

The Voice



CONTENDING FOR
FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIANITY

IN
THE



CONTENDING FOR
AMERICAN FREEDOM

Wilderness

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

October 2007 • Published Monthly • Free Subscription

My dear friend,

You are so special to me.

**Thank you for sharing Jesus,
Helping blind eyes to see.**

**You cared enough to come,
Telling salvation's story.**

To this lonely sinner one,

**Thank you for being a friend
That winneth souls is wise.**

You brought His news of Glory.

**And loving me to Jesus,
A crown will be your prize.**



Attention Subscriber: Note pages 12 and 13 for the special opportunity to say "Thank You" to the individual who told you the good news that Jesus saves!

READ *The Weekly Voice* AT www.voiceinthewilderness.org



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



MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends:

Please give careful attention to this important edition of *The Voice in the Wilderness*. I pray you and your church will diligently review the fruit and successes of 2007. In so doing, what more could we accomplish in 2008. 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 in the approaching year. As 2007 draws to a close and many Churches plan new budgets, stewardship campaigns, mission revivals and the next year's calendar 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?

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

7. Are the vision, goals and philosophy of ministry 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



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

Write to us

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SERMON OF THE MONTH

Divorce & Remarriage

Part One of Two

ANEMIC FAMILIES IN THE CHURCH ARE A TRAGEDY

The Voice in the Wilderness has been no stranger to addressing sensitive and controversial subjects. In recent issues of this publication, difficult topics have been discussed and readership has been vocal. The majority has been very supportive. Repeatedly, cards, letters, even phone calls have expressed appreciation for the biblical stand this ministry takes, as well as the boldness to place in print those scriptural positions.

Easily, two or three articles have generated the most comments, compliments, and criticism. One such was printed in March 2002 entitled, "Divorce and Remarriage." Obviously, for many this is not "cut and dry." As you know, the definition of marriage has been in stiff debate by state lawmakers and even amongst some denominational hierarchy. Only a few years ago most Americans would not have hesitated to say never. Never in this country will the institution of marriage and the family come under such an attack as to obliterate the

biblical, traditional understanding of that which was divinely ordained. Never will judges and legislators by agenda aggressively sit in action against the very principles at the heart of America's foundation and success. Never will churches and clergy dare sanction homosexuality, ordain homosexuals, let alone, condone homosexual marriages.

I have lived long enough to have seen a day when such perversion and ungodliness was unheard of. A day when red-blooded Americans would NEVER allow legislators, judges, much less churches permit or promote such wicked, destructive behavior. But I have lived long enough to see that NEVER become NOW when the very foundation and fabric of America is being destroyed in a cesspool of hell spawned perversion.

Dear Pastor, I serve you notice. Continue to sermonette with those therapeutic addresses and you will be personally accountable for the ruination of many souls. Whether you agree with the following or not, divorce and the spiritually anemic families in our church is a tragedy. How many men do you have in your congregation that are scripturally qualified for office

of deacon? Does your singles ministry encourage single, never married young men and women to develop relationships with divorced individuals? Does your preaching and ministry reach out in love with scripturally sound counsel and support to the divorced? Does your congregation understand clearly what the Bible says about divorce and remarriage? Concerning marriages you perform, does your position vary case by case or do you have clearly delineated teaching for your congregation? There is not only a world of lost souls out there, but congregations full of folk held captive by the world, the flesh, and the devil. Do not be afraid to preach specifics, holy living, and the consequences of sin. Remember, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" John 8:32. Preach the truth in love. Our congregations need to hear the truth clearly and specifically preached.

GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE

"Win friends and influence people?" This article probably will win few friends, but I pray some will be influenced to search the scriptures. When was the last time you heard definitive preaching on divorce and remarriage? So many preachers have vacillated on this subject, much like the subjects of music and dress due to the

pressures of our day. We preachers often exhort our young people not to give in to peer pressure. The compromise of this age has caused many a preacher to change his stand.

One report stated that the divorce rate within the church has now reached that of the world. If that be so, must pastors, Christians, and churches modify, adapt, or change previously held positions to accommodate? With the rise in the divorce rate of church members, do we now re-look at the grounds for divorce? Those who have been divorced and remarried, in almost epidemic numbers, must they be considered today qualified for any and every office in the church?

Before we venture any further, let me state clearly, **God loves you! His mercy and grace are extended. Whether you are divorced and single, or divorced and remarried, His will for you is to be saved and know the joy of a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.** Make no mistake, this article is not intended to single out or condemn anyone. The purpose is to set forth the Truth of God's Word and not the trends of this world. By the way, we mortals muddy the waters. The Bible is quite clear on the subject.

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RELIGIOUS NEWS

AND COMMENTS

CULTURALLY CONFLICTED EVANGELICALS

- Donald Miller, a Christian writer, is trying to help culturally conflicted evangelicals “make peace with their faith.” He starts out his seminars by asking, “Okay, what are some of your favorite movies?” After some prompting by Mr. Miller, titles such as *The Matrix*, *A Beautiful Mind*, *The Straight Story*, *Finding Nemo*, *Little Women*, *Napoleon Dynamite* and *It’s a Wonderful Life* are shouted out to him. Miller then asks them to tell him their “favorite parts of the Nicene Creed.” For the next 30 minutes, Miller promotes the theme that “Truth is rooted in story, not in rational systems. The Christian mission is not well served when we speak in terms of spiritual laws or rational formulas. Propositional truths, when extracted from a narrative context, lack meaning. ‘The chief role of a Christian is to tell a better story.’” Miller is known for writing the books *Blue Like Jazz: Nonreligious Thoughts on Christian Spirituality*, *Searching for God* and *Knows What, Through*

Painted Deserts and *To Own a Dragon*. One of the readers of his books said, “I’ve already bought *Blue Like Jazz* 13 times. But I gotta have all these to give to people. I’m a Jesus girl, but I also like to go out and do tequila shots with my friends. This is a book I can give to those friends.” www.thebereanCALL.org 8/13/07

EPISCOPAL ELATION?

