



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

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CONTENDING FOR
AMERICAN FREEDOM

December 2004

Glory to God in the Highest!

Luke 2

- 1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.
- 2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)
- 3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.
- 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)
- 5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.
- 6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.
- 7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger;

- because there was no room for them in the inn.
- 8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
- 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.
- 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
- 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
- 12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
- 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
- 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends:

Some say it weighed seventeen pounds! – Twelve year old Conrad Reed hauled that big rock home and for three years his family used it as a doorstep. Finally, Conrad's Dad sold it for \$3.50. That was the beginning of gold fever – no not in Alaska or California but in North Carolina. It was 1799 when a young boy discovered that whopping gold nugget and for three years did not even know the value of the treasure sitting on the floor in his family's farm house. To this day the search for gold continues in the Old North State.

As 2004 comes to a close, my mind wonders back over some fond and treasured memories. North Carolina is home for me, the place

of my birth and “new birth.” It was North Carolina where I met my life's help-meet and though during our 31 years of marriage we have lived in six different states, all three of our precious babies were born here in North Carolina. A wealth far above gold has been my experiences in the place we call home. With The Voice in the Wilderness Ministry headquartered now in North Carolina, for almost seven years it has been special to renew some friendships of the past.

This year held many challenges for The Voice in the Wilderness as well as my wife and I personally. The phone calls, letters and emails were and are always such encouragement. The prayers of our friends have been

answered time and time again. Terry and I have been the recipient of our Lord's gracious blessing for which we are deeply grateful. Each step of 2004 has been a journey from blessing to blessing in the vehicle of our Lord's grace. Thus tis true – “Daily He loadeth us with benefits.” Yes, even the door is held open before us by a pure gold stop.

An Update on Bro. Royce – Today, as I write the December 2004 issue of *The Voice in the Wilderness*, it is October 27. As of October 9 Bro. Royce is residing at the Veterans Center in Lawton, OK. Norwood King took Bro. Royce to Lawton and has made arrangements for extended care. There are yet many details to work through. Bro. Royce's sister-in-law lives in Lawton and has been by to see him several times over the last couple of weeks. Also Bro. Royce's sister, Bonnie, has been in touch with him. I talked with Bro. Royce by phone and he sends greetings along with requests for prayer. We will pass on additional information as available in the next edition of this publication. Thank you for your concern. Together we will continue to trust the Lord for each day. Our sweet Saviour is faithful in all things. Praise His Holy Name!

It seems each year as the calendar

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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 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.

SINNER, OH, SINNER, WHERE WILL YOU STAND, IN THAT GREAT DAY WHEN GOD'S A-GOING TO RAIN DOWN FIRE?

FAITH, FIRE, AND FORGIVENESS

*This message was preached
September 2004 in Raleigh, NC.*

INTRODUCTION

This is a joy for Terry and me to share in your Mission Conference. Thank you Pastor Rabon, Bro. Tippet and First Church.

Eight years ago Terry, Rebekah and I moved from Montana to Dallas, Texas, to work with The Voice in the Wilderness and Dr. J. Royce Thomason in a unique ministry.

Some of you have ask, "Who or what is The Voice in the Wilderness"?

Simply, we strive to be as **Mark 1:3** "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." This is our key verse – printed on the front

of each monthly edition.

Malachi 3:1 says, "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek,..."

Isaiah prophesied hundred of years earlier that John the Baptist and Jesus would come. In **Isaiah 40:3** we have "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." Verse 8 says..."The Word of God shall stand for ever."

Romans 10:17 "...Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

This world of sin and suffering needs FAITH.

For several years I worked with some folks who had a ministry to teens; those in serious trouble. This ranch was in Cody, Wyoming – a beautiful location. For over 20 years they had seen everything...I asked what they had observed in terms of change in the teens –

In the early years – There was open rebellion, defiance, resistance to help, authority, love...

Presently – A dark void, empty hearts and lives robbed of all hope, purpose and good.

I was saved at *The Wilds* Youth Camp. Back home my public school teacher said, "There is no God. God was created in the mind of man as a crutch to lean upon." In my lifetime, systematically the minds of American youth have been robbed and raped of the innocent, good and belief in God. We must lift up our voices in a clear clarion call for FAITH. Not a nebulous,

hocus-pocus mystical new age focus, but a true Biblical FAITH!

I. FAITH

A Game Warden in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan sat in his church's Mission Conference. He was deeply moved by the challenge of Faith Promise. Such was the conviction that this man of moderate means stepped out by Faith and made a financial commitment that to any acquaintance would border on foolishness rather than Faith.

Some time later, he was out enjoying what was an obvious favorite pastime. Then it happened! BAM – something hit his line and in he reeled the catch. Not only was this a trophy, but also the fish had a special tag. Yes, that fish with that tag was worth \$50,000 – the exact amount of his Faith Promise. "Glory!" Ain't God good," the old country preacher said. I'm talking faith right here.

Faith in the God of the impossible.

Faith in the God who cannot fail.

Faith in the God who will never leave us nor forsake us.

Faith in the God who cannot lie.

Keep your feet in the **way of God**.

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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!

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Keep your face in the **will of God.**

Keep your fear in the **wisdom of God.**

Keep your faith in the **Word of God.**

Faith in Jesus as Saviour.

Faith in Jesus as Shepherd.

Faith in Jesus as Sovereign.

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

This is a lifetime of expression in itself –

“Faith is the substance – faith is the evidence” – faith exists, moves, abides in, embraces in knowledge, assent and appropriation of Jesus Christ with heart and head. “Without faith it is impossible to please God.” True faith is knowledge, assent and appropriation of all God says about Himself and all God says about us!

