



MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends:

Our prayers and condolences are extended to faithful subscribers who have experienced the passing of a loved one during recent months. My wife and I were deeply moved by the many, many, letters and cards received during November and December 2004, our Thanksgiving/Christmas mail and even into the January 2005 yearend mail informing of the death and home going of long time readers and constituency. Again, may our Lord's comfort and grace be very present for you all.

As we removed dozens of names from *The Voice in the Wilderness* mailing list, it is quite obvious the **baton and vision must be passed on** to another generation. I have made this appeal on numerous occasions and must here reiterate. You may know a brother or sister, pastor or local church of like faith and heart for world missions. Share your copy of *The Voice in the* Wilderness and ask them to pray about receiving this publication, as well as, contributing to the gospel work. Too often new subscribers express regrets having not become acquainted with The Voice in the Wilderness ministry sooner. Repeatedly, we are commended for the consistent biblical stand this ministry continues to take. Thank you for your faithfulness and prayers as The Voice in the Wilderness ministry and publication move forward for the "Glory of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

Vision in Partnership has been a key note emphasized from the start of 2005. Of course, this is not new for The Voice. For many, it has been a giant step of faith. Others are just continuing their walk of faith day by day begun many years ago. Regardless, let our stewardship, service, and soul-winning efforts be a *Vision of Partnership* for HIS GLORY. From the local church, the pastor and specific

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 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.

field of ministry, The Voice in the Wilderness endeavors to make the connection between hearts and hands of like faith and vision in partnership to accomplish the work of our Lord. The field is the world and His Holy Spirit is moving in the events and affairs of lives that need Christ. Together, with His Church, that which is "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus" can be realized. This is the heart of Vision in Partnership. How can you get involved?

- 1. Encourage your pastor and church with your faithfulness.
- 2. Engage your heart in what our Lord is doing.
- 3. Enlist new subscribers/ supporters to partner with The Voice in the Wilderness.
- 4. Involve all the resources God has placed in your hands for His Glory.

Thank you for serving the KING OF KINGS & LORD OF LORDS!

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



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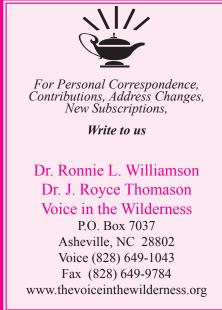


"Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled,".

"Let all bitterness be put away" Ephesians 4:31

It is a violent thing in the heart. This bitterness is a deadly venom that poisons the soul. Put it away, so far away to never be found. The apostle says it this way in Ephesians 4:31, "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice ... "You simply do not have to live there. Put it away. Put it all away – ALL! Leave not a residual behind. Listen to Hebrews 12:15 "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;". This root will imbed and invade the very fiber and essence of a mortal corrupting all. Be diligent and put it all away!

Bitterness is symbolical of enslavement and demonstrates itself in a state of consuming wickedness. This bitterness will destroy. Thank God the fruit of the Spirit roots in His child's heart and produces a heavenly harvest. Bitterness need never establish itself in the Temple



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garden of our Saviour's redeemed. Here is a simple *ABC* formula:

A - Ask the Lord for a sweet spirit, good attitude, and forgiving heart. "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us." How can we ask that if we allow bitterness? Our Lord does hear when we ask. When we ask are we sincere? Bunyan stated: "In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart." Indeed, the garden of the heart overrun with the roots of bitterness will be impotent to ask until repentance puts away ALL BITTERNESS.

B – **Bible** – Go to God's Word and believe what He says about sin (bitterness), forgiveness, and His power to heal. "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against God." God's Word is quick and powerful. Go to the **Bible**, and Believe! **Bible**, not BITTER. BELIEVE, NOT BITTER! BETTER, NOT BITTER!

C – Commit – "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass." *"Commit* thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established." Even when you are mistreated and wronged remember "let them that suffer according to the will of God *commit* the keeping of their souls to Him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey;" Romans 6:16. Think this through carefully. If an individual exhibits this bitterness, can the fruit of the Spirit exist in that life? Can the fruit be without root? So if the root be bitterness, obviously the "Fruit of the Spirit" cannot grow from the "root of bitterness."

I heard it said with mine own

ears. Not only was the statement unbelievable, it was unscriptural. In an outburst of "bitterness" he said, "I can be bitter if I want to be bitter. Bitterness is not a sin."

The "Fruit of the Spirit" must be rooted in Faith. Not faith in one's own deeds or merit. Not faith in faith, but faith in Jesus Christ, Bitterness is evidence that the root of faith in Christ is not the source of such outbursts, such bitterness. Bitterness is produced by its own root. If the "root" is faith in Christ, then the fruit will prove the root. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are ...?" Yes, the proof of the root is the fruit. A holy life must be rooted in Christ. The old roots of sin and bitterness die with Christ in His death and the new root of faith and life is firmly established by His resurrection power! If the "root of bitterness" is not of Christ, then where be the source? The obvious conclusion is sin, Satan and self-not the Saviour.

The place of bitterness is not to be visited let alone reside in the heart of God's child. "Let all bitterness be put away. Reside in the forgiveness, healing, and victory our sweet Saviour so graciously gives! Amen.



IS GOD'S WORK IN YOUR WILL?

-RLW

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! Finding Peace in Life's Storms

inding Peace in Life's Storms

By Charles H. Spurgeon

[As we sojourn here, the storms of life pass by each tiny life moving across the vast sea of time. There is hope. There is peace in the storms of life. May these excerpts from Mr. Spurgeon's message draw our hearts to Him who is Peace in the midst of the storm.]