- The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago has named a lesbian priest as a finalist for the office of bishop. Tracey Lind, the dean of Trinity Cathedral in Cleveland, said, “I believe that accepting this nomination is what God is asking of me.” This is a hot topic for the Episcopal Church. The House of Bishops has been asked not to approve any gay bishops. In 2006, the Episcopal Church passed a resolution that encourages diocese to “exercise restraint” in promoting leaders whose “manner of life” might bring issues to the Anglican Communion. There are 2 other women and 2 other men who are in consideration for the office

of bishop in Chicago as well. *Chicago Sun-Times* 8/29/07

HATE CRIMES WITHOUT HATE

The following has been taken from www.thebereancall.org (8/17/07). *A judge in New York has ruled evidence of "hatred" is unnecessary for a prosecutor to pursue a "hate crimes" case against three men arrested for the death of a homosexual man. The written ruling came from Judge Jill Konviser of the State Supreme Court in Brooklyn, and concluded prosecutors only need to show that the man, who was beaten and then hit by a vehicle in a robbery attempt, was picked because of his sexual orientation, according to a report in the New York Times. The judge said that is enough for prosecutors to seek enhanced penalties for the defendants, if convicted, under the state's Hate Crimes Act of 2000. That type of law [which] is being proposed at the federal level, allows for higher penalties—sometimes dramatically higher— for the same crime based on the characteristics of a victim, in this case his homosexuality. Prosecutors said the three defendants . . . found Sandy through a homosexual online chat room. Court documents allege they picked him because "this was an easy way to rob someone."*

Defense Lawyer Gerald Di Chiara said lawmakers who wrote the Hate Crimes Act wanted the statute to [apply] only to cases where hate actually was involved. He quoted a state Senate memo about a law "designed to ensure that only those who truly are motivated by invidious hatred are prosecuted for committing hate crimes."

ENCOURAGEMENT TO PARENTS

Pastor Ronald Williams of Hephzibah House writes: *I would strongly encourage parents to not take for granted the relationship their children profess to have with the Lord. After our many years in this ministry of "picking up the pieces," we have surely learned that many youngsters are very adept at concealing the true condition of their heart from their parents and pastor. In many cases, these youngsters are active in the normal "Christian activities," and are even involved in soul winning or other service opportunities in their church fellowship. The true condition of their heart is not revealed until suddenly one day their behavior takes an abrupt and sudden change. Usually, this is*



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NEWS BITS

FROM HERE AND THERE

TAX RESOURCES - For additional information on tax cuts and tax relief check out MyHeritage.org/MythBusters. Also MyHeritage.org/Health has a wealth of information on health care reform and additional research. The Voice in the Wilderness provides these websites just to help our subscribers think through these critical issues.

UNION DUES AND DON'TS (HERITAGE TAKES ON BIG LABOR) – With liberals in charge of Congress, Big Labor is on the attack. The unions are pushing bills that would rob workers of their right to a secret-ballot vote on whether to join a union, and impose costly regulations on small businesses.

The unions are desperate – because their claims to represent workers are growing weaker. “Over the past 25 years, union membership in America has dropped dramatically,” notes James Sherk, Heritage’s Bradley fellow in labor policy. According to Sherk, “21.4 percent of all workers belonged to a union in 1981; today, only 12.5 percent do.” *James Sherk – Heritage Foundation*

MRS. CLINTON’S PARTNERS - On August 9, Mrs. Clinton and the other Democratic presidential hopefuls (Barack Obama, John Edwards, Bill Richardson, Mike Gravel and Dennis Kucinich) had a discussion on homosexual issues. Mrs. Clinton announced that she, if elected president, hopes to be a partner with the homosexual community. The discussion, which appeared on the Logo Channel (homosexual-themed cable channel owned by MTV), lasted two hours. “I really hope that we can be partners in trying to make our country a little bit better and a little more progressive for all of us. I . . . have been a very strong supporter of letting the states maintain their jurisdiction over marriage. And I believe that was a right decision, for a lot of reasons. It’s easy to forget that just two and a half years ago, we were facing all of these referenda that were enshrining discrimination in state constitutions. And a lot of people tried very hard to fight against them and prevent them from being passed, but unfortunately they were [passed]. Now, two and a half years later, we’re beginning to see other states take different approaches,”

said Mrs. Clinton. She went on to say that she was in favor of repealing Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). The other frontrunner in the Democratic race, Mr. Obama, said that he is in favor of not only repealing Section 3, but also the whole of DOMA. He also said that he opposes “gay marriage” but completely supports civil unions and also believes that it is wrong that same-sex couples are not qualified for legal benefits of marriage from the federal government. www.bpnews.net 8/10/07

unbeatable ticket could be Hillary for president and Obama as her running mate.” He also wrote about the other 8 US presidents that have served while he has been dictator. In the article, Castro said that Bill Clinton was really nice to him when they bumped into each other at the UN, and that his favorite president was Jimmy Carter. He did not say much about President Bush other than that he “needed fraud to win Florida’s electoral college votes and the presidency in the fiercely contested election in 2000.” www.irnnews.com 8/29/07

MONEY MELTDOWN -

Pennies, which are made of raw zinc, currently cost twice of what they are worth. This is due to the rise in cost of raw zinc. So instead of sending the coin to be circulated, the US Mint planned to be sending some of them to the smelter. The problem is that in 2006, a Mint regulation made this practice illegal. But also consider this, there are about 8 billion pennies produced each year. That means for every \$80 million of pennies produced, we the taxpayers pay \$160 million. *World 9/1/07*

Dictator's Delight- Fidel Castro, the ailing dictator of Cuba, is in favor of Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama to be the Democratic ticket for the 2008 Presidential elections. In the Communist paper *Granma*, Castro wrote, “The word today is that an apparently

RELATION IN ENGLAND

- An editor of a daily Muslim newspaper in London said that he would “dance in Trafalgar Square if Iranian missiles hit Israel.” Abd Al-Bari Atwan said, “If the Iranian missiles strike Israel, by Allah, I will go to Trafalgar Square and dance with delight.” When asked if there would be a lessening of hostilities between the US and Iran, Atwan said, “If there is a deal, it will be at the expense of the Arabs and if there is a war, it will also be at the expense of the Arabs. I’m sad to say that we have no backbone now. If Iran reaches a deal with the Americans, what will be the bottom line? That Iran will have a nuclear program, and even if it does not manufacture nuclear weapons in the next 5-10 years, it will do so later. One of the fruits of such a deal would be a significant

