drug smuggling into the United States! Is this what we should expect from an ‘ally?’

“It seems that neither the Clinton nor Bush administration ever protested the incursions to the Mexican government!

“It’s bad enough that law-abiding Americans have to battle against a flood of illegal aliens pouring across the border from Mexico; it’s bad enough Judicial Watch has to go to court from Virginia to California to fight liberal local governments, and their allies in the ACLU, that violate immigration laws with measures like publicly-funded ‘day laborer sites’ and Special Order 40. It’s bad enough that powerful political forces continue to press for amnesty programs for

illegal aliens.

“But the fact that our own government has to be dragged into releasing documents that show agents of a foreign government are regularly violating our borders, frequently to give cover to drug-runners, is absolutely astonishing!

“We can count on another attempt at sliding an amnesty-for-aliens bill through Congress, either in a lame-duck session or when the new Congress convenes in January.

“I believe that American people should be informed about: the full extent of the crisis on our borders; the full extent of the incursions by agents of the Mexican government; and the full extent of our government’s failure to confront the Mexican government over these acts, which are attacks on the sovereignty of the United States!”

We urgently need thousands of U. S. citizens to write the President, Congress, and Michael Chertoff of Homeland Security kindly stating the following:

1. Please take action to enforce U.S. Immigration Laws and secure our borders.
2. Please do not allow any type of amnesty-for-aliens or even guest worker bill to pass through Congress.
3. Please put a stop to the incursions of U. S. borders by the Mexican government!



The music was beautiful...



...from the choir specials...



...to the congregational singing.

RELIGIOUS NEWS

AND COMMENTS

FIGHT FOR MOTTO- Some of you may remember the name Michael Newdow. For those of you who don't, he is the California atheist who wants to remove the phrase "In God We Trust" from US coins and currency. Mr. Newdow is stating that his "religious rights as an atheist" are being interfered because of the phrase. Previously Mr. Newdow had the Ninth Circuit Court side with him in declaring the phrase in the Pledge "one nation under God" unconstitutional. (Thankfully the Supreme Court overturned the Ninth Circuit's decision.) Pacific Justice Institute along with the Department of Justice are defendants in the case. Brad Dacus, president of PJI, said, "Our attorneys are committed to work hard as we diligently represent people of faith throughout this country in this very important case." www.pacificjustice.org 11/20/06

HIDING THE MOTTO- We just told you of PJI's fight for the motto "In God We Trust", but now we are telling you of our government's hiding of the same motto. In 2007, there will be released new one-dollar coins depicting the Presidents of the United States. But instead of having the motto and previous national motto, "E Pluribus Unum" Latin for "Out of Many, One", on the face of the coin, the US Mint will put the phrases on the edge of the coins. The reason for the change is to provide

larger images of the Presidents and the Statue of Liberty. Also the coin, for the first time, will have \$1 instead of "One Dollar" stamped on them. By the way, the motto was changed in 1956 by an act of Congress. www.irnnews.com 11/28/06

MEGA CHURCH MANIA- Mega-churches are on the rise, according to a recent study released by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research and Leadership Network. In order to be defined as a mega-church, attendance each week must exceed 2,000. According to the study, there are a little over 1,200 mega-churches nationally. Some of the more popular ones are: Rick Warren's Saddleback Church, T. D. Jakes' The Potter's House, and Joel Osteen's Lakewood Church. This trend can be traced back to the 1980's when churches started looking at "Disney (on crowd management) and big-box stores (with their greeters and acres of parking)." The report also stated: "Many of the fastest-growing, largest and newest mega-churches are full of people under 35 years old." Let's take a closer look at one such church. Northside Christian Church in the Louisville, Kentucky area has altered some of the traditional appearance of the church. They replaced the pews and altars with stadium seating and video screens, pipe organ with a band of electric instruments, vestibule with a mall like lobby (gourmet coffee

shop and playground). One pastor of a mega-church said that the easiest way to spot a visitor is by the man wearing a necktie. Kevin Cosby, pastor of St. Stephen Church, said that the success of the mega-churches is due to the "blend of 'conservative theology' and 'radical methodology'." His "marching orders to the organizers of a new hip-hop youth choir were that if the adults didn't hate the music, the leaders would be fired." www.courier-journal.com 11/26/06 {Editor: Our pastor keeps on reminding us that it is not always quantity but quality. God wants our best, such as our dress and music.}

