

The



in the Wilderness

•Fall 2009

•Free Subscription•

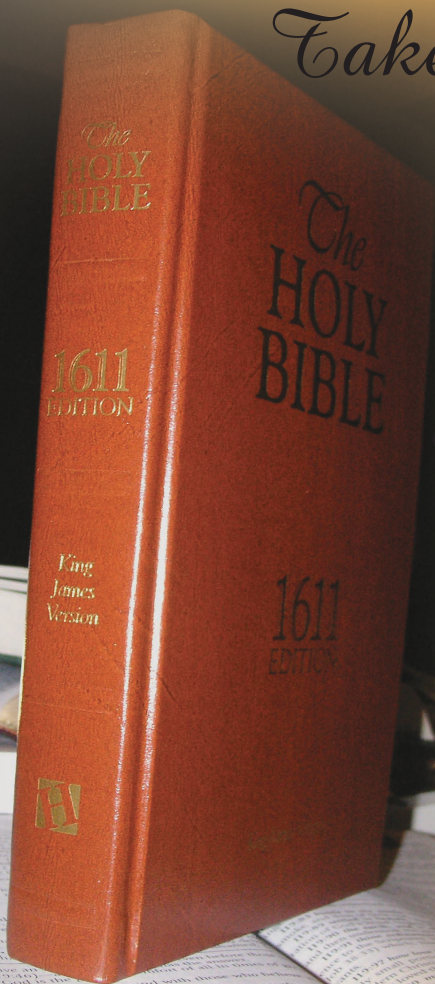
Take a Stand  
with

THE VOICE  
IN THE  
WILDERNESS

on the

King James  
Bible

PLEASE  
READ  
RESOLUTION  
ON PAGE 8.



"The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." - Mark 1:3

Contending for American Freedom • Contending for Fundamental Christianity



Ronnie and Terry Williamson  
*Evangelist/Editor*  
 Steve and Rebekah Lilly  
*Staff Missionaries*

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.

§

A fundamental publication, published quarterly 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.

## *In this Edition*

Page 3	.....My Personal Message
Page 4	.....News Bits
Page 6	.....Nuggets of Gold
Page 8	.....King James Bible Declaration
Page 10	.....Is Your <i>Light</i> Darkness?
Page 12	.....Religious News and Comments
Page 14	.....Venezuela 2009
Page 21	.....The Meaning of Christmas
Page 22	.....Death by Denomination
Page 29	.....Club MIT

From our family to yours,  
 may the birth of the King be  
 remembered and our Saviour  
 exalted during this season.

*Ronnie and Terry Williamson &  
 Steve and Rebekah Lilly*

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

E-mail for address changes only:

[visionpartners@thevoiceinthewilderness.org](mailto:visionpartners@thevoiceinthewilderness.org)

Sign-up for *The Weekly Voice* e-mail and Blog:

[membersnp@thevoiceinthewilderness.org](mailto:membersnp@thevoiceinthewilderness.org)

# MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends in Christ,

Maybe I will be the first in 2009 to extend to you Thanksgiving and Christmas greetings. This edition of *The Voice in the Wilderness* may be the last to reach you before year-end as we are able to only print quarterly. So may we all be ever thankful for our Saviour, His love, mercies, grace, and daily blessings. As we celebrate His coming, let us look for the blessed and soon appearing of our Great God and King. Hallelujah!

2009 is quickly drawing to a close. For *The Voice in the Wilderness* this has been a productive and fruitful year. One example is the missions and teaching project recently completed by staff missionaries Steve and Rebekah Lilly. We rejoice with the many souls that received the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, as well as the precious brothers and sisters of Venezuela who were taught and encouraged in the Word. Please note pages 14-21 for the report by the Aquila/Priscilla Team. In so doing, what more could we accomplished in 2009. Aim at nothing and one is certain to hit it. Praise the Lord He gives us clear direction in our ministry and we need not shoot in the dark. Let us seek His leadership for new heights as preparation for the approaching year.

With thoughts of 2010 many churches plan new budgets, stewardship campaigns, mission revivals and the next year's calendar and so may God help us do all to the glory of the Lord. Can we, could we, should we give of our best to the Master? Take this brief questionnaire:

1. How much of God's Word did you read and study this year?

2. Did you memorize scripture, see answer to specific prayer, and rejoice in the salvation of precious souls?

3. Look around this Sunday and count the number of those saved and baptized this year in your congregation.

4. In the life history of your church how many preachers, missionaries and new church plants here and afar has the Lord called forth from your midst?

5. From the young to the old, from the cradle to the grave is there an active, vital ministry for all or has the church relegated that responsibility to government and the secular?

(continued on page 31)



## FRUIT

Six weeks of  
fruitful ministry in  
Venezuela -

- 5 churches
- 3 weeks of

English Outreach  
classes

- 95 Graduates  
from English  
classes



# NEWS BITS

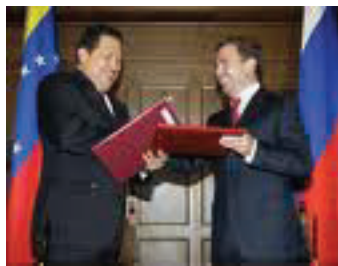
## FROM HERE AND THERE

**A pro-family advocate is outraged that a California public school teacher would pass out homosexual pledge cards to her kindergarten students.** The pledge cards were produced by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network and featured oaths that students would not use “anti-lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender language or slurs,” that students would intervene on behalf of homosexual students when possible and that they would actively support safer school efforts. In the same report on FoxNews.com, a spokesperson for the school agreed that the pledge was inappropriate for the kindergarten students and said that the pledges were meant for middle school and high school students.” *Hite’s Newsletter*

**Who is Lubna Hussein?** A pant-wearing rebel – maybe? Under Islamic law she could have received up to 40 lashings. The Sudanese female journalist had violated the decency law by wearing pants and was fined \$200. Hussein has declared not to pay a penny and vowed to keep wearing her trousers. Isn’t it amazing how this dress, clothing, modesty issue keeps popping up around the

world. Sadly, churches in America are plagued, not only by a come-as-you-are casual mentality, but “I defy you to preach about my clothes” attitude. An open, obvious, in-your-face refusal to respect the Pastors’ request is weekly exhibited by those who profess to love the Lord, but disobey His commands. Church meetings are fraught with obscene exhibitions. These carnally clad seem to have addiction withdrawal symptoms when not adorned with the world’s fashions.

**World Magazine 2009 reported – Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez** arrived in Moscow September 10, 2009 **ready to buy tank and other weaponry sufficient to double his armored vehicle arsenal.** Chavez has



previously amassed tanks at the Colombian border and has renewed tension over Colombia’s plan to allow U.S. troops to use Colombian bases for anti-narcotics



operations. The Moscow stop was part of a world tour that included six countries. In Iran, Chavez emphasized the “axis of unity” between the two countries and announced plans for a “nuclear village” in Venezuela with Iranian assistance, “so that the Venezuelan people can count in the future with this marvelous resource for peaceful uses.” The two oil-rich states plan to trade uranium yet to be mined in Venezuela for nuclear energy produced in Iran, which has earned Tehran UN Security Council sanctions.