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LESSONS FROM IRAQ

1. The gospel is in Iraq. Through U.S. involvement, the Bible preaching, Christian radio, literature and churches have for the first time in a long time established a solid foothold in this needy land. Withdraw and relinquish this stronghold?
2. The enemy is in America. Don't allow the Liberal media and turncoat politicians fool you for a moment. They are not for the troops nor for the "One Nation Under God" America. They inform, embolden and support the evil that is determined to destroy the USA. Iraq has clearly shown the US that the enemy is within!
3. The obvious - Tony Blair, Donald Rumsfeld and others are just indicators when it comes to Iraq. Pulosi, Reid, MoveOn.org, and Osama have a lot in common. Terrorists cells are there and here, WMD's did exist and Iraq is strategic. Iraq has taught the lesson that America is at a very critical juncture. Can the US sustain a defensive posture against aggression? Liberals and the mainstream media call the US "Invaders" and "Occupiers" totally ignoring all the details surrounding 9/11 let alone the many other terrorists attacks worldwide and the ongoing disruption of current plots. Remember *The Cole*, Beslan, and the first WTC bombing. The issue is not Iraq. We do understand this Lesson?

Please read NEWS BITS "Elation in England" and "New School in New York."



ISRAEL – THE MAP SPEAKS! Take a look at Iraq, Iran, Syria and remember their hostile declarations. Tiny Israel is surrounded by a multitude of angry aggressors opposed to the God of the Bible, not just a small nation they hate. Where is the US presence?

Iranian role in the region. Iran will remain a regional military power, which will threaten, or rather, will control and have hegemony over the region. If a war breaks out, where will the Iranians retaliate? If Iran is able to retaliate, it will burn the oil wells, block the Strait of Hormuz, attack the American bases in the Gulf and, Allah willing, it will attack Israel, as well.” *Jerusalem Post* 8/29/07



NEW SCHOOL IN NEW YORK - A new school is set to open in New York City the first of September. This school is special because it will be the first Arab language and cultural school to open in Brooklyn. The Kahlil Gibran International Academy plans to open with 60 sixth graders. There are other schools in NYC that are culturally based (such as Greek, Russian and Chinese). Opponents of the school say that the school will endorse Islam, and will be an incubator for Islamic radicalization. The school, which is a public school, has an advisory board made up of 3 Imams and Christian and Jewish clergy. Talib Abdul-Rashid, who is on the board, said on his mosque’s website, “Allah is our goal. The prophet Muhammad is our leader.

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Nuggets of Gold

- It is impossible to mentally and socially enslave a Bible-reading people.
- Trying to build the brotherhood of man without the fatherhood of God is like trying to make a wheel without a hub.
- The real measure of a man’s wealth is what he has invested in eternity.
- Some people are like wheelbarrows, useful only when pushed, and very easily upset.
- Many of the suspicions we have of others are formed from the knowledge we have of ourselves.
- Out of the mouths of babes come things parents never should have said.
- The gospel is not something only to go to church to hear - but to go from church to tell.
- Amy Carmichael once wrote, “We have all eternity to celebrate the victories, but only a few hours before sunset to win them.”
- Everybody is liable to make mistakes, but fools practice them.



DO YOU HAVE A SALVATION TESTIMONY?

POEM OF AN UNSAVED YOUTH

I went into my classroom
Ready for another year at school.
I didn't want the work,
Just wanted to hang and be cool.

I had on new clothes,
New sneaks on my feet.
I was there for class on time
Went to the back and took my seat.

Yeah, I'm moving up.
I'm already grown.
Soon I'll be graduating
And out on my own.

I talked to some of my friends.
We were all having fun.
Said some things I shouldn't have said,
Did stuff I shouldn't have done.

I knew I was different.
I felt God touch my heart.
I knew I should set a standard,
But then I'd be set apart.

Walking to the bus,
I was not looking for strength.
I heard the car tires screeching,
But now it's too late.

I'm standing in this room
And I can see the heavenly gate.
Oh no! I never prayed. I thought
I had time to get it straight.

An angel walked to me.
He had a book in his hand.

I knew it was the Book of Life.
When would this dream end?

I told him my name
And he began to look.
Then he looked at me sadly and said
"Your name is not in this book."

"Angel, this is a dream.
No, I can't be dead!"
He closed the book and turned away.
He whispered, "You cannot proceed ahead."

"No...no this can't be real.
Angel, you can't turn me away.
Let me talk to God.
Maybe He'll let me stay."

He led me to the gate.
Jesus came to me,
He did not let me in, but said,
"Beloved, what is your need?"

"Jesus," I cried, "please
Don't cast me away from you."
Tears ran down His face as He said,
"You knew what you needed to do."

"Lord, please I'm young.
I never thought I would die.
I thought I'd have plenty of time.
Death caught me by surprise.

"Lord, I went to church.
Please Jesus, I believe."
He said, "You would not accept Me.
My love you would not receive."

Lord, there were too many hypocrites.
They weren't being true."
He took a step back and asked
"What does that have to do with you?"

"Lord, my family claimed to be saved,
They weren't real. You know."
He said, "I died for you.
Now I have to go."

I fell to my knees crying to Him.
"Lord, I planned to be real tomorrow."
I couldn't make Him understand.
I had never -- felt such sorrow.

Then it hit me hard, I said
"Lord, where will I go?"
He looked into my eyes and said,
"My child, you already know."

"Please Jesus," I begged
"The place is so hot."
It seemed to trouble and grieve Him.
He whispered, "DEPART FROM ME, I
KNOW YOU NOT."

"Lord, you're supposed to be love.
How can you send me to damnation?"

He replied, "With your mouth
you said you loved Me,
But each day you rejected My salvation."

With that in an instant,
Day turned into night.
I never knew such torture could be.
Now too late, I know the Bible is right.

If I can tell you anything,
Hell has no age.
It is a place of torture,
Separated from God and full of rage.