RELIGION IN SCHOOL- The Legal Alert (November 2006) gives the following prayer request and concern. *Please pray that students' rights to read their Bibles, to mention religion in school assignments, and to pray in school will be protected. Attorneys for CLA received an extraordinary number of calls about these religious freedom issues during the first month of school from students all across America ... who have been told they may not exercise their free speech and religious rights in their local public schools, despite their constitutional right to do so. Preservation of free speech and free exercise rights for Christian students is becoming an increasingly serious problem all across America.*

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www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org

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PICTURE PROPAGANDA-

A new child's book is out about penguins (which are very popular these days among children). "And Tango Makes Three" is based on two male penguins who adopted and raise a chick as their own in the Central Park Zoo in New York City. Parents of Shiloh Elementary School near St. Louis, Mo. would like the book moved from the children's section to the mature issues section. The district's attorney said the moving of the book "might be construed as censorship." Jennifer Filyaw, school district superintendent, said, "My feeling is that a library is to serve an entire population. It means you represent different families in a society-different religions, different beliefs." Superintendent Filyaw considers the book, written for 4-8 year olds, "adorable". Lilly Del Pinto's five-year-old daughter brought the book home from school. Mrs. Del Pinto read the book to her until "... the zookeeper said the two penguins must be in love." That is when Mrs. Del Pinto put the book down and contacted her child's teacher and librarian, who directed Mrs. Del Pinto to Superintendent Filyaw. The book has also created controversy in Savannah, Mo. *The Washington Times* 11/27/06

MAINLINE MALAISE- The United Church of Christ has recently accepted the Cathedral of Hope in Dallas, TX, to their denomination. The Cathedral of Hope is known as the "world's largest homosexual church." Senior pastor Jo Hudson (a female) has been a minister with the UCC since 1997. Since the 1970's, the UCC has been allowing homosexuals to be pastors and 2005 "officially endorsed same-sex marriage." *World* 11/25/06

PENTECOSTAL PRIDE-

Director of the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life Luis Lugo said that Christianity is going toward "being Pentecostalized." A study of 10 nations found out that more Christians are becoming more Pentecostal and charismatic. This study included Catholics and Protestants. The study calls these people "renewalists." The countries percentage of "renewalists" range from 60% in Guatemala to 11% in South Korea. The United States is listed 8th at 23%. *World* 11/11/06



MARRIAGE IN JERSEY-

New Jersey state senator Gerald Cardinale is proposing a constitutional amendment that will define and limit marriage to be between a

man and a woman. This is on the heels of a ruling by the New Jersey Supreme Court that required the state legislature six months to pass a bill that would allow same-sex couples to "marry" or have civil unions and be allowed the same benefits of a married couple. Senator Cardinale said, "The court does not have the authority-as I read the constitution-to order the legislature to pass a bill. They can do a lot of things, but they are not the whole government. We're dealing with a decision of the New Jersey Supreme Court, and the court has indicated that we need to do certain things within a certain period of time, so I thought this was a good thing to do in response to the court decision." Chairman of the Garden State Equality, a homosexual rights group, Steven Goldstein said, "It's dead on arrival (the proposed bill). There's not a prayer that a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage could ever pass-not a prayer. The measure is being laughed at in both houses of the New Jersey legislature. There are no more than a dozen votes in a very big state legislature, and it's just not going to pass. This is a very progressive state. New Jersey has long been at the forefront of gay rights, and frankly social issues across the board." www.cnsnews.com 11/29/06



Thanks for the gracious hospitality of Pastor Maddox and Tabernacle Church

Pastor Pike reminded us of Bro. Royce's service in the Army, and God's blessing upon America.



(Continued from page 2)

Praise His name! Jesus came in and saved my soul. Thank you for being His instrument to reach a lost 17-year-old for Christ and eternity. I shall never forget that day. Bro. Tom Farrell and I chatted about that just a few weeks ago in Eastern North Carolina. Yes, and it was because of that day my wife and I (of 33 years) met and now our daughter and son-in-law serve with us in ministry together. God is so good. Oh, and congrats on your step of faith and new ministry as chairman. The future can be nothing but bright with Christ as our Lord. Thanks, and with love in our sweet Saviour.

*For Christ and Souls,
Ronnie L. Williamson
I Cor. 10:31*

P.S. During year 2007 take opportunity to thank the Lord for those who were instrumental in the Lord's salvation and discipleship in your life. God is so good to bring precious individuals into our lives. May we all be that individual in the life of another. Amen!

P.S.S. Your year-end gifts to The Voice in the Wilderness were deeply appreciated. We are hoping to get all of our bills and missionary commitments paid and end the year in the black. Your generosity allows our missionary team to do what God has called us to do – minister the Word rather than fundraising. Thank you for your partnership.

