



# The Voice IN THE Wilderness



*"The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight."*

Mark 1:3

CONTENDING FOR  
FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIANITY

Published Monthly  
Free Subscription

CONTENDING FOR  
AMERICAN FREEDOM

January 2005

## A YEAR of PRAISE

O joyful heart, O song of praise  
To Him who's worthy, my voice I raise.  
My Saviour God, who reigns a-bove  
For Thee I stand, my God is LOVE!

Bless the Lord, my soul is thrilled  
With His great LOVE, all hopes are filled.  
From stars above, to the earth below  
No greater joy could man e'er know.

So tick on time, and calendar turn  
'Cause for sure this truth I've learned.  
Can't go wrong, will always be right  
In Thee, thy will is my heart's delight.

-RLW

### A TRIBUTE TO

"Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of His saints."  
Psalm 116:15



### DR. A.W. JACOB

"We are confident, I say, and  
willing rather to be absent from  
the body, and to be present with  
the Lord." II Corinthians 5:8



# MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU



*Dr. A.W. Jacob – Medical Doctor and Director of Good Samaritan Orphanage in Kavali, India, for The Voice in the Wilderness ministry. We extend our love and prayers to Mrs. Jacob and family after the “Homegoing” of Dr. Jacob on Tuesday, November 23, 2004*



Dear Friends:

Hemanth Kumar phoned to inform me of Dr. A.W. Jacob's passing on Tuesday, November 23, 2004. My wife and I were in

Delhi, India, preparing to return to the states. Pastor Patel and Brother Babu were with us and Babu made arrangements for The Voice in the Wilderness to have flowers delivered to the Jacob home. I believe Dr.

Jacob was 85 and had served The Voice in the Wilderness ministry as director of Good Samaritan Orphanage in Kavali, India, from the founding of the Orphanage ministry. Dr. Jacob had been ill for some time, and we praise the Lord that “to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord” means no more sickness or pain. Thank God for Heaven and the blessed assurance of that glad reunion day. Our prayers and yes, rejoicing go out to Mrs. Jacob and family for the full life and testimony of Dr. Jacob. While in India, we discussed the future of Good Samaritan Orphanage and the Lord has given us an open door for the furtherance of this ministry for His Glory. Pray for this work and our friends in Kavali, India.

*(Continued on page 15)*

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 and schools, supporting the American missionaries and native pastors, providing needy students with room and board, administering medical and dental services free, and preaching Christ to the lost. We are supported by the gifts of those who care. All gifts designated by missions will go directly without any deductions. 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 the 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 Voice in the Wilderness, P.O. Box 7037, Asheville, NC 28802.

# My First Trip to India



*In Chicago's O'Hare Airport, Sister Williamson makes her way through the terminal with the American flag along beside many other nations displayed overhead. The world globe is suspended in the middle, but also notice the "Golden Arches" on the signage.*

Terry Williamson  
November 2004

After seven years of reading letters, seeing pictures and video, listening to my husband talk about the dear people of India, 2004 was now to be my year to go and visit this field of ministry that The Voice in the Wilderness has been involved



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

*Write to us*

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

P.O. Box 7037  
Asheville, NC 28802  
Voice (828) 649-1043  
Fax (828) 649-9784

in for over 25 years.

Approximately 2 o'clock on a Thursday morning our plane landed in New Delhi, India. We cleared customs with our luggage and then headed out to find our driver. The airport was crowded with others waiting to greet passengers. Ronnie spotted a sign that read, "MR. WILLIAMSON" so we headed in that direction. A very good friend, Sukumaran, had taken care of our arrangements for travel and accommodations.

We rested a bit in New Delhi and then prepared to head for Agra, India, our ultimate destination. Pastor Nirmal David, wife, and son, soon met us at our hotel with a car and driver. I enjoyed meeting this precious family and appreciated so very much them coming to greet us. Pastor David traveled with us along our journey to Agra for our meetings.

Now, I know, I will not be able to

explain this road trip to Agra in words that will convey the experience I was to have, but I'll try. To me, traveling by vehicle of any kind (car, horse-drawn cart, scooter, bicycle, bus, truck, and camel) was "chaotic." It seemed no rules of stop and go were in place, no following your side of the marked lanes, or any other traffic order was being used, just a lot of horn blowing!!! I found myself just sitting with my fist clenched trying not to look out the front of the car at oncoming objects. The side window view was all I was able to handle. Then, to my amazement, after about an hour, I did begin to relax a little and discover that somehow traffic was moving and we were indeed heading to our destination all in one, safe, piece. The Lord had blessed us with Pastor David who had arranged for an excellent driver.

After arriving safely, we got a bite to eat at our motel, freshened up and then waited downstairs for someone from Faith Church to pick us up and take us for the night service and a prayer meeting.