You know I thought it was funny -- a joke,
But this one thing is true.
If you never accept Jesus Christ
HELL IS WAITING FOR YOU!

So please ask Him into your heart.
Please say this to everyone you care about.
"For God so loved the world, that he gave his
only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth
in him should not perish, but have everlasting
life." – John 3:16

-Author Unknown

How thankful are we, who have accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour, that this poem will not be our testimony. Did someone tell you about Jesus? Did someone persist with loving determination until you accepted His forgiveness? As we journey toward this Thanksgiving season, remember the person who told you about Jesus. If possible, take a moment to thank that individual by way of correspondence, telephone, or face-to-face. In the November edition, *The Voice in the Wilderness* will pay tribute to those dedicated soul-winners who have shown precious folk Christ's way of salvation. The publication will include a section entitled "A gift given to tell others because you told me!" **All readers are invited** to send a missionary gift in the name of the person who led them to salvation, which will be used in furthering the gospel message around the world through the ministry of *The Voice in the Wilderness*. The names of all soul-winners will be listed in the November edition. Please send all correspondence to PO Box 7037, Asheville, NC 28802 by October 31, 2007.



AN INVITATION FOR YOU! READ THE ABOVE AND PARTICIPATE!

LEADERSHIP FOR AMERICA

By Heritage Foundation

Heritage envisions an America where people, not governments, are empowered ... where hard work is rewarded, not ravaged by taxes ... where the most important institution is the family, and where religious freedom and traditional values are protected ... a strong America that guards against her enemies ... an America with secure borders, and citizens who are united.

That's our vision. Here are some of the goals of Leadership for America, all defined by and committed to our American dream. Our goals include:

- Restoring the family to its primary roll in civil society;
- Replacing the entitlement culture with one of mutual responsibility;
- Restoring religious liberty in the public square;
- Returning the Judiciary to its

constitutional role;

- Protecting America and Americans from freedom's enemies;
- Advancing American leadership and freedom in the world.

If our nation does not address uncontrolled entitlement spending, in just seven years our tax rates will skyrocket – and our economy will suffer.

America's military is on the verge of being “hollowed out” from overuse and under-funding. **If we do nothing, we could see America become as weak as it was under Jimmy Carter.**

The world is an increasingly dangerous place. If left unchecked, we could see Islamo-facist terrorist networks take over more of the Middle East – and threaten us again here at home.

And what will happen if we don't rein in unchecked judiciary? Already, judges are replacing the

people's elected representatives in determining public policies – while excessive litigation threatens to stifle America's entrepreneurial spirit.

I'll leave it for you to imagine

what will happen if we don't secure our borders, or if family and cultural decay continue.

The stakes are high. We must take action.

- *Heritage Member News – Spring/Summer 2007*



“Give and it shall be given unto you...” God has indeed blessed America. The world to this day does not understand. There are many biblical principles that cannot be ignored when it comes to the successes, prosperity and uniqueness of America. Nation after Nation tries to pick and choose hoping to replicate? Duplicate? Just a bit of the dream!

A WORLD OF THANKS

The Voice in the Wilderness deeply appreciates all those who responded with generous support during the summer months. Your friendship and faithfulness has met an urgent need. Thank you and God Bless!

Gracias – Danke – Merci

Thank You





I'm sorry to tell you that we cannot help with your funds. We are also in critical circumstances right now. We are 85 and 83 years old and in very bad health. We have had to give up our home in Oklahoma and move into a very small apartment in Tennessee to be close to our daughter. We have to depend on them for so much help. We have enjoyed the paper. We were close friends with Bro. Royce, but we still enjoyed the paper. I really wish we could help you out, but we just can't do it now. Trust you will get enough help from those who can help. We know times are rough with this ole' wicked world, but surely His coming is soon. Our prayers will be with you. God will not fail you now. Thank you kindly for the paper, but since the postage and everything else is getting so

high we certainly understand the circumstances. God Bless you all.

-Subscriber – TN

Perhaps you should use the funds needed for the publications before venturing out into other projects. Once your expenses are met for the publication and you have a balance – then go for the other projects. It also may be time to start charging a subscription fee from everyone.

-Subscriber – PA

Thank you for your prayers and faithful support of the work here in Moldova. Things are moving along in Baurci as we prepare for children's camp next week and continue house repairs so we can move in ASAP. Victor has already had several opportunities to witness to neighbors and workers as he works on the house, and the spiritual need in Baurci is indeed great. What a joy it is to serve in His harvest!

-Missionaries to Moldova



JOHN ELIOT

(1604-1690)

Apostle to the Indians

Come, let us take a thought-journey back over two hundred and fifty years. Can you do it? Of course you can. You can think back thousands of years to the Flood, or to the Garden of Eden, for that matter. You can *think* back much farther than you can *remember*.

Let us imagine that we are about eighteen miles southwest of Boston, on the Charles River, in the town with the Indian name, Natick. There seems to be something interesting going on in this little place, with woods around it. Look at the people coming together, why-they are red men. Yes, they are Indians. Let us not be afraid of them. They are red, but they do not look fierce and wild. Now, see! A horseman is coming near. What a good face he has. He has come from Roxbury, we hear, where he has long been the pastor of a church. How kindly he greets the Indians. And now we hear what is to be done to-day. These Indians are to be formed into a church of their own. It is the

minister, John Eliot, of Roxbury, who has gathered the red men together. Every two weeks he comes to preach to them. In ten years we find that there are fifty of these "Praying Indians," as they are called.

Surely we wish to know something about the good man who has done so much for these children of the forest, who were in our land when the Pilgrims came.