Happy New Year and Happy Trails
Bro. Ronnie
Isa. 40:31



Nuggets of Gold

1. To silence a preacher from preaching judgment is like being woken from sleep by a fire alarm, just to silence the alarm and go back to sleep.
2. Love is more easily demonstrated than defined.
3. Duty makes us do things well. Love makes us do them beautifully.
4. Kindness is the ability to love people more than they really deserve.
5. You can give without loving. But you cannot love without giving. -- Amy Carmichael
6. God uses men who are weak and feeble enough to lean on him. -- Hudson Taylor

Cathy Burns said her mother just simply had one of those painful days when age was overwhelming. She wrote the following:

SUNSET YEARS



I heard it was coming – but not so soon.
Never knew it would be full of gloom.
You bend over and your back near breaks.
Your soft silky skin is full of flakes.
Hair so shiny and fluffy, too.
Now so thin you can see right through.
Eyes so bright and full of twinkles
Are now surrounded by many wrinkles
Cheeks so tender and pinkish, too
Have lost the sign of looking new.
Lips that could speak so fluently
Now have sounds come so stutteringly.
Arms that could lift and hold things tight
Can hardly hold anything half right.
Legs that took you where you wanted to go
Now buckle and bend and go so slow.
Your feet that took you here and there
Are full of pain and need lots of care.
The sunset years are not sunny at all
And you know it when you trip and fall.

Jean Burns (2005)



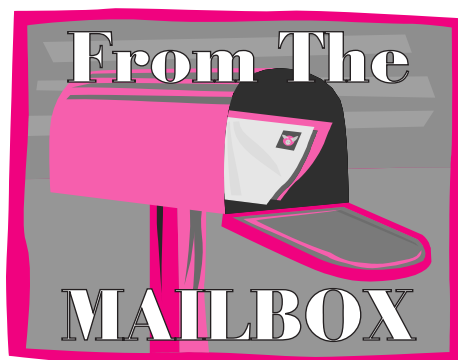
The Lord allowed us to give God the praise for the life and ministry of Dr. J. Royce Thomason. Pastor Brown spoke eloquently of the Friend to a Preacher



Then what a special time it was, when Pastor Pike invited the preachers to the altar for prayer and dedication.



Bro. Kline led in prayer at the altar, as the preachers and congregation prayed for Bro. & Sis. Williamson in their ministry with TVNW



Dear Voice in the Wilderness Family,
I have enjoyed reading your paper for many years.

Bro. Royce came to our church and preached a revival around 10-15 years ago. He really impressed me that I could receive your paper and it hasn't stopped even if I could not make a donation. I do not understand how you can continue with this work for God unless God is truly in your work. I believe He is.

Bro. Ronnie, you are doing a wonderful job! I am so sorry Bro. Royce passed away, and that he wasn't able to think clearly on his decisions. I remember reading for many years that he needed someone to take over when the time came and he stated several times that the Lord sent you. Keep up the faith and I plan to donate to you.

Subscriber – Alabama

Dear Brother Ronnie,

Greetings in our Saviour Jesus Christ's precious name!

We've just received the November edition of The Voice in the Wilderness, which told us of our dear Brother Royce's homegoing. Although we realized it might be soon, still it is always a shock, and a sense of loss. We first met him when he visited Colombia in the late 50's, and he invited us to his home in Frederick, OK., which we did while we were on furlough in the 60's. We have kept in touch since then, and he kindly sent us a copy of the magazine, which has been such a blessing to us down through the years. We praise God that He had prepared you and your wife to carry on when Royce couldn't continue on with this fruitful ministry. We have appreciated your missionary vision and work, and will continue to remember you in prayer.

www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org

When we were director of the Bible Institute, Sophie Muller, a real friend of ours, asked us if we could receive several of her Christian Indian boys, which we were happy to do. Several of our graduates and undergraduates went to work in the tribes, including the father of our present Director of the Emmanuel Clinic. When his father had to leave the Curipaco tribe, (where he had been working under Sophie's direction) because of the guerrilla takeover in that area, he became director or manager here of a large printing press, turning out Christian literature here in Bogotá. In the 60's we spent a month in another of Sophie's tribes, teaching them Bible in Spanish. So Sophie's work continues to expand under Indian evangelists.

It was good to be in touch with you, and will continue to pray that God will use you in a even greater way. We read with interest the diary of Rebekah and Steve Lilly while they were in Venezuela, and trust they will be back in South America sometime, if the Lord tarries.