Yes, I believe the Bible – Old Testament, New Testament – cover to cover! But your pastor preaches – Then, OH, but you say.....

That’s his interpretation!

That’s Old Testament – That’s The Law!

That’s cultural!

That’s legalistic, that’s not sin, and I’m not that bad!

But I do believe the Bible....

Faith is the knowledge, assent and appropriation of all God says about Himself and all God says about us! Popular religion and all else that man conjures up to believe, trust, have faith in goes badly wrong here! Faith in faith is faith astray, TOZER SAID.

It’s not work up faith. It’s not name it claim it. Not if you can believe it you can achieve it.

An elder saint was asked about her great faith. She replied. “It’s not my

great faith, but it’s my Great God.!”
FAITH – We must yield to all he says He is and all He says we are. Lift your voice – cry in the wilderness. FAITH – there is “substance of things hope for” there is “evidence of things not seen.”
- FAITH IN JESUS - There are an overwhelming number of voices out there bidding for your attention. Voices crying out a message about God, faith, healing, finances. Sadly, many of those voices have origin and object in sources other than THE TRUTH.

John the Baptist cried out against sin – cried for repentance – **John said,** He will, **“baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.” Matt 3:11**

II. FIRE

“God is a consuming fire” Hebrews 12:29

His Spirit searches, illuminates, refines, burns away the dross—our God is a consuming FIRE. FIRE is a symbol of divine judgment, **Matt. 5:22.** John the Baptist uses awesome, powerful language. We too must cry aloud FIRE, FIRE, FIRE.

THE JUDGEMENT DAY

In that great day,
People, in that great day,
God’s a-going to rain down fire.
God’s a-going to sit in the middle of the air
To judge the quick and the dead.

Early one of these mornings,
God’s a-going to call for Gabriel,
That tall, bright angel, Gabriel;
And God’s a-going to say to him:
Gabriel,
Blow your silver trumpet,
And wake the living nations.

And Gabriel’s going to ask him:
Lord,
How loud must I blow it?

And God’s a-going to tell him:
Gabriel,
Blow it calm and easy,
Then putting one foot on the mountain top,
And the other in the middle of the sea,
Gabriel’s going to stand and blow his horn,
To wake the living nations.

Then God’s a-going to say to him:
Gabriel,
Once more blow your silver trumpet,
And wake the nations underground.

And Gabriel’s going to ask him: Lord
How loud must I blow it?
And God’s a-going to tell him:
Gabriel,
Like seven peals of thunder.
Then the tall, bright angel, Gabriel,
Will put one foot on the battlement of heaven
And the other on the steps of hell,
And blow that silver trumpet
Till he shakes old hell’s foundations.

And I feel Old Earth a-shuddering –
And I see the graves a-bursting –
And I hear a sound,
A blood-chilling sound.
What sound is that I hear?
It’s the clicking together of the dry bones,
Bone to bone – the dry bones.
And I see coming out of the bursting graves,
And marching up the valley of death,
The army of the dead.
And the living and the dead in the twinkling of an eye
Are caught up in the middle of the air,
Before God’s judgment bar.

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Oh-o-oh, sinner,
Where will you stand,
In that great day when God's a-going
to rain down fire?
Oh, you gambling man – where will
you stand?
You whore-mongering man – where
will you stand?
Liars and backsliders – where will
you stand,
In that great day when God's a-going
to rain down fire?

And God will divide the sheep from
the goats,
The one on the right, the other on the
left.

And to them on the right God's a-
going to say:
Enter into my kingdom.
And those who've come through
great tribulations,
And washed their robes in the blood
of the Lamb,
They will enter in –
Clothed in spotless white,
With starry crowns upon their heads,
And silver slippers on their feet,
And harps within their hands; -

And two by two they'll walk
Up and down the golden street,
Feasting on the milk and honey
Singing new songs of Zion,
Chattering with the angels
All around the throne of God.

And to them on the left God's a-
going to say:
Depart from me into everlasting
darkness,
Down into the bottomless pit.
And the wicked like lumps of lead
will start to fall,
Headlong for seven days and nights
they'll fall,
Plumb into the big, black, red-hot

mouth of hell,
Belching out fire and brimstone.
And their cries like howling, yelping
dogs,
Will go up with the fire and smoke
from hell,
But God will stop his ears.

Too late sinner! Too late!
Good-bye, sinner! Good-bye!
In hell, sinner! In hell!
Beyond the reach of the love of God.

And I hear a voice, crying, crying:
Time shall be no more!
Time shall be no more!
Time shall be no more!
And the sun will go out like a candle
in the wind,
The moon will turn to dripping
blood,
The stars will fall like cinders,
And the sea will burn like tar;
And the earth shall melt away and be
dissolved,
And the sky will roll up like a scroll.
With a wave of his hand God will
blot out time,
And start the wheel of eternity.

Sinner, oh, sinner,
Where will you stand
In that great day when God's a-going
to rain down fire?
By: James Weldon Johnson

The Voice of one crying in the
wilderness, FIRE....

John the Baptist cried out for the
people to turn from sin and to the
Saviour. He cried, **“Behold the Lamb
which taketh away the sins of the
world.”** How can we be at peace when
we are not at peace with others?
How can we be at peace with others
when we are not at peace with God?

III. FORGIVEN

Forgiven – what a beautiful word.
**Jesus said, “...if ye forgive men their
trespasses, your heavenly Father will
also forgive you: but if ye forgive not
men their trespasses, neither will
your Father forgive your
trespasses.”** Forgiveness is not just a
single act; it's a lifetime of action.

All around us are the unforgiven.
Those loaded with the horrible guilt
and weight of sin unforgiven.