John Eliot was born in England in 1604. The father died before the son was very far along in his education, and he left eight pounds a year to be used, for eight years, in keeping his boy at Cambridge University. After finishing at Cambridge, John Eliot taught school. He became a minister of the Church of England when he was twenty-seven years old, and soon after that came to America with three brothers and three sisters. Miss Hannah Mumford, to whom he was engaged, came the next year, and they were married

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IN THE BEGINNING – LEAVE AND CLEAVE

Where shall we start? How about the beginning? Read Genesis 2:21-24 and note verse 24. “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” Emphasis must be placed on the “leaving,” “cleaving,” and “one flesh.” Apart from the Word of God, marriage cannot be understood in all its richness and beauty. The “all” of marriage grows out of God’s covenant relationship with His people. Depart from The Book and His Will and all is open to the devourer. In Genesis is the origin of marriage, when the Almighty made a helpmeet for Adam. This institution preceded civil law, government, and even the church. God, Himself, ordained that a man “leave” his father and mother and shall “cleave” unto his wife. The covenant union of one man to one woman for life become “one flesh” - One, do you understand this? There is no other type, picture, or relationship that says it like marriage. It is more than companionship, more than completion, more than commitment in a physical act and beyond. Here it is—you must get this. “For this cause shall a man leave his father

and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church” Ephesians 5:31 & 32. Marriage for the believer is not some “fuzzy wuzzy, touchy, feely, ooh I love you, gotta have you, can’t do without you” arrangement contract until I “feel” different event. Study the “love” Paul is talking about in Ephesians 5:25-28. What is this hidden mystical meaning? If it’s a mystery, how are we responsible? Don’t misunderstand, for it is “as plain as the nose on your face.” It is all spelled out in Ephesians 5: 22-33, “I speak concerning Christ and the church.” As believers, we are to let the light and love of our marital union show to a lost world that has not a clue (being “dead in trespasses and sins” – Eph 2:1) as to who Christ is, and what the joy of salvation is all about. The world cannot imagine heaven and the wonder of it all. This “mystery” once hidden is now fully revealed. In living color, a full-length portrayal of “Christ and the Church” is on display for all to see – this is the “cleaving of one man unto one wife; one flesh.”

LET NOT MAN PUT ASUNDER!

ATTENTION (sirens, bells, whistles, alarms!) NOW HEAR

THIS, NOW HEAR THIS! Of this divinely, ordained union, the very God and author of said union states: “What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder” Matthew 19:6. Tell me now; what man would dare shake a writing of divorcement in the face of God? I’ll tell you what man. The man determined to break scripture, follow self-desire and live in sin, that’s the man (or woman). No, now, Ronnie, you are uncaring. You just don’t understand my situation.

Hold the line. What does God say: “Let not man put asunder” Matt. 19:6. “For the Lord, the God of Israel, saith that He hateth putting away:” Malachi 2:16. So if that be the case, where does divorce come into the picture?

Hear the Lord in the matter: “Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.” Matt. 19:9.

Only if the husband or wife engages in the habitual practice of fornication and will not repent and return to the Lord does the scripture permit divorce. Keep in mind I said repent and return to the Lord. Only can a marriage be what it should when the husband and wife are what they should be with the Lord. And if there be an

innocent partner, that individual should desire reconciliation to the Lord for their sinning mate. Is there any hope for this one who erred from the truth? There is power in prayer, and the Holy Spirit does convict.

James 5:19 & 20 says: “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”

Yes, it is clear that the Lord permits a divorce when fornication has been committed. However, the Lord does not require or command divorce. Two questions I ask: 1) Is the Lord interested in the repentance of the one who has sinned as well as the reconciliation of a marriage that has been jeopardized by sin, self, and Satan? 2) Should not the spiritual partner (the one innocent of wrong) with prayer and tears seek reconciliation for their mate, not only to the marriage but also to the Lord? On both accounts the answer is yes. Now the innocent party must face some soul-searching questions. Who in all the hurt and wrong will be the spiritual one here? When we talk about “the innocent party” is that individual willing to forgive? Will he or she pray and seek

(Continued on page 20)

the Holy Spirit intervention and conviction? Is there a submissive heart yielded to what God can do even in the darkest hour?

I am about to say some things that can easily be misunderstood. This is not meant to be pious or callous. In all my years of preaching, pastoring and counseling, I've seen such bitterness and anger. I'm talking about on the part of the individual who is suppose to be the innocent one in all this mess.

The one who committed fornication confesses and wants reconciliation, but no, "the innocent partner" will not hear of it. Again, not to seem unreasonable or callous, I'm not sure I've truly known more than one or two "innocent individuals" involved in a divorce. Then I ask, "Can I be certain in those two cases?"

Well, Bro. Ronnie, just how long am I to pray for reconciliation – a month, a year, ten years? Don't I deserve to get on with my life? After all, I'm not the one who started this whole mess!

Remember, even though Jesus permits divorce on grounds of fornication, He never required it. Jesus never commanded nor does the Bible in any way intimate that a marriage must end in divorce due to sin or any other cause for

that matter. Listen to these words: "...love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven" Luke 6:35-37.

"Then came Peter to Him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, until seven times: but, until seventy times seven" Matt: 18:21 &22. "Say not thou; I will recompense evil; but wait on the Lord, and He shall save thee" Prov. 20:22.

If one partner proceeds with divorce, it may be the other partner cannot stop the action. Also, as tragic as it always is, the child of God is permitted to seek divorce if their mate is engaged in fornication. Fornication is the only ground given in the Bible for divorce. For the innocent partner, forgiveness and reconciliation should be prayerfully and diligently pursued. Then for any other reason than fornication, the innocent party should not seek divorce. "Wait on the Lord, and He shall save thee." I must interject

something I believe is important at this point. In the case of a violent and even life-threatening situation, I have recommended separation. I have witnessed several times the very life of a mother and her children in jeopardy by a husband completely out of control. I never suggested divorce but a period of separation and even legal restraint to prevent an even more horrible situation. Keep in mind; these marriages were never scripturally what they should be. It is not my purpose here to deal with these type problems. You reap what you sow; and in many cases, I have found myself in the middle of somebody's harvest with the crop coming in, and no preacher was gonna' do a thing about it.

By the way, for all you people who want your rights. It should be noted the equality Jesus clearly teaches concerning this subject – Sin is Sin. There are no exceptions for male/female, husband or wife. Jesus does not nor never did condone sin. He always confronted sin. Men and women then have the choice to deal with it. Repentance and forgiveness was the message. Without question, men and women alike are accountable. Women were not property to be discarded at will. Men too had biblical teaching to clearly guide. Both husband and wife can find that path of success

and happiness in Ephesians 5:21-33.