Saved in Hope The Sphere of Our Hope We are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not *Hope: for what a man seeth, why* doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. --Romans 8:24-25

The sphere of hope is *"things not*" seen" (Heb. 11:1). As our Scripture text says, "Hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?" Therefore, a Christian's real possession is not what he sees. Suppose that God prospers him in this world and he has riches. Let him be grateful, but let him confess that these are not his treasure. One hour with the Lord Jesus Christ will bring more satisfaction to the believer than the largest amount of wealth. Although the believer may prosper in this world, he will ridicule the idea of making the world his inheritance. A thousand worlds, with all the joy that they could yield, are nothing compared to our promised inheritance. Our hope does not concern itself with insignificant things. It leaves the mice of the barn to the owls and soars on eagle's 4 • Voice in the Wilderness • March/April 2005

wings where nobler joys are waiting to be received

Beyond, beyond this lower sky, Up where eternal ages roll; Where solid pleasures never die, And fruits immortal feast the soul.

However, it is clear that at the present time we do not enjoy these glorious things for which we hope. The unbeliever exclaims, "Where is your hope?" and we confess that we do not see the objects of our hope. For instance, we cannot claim to be perfect already. Neither do we expect to be perfect while we are in this body. But we believe that we will be perfected in the image of Christ at the time appointed by the Father. By no means are our bodies free from sickness right now. Aches and pains and weariness remind us that our bodies are under the power of death because of sin. Yet, our firm conviction is that we will wear the heavenly image, just as we now wear the earthly image.

These are subjects of hope and, therefore, they are beyond our present experience. Let us not be discouraged about this. Hope must have something to feed on. We cannot have all of heaven and yet remain on earth. My dear believer, if you feel tormented by sin within you and your holiness seems battered and spotted, you can be fully persuaded that He who has promised complete salvation is able to do it.

Do not judge yourself any longer by what you do, what you see, what you feel, or what you are. Rise into the sphere of the things that will be. When there is no joy in the present, you can know that there is infinite joy in the future. Do not say, "Oh, but that is a long way off." That is not true. Many who are reading this may be sixty, seventy, or even eighty years old. Your time to be with Christ cannot be far away, for the thread of your lives is snapping. Some of us are middle-aged, but since we have already reached the average age of life, we have to acknowledge that our lease will soon run out also. And, since so many people are snatched away in their prime, we may at any moment be caught up to the land for which we hope.

We should not worry about what we will do ten years from now, for it is very likely that by that time we will have entered into the promised rest. We will be serving the Lord day and night in His temple and will be gazing on His face with unspeakable joy. Even if some of us should be doomed to exile from heaven for another fifty years, the time will soon fly away.

Let us work to our utmost for the glory of God while we are still here on earth, for the moments slip away. Do you remember this time last year? It seems like it was only the other day. Boys and girls think that a year is a long time, but older folks have a different opinion. The years no longer seem long to us, now that we are growing gray. For me, time travels so fast that its axles are hot with speed.

Fear exclaims, "Oh, for a little breathing room!" But Hope answers, "No, let the years fly away, for then we will be home all the sooner."

(Continued on page 5)

Finding Peace in Life's Storms

(Continued from page 4)

There is only a step between us and heaven. Let us not worry about things below. We are like people on an express train who see a disagreeable sight out the window; it is gone before they have time to think about it. And, if they experience some discomfort along the way, if they have been put into a third- class compartment when they had a first-class ticket, they do not worry about it if it is a short journey. "Never mind," they say. "We have just passed the last station and will be in the terminal shortly."

Let us project ourselves into the future. We do not need much dynamite of imagination to send us there. We can leap that little distance by hope and seat ourselves among the thrones above. Resolve, at least for today, that you will not linger in a cloudy, earthbound frame of mind, but will mount to the bright, cloudless eternity. Oh, to leave these muddy streams and bathe in the river of hope whose crystal waters flow from the pure fountain of divine joy.

The Effect of Our Hope

Now let us look at the effect of our hope, which our Scripture text describes in this way: "We with patience wait for it." We wait, and we must wait, but not like criminals awaiting their execution. We wait like a bride anticipating her wedding. We wait with patience, constancy, desire, and submission. The joy is sure to come; we have no doubt about it. Therefore, we do not complain and grumble, as if God had missed His appointment and had delayed us unnecessarily. No, the time that God has decided is the best, and we are content with it.

We neither desire to linger here nor to depart at any time but the Lord's appointed time. Rowland Hill, the English postal reformer, is said to have searched out an aged friend who was dying, so that he could send a message to his friends in heaven. He playfully added a word of hope that the Master had not forgotten old Rowland and would let him come home in due time. Yet, he never dreamed that he could actually be left behind. Among the last expressions of the famous John Donne was this: "I were miserable if I might not die." This would be a horrible world, indeed, if we were doomed to live in it forever. Imagine such a terrible reality.

لو ե I urge you to begin today to sing the songs of eternal life.

I met a man some time ago who told me that he would never die, but would, at certain intervals, throw off the effects of age and start on a new phase of life. He kindly came to tell me how I could enjoy the same thing, but since I have no ambition for earthly immortality, such an offer did not tempt me. He told me I could renew my youth and become young again for hundreds of years, but I declined the gift at any price. I have no desire for anything of the sort. My most comfortable prospect about this life is that it will melt away into eternal life

It seems to me that the most joyful thing about the most joyful life here on earth is that it leads upward to a different and better state. I am not unhappy or discontented, but since I have a good hope that my soul and body will be perfected, and a sure prospect of face-to-face fellowship with God, how can I speak well of anything that divides me from my joy?

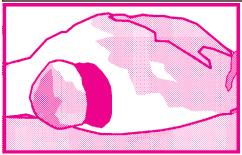
Yes, eternal life will surely come; therefore, let us patiently wait for it. When Satan attacks us, when temptation threatens to overcome us, when affliction wears us down, when doubts torment us, let us stand firm and bear the temporary trial, for we will soon be out of range of gunshot. The consummation will come; it has to come, and when it comes we will no longer remember our suffering. We will be filled with joy that our heaven has been born to us and we to it.