Upon arrival at church, the greatest joy and blessing I was to experience began. Ronnie had invited and provided for all the

*(Continued on page 4)*

## IS GOD'S WORK IN YOUR WILL?

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

## My First Trip to India

*(Continued from page 3)*

expenses to be paid by The Voice in the Wilderness for one representative of each of our ministries to travel to Agra for a special time of training and fellowship. I had the pleasure of meeting each of these men and had a personal “in-touch” contact now with the years of pictures, videos, and letters.

Over the next few days, I sat in classes and listened as these men were taught God’s Word. Sound doctrine and teaching principles were heavily emphasized. From Bro. Ronnie to Pastor Patel, these dear India men heard over and over that our Lord God and Saviour was not just the God for America, but the One and same God for India and the entire world. They were taught to trust and turn to the Lord Jesus Christ to lead, guide, and meet their needs.

It seemed our time was short and soon we were saying our good-byes. Finally, I had faces on a personal level to help me to better pray for our India ministries. Yes, I knew going to India I would see overwhelming poverty, dirt, dust, poor living conditions, and perhaps strange foods and such, but God showed me Christian believers with warmth, smiles, hospitality, and such a graciousness, that I will always cherish and never forget.



*Ten of The Voice in the Wilderness pastors and faithful workers traveled hundreds of miles to meet with Brother and Sister Williamson in Agra. We appreciate their effort to make this special time of planning and encouragement profitable.*

*Special appreciation goes to Pastor Patel and Faith Church for their hospitality. The Lord has blessed them with beautiful facilities in the city and at the village church.*



*Brother and Sister Williamson shared the vision of The Voice in the Wilderness with our men during a productive visit at Faith Church. A great challenge was extended, and by faith we trust these men will step through the open doors of opportunity.*

*(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4)

Thank God for the faithful preachers and missionaries who have sacrificed to carry the gospel message to the lost multitudes around the world. Brother Hemant Patel, his dear wife and their sons left the comforts of America to do our Lord's will in India. Brother and Sister Williamson had the privilege to join Pastor Patel's congregation in preaching and worship as the Saviour continues to do a mighty work at Faith Church. The Lord's House was full as His people enthusiastically assembled as they do several times each week. Every Sunday is a "BIG DAY" at Faith Church. Pastor Tim Rabon preached Sunday morning with a fruitful altar call. Along with several staff members from Raleigh, it was a joy to share in the wonderful services at Faith Church.



Jesus Loves the Little Children – Pastor Patel and Pastor Mani Thomas lead the young people in singing the great songs of faith.



It was indeed a joy to see and hear these precious children sing of their love for Jesus - If only the parents in many of our American churches could witness the orderly behaviour and enthusiastic participation of these precious children.



An amazing structure with a sad story. No doubt the Taj Mahal is an incredible work of architecture, as well as, quite a feat in construction. Yet, it is the tomb of the dead. The Moslem Mogul who built the Taj for his favorite wife watched its completion from a small prison window. The Mogul, grief stricken by the death of his favorite wife, was then imprisoned by his own son.

(Continued on page 6)

## India

(Continued from page 5)

*On the distant horizon up the “holy river” the grief stricken Mogul watches his wife’s tomb being completed through the prison window created by his own son’s revolution. Thank God, the children of the Saviour worship in the church of the “Living” not imprisoned in the jail of hopelessness with nothing to view but the tomb of the dead.*



*The world is at the door of Chicago’s O’Hare Airport. From the golden arch in Chicago to Ronald McDonald’s in India, America’s fast food giant has found a way to carry its message and product around the world. What a challenge for preachers of the gospel to go from Jerusalem to the uttermost with the precious gospel of Jesus Christ. Have we been as active and diligent about planting churches around the world as have some business enterprises in establishing their corner on the money market? McDonald’s, along with CocaCola, Pepsi, Pizza Hut, and many other companies have created a successful market in India as well as around the world. Note the Hindi language on the signage in the background.*

*A special “thank-you” is extended to Brother Babu, his wife and family, for their help in organizing this year’s meetings. In 2003 Brother Babu traveled with Brother Williamson to many of The Voice in the Wilderness ministries assisting with translation and meetings. We are praying for Brother Babu and his ministry in India.*



*It was a joy to visit once again with Brother Baba. Our Lord’s miracle in the life of this precious man, his wife, son (pictured here with Brother and Sister Williamson) and many family members and fellow villagers is amazing. (Please see story on next page!)*



# SHIV NARAYAM

It was one of those hot, dusty days in Agra, India, and God had a divine appointment for his preacher. Pastor Hemant Patel and one of his men, Bro. Thomas, were passing out tracts and sharing the gospel with people along the street. Typically, they would go into the city where there were hundreds of thousands of people to witness to, but that was not the direction the Lord would lead on that day. As they walked out of the city into the rural area, they met a man who rejected their gospel witness but said he knew someone who might be interested. The man led the two preachers to a village to meet a Hindu named Shiv Narayam. Friends and family affectionately referred to this Hindu man as Baba. This was the fortieth day of fasting and prayer for Baba. His Hindu religion had not given him the peace that he was searching for. As Baba looked at one of his Hindu gods, a dog walked by and urinated on the idol. "How could a god allow a dog to do this?" Baba thought in disgust. For forty days Baba would fast and pray for the truth – to know the true God.