“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge” Hebrews 13:4. Take care of doing right yourself. God **will take care of the rest.** **On your time schedule – No, in His time. We are to** “Be still and know Him” Ps. 46:10. If we “wait upon the Lord” we have His promise. (Ps 27:14, Isa. 40:31, Rom. 8:25-31) If you rush ahead of the Lord in anger, hurt and revenge, you only heap to yourself guilt in the matter. I have seen this – one partner is unfaithful and the other then decides, “Two can play this game” and pursues an extramarital relationship as means of vengeance; or immediately files for divorce and does everything possible to make life miserable through legal avenues for the husband/wife that has sinned. Who exactly is the innocent party here? (Rarely is there one). **“Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so”** Matt 19:8. Matthew Henry states, “...none can wish to have the liberty of divorce, without virtually owning the hardness of their hearts.”

So what about remarriage?

(Continued on page 22)

Fornication is the scriptural ground for divorce according to Christ in Matt. 19:9. In event of death, the surviving partner is free to marry. For example, Paul says in I Cor. 7:39, “The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.” Death permits the believer to again marry but only to another believer. Paul also says it is a “happier” state to not marry again.

The Law of Moses allowed divorce for hardness of heart, but the law of Christ forbids it expecting love and reconciliation. Christ permits (not commands) divorce on grounds of fornication, while Moses called for punishment by death. Please don't miss the heart of what Christ is teaching.

If the husband loves his wife and the wife reverences her husband, living together in this bond of grace, there is no need of divorce. The Pharisees tempting Jesus said, “Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause.” Jesus was confronted with men who had a heart problem. Marriage problems are heart problems. Divorce is a heart problem. “The Law of Moses considered the hardness of men's hearts, but the gospel of Christ

cures it; and His grace takes away the heart of stone, and gives a heart of flesh. By the law was the knowledge of sin, but by the gospel was the conquest of it,” *Matthew Henry*.

Yes, I understand Christ permitted divorce on grounds of fornication. No, I do not believe Christ is teaching remarriage in cases of divorce due to fornication. Divorce for causes other than fornication and marrying another is clearly committing adultery. In response the disciples said, “...If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry” Matt. 19:10. Some may say, “If I'm locked into this thing of marriage like you are describing Jesus, I would be better off not to marry in the first place.” Matthew 19:12 states that some are eunuchs at birth, some made eunuchs by men and some choose to be for the Kingdom. But not all are able to receive this, indeed few can. Therefore, those who choose to marry also choose the commitment and responsibility. Buck up. Be a man, be a woman and accept the God given privilege as well as duty of fidelity in marriage. Quit your whining about rights, equality and fairness. Get to work and enjoy the blessed fruits of faithfulness to God and see what He can do in your marriage. Someone said marriage

is made in heaven, but the husband and wife are responsible for the earthly maintenance.

I hear you – you disagree. So do many of my preacher friends. So do many scholars and commentaries. Can we possibly agree on the following?

1. Jesus permits divorce in case of fornication – **Agreed?**
2. If someone gets a divorce and marries another, except for fornication, that person commits adultery – **Agreed?**
3. In marriage does the man and woman (twain) become one flesh? – **Agreed?**
4. Is it true, “What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.” – **Agreed?**
5. In most wedding ceremonies (Christian weddings) the vows go something like this: For better, for worse...For richer, for poorer...In sickness and in health...To love, and to cherish ‘til death do us part. – **Agreed?**
6. God designed marriage to be a picture of the relationship between Christ and His church—Ephesians 5:32 – **Agreed?**

Now we may agree to disagree – Agreed?

The only ground for divorce is fornication. The only ground for

remarriage is the death of the mate. Jesus did not give permission for remarriage in case of fornication. It is true He states that divorce is permitted only in the case of fornication. And it is true that Jesus said to divorce one’s husband or wife except for cause of fornication and remarry was to commit adultery. However, Jesus did not give a wholesale endorsement of remarriage for those whose mate is a fornicator.

Too long has the church and pastors played a situation game with the scriptures. “He/she did this, then she/he did that and therefore the Bible says thus and so.” No, no, a thousand times no. “Thus saith the Lord,” and that settles it. We must not analyze the scriptures in light of our sordid circumstances.

1) They divorce on unbiblical grounds; but now that he remarried, she is free to remarry because he committed adultery. No!

2) She committed fornication so he has a biblical right to divorce, remarry and get on with life. No! Where is prayer, fasting and waiting on the Lord? What happened to forgiveness and reconciliation? If the church, let alone individual believers would get right with God and His Word, the power needed to rebuke sin would be available. If the guilty refuses to repent and

(Continued on page 24)

be delivered, then should not the church “deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus?” I Cor. 5:5. However, there is so much of the world in the church today that the church has no power to “deliver such an one,” period!

“But the Lord can’t solve these problems. My husband/wife has deeply hurt me. They deserve to be punished. I did no wrong, I deserve to be happy.” On and on the confusion goes, and the further we get from true biblical Christianity. “...Men ought always to pray, and not to faint;” Luke 18:1. If storm winds blow upon our marriage, the night has never been so dark, the valley so deep - we can, and we must Trust GOD! Pray and don’t faint. Divorce, at least divorce and remarriage, may be the ultimate fainting spell. It need not be. No, I cannot condone divorce and remarriage, regardless the grounds. As a preacher, I will not perform the ceremony for an individual divorced wanting to remarry. I simply cannot get peace about such. There are many more scriptures I would like to discuss, but must encourage the reader to “study to shew thyself approved...”

Since this scripture was brought

to my attention, I will conclude with these comments. It has already been stated that, “The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.” I Cor. 7:39. But what about I Cor. 7:15 where it says, “...if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace?” So if in verse 39 the wife is not bound after death; is that not true in verse 15 when it says, “...not under bondage...?” Please note that verse 15 is talking about a believer married to an unbeliever. This could be due to one individual getting saved and the mate remaining unsaved. The unbeliever then decides to leave his or her saved mate. Then the saved spouse “is not under bondage.” The Greek word for bondage in verse 15 means to enslave – bring into bondage and is different from the word used in verse 39 for bound. Bound means to bind or be in bonds. In other words if the unbeliever leaves, the believer is not brought into bondage to force a marriage relationship to further peril. The hope is verse 16. Of course death releases the surviving spouse and they are no longer bound. Verse 39.