Then there are some who will not
forgive. They carry torturous
memories, chained to past bitterness.
“But you don't understand – I cannot
forgive him/her for what they did!”

Caleb Porter was away from his
home when on that horrible day
Renegades broke in on his wife and
son. They raped his wife, tortured her
and finally cut her head off. Caleb's son
was tied to a tree; his arms and legs
were severed from his body and then
he was burned.

When Caleb returned home to this
gruesome carnage, he went into shock.
Friends vowed to capture the raiders.
Caleb could not speak, sleep nor eat
for days. The shock eventually gave
way to desperate prayer and Bible
reading.

About 9 days later, there was a loud
commotion outside Caleb's house. He
knew what it meant. The murderers of
his precious wife and son had been
captured. Caleb rose to his feet, went
to the door and stepped outside. A deep
silence prevailed when Caleb opened
the door and stepped outside face to
face with the cold blooded murderers
who had so brutally massacred his
innocent wife and son.

Some of Caleb's friends had

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NEWS BITS

FROM HERE AND THERE

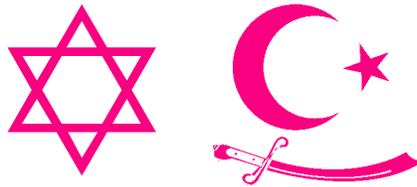


ELECTION 2004 – President George W. Bush decisively won the re-election for a second term. *Newsmax.com 11/03/04* stated, “The major media are very angry George Bush won the presidency by a significant margin. America is not divided. The race was not even close. The verdict of the people is clear: Americans today support President Bush and the values he stands for.”

James Madison, the 4th President of the U.S. also known as “The Father of our Constitution” made the following statement: “We have staked the whole of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.”

Now to keep this 2004 election in perspective - every born-again believer with a biblical world-view knows the answer for America is not in Washington, D.C. or any election. Jesus Christ is The Way, The Truth, and The Life. The spiritual battle continues and by prayer we must together faithfully share the life-

changing message of our Lord and Saviour. Regardless of who is in the White House, the Word of God does not change and the “mission” of His Church remains the same. Let us pray for President Bush and the leaders of the U.S. while continuing to do what God has called us to do.



ISRAEL AND ISLAM – An Islamic website published the text of a 1993 speech extolling the equality enjoyed by non-Muslims in Muslim countries: “Dr. Hussein has given minorities expression to the kind of most compassionate and fair treatment non-Muslim minorities should receive at the hands of the Muslim majority, according to the Muslim law. In fact one might be so bold as to propose that because the Islamic model for treatment of minorities serves Muslims so well, it also may be capable of serving other nations and countries as well by providing a universal code of conduct and general model for the treatment of minorities (<http://www.islamfortoday.com/minorities.htm>). Non-Muslims are referred to as “Dhimmis.”

In 2002 the *Yale Daily News* reported on an address by a human rights activists and an Egyptian

scholar how this compassionate system has fared: “I compare Dhimmi to the laws and ideology of Jim Crow that lingered for decades after slavery was abolished in the American South. The Arab world’s Dhimmi legacy, its Jim Crow, was given new life with the rise of Arab nationalism” (Malaka Bublief, human rights activist). We are dealing with a legal code that forces a section of citizens into second-class status, disenfranchised and denied fundamental human rights. Yeor quotes a seventh-century caliph who describes the system as one whose purpose is to “produce a condition of humiliation, degradation, and vulnerability.” The deep-root ideology of Dhimmitude becomes especially poignant in the Western world’s struggles with Arab nations.

“Critics of Israel have adopted the term ‘apartheid’ to describe its current situation. Their claims of apartheid almost seem ridiculous in light of the Dhimmitude described by Yeor, Bublief, and other scholars. On the one hand, you have Israel. Would an apartheid consist of full voting rights for all its citizens, including all Arab Israelis? How about 10 Arab members of the Israeli Parliament? Israel is the only country in the Middle East where Arab women can vote. Israel has a 72 percent Jewish population and an 18 percent Arab population, yet even though it rules

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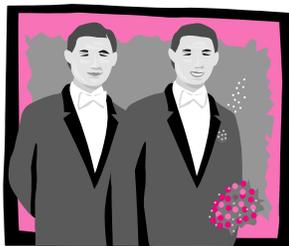
by the majority (which makes it expressly non-apartheid), the minority is given full rights in all aspects of life, including voting, education, and employment.

“On the contrary, you have Pakistan with its anti-Christian legislation. There is Iran, with its systematic oppression of the Bahai community. Let’s not forget Sudan’s murder and enslavement of black Africans, as well as Indonesia’s terrorizing of Christian minorities. Egypt stands proud in its oppression of Coptic Christians, while Islamic radicals in Bangladesh terrorize Hindu and Christian minorities. And then there’s Saudi Arabia, whose theocratic policies can only be described as apartheid for all non-Muslims. And all these can be traced back to the concept of Dhimmitude (*Kreiger, Locating Tolerance in the Arab World, Yale Daily News, October 29, 2002*) via *thebereancall.org 10/12/2004*

ISLAMIC TERRORISTS FROM RUSSIA MAY BE INSIDE AMERICA’S BORDERS

– It has been widely reported in Washington that more than two dozen radical Islamic terrorists from Russia may be inside America’s borders. Newspaper and terrorism experts are concerned about a recent incident along the U.S. Southern border. Jim Phillips of the Heritage Foundation says, “Roughly 25 Chechens were seen in northern Mexico getting ready to cross the border, and it points out the continuing threat of terrorism and the continuing vulnerability of our borders—not just the Mexican border but also the Canadian border.” Those terrorists are believed to be part of

the same radical Islamic group that attacked the elementary school in Beslan, Russia, killing hundreds of children. Also, Phillips says the U.S. military has documented that up to seven former detainees at the U.S. detention facility at Guantanamo Bay naval Base in Cuba have returned to their terrorist activities in Iraq and Pakistan—something the Heritage Foundation spokesman says he expected would happen. Before being freed from Guantanamo Bay, detainees are required to sign a pledge to renounce violence. Nevertheless, an additional five former detainees have been killed or recaptured in terrorist attacks on U.S. troops. *Agapepress.org 10/26/2004*