**Think about it! The Earth’s climate has always changed**, with cycles of warming and cooling – the temperatures in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries are not outside the range of natural variability.... The hypothesis that humans can actually change climate is unsupported by evidence from geology, archaeology, history and astronomy....Although man-made increases in CO<sub>2</sub> may theoretically contribute to temperature rise, such links have not been proven – and there is abundant evidence to the contrary....True climate science acknowledges many variables – including the shape of the continents and sea floor, the pulling apart and stitching back of the crust, changes in the Earth’s orbit, changes in solar energy, supernoval eruptions, volcanic activity, ocean currents, and more....CO<sub>2</sub> is not a pollutant – global warming and

high CO<sub>2</sub> content bring prosperity and lengthen your life....Global warmers use computer models to manipulate and simplify scientific evidence – enabling the modeler to produce a predetermined outcome, impressing only those with little or no scientific training....The belief in human-induced global warming is an urban atheistic religion disconnected from Nature that fills a yawning spiritual vacuum in the Western world....*Heaven and Earth by Ian Plimer*

**The Obama Administration is working overtime to weaken immigration law** enforcement measures as a way of granting “back door” amnesty to illegal aliens. At a time when many local law enforcement agencies are finding success in stopping illegal immigration crime, the Obama administration has decided to interfere. According to the *Houston Chronicle* “Several members of a key U.S. House committee called for greater oversight of a controversial federal program that allows local law enforcement to detain suspected illegal immigrants, citing a recent report that questioned its effectiveness.” “The record is incomplete, at best, as to whether or not this program is a success,” said House Homeland Security Chairman Bennie G. Thompson, D-Miss, who also raised concerns about the potential for racial profiling.”

Why are local law enforcement

(News Bits continued on page 6)

entities investing in this program? The Davidson County (Nashville) Tennessee Sheriff's Department significantly reduced crime in the two years after taking advantage of this federal program (287) (g). More than 4,000 jailed illegal aliens were placed in removal proceedings. But still, the Obama administration and leftists in Congress are not convinced. They will not stop with misleading government reports and kangaroo court congressional hearings. It is clear which side the Obama administration is on when it comes to illegal immigration. Incredibly, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi recently told a group of immigrants (both legal and illegal) that enforcing our nation's immigration laws is "un-American."

*Judicial Watch/ Verdict*

On June 25, 2009, Barack Obama convened a **by-invitation-only "Immigration Summit" at the White House**. As the *Washington Times* reported, the meeting: "...included 30 lawmakers, and

was almost entirely made up of lawmakers on the record of supporting a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants – the portion of the plan that critics label amnesty. The group was mostly made up of Democrats, but among the Republicans was Sen. John McCain, Mr. Obama's opponent in last year's election, who led the 2006 and 2007 efforts."

This White House meeting was nothing more than a closed-door strategy session for supporters of the Obama "comprehensive immigration reform plan" that will include Amnesty for the 12-20 million illegal aliens in our country today. An amnesty plan for illegal aliens is just one more example to drive America as far left as possible, as quickly as possible and on as many fronts as possible. Amnesty for people who break the law, including illegal aliens, makes a mockery of the rule of law and the principle that "no one is above the law!" Amnesty is also



## Nuggets of Gold

- Preaching should comfort the distressed and distress the comfortable. *Sword & Staff*
- Some succeed because they are destined to, but most succeed because they are determined to. *Unknown*
- Grace is but glory begun, and glory is but grace perfected. *Jonathan Edwards*
- Someone said, 'There must be a God because it is so evident that there is a devil.'

a slap in the face to the thousands of people around the world who are playing by the rules, filling out the required paperwork and waiting in line to enter the United States legally. With our economy struggling and unemployment hovering at 10%, the Obama plan to push for amnesty at this time is especially infuriating. The last thing the American economy needs is a new surge of illegal aliens coming across the border to take already scarce jobs away from American workers. *Judicial Watch*

**Government take over-The widespread dismay as our government proposes to take over the management of huge new swatches of the economy,** all the while spending like a drunken sailor, may just be in time to stop the worst parts of president Obama's domestic agenda.

What's changing people's mind about the plans to expand government in all directions? Perhaps they're realizing that in the end they are the "other people" whose money our President is counting on to finance his ambitious plans. The pending "healthcare reform" (read[s] *socialized medicine by increments*) I Legislation contains more new taxes that will hit the middle class hard – running the doctors and the hospitals; remaking the energy sector to avert "climate change"; reorganizing banking and finance; retooling the auto industry. Unless you buy the

absurd proposition that the Federal government manages things more economically than the free market, we're going to have to pay a pretty stiff bill at some point.

"Healthcare reform" – the part of Obama's agenda most dangerous to our liberty – is inspiring the most outrage, and he could very well manage to pass a watered-down version of "healthcare reform" still bad enough that the [statists] can gradually improve it into the socialized system they want. *Elizabeth Kantor/And Rightly So/Conservative Book Club*

**It's about abortion** – At a recent UNFPA-sponsored forum on sexual and reproductive



## URGENT

### NEEDS

The Voice in the Wilderness Office Administration Expenses and finances for upcoming APM teaching outreach.



(News Bits continued on page 28)

# The King James Bible

**WHEREAS** 2011 marks the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1611 King James Bible,

**AND WHEREAS** the King James Bible is based on the Masoretic Old Testament (compiled from the ancient Old Testament manuscripts, guarded and handed down, by the Masorete Hebrew Scholars) and the Received Text (known as the *Textus Receptus*, Majority text or Byzantine Greek text) preserved by God through Godly men (Ps. 119:89),

**AND WHEREAS** over 47 spiritually qualified scholars academically superior in Biblical languages and related areas in which no group of translators has before or since been endowed by God to undertake this divinely inspired work (II Tim. 2:21),

**AND WHEREAS** modern Bible versions have been heavily influenced by corrupted text discarded and rescued from obscurity being revised, updated, altered by men that denied inspiration and inerrancy, men who were evolutionists, rationalists, and theological liberals (I Tim. 6:20&21; II Cor. 2:17; II Tim. 3:8; I Thess. 4:7; [I Thess. 4:1-8]),

**AND WHEREAS** the Biblical English of the King James Bible is faithful to the original Hebrew and Greek text proven for 400 years in spiritual power, clarity, readability, poetic majesty, reliability yet with a surprisingly small vocabulary simplicity yet soaring to lofty heights (Matt. 5:18; Ps. 119:9-11, 89, 103, 105, 152, 160; II Tim. 3:16),

**AND WHEREAS** God is not the author of confusion so obvious among users of modern versions when congregations watch projections on big screens of multiple Bible versions and cannot even turn together as believers in the same Bible to read, recite, or study the scriptures together (I Cor. 14:33),