Now, then, if you do not believe in God, tell me what your hope is. Make it known in the world and let everyone evaluate it. What is your hope? To live long? Yes, and then what? To bring up a family? Yes, and then what? To see your children comfortably settled in life? Yes, and then what? To be the grandparent of numerous grandchildren? Yes, and then what? To reach extreme old age in peaceful retirement? Yes, and then what? The curtain falls. Let me lift it. The cemetery. The throne of God. Your spirit is sentenced. The trumpet of the resurrection sounds. Final doom. Body and spirit in hell forever.

Without Christ, you have no better prospect than that. I implore you to open your eyes and see what is to be seen. May the Lord have mercy on you and give you a better hope. As for you who believe in Christ, I urge you to begin today to sing the songs of eternal life. Ease your pilgrim life with songs of hope.

He Passes the Test

HE PASSES THE TEST



Of all the WORLD'S Religions, none bases its claims on the resurrection of its founder. Salvation through Jesus Christ is not religion but Relationship. This personal relationship with Jesus Christ hinges on the irrefutable proofs of HIS RESURRECTION conquering death, hell and the grave for all who will by faith receive HIS GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE.

CONSIDER THE MANY INFALLIBLE RESURRECTION PROOFS

- The written Record.
- The genealogical record.
- The geographical location.
- The empty tomb.
- The political leaders and historical proof.
- Neither Rome nor the Jews could produce a corpse.
- The cowardly apostles became willing to die for Jesus after His Resurrection.
- The eyewitnesses numbering over 500 who saw Jesus after the Resurrection.
- The very existence of the Christian faith.
- The calendar (B.C.) "Before Christ" (A.D.) Anno Domini "in the year of our Lord."
- The fulfilled prophecy of scripture.
- The churches around the world preaching the risen Christ.
- The Hymnbook and innumerable songs written about Him.
- The changed dynamic life of believers around the world.
- The continued attempt to this day by religion, governments, and disbelievers to deny and discredit Christ's resurrection.

W.P. RILEY WROTE:

- They put the risen Christ to the test of touch – "Handle Me and see, a spirit hath not flesh and bones as you see Me have."
- They put Him to the test of sight "When He had thus spoken, He showed them His hands and His feet."
- They put Him to the test of taste, for they gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He ate it before them.
- They put Him to the test of hearing, for it was when He called Mary's name that she recognized Him.
- They put Him to the test of former fellowship, for it was when He "broke bread" at Emmaus that the two knew Him.

I CORINTHIANS 15:5-8

"He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: after that, He was seen of above 500 brethren at once; He was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time."

No Visits, No Phone Calls, No Cards NO POWER....

(A true story: however, names have been changed)

It was quite grievous for them to see such a weak stand, yea, a compromised position on worldly dress in their church. Then constantly the King James Version was corrected by statements like, "This would be better translated" or "This should have been translated." Issue after issue until one Sunday, a guest missionary came and preached for the morning service out of a version other than the "Authorized." Well, that was the final straw! Mr. and Mrs. John Doe knew they could no longer worship at their church. The Word of God had been compromised.

But the final commentary on this story was to come months later. Mr. and Mrs. John Doe had left the fellowship discreetly. Weeks and weeks, yea even months and months passed and Mr. and Mrs. Doe received no visits, no phone calls, not even a card saying, "We have missed you" or "Sorry you have left, but we still care." After years of friendships and fellowship, no one called to care. When news was learned of a death of one of the church members some three months back, Mr. Doe called the church to inquire, and in the conversation was told, "We haven't heard from you in a long time." "Oh," stated Mr. Doe, "Nor have we heard from you in a long time."

[Editor....Thank the Lord, I have been acquainted with wonderful churches who have been very conscious of the need of individuals. God's Word being compromised by the pulpit ministry in the above story was perhaps just an outward www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org

sign of compromise in other areas of ministry. Whether those individuals agreed with that church and pastor, the church's ministry was still to reach out to the couple, even if they personally could offer no potential benefit to that particular local church. Again, should the local church not be compassionate and in existence to minister to people regardless....? Sad, it is, when a local church does not follow-up on believers who may leave that congregation for whatever reason and again, it is very grievous when the church does not endeavor to reach out to those who fall by the wayside. Possibly, this is indicative of a church that is not compassionate as well as passionate about reaching people. The truth be known, such churches have very little impact on their community. Could it be that the gates of Hell prevail? Such churches pose very little threat to Satan and his kingdom. The following from Answers in Genesis may illustrate this exact point:

Q: Do humanists think that the church isn't a threat to their beliefs?:

A: Sadly, we've found this to be true. Here is an interesting example of one humanist's telling admission. *Answers in Genesis* applied to county authorities to have a piece of land near Cincinnati, Ohio rezoned. We wanted to build a Creation Family Museum and Discovery Center that teaches the truth about Genesis and proclaims the gospel. The community was astonished to see the way in which the local humanist groups tried to influence the county to stop this project from proceeding. At one of the meetings where many opponents met to try to stop our project, a humanist made this statement: "We wouldn't mind so much if they wanted to build a church—but they want to build a creation museum to change our minds!"

Now that tells you something about the reputation of the church. Because much of the church has compromised with evolution, many church leaders don't attack the evolutionary foundation of the humanist philosophy. Humanists don't see the church as a threat to

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Nuggets of Gold

- 1. The man who says it cannot be done should not interrupt the man who is doing it.
- **2.**Small minds are the first to criticize large ideas.
- **3.**You don't have time to criticize when you harmonize, sympathize, and evangelize.
- 4. How often have you met a critic of the church who tried to make it better.
- 5. Some people have the mistaken idea that they can make themselves better by showing how small someone else is.
- **6.**Don't mind the fellow who belittles you, he's only trying to cut you down to his size.
- 7. The cross is easier to the Christian who takes it up than to the one who drags it along.