Dear reader, what a joy to be a

child of the King, joint heirs with Jesus Christ. What a privilege in our marriages and families to be a living, daily demonstration of Christ and the Church. “What He hath joined together let not man put asunder.” But Bro. Ronnie, I’m divorced – I’m divorced and remarried. Let me say here that whatever the past, whatever the sin, get it under the blood. “He is faithful and just...” I John 1:9. There is victory in Jesus. Then commit your all to Him and live according to His Word.

Now just a note to pastors, ordaining counsel, etc. If you take this position, you will not have to worry about showing favoritism to a deacon’s daughter who is divorced and wants you to perform the ceremony for her remarriage. If for some reason you don’t think the remarriage is right, then you will lose a deacon and family. Preach this position, and they do not even ask you. Or how about ordaining preachers and deacons who have been divorced and remarried. I have seen groups continually rehash case after case and inevitably create division and bad feelings. Why? Because we are trying to judge each individual situation and not simply take a stand on the Word. If you allow yourself to be trapped in a personality or respecter of persons’ game, everyone is a loser. Preach

it; spell it out, and with love take a stand. It is certain to relieve a lot of headache!

(Next Issue - Part II – Divorce and Remarriage: The Shocking and Bold)

-RLW



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

The order and choice of words can sometimes turn from serious into hilarious.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.

Sam Jones and Beth Smith were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

The Peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.

Announcement in the church bulletin for a National PRAYER and FASTING Conference: “The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.”



because a young man has come on the scene or a wrong friend has gotten involved. I have lost count over the years of the number of parents who have called with broken hearts, explaining the shocking behavior of a child that prior to this aberrant behavior had been a model of Christian testimony. Now some of them are living, dressing, and acting like the world in every aspect of their life. Christian workers such as pastors, Christian schoolteachers, deacons, missionaries, etc., are surely not exempt from what I have described above. I have a long list of such families for whom I am praying that their errant child would quickly come to the "pig pen" so that they would come to themselves, repent of their wicked sin, and return to their God-ordained authority. The old Puritans had a right understanding of this phenomenon. Whenever they stepped into a pulpit, they always did so with the perception that they were preaching to the professing church, but not necessarily a possessing church. This added urgency and weight to their message that otherwise would have been attenuated had they believed that all of

their hearers were in a right relationship with the Lord, simply because of their profession. This situation ought not to surprise us inasmuch as our Lord Himself had a Judas Iscariot among His disciples. Here was a man who lived in intimate fellowship with the Son of God for over three years, hearing soul-stirring preaching and teaching and even witnessing miraculous healing and sign miracles, and who yet hardened his heart to the point of reprobation. What is surprising in this awful picture is that the other disciples had no idea concerning the condition of Judas' heart! As evidence of this complete lack of spiritual perception concerning Judas' true nature, they elected him as the treasurer of their group. Therefore, we ought to more earnestly pray for those that we know and love lest an audible profession lull us into a sense of complacency concerning their true relationship with the Lord. I believe it is this spiritual problem that the ancient patriarch, Job, had in mind when he continually sacrificed on behalf of his sons and daughters, lest they have secret sin in their hearts toward the Lord.

CHANGE OF WORDS -
Imagine that your child's class

started with the striking of a Tibetan sensing bowl to “induce mindful awareness.” Such is the case at Piedmont Avenue Elementary School, where the 5th graders are doing such exercises as closing their eyes and focusing on their breathing trying to imagine “loving kindness” on the playground. Alex Menton, an 11 year old in the class, said, “I was losing at baseball and I was about to throw a bat. The mindfulness really helped.” Miss Megan, the “mindful” coach, visited every classroom at Piedmont Avenue, conducting 15-minute sessions. Dr. Amy Saltzman, a physician in Palo Alto, CA, three years ago started the Association for Mindfulness in Education. She thinks of mindfulness education as “talk yoga.” Dr. Saltzman said that the initial findings of a mindfulness study at Stanford, which she conducted, showed an increased control of attention and “less negative internal chatter—what one girl described as ‘the gossip inside my head: I’m stupid, I’m fat or I’m going to fail math.’” Diana Winston, who is the director of mindfulness education at UCLA, said, “Just because kids sit and listen to the bell doesn’t necessarily mean they’ll be more kind.” www.thebereancall.org

7/31/07

www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org



TEST FOR WITCHES -

The Berean Call (8/6/07) also tells us of how in Salem, Mass., the people who want to practice fortune telling are soon going to be required to pass a test. City counselors would like candidates to undergo a criminal background check and either live or run a business in Salem for at least one year. Laurie Cabot, the official witch of Salem, would like the city to go even further than that. “It’s become a free-for-all. Anyone who says they’re psychic can come into the city. We don’t even know where they come from. We don’t know their qualifications,” she said. Barbara Szafranske, an owner of Angelica of the Angels, speaking to the city council said, “There has to be criteria or you’re going to get garbage coming here. Everybody here is a legitimate person who’s worked for years and years. When you do a reading, you hold a person’s life right in your hands. We have people come to us who are willing to commit suicide, who won’t go to a psychiatrist, so they come to us.”

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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 New Testament Church "Mathematics" is addition and multiplication. The results are clear and the Lord's blessing is obvious. So in these closing weeks of 2007, 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 laborers together in this urgent Harvest.

I must extend a huge THANK YOU for the excellent response to the July/August letter. By far the gifts and support surpassed the previous five years average summer giving.

Please continue to pray for The Voice in the Wilderness. Watch up coming reports on travel to India and other missionary endeavors. Thanks for everything and God Bless!



Happy Trails!
For Christ and Souls,

Ronnie L. Williamson
Isa. 40:31

WORK EVALUATION

Attention: The following "Evaluation" is issued by Heaven for all believers. Your response is requested immediately and eternal rewards will be issued based on individual faithfulness.

