

THE Voice IN THE Wilderness

Missionaries to the World

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

Mark 1:3

Steve & Rebekah Lilly
Aquila and Priscilla Ministry

Ronnie & Terry Williamson
Director - The Voice in the Wilderness

visit us online at theyoiceinthewilderness.org

Dear Friend and Faith Partner in Christ,

HUNDREDS OF SHEEP FOLLOW LEADER OFF CLIFF TO DEATH! - From Istanbul, Turkey comes this sad story. First one sheep jumped to its death. Then stunned Turkish shepherds, who had left the herd to graze, watched as nearly 1,500 others followed, each leaping off the same cliff. In the end, 450 dead animals lay on top of one another in a billowy white pile, the Aksam newspaper said. Those who jumped later were saved as the pile got higher and the fall more cushioned.

"There's nothing we can do. They're all wasted," Nevzat Bayhan, a member of one of 26 families whose sheep were grazing together in the herd, was quoted as saying.

The estimated loss to families in the town of Gevas, located in Van province in eastern Turkey, tops \$100,000, a significant amount of money in a country where average GDP per head is around \$2,700.

"Every family had an average of 20 sheep," said another villager, Abdullah Hazar. "But now only a few families have sheep left. It's going to be hard for us." -news.yahoo.com

The Voice in the Wilderness fulfills a very important role in Contending for the Faith through its monthly missionary publication. Many take objection to the bold stand of *The Voice in the Wilderness* and this outspoken voice against the compromise of our day. The sad story of these shepherds and their sheep illustrates what is happening in many churches and denominations. One sheep jumps to the latest trend and then is followed by a parade of others who seemingly plunge blindly behind the leader. The proliferation of Bible Versions, Contemporary style of worship, the world's music in the church and modern dress fashions are deadly cliffs of compromise claiming a steady stream of sheep leaping to their spiritual demise. The Voice in the Wilderness, with its preaching and teaching ministry, endeavors to assist Pastors and churches in their stand against such tragic compromise. The Aquila/Priscilla ministry is a local church outreach of The Voice in the Wilderness with the purpose of equipping God's people for service.

It is with great joy we introduce you to a precious couple and ministry opportunity. Steve and Rebekah Lilly have accepted our Lord's call to serve Him through the Aquila/Priscilla Ministry of The Voice in the Wilderness. As missionaries, they will assist Pastors and Local churches around the world in a teaching-the-teacher/training-the-trainer outreach. This couple's gifts and abilities will be utilized on the field in numerous ways:

1. Teaching English as a second language on the mission field as a soul-winning tool.
2. Assisting pastors and missionaries to teach and train leaders, workers, and Sunday school teachers in the local church.
3. Instruction in Bible Institutes and Bible Colleges.

Bro. and Sis. Lilly will enable pastors and missionaries to advance the teaching, training and maturing process of congregations far beyond what the pastor/missionary could alone. Details are developing for the first assignment to begin in January of 2006. In the meantime, the Lilly's will be traveling for THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS, sharing the vision of

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this mission and challenging financial partners for the work. The next six months will be a tremendous help to Bro. and Sis. Williamson as the Lilly's help carry some of the ministry's responsibilities. Pray for the Lord's wisdom and provision.

Eight years ago when the home office of The Voice in the Wilderness was relocated to North Carolina, the intent was to have adequate office space and a meeting place for small groups to gather with missionary candidates and pastors. In this intimate setting, veteran missionaries and pastors could pour their hearts, vision, and burden for a lost world into those assembled with a commitment to serve Christ. Presently, The Voice in the Wilderness office and the Williamsons are housed in one double wide mobile home. This is a modest arrangement and we praise the Lord, debt free. Hopes are, in the next 60 to 90 days, to purchase a building sufficient to provide additional square footage and housing for The Voice in the Wilderness. Possibly, someone would be interested in helping with this acquisition. If so, please contact The Voice in the Wilderness office by using the enclosed envelope or phone us at 828-649-1043. *The Voice in the Wilderness* subscribers have so generously given over the years to support each step of faith we have taken. Thank you for standing with us at this time. Our goal is to bring honor and glory to Him who is worthy.

“One Sunday, the brother of the famous preacher, Henry Ward Beecher, was to preach in his absence. When some members of the congregation learned that Henry Ward Beecher would not be preaching, they arose to go. At that point the visiting preacher announced, ‘**All who came to worship Henry Ward Beecher this morning may leave now. The rest will remain to worship God.**’¹

The Voice in the Wilderness ministry is not about Ronnie Williamson, J. Royce Thomason, or even Steve and Rebekah Lilly. This printing and missionary work is for the honor and glory of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Some may confuse this, but make no mistake – this is about Jesus and the lost souls for whom He died. Your gifts and prayers are “as unto the Lord.” Please, may we ever “look unto Jesus!”

As fighting raged in Baghdad's western neighborhoods, Iraq's new legislators pounded out their first agreement on the 15 basic articles to guide their new constitution – including democracy, federalism, separation of powers, **and making Islam the state religion**. The 55 member parliament committee has until August 15th to draft the constitution, which must be approved in an October referendum.²

Obviously, a fatal error exists here. The only one who can bring lasting peace along with His Book of Life has been rejected. Thank God for The Voice in the Wilderness crying out to a world lost in the darkness of sin. “Jesus is the way, the Truth and the Life,” and these are critical days. Please continue to stand faithfully upon The Book, The Blood, and The Blessed Hope. The hour is late, and together we can make an eternal difference around the world. “Go into all the world and preach the gospel” Mark 16:15. Your partnership is so vital to our obedience to His command. The Aquila/Priscilla ministry is a step of faithfulness, and together we will go forward for our Lord's glory. Your partnership in the Aquila/Priscilla ministry will yield eternal dividends, not only for those who participate in this partnership, but also for the many souls that will be touched through this ministry. Thank you for your vision and to God be the glory, Amen!

For Christ and Souls,
Ronnie and Terry Williamson
Steve and Rebekah Lilly

¹The Arnold Report via Hite Newsletter.
²The Patriot News via Hite Newsletter.



P.S. We praise the Lord for the generous gift of Bro. Williamson's parents, which provided for the purchase of our MelodyChime instruments. This will be an added blessing in many of our church services. (MelodyChimes are Handbell-type instruments that produce beautiful music for church services, and travel better than Handbells.)

“Thank you, Mom and Dad, for partnering with The Voice in the Wilderness.”

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN IN ENCLOSED ENVELOPE

**THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS PUBLICATION – A PRINTED MISSIONARY.
READ ABOUT MISSIONS AND SHOW OTHERS WHAT GOD IS DOING.
READ ABOUT BIBLICAL ISSUES AND STAY INFORMED.**

Enclosed is my gift for the Aquila/Priscilla ministry..... \$ _____

This is a gift for the printing of *THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS* publication. \$ _____

Additional Donation, use wherever needed \$ _____

A one-time gift of :
 \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 \$ _____

I am unable to send a gift right now, but I am standing with THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS ministry in prayer.
May we pray for you? All prayer requests are confidential.