Is God real, would He hear

and answer? On the fortieth day of the fast, heaven sent an ambassador halfway around the world to a remote village in India, hidden in the darkest of spiritual night, oppressed by the worst of poverty's woes, and chained to religions slavery. Bro. Patel and his family had left the comforts and ease of America and moved to one of the most hostile challenges imaginable. Unless you have been there, seen it with your own eyes, smelled it, tasted it, heard it, felt it – my, how all the senses are taken to the limit in India. Words, photographs, nor video describe the oppression. Even after several years of traveling to India now, it's still hard to believe a country and its people can survive such conditions. Over one billion people living in ways most reading these words can never in your wildest imagination conceive.

Bro. Patel and Bro. Thomas should have turned and walked into the city where millions needed the gospel literature that they were distributing. However, they had a divine appointment – walking away from the city and into the rural village along the breath-

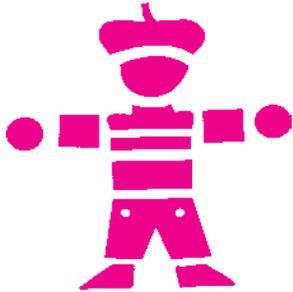
taking dusty road in a humble dwelling, the Lord introduced them to Baba. On his fortieth day of fasting, two missionaries now present the One, True and Living God, Jesus Christ to this dear, searching Hindu man. You can believe Hell was not happy. As a matter of fact, the water buffalo, a prized and valued possession of any Indian villager, almost went berserk. Typically this domesticated beast is very docile, but on this occasion, the demons prodded him along trying to disrupt the gospel opportunity. Bro. Patel said, "Here I was about to be attacked, gored, or worse by this buffalo, and my family didn't even know where I was." However, the Lord knew and was in control of all the details. For on this day, the One, True and Living God was bringing His Light to this precious seeking soul.

As a result of Shiv Baba receiving Christ, many members of his family have been saved and baptized. Possibly, thousands have been contacted with the gospel message, along with two churches planted, and many home Bible studies established. This is truly the story of a modern day miracle!



# NEWS BITS

## FROM HERE AND THERE



### **COCOA BEANS – THE SOURCE OF CHOCOLATE AND HOT COCOA – A VALUED COMMODITY**

– It's war in the West African country of the Ivory Coast. France was the long time colonial power in the Ivory Coast and until recently as many as 14,000 French citizens lived there. A civil war that has been building in recent years embroiled the French earlier when a French base was bombed by the Ivory Coast air force. The French military retaliated by destroying the West African nation's modest collection of air force aircraft.

The French have had some authority conferred upon them by the U.N. to conduct military operations in separating the country's two warring factions: Christian government forces versus Muslim rebels. But lately French officials have been anxious to reduce their country's military profile and would like to bring in peacekeeping forces from other nations to take their place. Sound familiar?

We'll give the French the benefit of the doubt that they're not after the African nation's resources of cocoa beans and coffee, since until

recently they had been preoccupied with plundering Iraqi oil with the assistance of Saddam Hussein and corrupt UN officials. However, it does seem ironic to watch French President Jacques Chirac denounce the Ivory Coast presidential regime 18 months after showing support for the murderous regime of Saddam Hussein.

*NewsCentral.tv/point 11/30-04*

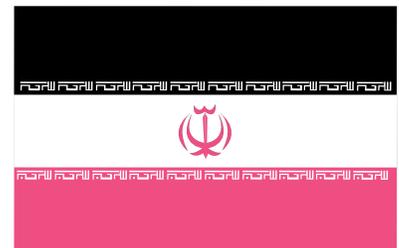


### **WESTERN MEDIA CHARGED WITH ISSUING "MISINFORMATION"**

– In a report from WorldNetDaily.com 11/20/04 an Iraqi archbishop contended there is no substantial organized resistance among the people and charged the Western media with issuing "misinformation" about his country by focusing only on terrorism carried out largely by foreigners. Chaldean Archbishop Louis Sako of Kirkuk said in an interview with AsiaNews that it's "not all death and destruction" in Iraq, with many anticipating elections as an opportunity for a new beginning.