LONE DEMOCRAT AND SEVEN REPUBLICANS JOIN TO STAND

– Maryland delegate and Baptist minister Emmitt Burns, Jr., joined as the lone Democrat with seven Republicans to take a stand for traditional marriage after the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit to force four Maryland counties and the city of Baltimore to accept homosexual marriage. However, a circuit court judge barred the delegates from fending off the lawsuit – a move Burns considers to be yet another show of judicial arrogance. “I’m very disappointed, to tell you the truth, in judges,” the Maryland minister says. “Judges go to law school, put on a black robe, and then they become ‘moral experts’ – which they are not.”

Burns says the eight delegates plan to file either an appeal or an amicus brief because allowing homosexual marriage is out of the question, and as a minister he feels it is vitally important to defend the time-tested, traditional and biblical view of marriage. *Agapepress.org 10/26/2004*

ARTHRITIS PAIN? – Nizam’s Institute of Medical Sciences in India suggests that glucosamine, a substance found in cartilage, may

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Nuggets of Gold

1. Christmas carolers sing about “Peace on Earth;” they just don’t tell us where.
2. The way you spend this season is far more important than how much you spend.
3. While sitting at your desk, lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles. Now, while doing this, draw the number “6” in the air with your right hand. Your foot will change direction. And you thought you were always in control! Wrong!
4. Don’t knock your church. It may have improved since the last time you were there. By the way, if the church were perfect, you could not belong.
5. While shopping at the mall, have you noticed the glass showcases? That’s the same reason some females wear what they wear.
6. A little girl had just finished her first week of school. “I’m just wasting my time” she said to her mother. “I can’t read, I can’t write – and they won’t let me talk!”

RELIGIOUS NEWS AND COMMENTS

LAWSUIT TO PROTECT HARASSED CHURCH

– The Russian immigrants who make up the congregation of the Independent Baptist Church of Sacramento, California, thought they had left oppression behind them when they fled Communist Russia years ago. They quickly learned, however, that an impersonal bureaucracy can be just as oppressive as a hostile government. Despite the fact that the Fire Department had set their church's maximum occupancy rate at more than 500 persons, the City of Sacramento decreed that no more than 120 members would be allowed to attend Sunday services. This decision was apparently based upon the size of the Church's parking lot, despite the fact that the Church has sought (and was denied) permission to build a larger lot on its 1.2 acres of property. The City of Sacramento threatened the Church with significant fines if they did not comply. "In an attempt to meet the City's requirements, this church has literally been torn in two. Two separate congregations must meet in different locations with different pastors. Those members who are unable to worship in the church building have been forced to cram together into a small garage, and many smaller children must stay home altogether and not worship with their parents," noted Brad Dacus, President of the Pacific Justice Institute. "Is America no

longer the land of religious freedom these immigrants thought they were coming to?"

After meeting with attorneys, the Independent Baptist Church chose not to go "underground," as they did in Russia, but to fight for their rights by filing a federal lawsuit challenging the City of Sacramento's decision. "The City's limitation on attendance is clearly a violation of the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, not to mention an infringement on the First Amendment rights of the parishioners," said Kevin Snider, In-House Counsel for the Pacific Justice Institute. info@pacificjustice.org 10/20/2004

Ramadan



NEW YORK CITY SCHOOLS GIVE PERMISSION TO MISS CLASS FOR RAMADAN

– A school district that limits the religious expression of Christian students is allowing Muslim students to skip class to observe the month of Ramadan. The New York City Department of Education has given Muslim students at Brooklyn International High School permission to miss class four consecutive Fridays to observe the religious holiday. The school system policy bars nativity scenes during

Christmas, but permits the display of the Jewish Menorah during Hanukah and the Islamic star and crescent during Ramadan. Is this a double standard? Is the school system treating Christianity the same way they treat Judaism and, certainly, Islam? Agapepress.org 10/26/2004



HITLER'S CROSS BY ERWIN W. LUTZER

– In this book Lutzer analyses the Nazi agenda for Germany and how the German church responded. Here is a paragraph from the book: "Since Germany had for centuries celebrated Christmas and Easter, Hitler had to reinterpret their meaning. Christmas was turned into a totally pagan festival; in fact, at least for the SS troops, its date was changed to December 21, the date of the winter solstice. Carols and Nativity plays were banned from the schools in 1938, and even the name Christmas was changed to "Yuletide." Crucifixes were eliminated from the classrooms, and Easter was turned into a holiday that heralded the arrival of spring. You will recognize the same changes taking place in America today."

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OLIGARCHY OR REPUBLIC

– Is this what the Founders intended? That is – a nine member oligarchy ruling the United States of America. Webster defines oligarchy: (1) a form of government in which the ruling power belongs to a few people; (2) a state governed in this way; (3) the persons ruling such a state. The intent was not for the U.S. Supreme Court to make laws and decimate the Constitution of the U.S. of America. Wayne LaPierre writes in *America's 1st Freedom* November 2004, "...And it is certain that within the next four years there will be multiple vacancies on the high court and whoever makes the nominations will set the agenda, dictating the exercise of our civil rights for a whole generation and beyond.