NEWS BITS FROM HERE AND THERE



IRS---DUH! –In Bayard, Nebraska, there is a one-room school house with just eight students, kindergarten through eighth grade. The accountant at the school, while handling the tax records each quarter, made a \$3.25 mistake for three straight years, totaling approximately \$40 in all. When the IRS discovered this mistake they demanded the school pay \$15,000 in back taxes, including interest and penalties. The Hill Public School was forced to sell the school's 20-year old van just to pay off the debt. IRS---Duh, etc.!!!!!

EIGHTH-GRADERS TOLD Stripping Can Be

REWARDING – FoxNews.com 1/14/05 reported that school officials in Palo Alto are reconsidering their use of a popular speaker for an annual career day after he advised middle school students that they could earn a good living as strip dancers. The School asked William Fried to give his 55-minute presentation, "The Secret of a Happy Life." This was the third year he had been invited to speak. A tip sheet he distributes to students includes a list of 140 potential careers and areas of interest they can consider pursuing. Along with professions as accounting and nursing, the list offers such nontraditional suggestions as exotic dancing, stripping and acting 8 • Voice in the Wilderness • March/April 2005

as a spiritual medium. School board member Mandy Lowell didn't expect Fried's comment to cause lasting damage but said the speaker didn't adhere to the message of achievement the district is trying to promote. Despite an uproar, many students said Fried was the most inspiring speaker in a lineup that included a pilot, an attorney, a classical pianist and a journalist. Fried, 64, said he does not think he offended anyone. "Eighthgrade kids are not dumb," he said. "They are pretty worldly."

THE INAUGURAL AND

"PANTS" - Barbara Walters for ABC News commented on Mrs. Barbara Bush and her "pants." The President's mother appeared on stage during her son's second inauguration wearing pants. Why do you suppose this was worthy of considerable commentary by Barbara Walters? It appears Mrs. Bill Clinton was the "first", as a First Lady, to wear pants during an inauguration ceremony. Even though many in the church may minimize this area, it continues to be a noteworthy topic from the world's viewpoint.

AID TO SEN. CLINTON INDICTED IN L.A. – *The Los Angeles Times 1/7/05* reported that Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's former finance director, David Rosen, has now been indicted on charges of causing false campaign finance reports to be filed with the Federal Election Commission.

While the event allegedly cost more than \$1.2 million, the indictment said, Rosen reported contribution of

about \$400,000, knowing the figure to be false.

Each of the four counts of making a false statement carries a maximum penalty of up to five years in prison and up to \$250,000 in fines upon conviction.

Via Judicial Watch 1/2005



LEST WE FORGET – Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton is still on the scene, still moving and shaking, still has an agenda as well as making future plans. Just a Class 101 refresher course on the deeds of the Clinton duo:

1. Chinagate: Chinagate was a scheme devised by the Clinton administration to launder Communist Chinese political contributions to the Clinton-Gore 1996 campaign and to the Democratic National committee.

2. Filegate: Judicial Watch represented plaintiffs in a class action lawsuit filed by White House employees of the Bush and Reagan administrations whose FBI files were wrongly accessed by the Clinton White House. The White House and FBI were sued under the federal Privacy Act, while the individual defendants Bernard Nussbaum, Craig Livingstone, Anthony Marceca and Hillary Clinton are being sued for common-law tort of invasion of *(Continued on page 9)*

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privacy.

3. Travelgate: If there was ever one scandal that spoke to the petty depravity of the Clinton administration, it was the firing and subsequent prosecution by Hillary Rodham Clinton of the Travel office workers. In an unprecedented attempt to insert Hollywood friends into the running of this office, most likely for the personal profit of friends and relatives of the Clintons, Travel Office workers were unjustly accused and prosecuted for alleged improper financial practices.

4. Sexual Crimes: Bill Clinton has a long history of abusing and sexually harassing women, and then attacking them publicly when they come forward with the truth....The court found for the first time in U.S. history that a sitting president committed a crime when it held that Bill Clinton violated Kathleen Willey's privacy rights by releasing private letters from her Privacy Act-protected file.

5. IRS Intimidation: Many perceived Clinton adversaries were audited by the Clinton IRS, including Gennifer Flowers, Paula Jones and Billy Ray Dale, among others.

6. Lincoln Bedroom: In shocking disregard for the office of the presidency and the White House, Hillary Clinton masterminded a plan to sell "sleep-overs" in the Lincoln bedroom and other government favors in exchange for campaign contributions.

7. Slash and Burn Politics: Bill and Hillary Clinton perfected the art of slash and burn politics during their time in the White House, destroying the reputations of anyone who dared tell the truth about their criminal and unethical behavior.

8. Lying Under Oath: According to Judge Starr's report, Bill Clinton lied under oath in a civil deposition and in grand jury testimony when he denied his affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. Clinton would later admit to lies and the affair only after evidence became overwhelming. 9. Controversial Clinton Pardons: In the waning hours of his administration, Bill Clinton offered 177 controversial pardons to criminals and convicts, including one for fugitive financier Marc Rich. A number of these pardons were, and continue to be, the subject of criminal investigations. Some of the illicit pardons also have the fingerprints of Hillary Clinton all over them. *www. JudicialWatch.org*



DAN RATHER TO THE CORE

- Dan Rather appeared half-hearted in his attempt to apologize according to the panel investigating the botched story on President Bush's National Guard Service. Rather had a political agenda and was not concerned about truth and integrity in reporting. If a conservative news source had concocted some such story about a Democrat and used forged documents, their would have been a lynching immediately. Rather is CBS to the core – corrupt, bias, *spinmiester!* Oh, was it Andy Rooney that said, "I think Dan Rather is transparently liberal?"

STINGY? NOT THE USA

- Let us look at the facts. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris, in 2003, the world's major countries gave \$108.5 billion in combined foreign aid. Of this, the United States contributed \$37.8 billion, or 35%. The next largest foreign aid contributor was The Netherlands, which gave \$12.2 billion, following two years in which it was actually a net recipient of foreign aid. By all accounts Americans are far more generous in terms of charitable contributions than the citizens of any other country. According to Independent Sector, a coalition of more than 600 charities, Americans in 2003 contributed an additional \$266 billion worth of their time to charitable enterprises. This is based on a value of \$17.12 per hour of time. But even if one assigns a value equal to the minimum wage, this noncash contribution still comes to about \$100 billion.