"Much is positive in Iraq today," he said. "Universities are operating, schools are open, and people go

out onto the streets normally." He insisted, "there is no organized resistance" among Iraqis. "Those who commit such violence are resisting against Iraqis who want to build their country. Iraqis instead are resisting against terrorism and are not carrying out attacks, which instead are the work of foreign infiltrators." Saudis, Jordanians, Syrians, and Sudanese have entered Iraq to fight against coalition forces, he said. And clearly, there are also Iraqi collaborators who, for money, help the terrorist hide. However, the elections in January are an opportunity for a new start, a "new Iraq," he told AsiaNews, but the "Western newspapers and broadcasters are simply peddling propaganda and misinformation." "Why is there so much noise and debate coming out from the West when before, under Saddam, there were no free elections, but no one said a thing?" Sako asked.



**IRAN** – Iran agreed to suspend all uranium enrichment activities pending long-term negotiations with Britain, France, and Germany over the purpose and scope of its nuclear program. But in a closed-door session

*(Continued on page 9)*

(Continued from page 8)

in Tehran, conservative mullahs took the chief negotiator to task for acceding to Western demands. "It is not up to the Europeans to decide over our nuclear program or grant us the right to pursue nuclear projects," said Ahmad Tavakoli, member of parliament and a leading critic of the agreement. [We best keep an eye on this one!] *WORLD 11/27/04*

### POST-ELECTION SELECTION TRAUMA –

Okay, here we go! The American Health Association has coined a new term and is developing a counseling program for angry and depressed supporters of losing presidential nominee John Kerry. A Florida trauma specialist, Douglas Schooler, told the Boca Raton News, "They were emotionally paralyzed, shocked, and devastated." Thus the AHA has named this problem, "post-election selection trauma."



### 2 MILLION ILLEGAL ALIENS THIS CENTURY

– The Washington Times 12/5/04 reported a 13 percent increase of U.S. immigrants, more than 4 million since 2000. This includes more than 2 million illegal aliens, who now total about 10 million or 30 percent of the immigrant population, according to a report by Steven Camarota, CIS director of research. Maryland was among the eight

states with the largest increases in immigrant population, along with Texas, Georgia, North Carolina, New Jersey, Washington, Arizona and Pennsylvania. CIS, a private research organization that seeks better immigration enforcement, said in the report that the 34.24 million immigrants, both legal and illegal, now in the United States is the highest number ever recorded in American history. It said about half, or 2 million, of the 4.3 million increase since 2000 is estimated to be illegal aliens. The report showed there are roughly 9 million illegal aliens now in the United States.

The report came just two days after President Bush assured Mexico he would expend "political capital" earned in his re-election to push hard to grant temporary guest-worker status to millions of illegal immigrants now in the United States."



### LITTLE BITS OF MEDICAL NEWS

- \$561 is how much a private room in a nursing home in Alaska costs a day.....68 cents is how much it costs to produce and mail each Social Security check.....A strong, new cement may be the answer to repairing bones broken or weakened by diseases like osteoporosis. Surgeons have used calcium phosphate cement since the 1980s, but researchers recently discovered that the cement could be made more than three times stronger by adding sodium citrate.....Penn

State University study of women 60 and older show nearly half of this healthy group deficit in iron. Breathlessness and fatigue, as well as, frequent infections and problems with concentrating were symptoms in the deficit group. Namanjeet Ahluwalia, who led the study, suggests women drink orange juice with meals to boost the absorption of iron from chicken, fish, red meat, beans and iron-fortified breads and cereals. But she adds that women shouldn't start iron supplements without first consulting a doctor. *AARP Bulletin November 2004*



### Nuggets of Gold

1. Everyone is wise until he opens his mouth.
2. There is no crisis to which academics will not respond with a seminar.
3. An error doesn't become a mistake until you refuse to correct it.
4. Teacher: "Bobby, how do you like school?"  
Bobby: "When it's closed."
5. Sometimes criticism is nothing but a mild form of envy.
6. Forget the past; no man has yet backed into success.
7. Wisdom is one treasure that no thief can touch.
8. An empty tomb proves Christianity; an empty church denies it.
9. Learning is like rowing upstream, not to advance is to drop back.
10. When opportunity knocks, a grumbler complains about the noise.



# RELIGIOUS NEWS

## AND COMMENTS

### HOW COULD NEANDERTHAL MAN BE "TOO" ADVANCED FOR EVOLUTION?

– In southern France, they recently found evidence of human habitation hundreds of feet deep within a cave. What makes this find so important is that it's been dated as the earliest signs of humans in Europe. Only the Neanderthals were thought to be the inhabitants of Europe at that time.

What they found in the cave was astonishing for such so-called "primitive" people. They found a "complex quadrilateral artificial structure consisting of specially arranged pieces of stalactite and stalagmite." Also found was a piece of burned bear bone.

Now for the problem. The items were so deep in the cave, that the people would have had to have some kind of artificial light, such as a fire, torch or lamp. Also, the structure they found was so complex, it would have required the builders to be able to communicate with each other.