Productivity 0-100% _____

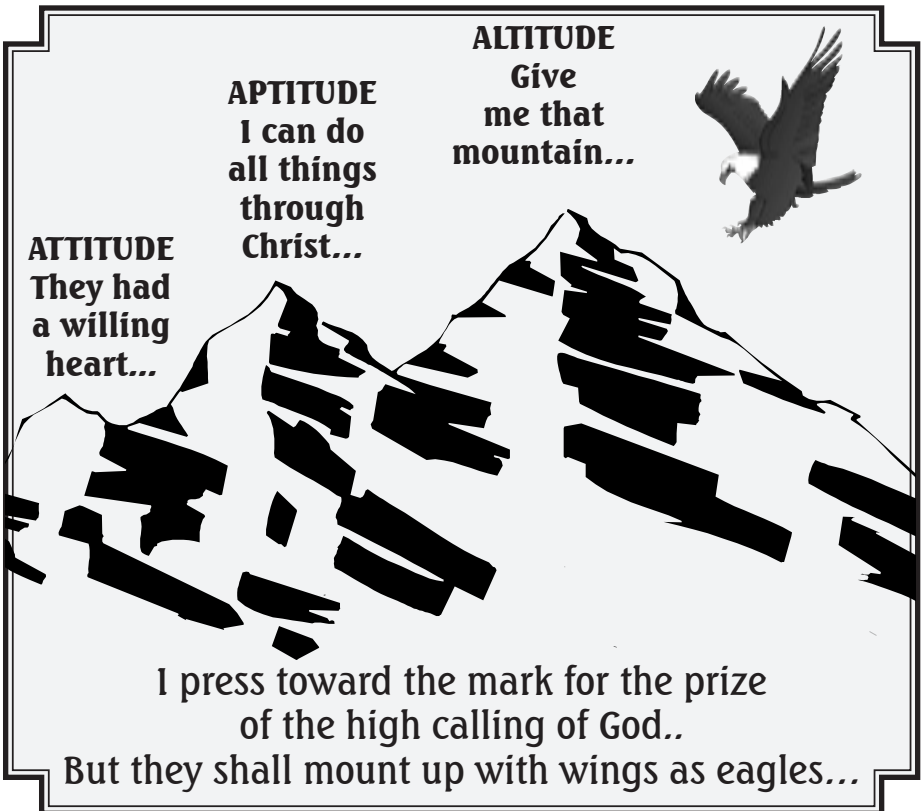
Tool Utilization 0-100% _____

Quality Control 0-100% _____

The *Quran* is our constitution. Jihad is our way. And death in the way of Allah is our promised end.” Debbie Almontaser, who was to be the school’s first principal, is known for her left wing and anti-American comments. The school will eventually have grades 6-12. www.cnsnews.com 8/29/07

DIPLOMATIC DELIGHT - In 1997 and 2002, Elvira Arellano was deported from the United States for being here illegally. The Mexican native would like President Felipe Caladron to make

her an Ambassador for Peace and Justice so that she can return to the US under a diplomatic visa. “What I’m asking for is a diplomatic visa so that I can be an ambassador for peace and justice because I’m not a terrorist, and the United States can’t continue treating undocumented migrants as terrorists,” said Mrs. Arellano. The last time that Mrs. Arellano was deported, she had to leave her 8-year-old son in the United States. Some in the Chicago area may recognize her name because she and her son sought sanctuary at the Adalberto United Methodist Church in 2006. www.irnnews.com 8/30/07



(Continued from page 17)

- the first marriage to be put down in the records of Roxbury, Massachusetts. For sixty years this good minister was settled over Roxbury church.

But his heart yearned over the Indians. He believed that they had souls to be saved, and he felt that he must tell them of the Saviour. It was not easy to win them at first, but the minister was so kind and friendly that by and by the red men became devoted to him. Across the country he went, once a fortnight, as you know, riding on horseback to preach to his Indians. One after another he formed more settlements of Praying Indians. He taught them other things besides the Bible. He showed them how to raise crops, to build bridges, to

make houses and homes, and how to clothe themselves properly. He made them comfortable, and by getting help from others, he made it possible for them to work, and to live as did their civilized brothers.

The red men had a government of their own among themselves, and it was wonderful how well they got on. Mr. Eliot was forty-one when he began to preach to them. In fourteen years there were thirty-six hundred Praying Indians. The government set apart six thousand acres of land for them.

After preaching a while, and explaining the Word of God, Mr. Eliot thought that these people ought to have the Bible in their own language. A very strange language it was, and hard to learn, but the

GOSPEL ABC'S

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

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

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

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

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

"**B**elievest thou this?"

Confess with thy mouth...

Call in Faith...

Commit your heart, your all... Romans 10:9, 13

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

good minister was not discouraged by that. He had the help of an Indian, taken captive in the Pequot War, in the work of translation. It was finished and printed in 1663, and was the very first Bible ever printed in America. Later, a revised version was printed at an expense of nine hundred pounds. Mr. Eliot gave towards this from his own small salary, the rest of the money coming from England. There are very few copies of this Indian Bible to be found now. One sold for five hundred and fifty pounds a while ago in England. Some words had to be supplied; the Indians had no word for “salt,” nor for “Amen.”

Three years after the first printing of the Bible the busy missionary printed the grammar for the Indians. At the end of it he wrote this sentence which has become historic everywhere: “Prayer and pains, through faith in Jesus Christ, will do anything.” Do you not wish to stop right here, and say that over, until you know it by heart? Please do. It will help you.

There are only fourteen or fifteen copies of the first edition of this grammar now to be found.

Mr. Eliot had a salary of only sixty pounds for his work in Roxbury and fifty for his Indian work, but he was one of the most generous men that ever lived. One

time the treasurer, on giving him the money then due, tied it up in a handkerchief to keep him from giving away any of it. Visiting a poor family on the way home, and wishing to help them, the minister found the knots too hard to untie, and gave the kerchief to the mother, saying, “God must have meant it all for you.”

He died in 1690, at the age of eighty-six, but is still unforgettten.

-*Fifty Missionary Heroes*



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 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!