According to the Inter-American Development Bank, remittances to Latin America alone amounted to \$38 billion in 2003—more than all official assistance combined. And \$31 billion of that came from the United States.

According to the Institute of International Finance, in 2003, Americans invested \$124 billion in emerging market economics, threefourths in direct investment such as plant and equipment, and the rest in stocks and bonds. About a third of all our imports will come from developing countries, providing jobs and incomes for millions of poor people.

The United States carries much of the world on its back, providing other nations with security, aid and much of their investment and income. *HumanEventsOnline.com/Bruce Bartlett 1/20/2005*



IRAQ VOTES WITH "Resounding success"

- On January 30, 2005 Iraqi people, risking their lives, went to the polls to cast a historic vote during that country's first free election. President Bush commented, "Today, the people of Iraq have spoken to the world, and the world is hearing the voice of freedom from the center of the Middle East."

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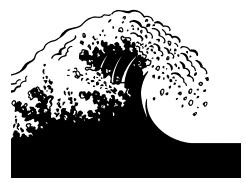
RELIGIOUS NEWS AND COMMENTS



CCM – "In May [2004], the Willow Creek Community Church featured five seminars with the theme 'Faith sounds like...,' each one focusing on a particular style of dance music: blues, Jazz, rock, country and hip hop. This is great confusion. The faith of God's Holy Word does not sound like any type of sensual dance music. Sound Christian music is holy and spiritual (Eph. 5:19); it is set apart from the things of this world unto a holy God. If a certain Christian music 'sounds like' blues, jazz, rock, country, or hip hop, it is **NOT** sacred Christian music." O Timothy 7/04

"Those who defend Contemporary Christian Music often claim that hymn writers Martin Luther and John and Charles Wesley used bar room tunes; therefore it is legitimate, allegedly, to use rock music today. In fact, neither Luther nor the Wesleys used bar room tunes. Note the following quotes from authorities in this field. 'Luther steered clear of rollicking drinking songs. He never considered music a mere tool that could be employed regardless of its original association but was careful to match text and tune, so that each text

would have its own proper tune and so that both would complement each other.' (Ulrich Leupold, 'Learning from Luther' Journal of Christian Music). The Wesleys did not use tavern or drinking songs to carry their texts. Their theology as well as their sense of aesthetics would have made such an occurrence unthinkable. There are no such examples in their collections. There are not suggestions or recommendations that others do so in any of their writings.' (Dean McIntyre, director of worship resources at the United Methodist Board of Discipleship). United Methodist News Service. By: David Cloud



RELIEF WORKERS TOLD TO LEAVE – Indonesia has already by January 12, 2005 served notice to foreign relief workers and the U.S. military to leave as soon as possible with March as a projected time frame for some groups. Do not forget the political corruption and terrorist activity in this Indonesian part of the world. Neither gratitude nor consideration can be expected as reciprocation by Islamic governments and groups because of an outpouring of generosity. Islamic hatred of America and especially America's support of Israel is profoundly deep within the very soul of extremist elements. Even in Iraq it is yet to be seen whether Iraqi soldiers or police can rise above loyalties to their own comrades involved in terrorism.

INDIA-BORN DOCTOR-TURNED GURU, "SPINS" HIS

BRAND – In his latest book, *Peace* Is the Way, Deepak Chopra envisions a world in which citizens make peace a priority and show respect for their opponents. In a recent interview with Time Magazine about God and war he comments: Ouestion: Should the deaths of more than 150,000 people from the Tsunami affect our image of God? Answer: Actually, our image of God is outmoded anyway, whether the tsunami occurs or not. Religion has become divisive, quarrelsome and idiotic. Religion is the reason we have all this conflict in the world. We have squeezed God into the volume of a body and the span of a lifetime; given God a male identity, an ethnic background; made him a tribal chief and gone to war. Yet people are not ready to forsake their image of God. Question: Why do you believe God is a woman? Answer: I think God is more likely to be a woman because women are nurturing and caring and loving. The human male has become the most predatory animal on our planet. It's time that we embrace the feminine face of God. Question: What compelled you to write about peace?

Religious News and Comments

(Continued from page 10)

Answer: If we continue to combine our ancient habits with our modern capacities, we risk totally destroying ourselves. The issue is not who's going to win the war on terrorism. The issue is either we all survive or no one survives. Question: How do you feel about the war in Iraq? Answer: I think it was a colossal mistake. It is sowing the seeds of distrust and hatred and the desire for retribution on the part of our perceived enemies. I said "perceived" because when you look at any enemy deeply enough, you'll find that they're a human being just like you. What did these poor Iraqis do to America? What did the children of Iraq do to America? Or for that matter, what did Saddam Hussein do to us? We went after the wrong country and the wrong people. Time 1/24/05

COMING TO A CHRISTIAN SCHOOL NEAR YOU - The

Greenville, SC, County public school system suspended a female student for a nose piercing. Ear piercings are okay, but the nose piercing violated the school's dress code and rules. TV and radio stations were a buzz with those who supported the school's actions, as well as those who stood with the suspended student. Being an honor student, many were willing to excuse the violation. Single and multiple ear piercings already appear on many Christian School campuses.

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER CENSORS CHILD – A

kindergartener was rebuffed in front of the class as the girl read from a Christian book. It was the child's turn to be "star of the week." Included in this honor, the student was invited to bring two of her favorite books to share with the class. One of the books contained statements discussing moral rights and wrongs, saying things like www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org "Jesus said not to lie; so like Jesus you should always tell the truth. About half way through this sharing time, the instructor interrupted the child and told the girl she needed her other book because pupils weren't allowed to read books about God in class.