Such language skill and technological know-how easily fits the creationist understanding of Neanderthals. They were a line of early humans living after the Flood and descended from Noah—but evolutionists have long held that Neanderthals could not possibly have done these things. Neanderthals may be a problem for the evolutionists, but not for those who believe in Genesis. *Answersingenesis.org 11/27/04*



**PRO-LIFE VICTORY** – Over the November 20-21, 2004 weekend, Congress passed legislation stipulating that state and local governments cannot coerce hospitals, insurers and other health care groups into performing or supporting abortions. The provision expands a federal law stipulating that a doctor can opt out of abortion training. It will deny federal funds to any federal agency, state or local government that discriminates against a health care entity because that entity does not provide, pay for or support abortions. Entities include hospitals, insurers, health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and health care facilities.

*The Washington Times Nov 29-Dec 5, 2004*

### HOW BUSH BECAME A RELIGIOUS ZEALOT IN HIS CRITICS' EYES

– George W. Bush, a man with deep Christian convictions, invariably includes Jews and Muslims when he speaks of religion, and welcomes the "faith of every person." He even goes the extra mile for agnostics and atheists. The day after he claimed a second term, Bush volunteered that people with no faith are just as American as

he is. "No president," Bush declared, "should ever try to impose religion on our society." But that is precisely what a sizable number of his critics accuse him of doing. In significant quarters of the nations and overseas, Bush provokes suspicion that, in its most exaggerated form, see a zealot in the Oval Office – one intent on remaking his country and the world. What's at work here? The historical record shows Bush's language on God and faith is like that of most presidents – and perhaps more temperate. *Rios, "religion News Service," 11/24/04 via The Berean Call* Unfortunately for Mr. Bush, our society has decayed to the point that any reference to deity (and consequently accountability) cannot be tolerated by those whose mantra is "tolerance."



### PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION ACT

– Earlier this year a lone U.S. District Judge rules that the Partial-Birth Abortion Act, which was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bush last fall, was unconstitutional because it "poses an undue burden on a woman's right to choose an abortion." Federal judges in New York and Nebraska issued similar rulings, blocking enforcement

*(Continued on page 11)*

(Continued from page 10)

of the Act pending the outcome of anticipated constitutional challenges.

“One unaccountable judge should not be allowed to usurp the will of the American people, especially when exhaustive factual findings clearly indicate that this horrific procedure is never medically necessary,” said Brad Dacus, President of the Pacific Justice Institute. Our organization gladly stands with those who are fighting to preserve the sanctity of human life and have now filed an amicus brief in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit U.S. District courts of Appeal. Decisions on the cases are expected early in the 2005 new year. [info@pacificjustice.org](mailto:info@pacificjustice.org)  
11/17/04

**THE “SELLING” OF ISLAM**

– Two limousines pulled up outside the United Artists theater in Brooklyn Heights. There was no red carpet, not even a poster announcing the film that opened there and at 92 other theaters

around the country.

But for thousands of Muslims who flocked to those theaters, the American premiere of the animated feature “Muhammad: the Last Prophet,” was unquestionably a landmark cultural event. The 90-minute movie, which recounts the story of the birth of Islam, began as the dream of a Saudi real estate investor, Muwaffak Alharithy, who said he felt that his children and other Muslim youth had been shortchanged by religious film offerings of Hollywood and decided to remedy the situation himself.

In 1999, Mr. Alharithy hired a veteran director of Hollywood animated films, Richard Rich, whose movies include “The King and I” and “The Fox and the Hound.” Mr. Alharithy said he ultimately spent \$12 million to produce the feature, only to find American distributors hesitant in the aftermath of 9/11. “What we found out in making the film is how little anybody knows about that religion and Muhammad,”

Mr. Rich said in an interview. “Here we thought that this film would at least open doors for that to happen, and then 9/11 seemed to close those doors for a while.”

Both local and national Muslim leaders said they hoped non-Muslims would see the film. Debbie Almontaser, a Brooklyn activist who teaches cultural tolerance in New York City schools and for the organization Women in Islam, said the fact that so many American theaters opened their doors was a good sign.

Dr. James Zogby, president of the Arab American Institute in Washington, said, “Islam is a part of America right now and America is increasingly becoming a part of the Arab and Muslim world.” He added: “This is what globalization is about. It’s not a one-way sell. It’s a two-way sell.” (Elliott, “New York Times,” November 15, 2004) It’s interesting to note that Muslim leaders realize they have to “sell” Islam. *The Berean Call* 11/23/04

**THE IMPORTANCE OF SUNDAY**

One of the Ten Commandments is “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.” That was under the Law; but when Jesus was resurrected on the first day of the week, Sunday, the day itself was changed “Sabbath” to “the Lord’s day,” but the commandment did not change. It is still six days of labor and one of rest.

However, we have mostly made it a day of frolicking and buying. The biggest sports events are on Sunday. The Blue Law has been abolished in almost every state. I am sure the biggest majority of folks you see at Wal-Marts on Sunday are church members.