"President George W. Bush, in his principled nominations to the lower courts, has already proven his metal by consistently tapping highly qualified candidates who support individual liberty, apply the clear meaning of the Constitution, and do not make law from the bench. I speak of nominees like former Alabama Attorney General William Pryor, whose appointment was filibustered by Senate Democrats. General Pryor's unfair, rude and unprecedented partisan treatment by the Senate Democrats was typical of the scorched-earth tactics used to kill key presidential judicial

appointments this past year alone.

"I have no doubt that when the inevitable Supreme Court vacancies occur, President Bush will nominate individuals who fully support the constitution....

"In sharp contrast, imagine a Kerry U.S. Supreme Court. Would Hillary Clinton give up the ultimate political gamble—a future run for the presidency—for a lifetime appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court? In a heartbeat. Just as Chuck Schumer or Teddy Kennedy would covet a seat on the court for life....

"Where control of U.S. Supreme court is the ultimate objective of gun-ban ideologues, the makeup of the lower courts is equally at stake. But the face of the judiciary is just one part of the stark contrast between George W. Bush and John Kerry over the future of the Second Amendment.

"Among the first all-out attacks against the new Bush Administration was the media-fed scorn heaped upon

the president for selecting pro-gun rights Missouri Senator John Ashcroft as his U.S. attorney general, especially when he wrote that he believed the Second Amendment was an individual right—reversing the aggressive Clinton-Gore doctrine that no such right existed.

"Furthermore, where the repressive Justice Department under Janet Reno pursued anti-gun-rights legislation and lawsuits against the firearm industry, the Bush Administration's Justice Department has rightly targeted armed criminals and terrorists, not peaceable firearm owners."

The U.S. of America is under attack by liberal judges making laws from the bench. Abortion, The Ten Commandments, Faith and founding principles are under attack by a treasonous oligarchy and their renegade lower court henchmen. This is a spiritual warfare!



GIVE A YEAR-END BLESSING

During November and December, we are asking *The Voice in the Wilderness* subscribers to help close out the year with all missionary and ministry needs met financially. Thus far the project goal has not been accomplished. We had so wanted to close out the year with all needs met, and then be able to give a little extra to all our missionaries and ministries that we support monthly during this special season of Thanksgiving and Remembering the Birth of our Saviour. The Thanksgiving Envelope, along with the Christmas-Letter Envelope, is critical. Please, could we ask you to consider responding with a gift to The Voice in the Wilderness ministry now as a year-end gift? We especially ask those of you who read this little paper but have not responded with a financial gift in 2004. Your generosity and vision for this work are so deeply appreciated.



A BIBLICAL APPROACH TO...

[Editor's Comment: In this paper, we have been led to address this subject before. The training of our children has always held a special place in the hearts of my wife and me. For almost 30 years now, we have been privileged to work with children and young people of all ages. What a joy it has been to see many come to Jesus and now serve the Lord in some wonderful ministries.



Terry and our son-in-law, Steven Lilly, teach these precious children about our Lord Jesus. Obedience and attentiveness, along with enthusiasm under control, was the order of the day. Yes, children can and will cooperate and behave if dealt with properly and biblically.

Amazingly, it is possible to have fifty, a hundred, a thousand or more children of all ages and backgrounds in one room sit still quietly for over an hour to hear the Word of God taught. Yes, I have with my own eyes seen over a thousand children, elementary age and up, not crying, screaming, wiggling, fighting, but attentively listen to the most thrilling story of all – the story of Jesus! Thankfully, neither parents nor grandparents were present, so order

and good behavior could be maintained! Yes, Amen?

Maybe you have experienced some of the same. Terry and I were in a restaurant when the young couple with a young child was seated beside us. During the mealtime, the child began to throw a temper-tantrum. The father stood up and took the child out. Soon he returned and placed the child back at the table. Shortly, another tantrum of screaming, throwing food, etc. occurred. The father again stood up and took the child out. Soon he returned and placed the child back at the table. Once again, another tantrum of screaming, throwing food, etc. The father stood up and said, "Please excuse us; I am sorry for the disturbance. But we will learn how to sit at the table and eat without throwing tantrums." He then proceeded once again to take the child out.

On another occasion, Terry and I were in a church service. The young mother came in with seemingly the toy box of toys for the two youngsters. Being seated directly on the pew behind us, the two youngsters were given their play area for the service time. While playing, crying, even occasionally falling off the pew and bumping heads, the disturbance began to be a competition against the preaching of God's Word. The preacher's voice was lifted to its fullest trying to get his point across in the message that he felt the Lord had given him for that particular hour.

Now the differences between the

two examples are drastic. On one hand in the restaurant a child was interrupting our dinner. However, because the dad was responding by teaching and training this young one, my response was, "You are fine; we all had to learn how to control our tempers. I am thankful that you are willing to invest the time in your child." On the other hand in the church service, the young mom did not set any rules, guidelines, or reinforcement to train her little ones on how to behave in God's house. In fact, after the service they were running throughout the church, in-between and even bypassing the adults as they stood around to fellowship with one another. I was not sure that they were aware of being in a place of respect or just at another play area.

In today's world many theories, philosophies, and how-to books have tarnished the way in which we train our children. New "syndromes," "disorders," and such have been given to children whom in many cases simply need to be "trained up in the way they should go," according to God's Holy Word. Please read the following article Rev. Jason Little researched on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. I believe many young parents may benefit from this research. Keep in mind; it is imperative for Godly parents to have a strong, biblically based philosophy for child rearing.]

(Continued on page 11)

♦♦♦ ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER

By Rev. Jason Little

A dangerous trend has been sweeping through America over the past two decades. The number of children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder has severely escalated in recent years. This discovery has been applauded as a medical breakthrough in the past, but is now viewed by some as a serious problem. The dilemma of the number of children supposedly diagnosed with this disorder is gaining national attention. Although attention disorders are well documented and public issues, they are not without controversy. This particular disorder was officially abbreviated as “ADHD” in 1994.

The rise of cases of ADHD in America has been staggering. In 1985, only 500,000 children nationwide were diagnosed with the disease and were given medical treatment. That number exponentially grew to between 5 and 7 million in 2001. The numbers are even greater today. This number translates to between 5 and 10 percent of all children in the country. Even considering a generous margin of error, the growth of ADHD cases is an amazing fact. It appears as if the diagnosing and treatment of ADHD is out of control in America.

There are strong arguments for and against the very existence of the medical condition known as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. Even if an agreement is reached on the existence of the disorder, there are still varying views on the treatment of it. The purpose of this article is not to debate the existence of ADHD

(though there may be a case against it), but to reveal a biblical approach to the disorder to confront it as a moral problem, not only as a physical one.

The usual treatments for ADHD include medical drugs, behavior modification techniques, and psychological therapy. However, all of these treatments deal with the disorder as only a physical problem, not as a moral one. When the Word of God is consulted on the matter of child behavior, it becomes clear that morality is at the root of child behavior. This is not to say that genuine cases of physical disorders do not exist. However, the number of children being treated with drugs in America proves that a moral approach to the behavior of children is all but non-existent.

The good news is that behavior disorders, such as ADHD, do have moral aspects and can be treated with a biblical approach. The Bible is the handbook for the treatment of all human disorders. Sin, by its nature, creates disorder in the lives of all people. This essay will briefly contrast the description and treatment of ADHD from the physical and biblical points of view.

Many secular books on this subject attempt to give a solid definition to ADHD. There are varying definitions of the disorder, but most authors agree on the primary physical symptoms of the disorder. A simple list of impairments given to diagnose ADHD is poor attention, impulsivity, and hyperactivity.

These main categories branch out

with many other symptoms including careless mistakes, difficulty following instructions, forgetfulness, inconsistency, distraction, physical restlessness, excessive talking, interrupting others, poorly-controlled emotional reactivity, and procrastination. These symptoms often result in poor self-esteem, poor academic achievements, and numerous behavior problems.

There is not a solid set of criteria to follow when physically diagnosing this disorder. Therefore, the physical diagnosis of ADHD in an individual is highly subjective and relative to the people involved and the overall circumstances of a particular child's life. Unfortunately, many children are diagnosed with the physical condition of ADHD when they have nothing more than a depraved spiritual nature and a desire to have fun. Proverbs 22:15 reminds us that, “Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child.”

The cost of medical treatment of ADHD is high. Not only does the medical treatment of the disorder cost millions of dollars each year, but other dangers also exist. Many children who become dependent upon medical drugs for controlling their behavior continue to use drugs into their adult years. Often these drugs are highly addictive and even illegal. A child whose behavior is completely controlled by medicine is one who has not been taught the moral discipline of self-control. Such a child never learns to take personal

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responsibility for his own actions. Irresponsible behavior may naturally extend into adulthood, resulting in crime or perpetual idleness.

Other physical treatments of ADHD include self-esteem counseling, change of diet, habit training, and even osteopathic therapy. One author even condones making “contracts with your child” to correct poor behavior. Although these treatments may be more beneficial for the child than drugs, they still do not deal with the root problem of the disorder. There are many available resources for the parent wishing to deal with the disorder without medicinal products.

While the physical symptoms of ADHD are not totally unfounded, the spiritual evidences of the supposed disorder are nearly universal. The incredible growth of the number of cases of ADHD diagnosed in America does not reveal that the disorder is better understood, but rather that the general population continues on a downward slope toward an absolute neglect of personal and moral responsibility. People that parent from a humanistic perspective refuse to acknowledge that the poor behavior of a child is related to his moral teaching.

While not accepted in the medical field, an alternative theory is that the primary cause of ADHD is spiritual in nature, not physical. The Bible clearly teaches the wicked, depraved nature of man. The fallen nature of man is one that is naturally bent toward sin, selfishness, and disobedience. Adam and Eve proved this as they sinned against God in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3). A child does not need to be trained to be

disobedient and selfish. He is that way by nature. Proverbs 30:11 warns, “There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.” It should be no surprise that all children exhibit the common outward “signs” of ADHD. It is completely natural for a child to want his own way, express his own will, and refuse to submit to the authority set above him.

Herein lies the root to the spiritual diagnosis of ADHD. A refusal to obey and submit to authority is the seed of a lack of attention, hyperactivity, and wild behavior. Any child allowed to go undisciplined and uncontrolled will continue to expose his fleshly nature and refuse to submit to the boundaries and conditions placed upon him. Hence, when told to be quiet, he will talk. When told to sit still, he will move about. When told not to play, he will immediately disobey. Why? The reason is because his sin nature is simply running its course! Outside of the moral realm, all children are curious and desire to have fun. These desires are not evil but must be confined to the right place and time.

Several factors contribute to the untamed behavior of a child. One cause is the demise of the family unit. The length of this essay does not allow the time, but an interesting study would be to investigate the correlation of child ADHD with the breakup of the home. In ministry, it is easy to observe that disobedient children often live in a broken or disrupted home situation. These children are angry or bitter over the loss of a parent and they release their frustration through irresponsible behavior. It is difficult for discipline to be consistent when a home is

broken.

Another cause for undisciplined behavior is the lack of biblical teaching in the home. A child cannot receive all the biblical instruction that is needed at church alone. This is especially true if the child attends a public school where the Bible is not even mentioned. Parents who do not take the time to teach the Bible to their children are foolishly pushing their children into a lifestyle of rebellion. Obedience to God and His Word will naturally result in obedience to man. A child who has not been trained to obey God will not sense the need to obey his human authorities.

The final reason for a spiritual diagnosis of ADHD is the lack of biblical discipline. Children who are not brought up in the “nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4) will certainly fall into a lifestyle of selfish, disobedient, and uncontrolled behavior. A child who is not disciplined according to the counsel of the Word of God is a child who will likely exhibit the common outward signs of ADHD. This may not be true in every child, but it seems to reason that a child who refuses to submit to authority is a child who has not been instructed to obey.

The biblical treatment for ADHD is based squarely on the biblical analysis of the problem. First, every child deserves the right to be brought up in a solid, two-parent, heterosexual home. This is exactly the way God designed it to be. Broken homes result in broken lives. Misbehavior is often a side effect of a broken home. In Ephesians 6:1, God gives the responsibility to rear godly children to both fathers and

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mothers. In order for this to be possible, families must stay together and submit to the ultimate authority of God's plan.

Secondly, every child should be clearly taught the principles of obedience and submission in the Word of God. Apart from biblical teaching, the highest authority in the life of the child is himself. A humanistic outlook will result in self-pleasing behavior, even if this behavior violates rules or conditions that have been set forth. Before a child can willingly submit to parental or other human authority, he must first be taught to submit to God. Proverbs 22:6 exhorts, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." A child strictly trained with the whole counsel of God is not likely to struggle with ADHD and its ensuing problems. Christian parenting, grounded in faith, is a universal need of every child.

Finally, every child needs to be subject to biblical discipline. This approach to child rearing contradicts the philosophy of the world. The Bible still says, "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." In opposition to the claims of modern psychologists, Proverbs 23:13 says, "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die." Biblical discipline includes spanking for misbehavior. There are certainly a multitude of techniques that can be used to successfully rear a child, but the biblical approach cannot be improved. Strict discipline must be utilized to treat both the spiritual and physical symptoms of

ADHD.

Debating the existence of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder is not the goal of this article. However, the diagnosis and treatment of the widely accepted symptoms of the disorder can be addressed from both the physical and the spiritual aspects. If a child is diagnosed with ADHD from only the physical perspective, he will no doubt be treated with therapy, bribery, counseling, or even drugs. While the outer expressions of the problem are analyzed and treated, the inner root of the problem remains unchanged.

Only a biblical approach to ADHD children can ultimately help children conquer the undisciplined nature of the flesh. With solid homes, scriptural teaching, and biblical discipline, even the most difficult cases of ADHD can be effectively treated and conquered. God's plan for confronting human needs is always right and is always best.

Resources:

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Rev. Jason Little is Associate Pastor at First FWB Church in Raleigh, NC. Under Bro. Jason's leadership, the bus ministry at First Church ministers to hundreds of children and adults weekly.



(Continued from page 7)

offer even more relief if it's taken with methylsulfonylmethane (MSM), a sulfur thought to block inflammation. Doctors put 118 people with osteoarthritis of the knee into four groups. Patients took glucosamine, MSM, both, or a placebo for 12 weeks. The glucosamine and MSM cut pain and swelling on their own, but the combo was even more effective. The result is intriguing; however, more research is still needed. *Readers Digest 10/2004*



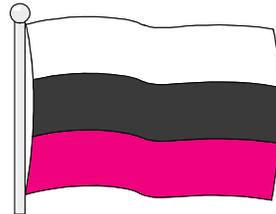
THE HIGH TECH SIDE – Symantec, the maker of Norton Anti-virus, reported finding over four times the number of these malicious programs during the first six months of this year as it did during the same period in 2003. Symantec pointed out peer-to-peer services, chat relays, and network file sharing as hotbeds of malicious code as well as e-commerce scams quadrupling along with spyware and forged e-mail “phishing” cons becoming more common.

Physicists theorize that protons can simultaneously exist in multiple states until something interacts with them, which means that even observation can change them. Any attempted intrusion on a file protected by quantum encryption, therefore, could be instantly detected.

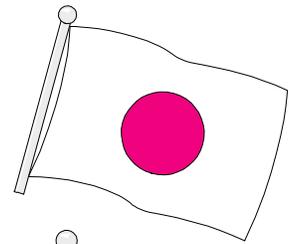
The Pentagon has funded

researches at Harvard University, Boston University, and BBN Technologies (an R&D firm that helped build the early internet) to build an experimental secure network using quantum encryption.

World 10/2/2004

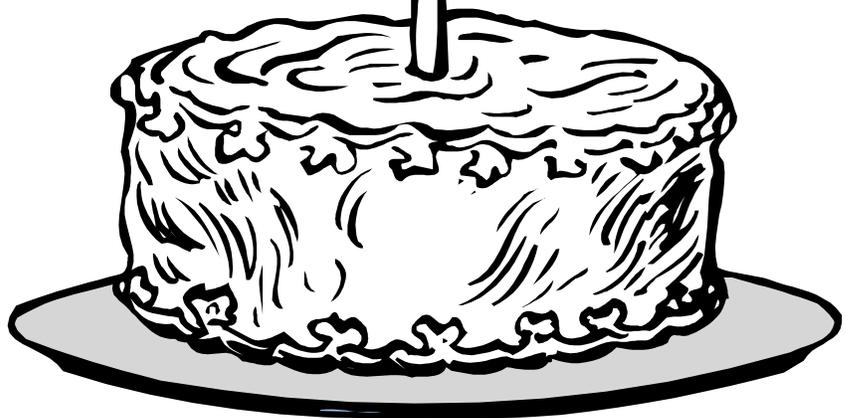


RUSSIA – Vladimir Putin is endangering democracy with proposed reforms arising from the terrorist attack on school children in Beslan. The Russian president is running out of options with Chechnya, which may be moving into the hands of Islamic jihadists.



MEXICO - With the recent free-trade agreement that Mexico and Japan just signed, Mexico is hoping to open up a new market for fruits and vegetables and ease their country's reliance on the United States. Of Mexico's \$165.4 billion in exports last year, 90% went to the United States.

DEC. 8, 2004



HAPPY 88TH BIRTHDAY,
BRO. ROYCE !!



(Continued from page 5)

wanted to kill the scum when they were caught. The majority decided to bring them back to Caleb so he could witness the execution. The prisoners refused to look at Caleb. With assistance, they were forced to look Caleb in the eyes. A long silence followed.

Now Caleb Porter was a giant of a man - A tough, strong, hard working sort. And now, face to face with those who had so viciously raped and murdered.... Softly Caleb said, "I forgive them. Killing them will not bring back my wife and son. It will not erase the grief."

His friends could not believe what they heard, but the look on Caleb's face told them he meant exactly what he said. Then Caleb quoted Christ - **Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.**

Caleb asked his friends to free the prisoners whose wrists were bound behind their backs. Then in silence Caleb gestured for the perpetrators to leave, they were free, **forgiven**. But they just stood there, stunned by the moment. Caleb spoke and gestured,

"GO." Then slowly one by one each murderer knelt at Caleb's feet. They sensed the presence of Caleb's God. Caleb was able to teach them where this forgiveness came from.

Answer me this: If the world is to know FORGIVENESS and the church does not carry this message...Where will the world learn FORGIVENESS? The Voice of one crying in the Wilderness - FORGIVEN!

The theme for this conference is **A Measure To Reach Even Unto You**. Wrapped up in THE MISSION is the MESSAGE. We must cry aloud:

FAITH

Faith in Jesus Christ - not some misguided hocus-pocus that must be mystically worked up.

FIRE

Our God is a consuming fire. One may be consumed by His Love, or one will be consumed by His judgment.

FORGIVENESS

You must be FORGIVEN but you must also FORGIVE.

-RLW



(Continued from page 2)

turns through November and December most get into the rush, travel, and festivities of *Thanksgiving and Christmas*. Here are just a few suggestions: (1) Forget the good you've done for others and remember the many kindnesses others have done for you. (2) Through prayer and deed give the gift of your time, talent, and treasure. (3) Point some soul to the Saviour.

The hymn says, "And in despair I bowed my head; 'There is no peace on earth,' I said, For hate is strong, and mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to men." But then the song continues, "Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: God is not dead nor doth He sleep; The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, With peace on earth, good will to men."

Let us lift up our eyes, the harvest is ready and our redemption draweth nigh. Even so, come Lord Jesus!

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

"Happy Trails"



December 2004



Dear Friends and Co-Labourers in Christ:
On behalf of our board, Bro. Royce, Sis. Terry and myself, "God Bless you all for your faithful prayers and partnership during 2004." HIS presence, peace, and promises have sustained us in the work HE has called us to. Let us determine to press on for HIS GLORY in 2005. These are days of great opportunity.

Keep working, watching and waiting. Jesus is coming soon. Amen!

For Christ and Souls,
Bro. Ronnie, Sis. Terry, Bro. Royce



GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, AND MYRRH

In the "Saturday Evening Post," December 1992, Donald Culross Peattie explained the significance of the gifts presented to the Christ-child by the Magi.

Gold – is one of the noble metals. No single acid can destroy it, nor will it rust away, like iron or tin... No one can successfully imitate or fake gold, so heavy and incorruptible is it. And it is a metal easily turned to the uses of beauty. It has been woven into fabrics at least since biblical times (Exodus 39:2-3), for its ductility, as chemists say, is so great that a single grain of fine gold can be drawn out into a wire 1/1000 of an inch in diameter, extending for a length of about one mile. Pure, supple, almost indestructible, gold is indeed a royal metal... The expert hammer of the goldbeater, whose ancient art is referred to by Homer, can beat an ounce of gold into a sheet two hundred feet square, a mere shimmering film... In the ancient world into which Christianity was born, gold was far rarer than now.

Frankincense [Incense] – was made from an expensive and elaborate formula, containing sixteen different ingredients, with only priests allowed to concoct it. And the chief element in this holy recipe was frankincense, the second gift of the

wise men to the child. Frankincense is a resin, from a kind of tree held so sacred of old that in southern Arabia and Ethiopia, where it grew, only a few particularly pure persons were allowed even to approach it... To obtain the precious frankincense itself, an Arab cuts a slash in the trunk, as a Vermonter cuts a maple, and then strips off a narrow piece of bark, about five inches long, below the cut. The sap slowly oozes out and is allowed to harden for about three months. At last it is collected in lumps, to be shipped from such strange and faraway places as Berbera and Aden, near the mouth of the Red Sea, and Bombay. These lumps are yellow or colorless, dusty-looking, with a bitter taste. But they burn with a bright white flame, and then there arises to heaven that sweet, heavenly perfume of mystery the Wise Men thought pleasing to God.



Myrrh – [is] a shrub related to frankincense, of the genus *Commiphora*. The sap of myrrh is extracted in the same way as that of frankincense, and it comes in small lumps of reddish-brown resin. But its symbolism is more somber. The word myrrh comes from the Hebrew *mar*, meaning "bitter." The ancient Egyptians used this resin in embalming, and hence its connection with solemn occasion.



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