The courts and the Department of Education have clearly spoken on this issue. A student can express a religious viewpoint within the scope of an assignment, accord to Kevin Snider, an attorney for Pacific Justice Institute. *Pacificjustice.org 1/26/05*

ARAFAT – A TIME FOR REFLECTION - In some ways, Yasser Arafat's death was a catalyst. For the Palestinian people it was a colossal revelation of the incompetence of the failed leader they had entrusted with their lives, hopes, and dreams. He left his people in abject poverty, a brainwashed generation driven by an insatiable hatred for all things Jewish, Israeli, and American, with a legacy of death and destruction to live down. *William Sutter, Friends of Israel 1/05*

READY, AIM, FIRE – IN THE LIBERALS SIGHTS – From

your home town and across America a small yet growing constituency of liberals have taken a death aim on the institutions of family, church and government. Yes, these cherished institutions are foundational and essential to the very existence of "One Nation Under God." However, the intent is obviously to destroy all that is godly and good about this country. No, America is not perfect or close to it. Yes, there are many national sins and repentance is desperately needed in the land. Yet I do believe salt and light exists here possibly as in no other country today. With that, much is required of us who know THE WAY to carry the LIGHT to a world in Great Darkness!

The Washington Times reported "More than four in five Americans tell pollsters that they believe in God, and more than 40% of American Christians say they attend a religious service at least once a week.

"By contrast, weekly religious attendance hovers at about 15% in Italy and 5% in France. Just 21% of Europeans rate religion as 'very important' in their lives.

"In Western Europe we are hanging on by our fingernails," the Rev. David Cornick, general secretary of the United Reform Church in Britain, told *Christianity Today* magazine earlier this year. 'Europe is no longer Christian.'

"... Faith inspires thousands of American Christians to leave comfortable lives behind to spread the gospel and do good works in oftenhostile foreign mission fields such as Malaysia and Vietnam."

Do not grow weary in well doing – Contend for the faith! The world needs America and America needs godly Bible believing Christians!

THE PROBLEM WITH MAHMOUD ABBAS - Surely this isn't what President Bush had in mind when he said, in his seminal June 2002 address on the Arab-Israeli war, that the United States would support the creation of a Palestinian state if the Palestinians would first "build a practicing democracy, based on tolerance and liberty." Nor can Abbas, who spent decades at Arafat's side and who has been unvielding in his refusal to crack down on Palestinian gunmen and bombers be what Bush meant when he insisted that Palestinians "elect new leaders, leaders not compromised by terror...."

On Dec. 29, the State Department transferred \$23.5 million to the

(Continued on page 14)

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VALUES-BASED MARKETING – Money does talk, and when the business world saw the consequences of scandal and corruption, well, another approach made sense. *Inc. Magazine, February* 2005, reported: "Depending on how you look at it, the success of everything from Toyota's environmentally friendly hybrid car, the Prius, to movies like *The Passion of the Christ,* or books like *The Purpose-Driven Life,* can be attributed to the values trend.

"None of this has escaped the notice of corporate America, seeking to repair its image after several seasons of scandal....

"Even if you're not directly communicating your values to your consumers, there's a good chance that consumers are trying to fathom what your beliefs are," says Dwayne Ball, a professor of marketing at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Along with a colleague, fellow marketing professor Ronald Hampton, Ball has spent years interviewing people about how their spiritual and moral beliefs affect their purchasing behavior. The conclusion: As religious practice has exploded in recent years (the percentage of Americans who say they feel the need to experience spiritual growth has soared from 58% in 1994 to 82% today, according to Gallup) those values are increasingly being expressed in the marketplace....

"People express their values in the marketplace in two ways, Ball and Hampton have found. Some consumers have what they call a "doctrine-centered" orientation, in which an authority—a church, a holy book, or some other institution creates rules for how to behave. Others exhibit an "other-centered" orientation and are more concerned with how their actions as consumers have an impact on others....

"For marketers, it boils down to this: "If you have doctrine-driven customers, you'd better understand their doctrine," says Ball. But bear in mind that Americans, perhaps because of our long tradition of individuality; generally tend toward an other-centered orientation...."

Does character and integrity matter after all? Are people searching for something more than the temporal material world can offer?



MEXICO AND VINCENTE

FOX - Human Events January 17, 2005, along with Congressman J.D. Hayworth reported Mexico's Foreign Ministry produced and distributed 1.5 million copies of a guide for illegally immigrating to the United States. Mexican President Vicente Fox encourages the breaking of U.S. immigration laws calling it "migration" and wants amnesty and dual citizenship for lawbreakers. The Mexican government routinely sues to protect the rights of illegals in U.S. courts. It is estimated that at least 5 million Mexicans live here illegally.

Congressman Hayworth states: "The Mexican government has expressed support for an accountable guest-worker program along the lines of that proposed by President Bush. However, such a program is simply not possible as long as the illegal invasion of America across our Southern border continues with the active support of the Mexican government.

"If Mexico wants to work constructively for immigration reform in general and a guest-worker system in particular, it needs to start becoming a partner in securing our border instead of an accomplice in overrunning it. Ending the distribution of the guide would be a good place to start."

R С Μ . Δ Е **COMPASSIONATE AID -**Tragedies around the world have seen God's people demonstrate love and compassion for those stricken by calamity. Wesley Pruden stated in The Washington Times, Jan 2005 "A devout Muslim in Indonesia or Sri Lanka, listening to the growl in his empty belly and watching the sky darkening with American rescue helicopters, might offer a prayer of gratitude to Allah for Christians and Jews.

"The rich and oily Middle Eastern kingdoms, fiefdoms and oligarchies have donated only pittances for tsunami relief, like alms tossed to beggars at the village gate. The greedy rulers are no doubt grateful to the imams who are telling their mosques that most of those who drowned, Muslims as well as vacationing infidels, deserved to die because they were only on the beaches to "fornicate." Islam is not about grace, amazing or otherwise.

"Saudi Arabia first said it would donate \$10 million, about what King Fahd might spend when he takes his wives and concubines to Paris or New York for a week of shopping and imbibing the forbidden pleasures of the satanic West. He raised it to \$40 million when certain chagrined Muslims made grumbling noises about what can only be called Arab piggery. All told, the four big oil states, which collect \$15 billion in oil revenues every month, agreed to spend \$70 million to assist brother Muslims...."

Christians and America as a nation will continue to rush with aid to a hurting world regardless the religion, "race," or politics involved. But keep in mind, until a man's heart is changed by the Transforming Power of Christ's Redeeming Grace, food, clothes,

(Continued from page 12)

medical aid nor the outpouring of compassion can fully be appreciated by those who sit in great darkness.

Mrs. Pruden continues... "resentment has been nurtured by Islamist agitators, Jew-baiters and America haters. Al Jazeera, the network of Osama bin Laden's jeremiads against civilization, is working now to establish a broadcasting service in Kuala Lumpur to broadcast to South Asia from the Malaysian capital.

Americans make up about 5% of the world's population and give about 35% of the aid.

"The rich Islamic governments are too absorbed in their own indifference to notice the suffering of others. Without the generosity of Christians and Jews, in America and elsewhere, a lot of Muslims would be starving this morning. The Europeans, even the French, have surprised themselves with their generosity. The Israelis are sending food and medicines to those who revile them, no questions asked. The value of American aid, including military and private charities, will run into the billions."

LIBERALS LOVE AMERICA LIKE O.J. LOVED NICOLE

- Ann Coulter wrote "When it comes to heaping insults on America, U.S. liberals are the nation's leading donors. In 2003, the Center for Global Development –funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, despite the fact that it could have used that money on future tsunami victims concluded that the U.S. ranked 20th out of 21 nations in helping poorer nations....In the words of the CGD, military aid doesn't count because "one country's security enhancement is another's destabilizing intervention" you know, the way U.S. soldiers "destabilized" France in 1944. (My guess is, Presbyterian missionaries in the jungle don't get as many points as UN seminars on condom use either.)"

"Consequently, in 2003, Norway got 7.1 points for "peacekeeping." Denmark got 7.4 points. France got 5.2. The country that dispatched the Taliban and Saddam Hussein - and, before that, ensured that the above countries would not be speaking German or Russian - got 1.5 points for "peacekeeping."

"According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, in 2003, the U.S. gave \$47.8 billion out of a total \$108.5 billion in foreign aid and from the world's major countries—notable for being more than three times the amount from the next largest donor, the Netherlands, clocking in a \$12.2 billion. Americans make up about 5% of the world's population and give about 35% of the aid." *Ann Coulter* – *World Report – Human Events*

NYPD PRODUCER DEEMS TV TOO CONSERVATIVE

- During the Television Critics Assn. winter press tour, Steven Bochco, cocreator of 'NYPD Blue' said they will conclude its 12-season run March 1. The medium has become increasingly conservative. "I don't think today we could launch or sell a show like 'NYPD Blue."" He had hoped the series would pave the way for more sophisticated drama, but said the pendulum has swung in the opposite direction in the past five years. After the controversy generated in large part by Janet Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction" during last year's Super Bowl halftime show telecast on CBS, "NYPD Blue" has had to fight with ABC over content issues that never were questioned in the past. "So you stop doing them," he said, "It's a setback." "You're never going to put the genie back in the bottle." "We're never going to see television go back to what it was 20 years ago."

This is just more evidence that the world's standards are nonbiblical and ultimately non-existent. A popular Hollywood television producer complains that television today is too conservative while simultaneously admitting that it will never go back to "what it was 20 years ago." As the scripture so clearly states: "Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied" – Proverbs 27:20. *The Berean Call 1/24/05*



ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V.

WADE – David O'Steen, executive director of the National Right to Life committee, said the November 2004 elections shows the Supreme Court is out of step with the electorate on this issue. For his part, President Bush played cheerleader in chief at a rally before the march, telling tens of thousands of anti-abortion protesters on the Ellipse that their approach to the debate this year would "change hearts and minds" of those still favoring abortion rights. "This is the path of the culture of life that we seek for our country," Bush said by phone from Camp David, Md.

No Power

(Continued from page 7)

their anti-God religion. But our museum will directly attack the foundation of humanism by exposing the problems with evolution and teaching the truth about creation. That's why our ministry is seen as such a threat! *Answersingenesis.org* 1/29/05.

While we appreciate the stand of Answers in Genesis on a biblical creation, a sad point to note is that many ministries such as Answers in Genesis are presently taking a soft position on the proliferation of Bible versions. It is this editor's opinion that many modern Bible versions contribute to the weakening of the local church. Our Lord's church should be a mighty force used by His Holy Spirit to impact each community, state, nation, and yea, the world for time and eternity. There should be no small stir. From the pulpit, to the pew, the powerful, life-changing Word of God should be evidenced and even bring trembling to those who are without. Jesus said, "I will build my church; and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." Does this kind of intimidating power typify our local churches today?

Religious News

(Continued from page 11)

Palestinian Authority – a mark, said assistant Secretary of State William Burns, of American "confidence in the direction of the PA's reform program." The absurdity of such confidence was made clear one day later, when Abbas brazenly campaigned with members of the al-Aksa Martyrs Brigade in Jenin. A picture of Abbas riding on the shoulders of Zakaria Zubeidi - a notorious terrorist and one of Israel's most wanted men - was published around the globe....The embrace of Zubeidi was no anomaly. Abbas is sometimes described as a "moderate" opposed to terrorism, but his opposition is purely tactical. He has no moral problem with blowing up buses and cafes, he simply thinks such methods are, for now, counterproductive. ..., Abbas hailed Palestinian gunmen in Gaza, but urged them to stop firing rockets at Israeli towns. Because deliberately targeting civilians is wrong? No. "Because this is not the proper time for such actions...."