The First Day of the week was when the Lord’s last Supper was remembered. “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them” (Acts 20:7). The tithe was also to be gathered up on the first day of the week.

It is of importance that we read that the Last Supper and Christ’s second coming are somewhat tied together. “For as oft as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do shew forth the Lord’s death till he come” (1Cor. 11:26). In at least three of the gospels, Jesus made it plain that He would not drink of the cup nor eat of the bread until He do so anew in His Father’s kingdom. There is this one day in the week that the Lord’s second coming and His Supper are closely associated.

Jesus was not only resurrected on the first day of the week (Sunday) but it was on that same day he appeared to Mary. That afternoon two of His disciples were on the road to Emmaus when He appeared to them (Luke 24:15).

It was on the first day of the week (Sunday) that His disciples were gathered together when Jesus suddenly

(Continued on page 15)

# No-Fault(?) Divorce

## Another Perspective

Excuse me, but this issue of divorce continues to come up. Yes, marriage, the sanctity of marriage, a federal amendment and still the homosexual, in your face, law or no law militancy continues the buzz. The subject of divorce as well as divorce and remarriage has been dealt with on numerous occasions in this publication. As recent as February 2004, a lengthy article by this editor was printed. It is available on our website at [www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org](http://www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org).

It is always interesting to hear the comments of those who move in entirely different circles of life. My wife brought the following comments to my attention. This is an excerpt from Michael Reagan's book, *Twice Adopted*. No endorsement here, but just given as information and obviously some very interesting background on this subject.

"Is No-Fault at Fault?" What can we do to prevent kids from being damaged by divorce? Well, the first and most obvious piece of advice is: Don't get a divorce!...

"The problem is that we have made divorce too easy in our society. We have greased the skids of marriage so that it has become easy for people to slide away from their responsibilities, their marriage vows, and their duty to provide a stable, secure home for their children. And

do you know who's responsible for making divorce too easy? Would you believe—Ronald Reagan?

"Until 1969, almost every state in the Union had a fault-based system of divorce laws. (The lone exception was Oklahoma, which introduced no-fault divorce in 1953). Under the fault-based system, a plaintiff (the aggrieved party in the divorce action) had to charge the defendant with certain actions that constituted grounds for divorce. Those grounds might include mental cruelty, physical abuse, desertion, adultery, imprisonment, alcohol or drug addiction, or insanity. Without showing grounds for divorce, no divorce could be granted.

"California's no-fault divorce law was drafted by Assemblyman James A. Hayes and signed into law in 1969 by then-Governor Ronald Reagan. The rest of the nation quickly followed California's lead. By 1974, forty-five states had passed no-fault statutes of their own. By 1985, every state in the union was a no-fault state. According to Judy Parejko, author of *Stolen Vows: The Illusion of No-Fault Divorce and the Rise of the American Divorce Industry*, Assemblyman Hayes "was responsible for doggedly pursuing 'the no-fault divorce' bill because he was facing a divorce and he didn't like the rules at the time. Nowadays,

his actions would be called a conflict of interest.

And why did Ronald Reagan, the pro-family conservative, sign such a law? I believe that some of his reasons were personal. Notice that Dad signed the no-fault divorce law some twenty years after going through his own divorce. His wife, Jane Wyman, had divorced him on grounds of "mental cruelty." Even though listing grounds for divorce was largely a formality, those two words were probably a bitter pill for him to swallow. He wanted to do something to make the divorce process less acrimonious, less contentious, and less expensive.

"Dad later said that he regretted signing the no-fault divorce bill and that he believed it was one of the worst mistakes he ever made in office. That law set in motion one of the worst mistakes he ever made in office. That law set in motion one of the most damaging social experiments in the history of our nation. Not only did the divorce rate skyrocket as a direct result of the no-fault experiment, but divorce conflicts and legal costs remain as ruinous as ever. The acrimony in divorce has simply shifted to different issues. Instead of fighting over who gets blamed for what, couples battle primarily over custody, visitation rights, and child support.

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

“According to a nationwide survey conducted by *The Journal of Marriage and the Family*, the divorce rate soared by 250 percent over a twenty-year period from 1960 to 1980. There is only one factor with nationwide implications that could have caused such a dramatic shift in the divorce rate: the national movement to no-fault divorce.

“Today roughly half of all marriages end in divorce - 40 percent of first marriages (versus 16 percent in 1960), and 60 percent of remarriages. Three-fifths of all divorces affect the lives of minor children. By making divorce easier to obtain, the no-fault divorce laws have created a lucrative ‘divorce industry’ that impoverishes families (including children) while enriching divorce lawyers.”

-*Twice Adopted by Michael Reagan, pp. 42-44.*

Michael Reagan continues with the grievous truth about divorce in America. Sadly, we are talking about the reality in churches across this land. Again, go to *The Voice in the Wilderness* website and read the February 2004 article on the “Disintegration of the Family.” God help us to return to His Word and teach our young people what our Heavenly Father has to say.