**AND WHEREAS** King James Bible users hold dear the privilege



# 3 Bible Declaration

to take their Bibles to church with the ability to read in unison, search the scriptures together, memorize and quote the Bible together plus follow the pastor as he reads and preaches from the King James Bible (Amos 3:3; Acts 17:11),

**AND WHEREAS** the modern Bible proponents continue to produce version after version seemingly unable to settle on the best version but ever switching, changing and publishing more versions (Matt. 21:12; Mark 11:15-17; Luke 19:45-48; James 1:8),

**AND WHEREAS** the source and text of the King James Bible is the standard for the inspired and divinely preserved Word of God, and without doubt English speaking people throughout the earth will continue to see God use His Book, the King James Bible in the preaching, teaching, soul winning, church planting, and missionary endeavors until all shall be fulfilled (Luke 11:35; Rev. 22:18-19),

**BE IT RESOLVED** the English speaking Christian needs to keep reading, studying, memorizing, teaching, preaching, and holding forth the Word of Life - the old King James Bible. Amen. (Ps. 119:9, 11, 38, 89; John 1:1-5; Eph. 4:14; Eph. 5:6; Phil. 2:16; I Peter 3:15; II Peter 1:19-21; Rev. 22:18-19)

**The Voice in the Wilderness would like to request your participation in the above resolution supporting the King James Bible. Please enlist as many signatures of family and friends that would stand with us in celebration of the 400th anniversary of God's preserved Word for English speaking people around the world. Forward your collective signatures to The Voice in the Wilderness PO Box 7037, Asheville, NC 28802 for our upcoming publication.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name                      City                      State

**“Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.” (Luke 11:35)**

These are the words of Jesus as He teaches about the light within the body. What a startling statement He is making. How is it that light can be darkness? Is there such a scientific phenomenon in the physical realm? Obviously, this is a possibility in the spiritual.

Today, must a gospel preacher expose the blindness of this age? Darkness, depravity, and devoid of discernment all characterize this generation. The “Light,” the “Truth,” – Christ is hid from them. They tolerate the ways, lack of morals and customs of this world with a vicious intolerance of the godly and righteous. The eye of light they plucked from its socket to leave a blackened wound of blindness. O’ dear God, help the blinded eye, the fallen-in-the-ditch, the blind trying to lead the blind. The eye is evil, and the light be darkness.

Even in the church some have taken the light of God’s love, grace, and mercy to their license, licentiousness, and lust. Thus, the truth of what Christ said; if “thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness.” It is this evil liberty taken that blots the light from the eye. Sinful desires have blinded the light of Christ and no longer can we spiritually see and discern.

The world will kick the gold dust of materialism into the eye of light and darken the understanding as well. Mammon is an enemy of the light. Many a minister and believer has fallen into a dark place in pursuit of this world’s glitter.

Then there are those who refuse to be taught. The spirit will guide, they have an impression, this education stuff is not of the Lord. Soon the blindness of ignorance fills the eye with darkness.

Obviously, the devil, himself, is persistently firing his darts of evil at the eye of light. Can this occur in what may initially seem to be the most noble of pursuits? We are not talking a heart of evil pursuing the darkness of the alleyway or gutter, but the desire that seeks a noble and high office. Yet along the journey the flesh arises and darkness steps on the scene. Charles H. Spurgeon illustrates it this way:

“I have also seen this light turned to darkness in the case of the student who has gathered great erudition, and enrolled himself among the learned. He begins to criticize. Do not condemn him for that: he judges very properly at first, he criticizes things that ought to be criticized; but he stops not there. Once having his critical faculty aroused, he is like a boy with a new knife; he must cut something or other. Nothing comes in his way more often than the Scriptures; and he must have a cut at them. He whittles at Genesis; he makes a gash in Deuteronomy; he halves Isaiah; he takes slices out of the Gospels, and cuts the Epistles into slivers.

## Is your *light* darkness? Is your *light* darkness?

You see, he has so sharp a knife that he must use it. By-and-by, from a critic he advances to an irreverent faultfinder, and from that to an utter unbeliever, hard in the mouth and stiff in the neck. His light has blinded him. He has taken his own eye to pieces that he might study its anatomy, and henceforth the light will be of no more use to him than to the dead."

It has been my experience to hear several dear friends in the ministry say, "this verse should read or this word would be better translated." Maybe their intentions were good in the beginning. But that new penknife got the best of them and soon began to cut out the very light they once embraced. With modern Bible versions the Word has been cut, criticized and corrected until the light which was in them has become darkness. Some in their zealous pursuit have even called it "higher criticism." It was a "big bang" heard round the world – the Darwinian evolution of the Bible. Is this natural selection or yet survival of the fittest - whichever "Bible" sells the most survives!

"Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness!"

RLW

### IS GOD'S WORK IN YOUR WILL?

"One of the most important documents a man ever signs is his will. I can tell better what a man had in his heart by reading his will than I can by reading his obituary. His obituary tells the world what his friends thought of him; his will reveals what he had in his heart."

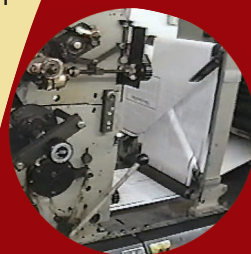
- A. M. Vollmer

*For as (a man) thinketh in his heart, so is he-* Proverbs 23:7.

*Out of (the heart) are the issues of life* - Proverbs 4:23.

A bequest in your Will to The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc. 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!



## URGENT NEEDS

Funds for printing  
needed by  
January 2010:

\$13,400



## Is your *light* darkness? Is your *light* darkness?

For more resources, visit us online at [www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org](http://www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org) • 11

# RELIGIOUS NEWS AND COMMENTS

**According to a quote by professor Sweeny**, (Evangelical Divinity School professor in Church history), **most evangelical scientists support theistic evolution.** If Sweeny's claim that most evangelical scientists support evolution is correct, it is incomprehensible. Yet this seems to be the dominant view within evangelicalism. Reformed Protestant Seminary professor David Engelsma writes, "The historicity of Genesis 1-11 is widely and increasingly denied in evangelical and Reformed circles." Prof. Engelsma also writes, 'The figurative interpretation in Evangelical and Reformed churches of the opening chapters of Genesis are presently serving the theory of theistic evolution.'  
*Hite's Newsletter*

**How did just a few early Christians change the world yet millions of Christians are changed by the world?** Journalist Ted Byfield says the world was convinced of the truth of the gospel by how Christians faced the most gruesome tortures and death. How has homosexuality gained such acceptance in such a short time by our culture? A whole generation

is now officially being trained in gross immorality as schools have degenerated from teaching value to promoting homosexuality. What will be the consequences for our nation? *Hite's NL*

**Vereide and The Family-** Abram Vereide and Doug Coe you may or may not recognize. James Dobson, Chuck Colson, and Pat Robertson might ring a bell. If half of the tangled story of "The Family" and "C Street" is true, the perverted depths of American government is beyond return....It's sad to think the twisted religion of power would move behind the scene of the National Prayer Breakfast back to 1953. They talk Jesus as believers, but who is this Jesus they talk about?...Out of his scandal and expulsion from D.C. Tom Delay even admits the involvement, deal cutting, in-fighting, drunken orgies and perverted religion of leaders from both parties. The power brokers behind the politics, big money and "faith" weave a perilous entanglement stretching around the world....With this past election, it is no secret. The American people have been sold out!

**"Christian"? hard rock** and hip hop artists converged on the





Twin cities this past summer for Rock the River, an “evangelistic”? concert tour

that hoped to reach youth with a positive message of hope. Sponsored by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, the tour was scheduled to visit four cities. Each concert was to feature seven hours of music interspersed by brief messages from Franklin Graham. *Minnesota Christian Chronicle/Hite’s NL*

**“Christians can’t lose the fight over marriage in the Western world** – and non-Christians can’t win it,” says Christopher Ashe in a position paper for the Christ on Campus Crusade Initiative. Marriage is ‘part of the Created Order,’ he says, so it ‘exists as a significant institution in the world whether or not societies conform to its beneficial disciplines.’ Ashe reminds Christians that when we try to convince the lost world that marriage works best when done God’s way, we have no reason for desperation – as if anyone or any group could destroy marriage. “It is not within the power of humankind finally to destroy Created Order” he says. *What in the World/Hite’s NL*

**Healthcare sharing ministries lobby to be heard** – Representing about 34,000 families but growing, healthcare sharing ministries (HCSM), in which a pool of

believers share their insurance costs, are pouring limited resources into lobbying efforts to ensure they are not left out of a final healthcare overhaul. But they face



a long road. Samaritan Ministries International, Christian Care Medi-Share, and Christian Health Care Ministries are not recognized by the federal government as official health insurance providers. That’s bad news if Congress passes a bill that includes mandates requiring individuals to purchase federally approved insurance plans. Such mandates are gaining wider bipartisan acceptance and are expected to be a part of any changes. “We are looking at complete obliteration of the ministries as they exist,” warned James Lansberry, president of the Alliance of Health Care Sharing Ministries.

These groups should be worried: Mandates would grant broad new enforcement powers to the Treasury Department, which would task the IRS with collecting the penalties for individuals and employers who forgo government-approved insurance. “The mandate is going to be a bigger problem than people think,” worries Lansberry. “It’s a backdoor reduction in our freedom to make individual healthcare choices.” *Edward Pitts/World*

# VENEZUELA 2009 AQUILA/PRISCILLA MINISTRY

To our faithful supporters and those who care:

We are privileged in this edition of *The Voice in the Wilderness* to open our Ministry Travel Journal so that you can read the specifics of the teaching endeavor that The Voice in the Wilderness's Aquila/Priscilla Team completed in mid-September. This is not simply a report of how Steve and Rebekah Lilly served in Venezuela, but a testimony of the great things our Lord is accomplishing through the partnership of those who are answering His prayer request to send forth labourers. Truly, you will see how the fields in Venezuela are ripe to the Gospel and while many Christians are working in the harvest, more labourers are needed to stop those dictators, socialists, communists, and occults who desire to spoil the fruit. Please read with an open heart and allow the Holy Spirit to direct you in applying your "feelings for missions" toward action in your own life and local ministry. For surely we all can daily do more to gather His harvest...until He comes.

(Pre-Journal: In 2005, we made our first trip to Venezuela under the Aquila/Priscilla Ministry. Because of that ministry, our hearts became emblazoned with the need of the Venezuelan people, and our desire to return for ministry only intensified as the time past. What a privilege it has been to continue serving as staff missionaries for The Voice in the Wilderness, even as Satan, himself, has sought to destroy the "Voice" through verbal attacks and financial downfalls. Committed to maintaining that "Voice" through this ministry, we accepted the Lord's open doors for extra jobs which provided a financial base to continue. While still keeping our ministry responsibilities, our extra jobs began to pay bills and miraculously provide additional money for projects. Early in 2009, the Lord once again impressed upon us the need to help in Venezuela. In February, we stepped out on the faithful footprints again and placed \$150.00 into a savings account and began preparing letters and a DVD presentation to mail to supporters, stating that our financial needs in returning for a six week ministry in Venezuela would be \$10,000. The goal seemed daunting, but knowing this was clearly God's direction, we continued working. "Praise the Lord Days" arrived several times as we checked the mail and opened special gifts for our trip from those who cared. As the \$150.00 gradually grew, we contacted one of our host pastors, Bro. Carlos Ramos and began to work with him to schedule six full weeks of teaching, preaching, and training. Soon trip dates were finalized, airline tickets purchased, and our savings account was depleted. Because we desired to be a blessing through The Voice in the Wilderness ministry, we continued to pray that God would provide the complete \$10,000 so that this teaching trip could be fulfilled debt free. Our extra job money added to the account up until the week before our departure, and then the Lord revealed His surprise...our church in the mountains, committed to give and then the Lord took over the service and a special offering was taken which doubled the gift with six additional dollars to spare! With goal met, we wrapped up office responsibilities and boarded a plane—with our Pastor praying that we

would run into President Chavez and win him to the Lord!).

### First Few Days (Aug 5-7)

Bleared-eyed from our overnight flight to Venezuela, we deplaned to find our luggage and walk through customs. Steve was relieved that our handchimes made it through inspections...only the *wordless* key chains seemed to be of curiosity to the agents. Pastor Rafael was there to meet us (with his neck in a brace due to his recent car accident) and help us get from the international to the national airport. After a four hour layover and forty minute flight to Barquisimeto, we finally placed our feet on the grounds of our home for six weeks and shook hands with our two host pastors, Bro. Carlos Ramos and Bro. Estelvio Garcia.... They drove us to the apartment in Sabana de Parra. The church ladies from Pastor Estelvio's church and Bro. Garcia (owner of the apartment) had worked hard to prepare everything to be "perfect" for us. It is very nice...3 bedroom, 2 bath, kitchen, air condition in one room (yea!), no running water (yikes!). We left soon after to go to the Bible Institute Graduation Service. When we arrived, Dad had just been picked up from the airport, and was preparing to preach the graduation message...(8/6) Bro. Carlos came and took us to Barquisimeto ( a large city 30 minutes away) to shop for things we would need...(8/7) Sunrise in Sabana de Parra isn't the only thing that wakes you, car horns do as well. Then soul-winning in a new church plant area, Chivacoa. Three were saved!....

### Week One (Aug. 8-14)

(8/8) Steve taught on being a Godly Father in the men's Sunday school while Rebekah taught on being "Daughters of the King" with the ladies at the Sabana de Parra church. For the night service we were at Bro. Carlos's church where Rebekah enjoyed playing the keyboard for song time since this new church has no one who can play for them. (8/9) Started English lessons at Bro. Estelvio's church this morning. 39 were in attendance, with all ages present. Bro. Estelvio and his wife Xiomara are eager students. They want to learn English so they can talk to Dad without an interpreter. VBS for the afternoon was canceled because the person with the keys to the public school, where the VBS is to be held for the week, could not be found. (8/10) English Classes (ESL) in the morning...Still having difficulty with the water problem. It has to be trucked in everyday, but when it comes, we are teaching, and when we return, the water is out....The key was found and VBS began this afternoon with Steve teaching about Heaven. Over 20 children came to be saved....Still no water. Pastor Estelvio came and set off a

(continued on page 18)



## MORE FRUIT

APM's Venezuela  
2009

- 5 Vacation Bible Schools
- 2 Youth Camp Weeks
- 12 Sermons Preached
- 10 Specialty Classes Taught



# AQUILA/PRISCILLA MINISTRY

Serving Six Weeks through...

Bible Teaching

Children's Programs

Preaching

English Language Outreach

Soul-winning

Church Worker Training

Music

VENEZUELA 2009







(continued from page 15)

water bomb(?), and then came the water. We all hurried to take a shower at 11pm while there was opportunity. (8/11) Bro. Estelvio did his homework – today, he “Preached” the Abraham and Isaac story in English!...Lunch with a church member – pollo (chicken) and arroz (rice)...VBS this afternoon was almost rained-out. Steve taught the crucifixion and resurrection story while the children sat under the sheltered walkway of the public school....



Took Dad to the airport, but his flight was delayed because of the rain. We sat in the airport all evening waiting for the flight. While we were waiting, we used the cabina (phone booth) to call the states. Get this! – The principal of the Christian school in Asheville where we occasionally substitute has been calling all over the States and e-mailing Venezuela, trying to get up with us. Enrollment changed and they lost a teacher and they want us to teach part-time when we get home.

God is always looking after us. We had to quit our extra jobs to make the Venezuela trip, and now, before we even get home, we have a little something extra to help pay the bills! Finally, the airport announced that Dad's flight would be leaving soon, so we said goodbye and left to do some grocery shopping. After shopping however, we found that Dad's flight had eventually been canceled. Back to the airport we went. There are no more flights to the US for 3 days! We went back to the apartment, while Pastor Estelvio, Bro. Carlos and Dad jumped in the car for a roller-coaster night ride to Caracas. They made it just in time for Dad to make his morning flight out to Miami. (8/12) ESL this morning....This afternoon while Bro. Carlos and Bro. Estelvio made up for lost sleep, we found out that the game room below our apartment will allow us to check our e-mail there. Now we don't have to wait to ride to the next city to phone home. (8/13) Taught Moses and the burning bush at ESL this morning. 205 children came to VBS this afternoon. After Steve's Salvation lesson, about 20 children came for salvation, and we gave all the children a *wordless* keychain....Evening services with Bro. Estelvio. Rebekah sang a special in Spanish. (8/14) Steve went on visitation while Rebekah stayed at the apartment to wait for water. Finally water arrived and Rebekah spent the morning cleaning and hand-washing clothes. In the afternoon we went with Bro. Estelvio to shop for decorations for the couple's banquet tonight. We helped decorate and then Steve preached to 27 couples about God's Pattern, Purity, and Permanency of marriage. One lady accepted Christ.

### **Week Two (Aug 16-22)**

(8/16) Steve taught Sunday school at Bro. Carlos's church and then we both taught a children's service. Wow!- 75 children crammed in a back alleyway listened as we taught...Bro. Carlos dropped us off at our apartment building promising to return in one hour to take us to San Pablo



for the evening service that Steve was to preach. One problem – the night watchman was not on duty and we were left stranded on the street. We walked to Bro. Garcia's house and to Pastor Estelvio's house, but no one was home. We walked to the Sabana de Parra church and thankfully the assistant pastor, Bro. Hector was there preparing for the upcoming VBS. He called Bro. Garcia to come and unlock the building. We got to the apartment with 10 minutes to spare....We made it to Pastor Josue's church and we played the handchimes. As we rang "It is Well with My Soul", the guard dogs struck up an unharmonizing accompaniment! About 40 are attending this new church plant and two came for salvation during the invitation. (8/17) No water yesterday, and none today, so it's the dip and pour method and lots of powder! Morning ESL classes still going strong and afternoon VBS is off to a rainy but good start with over 250 unchurched children. (8/18) "Sally" made an appearance today at VBS after Steve taught the lesson "Saved, Smile, Serve." Many raise their hands for salvation today. (8/19) Busy week.... ESL classes in the morning, VBS in the afternoon, and our English outreach classes for the unsaved community in Yaritagua are at 7:00 each night. Over 40 people are attending the class and at least half are unsaved. We are praying many will accept Christ because of this class. Tonight just before ESL classes we were able to call the States and then we had to find the bathroom, because Rebekah had developed the stomach scourge. Unfortunately (at least for the next person to enter the bathroom) the toilet was not working! Thankfully, Imodium kept her out of the bathroom until after the class. (8/20) A boy in VBS went crazy when Steve gave the invitation and tried to run out and break the windows in Bro. Carlos's car. It took 4 men to restrain him. His father worships a "beast-like lady" up in the mountains and has basically forsaken him. The men are going to try to continue helping and working with the boy. (8/21) Morning ESL classes down due to a lot of sickness in Sabana de Parra....We saw over 80 children accept Christ in VBS this week....Night classes started a little rough due to having to move to a smaller classroom space. Our forty students were packed in with no air condition. After the students learned to tell the Crucifixion/Resurrection story in English, we gave the entire gospel story in Spanish. Bro. Carlos then gave an invitation and seven souls accepted Christ and one lady rededicated her life to the Lord. Amen! And Amen! Certificates and refreshments were given and students were invited to attend church on Sunday to hear Steve preach. (8/22) Visitation in Sabana de Parra – 2 were saved. We spent the afternoon

*(continued on page 20)*



## MUCH FRUIT

APM's Venezuela  
2009

- Sermons  
Preached
- Classes Taught
- VBS
- Camps
- Soul-winning
- Total Salvation  
Decisions  
130+



(continued from page 19)

preparing lessons, sermons, sending e-mails and I made our first true Venezuelan meal – Arepas con jamon y queso (cornbread sandwich with ham and cheese).

### **Week three (Aug. 23-28)**

(8/23) Many of our night ESL students came to church and brought family with them. Steve preached and 6 came to know the Lord....Night services were at Pastor de la Cruz's church where we played the chimes and Steve preached on Missions. The altars were flooded with people praying for the growth of their church and lost family. (8/24) Last week of morning ESL classes.....Went shopping this afternoon for camp supplies for the next two weeks. (8/25) Started VBS at a new church area in San Felipe with Pastor



Niller and his family. Over forty children sat under a tree as we told stories and taught a Bible lesson. After VBS we drove about a mile to the mayor's office building where we set up our ESL materials and began a second week of outreach to the unsaved community. Forty unsaved, unchurched people filled the meeting space and learned how sin came into the world through the Adam and Eve story. (8/26) ESL and VBS in San Felipe and evening services in Sabana de Parra. We were treated to "Venezuela's best pizza" after church. They put corn on their pizza and it was really yummy! (8/27) Bro. Carlos's car

has been having trouble all week. He has had to borrow someone else's car everyday to take us to San Felipe. Today, during our ESL class, the socialists were having a rock concert across the street in the city square. It was very loud and distracting, but the attendance and the enthusiasm of the students has continued. So, while the dictator's music was blasting and the Catholic church beside us was preparing for evening mass, our students were learning the story of the birth of the Saviour in the Mayor's office! (8/28) Concluded morning ESL classes in Sabana de Parra with a final exam, refreshments, and certificates....We knew something great was about to happen because we could tell that the devil really did not want us to have our ESL classes in San Felipe. Bro. Carlos couldn't find a car to borrow, so we had to slowly drive his car. When we arrived the VBS was over and a group had taken over our classroom at the mayor's office. We ended up setting up in a public school across the street. It was HOT in there and we started over an hour late, but all the students were there and really didn't seem to mind. After teaching the crucifixion/resurrection story and giving our salvation lesson in Spanish to the students, we introduced Pastor Niller as the host pastor for the English classes. He gave a salvation invitation and 17 folks accepted Christ!

### **Week four (Aug 30)**

(8/30) Started the Lord's Day with a children's service at Pastor Niller's new church. Next came the adult service and over 20 of the ESL students came. Steve preached on "The Cross" and 3 more of the student came during the invitation and accepted Christ....

Space does not permit the complete printing of our journal, but please understand that week four continued with the Lord doing amazing things as



we survived two terrific weeks of youth camp in the mountains of Venezuela. We had a great ministry as camp workers and teachers. As asked to, Steve preached on Morality and six teenagers came for salvation while over 30 made specific decisions for Christ. Also, six young people learned to play the handchimes this week. The next week, we both taught on God's standards for music in our lives and enjoyed teaching two groups of young people to play the chimes which were used as special music before the evening service. Our last few days in the country were filled not only with packing and saying tearful goodbyes to newly-made friends, but also teaching a Children's Worker Training session over two nights to an excess of 100 church workers. Truly this was a work of the Lord. Thank you to Pastor Carlos and Pastor Estelvio, their families and the churches who opened their hearts and shared their time with us. To Bro. Garcia, thank you for helping us meet our housing needs. And finally, to The Voice in the Wilderness and its faithful supporters a big THANK YOU for sending us. Praise the Lord!



## THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

For this small town country fellow, it has been a facination over the past 17 years to travel the world. From Canada to South America and the United States to Asia, the cultures and languages continue a marvel to the wide-eyed little boy still inside me. Then, what a joy it has been to preach in churches and meet some of the most precious people - God's people. People who have nothing of this world's goods but are joint heirs with Christ daily singing His praises as a child of the KING!

Many missionaries and church planters have chosen not to observe the world's way of celebrating Christmas. They hold a conviction about such. We do not believe in Mass nor is there scriptural admonition concerning a Christmas observance. By the way, not only is "Christmas" a commercial, materialistic holiday, much of the whole affair is steeped in paganism. There is much written both secular and sacred on the subject. That being said my point here is this. The glorious, gospel message of Jesus Christ has traveled around the world. I have seen up close and personal the power of His Holy Spirit and transformed lives in the deepest jungle, remote villages, small towns and teeming cities of millions.

Opportunities abound for us to tell the good news of his birth, life, death, burial, resurrection and soon return. The fields are white, but the labourers are few. Will you help The Voice in the Wilderness continue the blessed privilege of preaching Christ around the world? Until Jesus comes may we all be found faithful. Thank you for your partnership with The Voice in the Wilderness.



# SERMON

OF THE

## MONTH

### DEATH BY DENOMINATION

#### PART II – DEATH BY DENOMINATION

##### 1. “The light which is in thee be not darkness.”

Can we agree that the Word of God is our sole authority for faith and practice? The Bible is the inspired Word of God, yes? As Christ teaches in Luke 11 verse 33, “No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light.” We are so blessed to have the light. What a privilege it is to let the truth of God shine forth in our lives unto a dark and dying world. Jesus continued in verse 34, “the light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body is full of darkness.” Examine yourself to see if thine eye is evil. Jesus makes it clear that if thine eye be evil, thy body is also full of darkness. Then He makes this amazing statement in verse 35, “Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.” How can the light in you be darkness? (please read “Is Your Light Darkness? page 10 in this edition)



2. Diagnosis – itching ears. If you can't beat them, why not join them and be politically correct? Some claim they have special enlightenment beyond the scripture and beyond the old fashion Bible preacher. Sadly many pastors have abdicated the call and God-given authority to preach faithfully the whole counsel of God's Word. Indeed some have become hirelings, yes-men, yea, and puppets on a string. From the pew and beyond comes censorship of the pulpit. There will

be no politics in this church.

For me personally, I guess my definition was not up-to-date. Recently I've heard the word politics used several times in relationship to the church and the pulpit. Now Webster's New World Dictionary gives the primary definition of politics as "the science and art of government." In Newsweek magazine, Jon Meacham writes that for many people politics comes down to three things – protect my job, let me keep most of my money, and kill the terrorists. Obviously there is a lot of "me-ology" in Meacham's statement: Me – my job; Me-my money; Me-my safety and security.

Now it appears politics for many church members takes on a similar meaning. No politics means preach just Bible – make me feel good religion, but leave off the personal meddling. Just last week my wife was speaking to a lady about her relationship with the Lord – to make a long story short, she had been hurt at a previous church, in her words, by gossip and politics. If she ever got back in church, it would be on the last pew without getting involved in anything. Amen brother, that's my kind of preaching. Just preach Bible and stay out of politics. It's amazing, with all due respect to the dear brothers and sisters with an aversion toward "pulpit politics", that they exhibit an utter intolerance toward God's man who shines the light on lifestyles contrary to God's Word. Could it be that they want truth that suits them? They claim an intolerant, absolute right to censor the pulpit and no one should attempt to preach anything different. Apparently there is a list of "taboo" topics. Could this possibly be the pre-cursor to the itching ear? Across America today, without doubt, liberal pulpits have not only an



## URGENT NEEDS

Philippines  
Pastor's Conference: Pray for  
Bro. William-  
son's safety of  
travel and fruit  
as he preaches.  
\$2,000 needed  
for travel



*(continued on page 24)*

*(continued from page 23)*

agenda, but also a list of sermons that will not be tolerated. It has been stated in this publication that what is preached not only defines the pulpit ministry, but what is “not” preached as well.

To bring it down to a personal level, let me ask you this question? If your pastor were deeply moved by the Holy Spirit of God in studying the scriptures concerning a specific topic, would you not expect your pastor to teach on that subject? Eventually over a period of time, months and years, would you not expect your pastor to cover every subject that the Bible deals with? The culture and changing times have no effect on the unchanging Word of God. Just because a society re-defines lies as “a matter of opinion,” or “mis-speaking;” fornication as “affairs;” and drunkenness as “chemical dependency” or a “genetic pre-disposition,” in no-way relieves the church of its responsibility to call sin, sin. If the preaching is Old Testament and invades lifestyle, the rebuttal is “that’s Law and applies to Israel and not to me today.” If the preaching is New Testament and ruffles the feathers, then “that’s the preacher’s opinion, that’s politics, and does not belong in the pulpit. Do we have private interpretation here and an intolerant attitude toward the exposure of sin, self, and Satan? The apostle Paul said, “They shall turn away their ears from the truth.” Yes, these are perilous times, but from the pulpit to the pew, the call is to stand on the Word of God. “Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears....”

3. A watered-down generic. Why would the devil oppose watered-down Bible versions that omit a little here and add a little there? “Yea hath God said?”

Several years ago I was in Mexico and a brother was buying prescription medication right over the counter. I asked him if the drugs in Mexico were safe. At that time he said they probably were. The biggest risk is that the U.S. dosage and strength may be diluted or watered-down in Mexico. There may be fillers and the needed potency has been altered.

Obviously, that can be dangerous and in some cases deadly. If the prescribed strength and dosage is not correctly followed the malady that is being treated may become worse, even fatal. A careful examination of those promoting modern day Bible versions and contemporary church worship styles is very revealing. There are specific liberal trends, buzzwords, and philosophies adopted by those promoting and associated with today's compromise.

It does appear many have “rational – lized” their way beyond the Holy Spirit's conviction against unscriptural philosophies and dogmatisms.

4. The ego, logo, no-go! With denominational leaders making enormous six-figure salaries and millions of dollars gathered annually into the cooperative coffers, is it possible for this rich and fatty diet to not create heart problems? We talk about Rome and its hierarchy. Have you ever dealt with denominational machinery and bureaucracy? Your experiences are probably

---

**Anchors,  
Absolutes,  
and  
Associations...  
What are your's?**

---

different from mine. Regardless, the ego's can be big along with the power, politics and preferred personalities. Logos, labels and loyalties are and of necessity must be large. All wrong or is there right in the co-operative connectional union? Are pastors afraid of being alone by virtue of independence? Do they think

apart from The Denomination there is no job security, health care, investment, or retirement plan? Maybe no one will show up for your funeral? Where will I find a pastorate or where will the church find a pastor apart from the denomination? But pastor, who called you? Who said He would build His Church? Will He ever leave us or forsake us? Can He supply our every need? Where is the pillar and ground of the truth? MUST I GO ON? No---go? It's a no-go because denominationalism is man's opinion not Biblical design. It's a no-go because there is no anchor, no absolutes. Denominations say so but no it's not true. Their standards are ever changing; music changes,

*(continued on page 26)*



(continued on page 25)

dress changes, associations' change, Bible versions change. Sin that was no longer is and those who were no longer are with a changing redefining relativistic worldview. It's a no-go fraught with prejudicial conjecture. Whatever happened to a little Bible study? What does God say or is that no longer important since the people in the pew have 3 or 4 different versions? But my grandparents belong to this denomination and I will die a member. What a tragic bias. Inconsistencies abound. Please – Biblical evidence is irrefutable. History speaks volumes and the glaring proof of logical fallacies leave no question.

5. Mass, prayer and eulogy for the dead. America was reminded again what the Roman Catholic Church and religion is all about. (i.e. Ted Kennedy) The Bible, which Bible, what Bible? This dumbed down age lacks discernment and critical thinking skills. God and the Bible are out and the church is confused as to where the Bible is if we even have the Bible. We've gone from talking in class, chewing gum and running in the halls to drugs, abortion and murder as the discipline problems in government schools. Discipline my foot- it's survival in that jungle. Oh and the children are told they are animals from the jungle so why not act like one. What's that got to do with denominations? Ask them what they believe about Genesis chapters 1-11. Ask them about marriage, divorce, marriage after a divorce or divorces, music, dress standards, alcohol, dancing, worldly entertainment, voting records and why? Did the pope go to heaven and we all pray to the same God – Christian, catholic, Islam, etc? Just ask!

6. Where have all the preachers gone? Homes, churches, nor Bible colleges are turning out servants for Christ. More missionaries and pastors are retiring, leaving, quitting, and disqualifying themselves than are enlisting for service. Barack Obama said, Rev. Wright represents the best of what the black church has to offer. Obama believes in non-traditional faith. Could that translate into a non-Biblical faith? It's more than cotton, spandex, and denim, it's withdrawal symptoms. I die daily, Paul was daily in jeopardy of giving his life for

Christ's sake. Paul knew daily as he stepped out into his ministry what the risk was in taking a stand for the gospel. Do we have today a generation of believers who would die for the cause, let alone live for Christ? The scripture, the Spirit, the system, the subjective, the situation could all be discussed here. God save us from ourselves.

7. Pulpit hireling. Facilitator at best. How can a teacher be a teacher devoid of conviction and passion? Can't discipline or hug a hurting child because of the perversion our society has plunged into. It seems the parent, pew and pulpits are out of control. My heart is grieved. I am not trying to be contentious but contend for the faith. I have precious family and friends who are members of various denominations across this country. Is this an anti Dale Carnegie Course. Am I trying to lose friends and infuriate people? I do want God's people to think. I want you to open your Bible, KJB, and see what The Lord has to say. Thy Word Is Truth! He is not the author of confusion. Don't be a party to confusion or corruption. Do all to the glory of God.



## MEMORIAL GIFTS

Received by The Voice in the Wilderness

**Given in Memory of:** Dr. Peter J. Blakemore

By: Viola Marie Wilkes

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



## URGENT

### NEEDS for Venezuela

Missionary support: Pray for the financial needs of Pastor Estelvio, Pastor Niller and other ministries helped by The Voice in the Wilderness



(News Bits continued from page 7)

health, activists stripped away euphemisms and were plain about goals: more funding and more access to abortion. Purnima Mane, deputy executive director of the UN Population Fund, urged activists to “enlarge the pot” of \$11.1 billion given to population-related programs in 2008. The conference promoted “safe abortions” (i.e., legal) but one group passed out stickers telling women how to perform do-it-yourself abortions by lying to pharmacists. Another group distributed pamphlets that said, “I need an abortion” in six different languages, directing women in countries without “Safe abortion” to doctors who can provide them.

*World*

**President Obama believes a Palestinian state will defuse most of the Middle East hostility issues.** He has expressed support for speedy action since taking office. The fact the Palestinians refuse to recognize Israel as a Jewish state make it impossible for Jews in Israel to recognize a Palestinian state. It is ridiculous that the Jewish people are reduced to having to seek permission from the terrorist states which surround them to “exist.” Obama envisions a Palestinian state complete with airspace, an army and one that can make treaties with other Arab, Jew-hating states such as Syria, Iran, and Libya. Prime Minister Netanyahu would never support a Palestinian army, airspace, or the

right to establish treaties with Arab states hostile to Israel. The likes of Hamas and Hezbollah do not want “rooms”; they want it all – from Jordan to the Mediterranean.

The thumbscrews are about to turn on U.S./Israel policies that have existed since Harry Truman signed the document recognizing Israel as a state. Chief of staff Rahm Emanuel has clearly articulated the administrations’ belief that it must link American efforts to stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons to Israeli efforts toward establishing a Palestinian state.

Thirteen years ago in 1996, Prime Minister Netanyahu said that a nuclear Iran would be the greatest danger the world would face. He warned that nuclear weapons in the hands of Iran would have dire consequences. *Michael D. Evans*

**“The U.S. workplace has become ‘a center of pornographic voyeurism’** says an editorial in the *Washington Times*. Seventy percent of Internet pornography viewing is done during work hours, 9-5. The *Times* warns that if the issue of workplace pornography is not discussed, ‘America will look less and less a ‘shining city upon a hill’ and more like Sodom and Gomorrah – a land in which workers betray the taxpayers, cheat their employers, embarrass their colleagues, diminish their lovers and nobody cares.” *Christian View of the News/Hite’s NL*

# CLUB MIT

## (MISSIONARY-IN-TRAINING)

For All Boys & Girls

Engaging children in being a steadfast worker for Christ, Encouraging them to be a boy or girl pleasing to the Lord, and Equipping them to be a missionary every day . . . through lessons from the Apostle Paul's missionary helpers, Aquila & Priscilla.



## Lessons from Aquila and Priscilla

We will soon be upon the Christmas season. This time of year reminds me of why Jesus came to earth. If you think about it, *Jesus was the first missionary* on earth. He left His home in Heaven and came to earth so that we could know how one day we can go to Heaven. Read Luke 19:10. This verse gives us the reason why Jesus came to earth. *"To seek and to save."* Why did Jesus leave Heaven? He left his home because He loves you. *1 John 4:19* tells us that *God loved us before we loved Him*. How about you? Are you trying to show or tell people about Jesus who wants to be their Saviour? If you are doing this, you are a missionary. A *missionary is someone who goes somewhere to tell somebody about Jesus*. Each one of us can be a missionary. As you enjoy the last few months of this year, remember why Jesus came to earth--"To seek and to save" those who are lost.



### Club MIT Member...

Thank you for all the letters you sent for Pastor Estelvio. It was so special to him to find out that all of you are praying for him and the ministry the Lord has given he and his family in Venezuela.

## BITS AND PIECES

Boy's

Boy's Bits

**Needle and Thread-**  
Get your friends together and make a circle where your hands can touch each other. Choose one person to be a needle and one to be the thread. The thread chases the needle, but cannot go inside of the circle. The needle weaves between the people in the circle trying to "sew up" the circle before the thread catches him. When the needle goes in between two people they hold hands to show that that part of the circle is closed. If the needle is caught, the thread becomes the needle and someone else becomes the thread.

PRISCILLA'S PIECES

Do you need a special gift for someone this season? Here's an idea... Buy a miniature Christmas Tree from a craft store. Decorate the tree with spools of thread, buttons attached to long pieces of wire that can be stuck in between the branches, a measuring tape as the garland, and any other sewing things you can find. Items such as thimbles, ribbons, pin cushions, small scissors can be glue on to the tree. When finished, you may want to place the tree into a small sewing basket with a little note that says "Thank you for being 'sew' kind."

Girl's

### ***Take the Bible Scholar Challenge!***

Read Aquila and Priscilla's Lesson on the previous page and then take this MATCHING challenge.

Jesus	seek
Luke 19:10	first missionary
Luke 19:10	we love God
1 John 4:19	someone, somewhere,
1 John 4:19	somebody
missionary	save
	God loved us first

**Write TODAY for your next *Hall of Faith* card!**

Cut here and give this page to a young person.



(continued from page 3)

6. How is spiritual growth and discipleship monitored and promoted?

7. Are the vision, goals and philosophy of ministry, missions and money clear?

Can we agree there are lost souls all around us that need the gospel? Can we agree that missionaries need our prayers and support to do what God has called and commissioned them to do? Can we agree that many of us simply have not gone the first mile let alone the second mile for Him who is worthy of far better?

Now is the Time!

Many years ago, too many to count, I worked for one of the world's largest corporations. Regularly each month evaluations were given with promotions and pay determined thereby. For the purpose of space and simplicity we will look at the basic elements of evaluation for the "manufacturing line". After every shift "productivity numbers", "tool utilization" and "quality control" information is compiled. Being a paperless, clean-room environment all product was computer controlled and tracked. Each operator throughout the shift enters at his computer terminal the required information. How would it be if Pastors, Missionaries and churches got monthly, quarterly and annual evaluations from heaven determining God's blessing and approval? Maybe it is so and more obvious than we care to admit. An honest and bold evaluation might do us all some good.

In the Book of Acts, God records the fruit of the early church in "Measurable," quantifiable terms. The church "Mathematics" is addition and multiplication. The results are clear and the Lord's blessing is obvious. So in these closing weeks of 2009, a time of prayer and heart searching before His Word, Spirit and Throne may revive the "vision" needed in the race set before us.

These are days of great opportunity. We pray for you all as labourers together in this great Harvest. Will you pray for us? If possible a special gift at this time to help with printing and ministry expenses would be deeply appreciated.

Watch upcoming reports on the Pastor's Conference in the Philippines and other missionary endeavors. Thanks for everything and God Bless!

For Christ and Souls,

Bro. Ronnie  
Isa. 40:31  
Happy Trails



**URGENT**

**NEEDS FOR  
INDIA**

Support for  
new  
missionary  
and wife in  
India



# RESOURCES FOR YOU

Visit us online at  
[www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org](http://www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org)  
for:

- Back issues of  
*The Voice in the Wilderness*
- Prayer Request Updates
- CrossVue School of Mission  
Modules
- The Visual Voice  
(A DVD of this Ministry)
- Photos of Missions Projects
- Aquila/Priscilla Ministry Details

## To be an active Prayer Partner:

Sign-up for  
The Weekly Voice e-mail &  
Blog  
(Send your e-mail address to  
[membersnp@  
thevoiceinthewilderness.org](mailto:membersnp@thevoiceinthewilderness.org))

Request a Prayer Card

## Books:

*The Book of Revelation*  
by Dr. J. Royce Thomason

*His Voice Shakes the  
Wilderness*  
by Sophie Muller

*Beyond Civilization*  
by Sophie Muller

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 with the **sample** subscriber number circled. **Your** number can be found above your address located below this box. 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