Again and again, Abbas has expressed his solidarity with violent extremists. Last month [Dec. 2004] he traveled to Damascus to meet with some of the region's most implacable terror groups, including Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. Afterward, Abbas's "foreign minister," Nabil Sha'ath, declared that between the Palestinian Authority and the other groups, "there are no differences over the objectives."

And what are those objectives? About that, Abbas has been explicit. In recent weeks he has promised to shelter terrorists from Israeli arrest and vowed that there will be no PA crackdown on Palestinian terrorism. He hews unswervingly to Yasser Arafat's hardline positions – an Israeli retreat to the 1949 armistice lines. Jerusalem as the Palestinian capital, the elimination of every Jewish settlement, the dismantling of Israel's security fence, and no limit on the "right of return" – code for the abolition of Israel as a Jewish state (Jacoby, "Jewish World Review," Jan. 10, 2005) Via – thebereancall.org

EVANGELICALS - At press time, a last minute entry - Insightful to trends in America is *Time Magazine's* Feburary 7, 2005 featured article, "The 25 Most Influential Evangelicals in America. This read may give added discernment in these last days.

THIS IS ENVELOPE MONTH

The Voice in the Wilderness sends free of charge thousands of this printed missionary each month to individual subscribers, missionaries, pastors, churches, and ministries around the world. In order to maintain our missionary program, as well as free distribution of literature, we need your help:

- 1. Please pray for this work. I know you have given, yet there are others prompted by the Holy Spirit that could do so as well. Pray that new supporters will give a love offering to help The Voice in the Wilderness.
- **2.** Some may even consider placing The Voice in the Wilderness in their monthly missionary budget. Would you consider partnering with us on a monthly basis?
- It is our prayer that the Lord will allow us many more years in the future to continue and even expand this work. Thanks for considering this need. God Bless!

From the Mailbag

(Continued from page 13)



EDUCATION SECRETARY PULLS "PBS" CARTOON

- The newly appointed Education Secretary, Margaret Spellings, denounced a PBS episode of "Postcards From Buster," a cartoon for children with lesbian characters, citing that many parents would not want their young children exposed to the lifestyles portrayed in the



[This little magazine reaches many lives. Here are just a few examples]

Dear Friends:

I cannot tell you how much receiving your Newsletter means to me. I receive such encouragement, comfort, hope and strength from its pages. It's like seeing the face of a friend when I find it in my mailbox. I read every word several times.... This past year has been very difficult for me. I lost my mother to cancer.... and although I thank God she is in Heaven with Him, being without her support, companionship, and love episode. She denounced the spending of public money and warned, "You can be assured that in the future the department will be more clear as to its expectations for any future programming that it funds." The Department of Education has awarded nearly \$100 million to PBS through Ready-To-Learn over the past five years.

ABC Good Morning America interviewed two lesbians opposing the pulling of the PBS show. Obviously, homosexual groups as well as the liberal media will continue to push their perverted agenda.

CIA IN IRAQ – The CIA has been given a leading role in developing the Iraqi intelligence service in Baghdad. U.S. officials say the biggest problem is that at least 5% of the new intelligence agency members were recruited from the former Mukhabarat, Saddam Hussein's repressive security and

has been the hardest burden I have ever borne. During these times the ministry of Voice in the Wilderness has truly been a blessing to me.... Also I would like to request that you include on your mailing list a friend of mine. He is a newborn Christian who has been sentenced to 25 years in prison for vehicular manslaughter. Drinking and driving as a lost man he struck and killed a young girl. His remorse for this act brought him to Christ and a changed life. Still the consequence of sin must be met.... I believe your Newsletter would be an encouragement to him..... Subscriber/ South Carolina

Dear Friends:

My husband died when a drunkman who took drugs hit his car from behind at high speed....He [my husband] was going to preach a revival. He leaves me, his wife with 3 sons ages 8, 6, and 3. I want to keep getting your paper......Subscriber/Mississippi intelligence service that had about 15,000 members. The director is Muhammad Abdullah Shahwani, who was a general under Saddam. He defected from Iraq in 1990 and set up a U.S. backed opposition military group. Three of his sons were executed by Saddam in retaliation for the defection. U.S. officials believe the Iraqi spy service is penetrated by former regime members who are working with insurgents. Gen. Shahwani told an Arabic newspaper reporter in Baghdad that between 20,000 and 30,000 terrorists and insurgents are operating in Iraq, mainly in Sunni-dominated areas. The insurgents are backed by about 200,000 sympathizers.

A senior State Department official in Baghdad challenged this estimate, noting: "There are obviously many people in it. But as to numbers, I don't think anyone knows, including Gen. Shahwani." *Washington Times* 1/10/2005

Dear Dr. Williamson:

May I request for a monthly subscription of your Newsletter, "The Voice in the Wilderness." I found your articles very useful in edifying the brethren and personal growth. I am a Sunday School teacher in our church, where I teach high School and College students. I also conduct Bible Studies and discipleship and help these young people grow in their relationship in our Lord Jesus Christ.....Subscriber/ Manila, Philippines

Dear Bro. Ronnie:

Thank you again for the sermon you preached at the Missions Conference. "Be planning to go and willing to stay instead of willing to go and planning to stay." You are making a difference!......Subscriber/ College Student now on the mission field.



Parting Thoughts



The Lord presents from time to time some unique ministry opportunities. There may be someone in our readership that could help us with this project. Would anyone

know of a church, or even an individual who might have a set of "HANDBELLS" no longer in use that would consider donating the set to The Voice in the Wilderness Ministry? Godly, beautiful music is such an asset to the local church. "Handbells" lend

uniqueness to the accompaniment of songs, hymns, and spiritual songs. If so, please contact us at: The Voice in the Wilderness, PO Box 7037, Asheville, NC 28802 or phone 828-649-1043. Assistance with this need would be greatly appreciated.

Dear Voice in the Wilderness Subscriber,

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

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

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