As our most recent election in this country concluded, we began hearing that “the people have cast their vote based on *morals*.” May I remind all of us to base our morals on God’s Holy Word. The absolute, unchanging Word. If you base your morals and opinions on anything else, such as man’s opinion, it is evermore changing according to circumstances.

## VISION IN PARTNERSHIP

### Pray! Provide! Participate!

“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.” Paul remembered his precious friends and those who so faithfully supported him in time of need. Paul said he remembered them “...always in every prayer...making request with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ...”

As my wife and I returned from India and began preparation for the first issue of *The Voice in the Wilderness* for 2005, the many open doors of opportunity for this ministry weighed heavy upon my heart. In places of different languages, complex politics and huge financial needs, how will this small work ever rise to such challenges? Well, we cannot do everything, but we can do something – by God’s grace, we will.

In 2005, through this publication, I will share the amazing things our Lord is doing on the mission field through *The Voice in the Wilderness*. Thus far, I have not been at liberty to share some incredible stories. As one brother over 10,000 miles away told me in his broken English, “I perceive that the Holy Spirit has revealed these things to you.” That brother was correct. You will be utterly shocked and at the same time overcome with praise to hear how great things the Lord hath done!

The Psalmist wrote, “...teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” The Spirit has guided with divine wisdom and that has been without a doubt. Now we must continue to walk in His sweet Spirit and press toward the mark for His Glory. In “partnership” together, the vision He has revealed concerning

the mission field of need can see our Lord’s hand in a mighty way. Lord teach us to number our days and not be entangled with the earthly and temporal. May we keep eternity in view.

This “Partnership in Vision” must be consumed with **Prayer** for the salvation of a lost world. The theme of our prayers must rise higher than just request for good health and financial prosperity. Yes, pray for the sick and intercede for needs of all sorts. Yet, the theme of our prayer is for the Lord of the harvest to send forth labourers. The fields are white and we must pray. We must **Provide**. During 2005 *The Voice in the Wilderness* will publish the needs of some of the choicest missionary servants around the world. We must provide as our Lord blesses and prospers His people here in America. God has been so good to US, and around the world our brothers and sisters have so little. Can we not, out of our abundance, supply their lack?

Then, from **Prayer to Provision**, we must **Participate** in the *GO* of the *GOspel*. Young people, professionals, workers, and retirees, can all take up the challenge and *GO* themselves. The door is open, the Lord of the harvest is not only calling, He is sending. Will we say, “Here I am Lord, send me?” Charles Spurgeon said, “When your will is God’s will, you will have your will.” God’s will is for us to **Pray!** God’s will is for us to **Provide!** God’s will is for us to **Participate!** “Vision in Partnership” involves the *prayers, provision and participation* of God’s people. 2005 offers each and everyday, as the Lord wills, great opportunities for those who by faith step up to the challenges. May God help us to be faithful. Amen!



## The Voice IN THE Wilderness

# MISSION SPOTLIGHT



In April 2004, Brother Williamson met with Pastor Ramos and Brother Garcia about the work in Venezuela. It has been a joy to see two new churches planted and winning souls on this needy field. Brother Williamson challenged Pastor Ramos gives the thumbs up for the \$2,000 gift from The Voice in the Wilderness towards the building project. Spanish Pastor, Rudy Aldana from Raleigh, NC, took the funds down to Venezuela on behalf of The Voice in the Wilderness.

Pastor Garcia and his congregation to match The Voice in the Wilderness gift toward their building project. Through the sacrificial gift of The Voice in the Wilderness supporters, The Voice gave in October \$2,000 to help these precious brethren start work on their auditorium.

With tears of joy, Brother Garcia sends, "THANKS" to The Voice in the Wilderness to help these precious supporters for their sacrificial gift and vision for the work in Venezuela. Pictured from left to right are: Pastor Garcia counts out the gift delivered by Pastor Aldana. Venezuelan Missionary Bro. Ramos, Pastor Aldana from Raleigh, NC, one of the leaders from Pastor Garcia's church, Bro. Kintz, and Pastor Garcia.



The following is a letter Pastor Estelvio Garcia and Church sent to The Voice in the Wilderness expressing their thanks.

Dear Friends:

Greetings from Venezuela. Hopefully you find everything good with your ministry.

We want to express our thankfulness for all things you have done for our people, for our continent, for our country, and especially for our church.

Your offering was as the New Testament churches in Philippians 4:18; truly a blessing to our church as we preach the Gospel. The brothers here in Venezuela have taken a challenge to give [matching] dollars for the building of the new auditorium. Some have given money, while others gave works of hands, materials, etc. Praise the Lord with us! Alleluia, considering that most of these brothers here are poor people, it was truly a blessing, and God used The Voice in the Wilderness to do this reality.