We praise the Lord for the sixty years He has given us to work in Colombia, and although [we are 90 years and 87], we continue to help out here in this Christian Clinic, and also in the camp work. The Lord continues to give us strength as our day, and we have much to thank Him for.

May God prosper you and The Voice in the Wilderness, and supply all your needs, for His glory and praise.

With Christian love,
Missionaries - Colombia, S.A.

A missionary in Venezuela writes:

Venezuela held presidential elections Sunday, December 3rd. President Hugo Chaves won. . . again. He got approximately 60% of the vote.

In February, Chaves will have another Referendum to the Constitution and basically plans to conform the Venezuelan Constitution to his will.

Keep the missionaries in your prayers that God's guidance would be extra clear to them over the next several months.

Please also pray for their safety. This president is very anti-American and after years of spouting his very

anti-American sentiment, the attitude around the country is slowly changing. Recently, several anti-American graffiti's have appeared.

Also friends in the Venezuelan military confirmed that "something" is going to happen and warned a friend of ours to stock up on food, water, candles, etc.

Gasoline is going to be further rationed, and there are rumors that military personnel are going door-to-door to find out if anyone has stocked up on gasoline.

Dear Bro. Ronnie:

Here is a Tribute to a true friend.

A Tribute to Bro. Royce

One of the greatest joys was to know Bro. Royce, not just as a friend, but as a Christian friend, and to share some of the greatest times together with him in my life. To know that he was there when you needed him. One of my most favorite times of the year I always looked forward to was when I knew he was coming to speak in the area. He would be staying with my grandparents and I would always look forward to that. It was also a joy and privilege to have him present at my high school graduation, one of the most important events in my life. Bro. Royce taught me many things, one of which I love and that is, we shared the love of western cowboy hats and boots. One of the greatest memories was just a few years ago when I was brave enough to ride with Bro. Royce from Dallas, Texas, to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Thank you, Bro. Royce, for your friendship and love you have shown me and others over the years. There is no word that can describe what Bro. Royce meant to me and others. It has been a privilege to call you my friend. You will not be forgotten, and you hold a special place in my heart. As I am sure the Lord has already told you, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." This is the last time I will ever sign this way again (the way I always ended my letters to Bro. Royce.)

Your number 1 Buddy,
Subscriber, Maryland



Study The Word with



“Every failure and deficiency in our church ministries today can be traced to a departure from the New Testament model.” This statement in our last study confronts us with the stark and sobering reality of the urgent need for revival and return of our church to God’s Word. Get “out of the box” and back “INTO THE BOOK.” Understand clearly that our Lord wants men and women, boys and girls from out of “every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people” recognize and receive the good news of Christ – Rev. 5:9, 14:6. His everlasting gospel is to be preached that they may know LIFE, LIFE ABUNDANT, and LIFE ETERNAL.

Not to exclude the doing of faith (“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.” James 2:17) yet the BEING is paramount – BEING RIGHT WITH GOD! The “Church” is doing a lot today. The “Church” is full of activity. But what about BEING RIGHT WITH GOD? Not just the DOING: but the BEING.

The Great Commission does not start with the GOING but rather the GLOWING. Some say you will get the glow when you go. But the truth is you will GO when you glow. Study the so-called *Great Commission*—Example, Matthew 28:19, 20 is preceded by “And when they saw Him they worshipped Him.” The WORK is preceded by seeing him, then they WORSHIP. Mark 16:15 is preceded by “He appeared” and “He was risen.” It is the MASTER before the MISSION, Worship before Work, Glow before Go. Before Jesus said, “As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you” His peace was given them. They saw the Lord. They saw Him: then He sent them. It has been said many, many times, “Keep the main thing, the main thing, and the main thing is soul-winning.” I understand the urgent challenge and desire to motivate God’s people to get up off the seat of *do nothing* and *apathy* to go out and reach a lost and dying world with the Good News that Jesus saves. Hallelujah, I am right there with you preacher. We want to see souls saved, walk the aisle, get baptized and become faithful stewards. Yes, we want to have young men answer the call to preach, families out of our midst step up to the mission field. But please, don’t miss this. All we are and subsequently do of eternal worth will grow out of our relationship with our Lord. Are we RIGHT with God? Do we know Him and understand from His Word who God is? The doing, the missions program or any other program for that matter is not the ultimate goal of His church. God’s glory is the ultimate goal. When the church beholds His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth, there is out of the overwhelming consumption of His majesty and love the powerful proclamation unrestrained from Jerusalem to the regions beyond.

-RLW

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