We are now very excited to start building our new auditorium. [Please keeping praying for us that God will continue to bless and provide. Also pray for the brothers and sisters of the Bible Institute that God may bless the training of their lives and God's will in the new local Bible Baptist churches in Venezuela for His glory. May God bless you, and thanks again.

Pastor Estelvio Garcia & Church  
Iglesia Bautista  
"Maravillosa Gracia"



*(Continued from page 2)*

Upon returning to the states, I phoned Bro. Royce about Dr. Jacob. As mentioned in the December 2004 edition, Bro. Royce is in the Veterans Home in Oklahoma. He seems to be doing well and Mr. King, who has Power of Attorney, is seeing to Bro. Royce's personal needs. You may send any correspondence through The Voice in the Wilderness office. Thank you so much for all your prayers and concern.

In 2005, The Voice in the Wilderness continues to be involved in numerous missionary projects around the world. Please note the report from India and the praise from Venezuela. Your gifts and prayers have made it possible for The Voice in the Wilderness to continue this gospel work. Thank you for standing with us and for your vision to see lost souls come to know our sweet Lord and Saviour.

During the month of December, our office received dozens of letters notifying us that the subscriber had recently gone home to be with the Lord. Some were from wives of pastors who once read this little paper for years and prayed for this work. Others were family members notifying us of their loved one that enjoyed this paper for years. I just wanted to extend our sincere, heartfelt prayers for those who have recently seen loved ones promoted on to glory. And in hearing of dozens that are no longer here with us, it reminded me that we certainly need, more than ever, the young people that are of like-mind to pick up the leadership role and help support The Voice in the Wilderness ministry. This little ministry, that was founded by Dr. J. Royce Thomason, has always depended on those with a burden to see the gospel shared around the world, to help accomplish that task.

Surely, there are some young people that can help carry the load for others that now are resting in the arms of Jesus.

Finally, I draw your attention to the IMPORTANT NOTICE within these pages. A disastrous postal fire destroyed a trailer load of mail. It appears The Voice in the Wilderness may have lost mail in this accident. Even though we caution contributors not to send cash through the mail, many still do. Along with checks, if you did not receive a receipt for a recent donation to The Voice in the Wilderness, please notify this office as soon as possible.

Again, thank you for all you do for The Voice in the Wilderness. God Bless!

*For Christ and Souls,  
Bro. Ronnie*

Isa. 40:31

"Happy Trails"



*(Continued from page 11)*

appeared in their midst. These three very important showings were made by Him on Sunday, the first day of the week.

The next Sunday, He appeared again to His disciples, and Thomas was present for this showing (John 20:26).

The church was established on the first day of the week which was on the day of Pentecost and that occasion was always on Sunday, the first day of the week.

The first gospel message was preached on Sunday as was the first baptism by the authority of Christ for the remission of sins.

Sunday, Sunday, Sunday....

Notice that it was on the Lord's Day that John was on the island of Patmos in exile, but he did not let that fact keep him from having a worship service with the Lord. God sent His angel to show John that which he had just seen (the past) and "the things which are" (present) "and the things which shall be hereafter" (Rev. 1:19).

Think of all these events and add to them the observance of the Lord's Supper (already cited) on the first day of the week, on Sunday. All of these things being observed make us wonder if perhaps the Lord may choose Sunday as the day He will return. Although we do not know what day or hour He will receive us unto Himself, but at least it does give us something to consider, and it should make us more diligent as we contemplate that statement of Paul, "As oft as you eat this bread and drink this cup ye do show forth the Lord's death till He come."



# IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!

## MAIL - LOST AND DAMAGED BY FIRE

If you did not receive a receipt and reply for your contribution to The Voice in the Wilderness made somewhere between late October through November 2004, please notify The Voice in the Wilderness office at PO Box 7037, Asheville, NC, 28802 as soon as possible. The U.S. Postal Service had a disastrous tractor-trailer fire and 70% of the mail on that truck was destroyed. Thankfully, no one was injured. This office received several pieces of mail that had been burned and soaked with water. The mail was slack during that period, and we are not certain of the loss. Please let us know if you suspect your envelope was destroyed, particularly if you did not receive a receipt from this office.

Once again, let me say thank you to all who give so sacrificially to the ministries of The Voice in the Wilderness.

For Christ and Souls,  
Bro. Ronnie - Isa. 40:31 

Dear *Voice in the Wilderness* Subscriber,  
It will save time and make our record keeping more accurate if you would kindly include your subscriber number on your correspondence and contributions sent to Voice in the Wilderness. When writing a check place your subscriber number on your check in the "For" space at the bottom. **Thank you** for your assistance.  
Please note the **sample** address label with the **sample** subscriber number circled. **Your** number can be found on your address label. It is **not** 99999.

99999  
John Doe  
1000 Somewhere Street  
Anywhere, USA 00000

**The Voice In The Wilderness**  
P.O. Box 7037  
ASHEVILLE, NC 28802

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED