

The Voice



CONTENDING FOR
FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIANITY

IN
THE



CONTENDING FOR
AMERICAN FREEDOM

Wilderness

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

May/June 2008 • Published Monthly • Free Subscription

Train a Child



Train a child the way to go,
Teach him Christ that he may know,

The joys of life blessed joy divine,
More than crumbs of earthly kind.

Simple laughter of childhood dreams,
To run and fly on sunshine beams,

Without the hurt and dreaded scars
That self and sin from Adam mars.

In God's great love and grace he'll walk,
Always a friend to care and talk

Along life's journey until one day
"Well done, my child," he hears HIM say.

- RLW



Celebrating 55 years of *The Voice in the Wilderness* Ministry

2008 GOAL- 55 FOR 55

SIGN UP FOR *The Weekly Voice* AT www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org



Page 3 My Personal Message

Page 3 Contact Information

Page 4 Sermon of the Month

“Body Piercing & Tattoos - Part I of II”

Page 8 Club MIT

Page 10..... News Bits

Page 12 Mid-Year Report & Ministry Overview

Page 15 Moms & Dads

Page 15 Memorial Gifts

Page 15 Nuggets of Gold

**Sign Up For The Weekly Voice In Your E-mail
and link to the New Blog Page!**

Become a more active prayer partner of The Voice in the Wilderness by subscribing to The Weekly Voice e-mail edition. Specific weekly prayer requests, “Rejoice with The Voice” notes, ministry updates, and a weekly Nugget of Gold are sent in a half-page e-mail message. Send your e-mail address to membersnp@thevoiceinthewilderness.org

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



MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends:

“Believe what you do believe, or else you will never persuade anybody else to believe it.” Mr. Spurgeon spoke well and so did my wife when she said, “You are passionate about what you believe.” After 35 years of marriage and ministry together, my lovely bride should know. When I preach about Christ and the cross, heaven and hell, the church and HIS call, modernistic trends and compromise, what I believe, I believe, and it shows. Ungodly music, worldly dress, so called “contemporary worship”, family, divorce and remarriage are all topics I speak passionately about to persuade the hearer from God’s Holy Word. By the way, that is what this little publication is all about. Opening HIS BOOK and persuading men to believe.

After all these years, I am still amazed when asked, “What is The Voice in the Wilderness? Is it a mission board or some para-church organization?” No and no! The Voice in the Wilderness is simply an evangelist and his family preaching and living God’s call in their lives. We print a little communiqué and try to help some of God’s people win souls around the world as the Lord provides. Actually, every believer should do what we do at some level. As a matter of fact, thousands do just that. You may be one who has partnered with us to take the gospel to Asia, Europe, or Latin America. Together we have joined hands and hearts in vision to preach Christ to the regions beyond. Day by day we trust Him and endeavor to

do His will. For 55 years *The Voice in the Wilderness* publication and for over 60 years The Voice in the Wilderness ministry has been a tool used of the Lord to touch lives for time and eternity. You have been a vital part, and thank you for standing with us. Please take a few minutes to read the memo on pages 12 & 13 for a ministry update.

Just one last personal note. HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, SWEETHEART! On May 6, 2008, my wife and I celebrated our 35th wedding anniversary. The Lord has so graciously blessed this union. We honour and thank Him today. Amen!

For Christ and Souls,

Ronnie L. Williamson

Isa. 40:31

HAPPY TRAILS



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

Write to us

Dr. Ronnie L. Williamson

**Dr. J. Royce Thomason Memorial
Voice in the Wilderness**

P.O. Box 7037

Asheville, NC 28802

Voice (828) 649-1043

Fax (828) 649-9784

www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org

E-mail for address changes only:

visionpartners@thevoiceinthewilderness.org

SERMON OF THE MONTH

BODY PIERCING & TATTOOS

Are they little things? At least it stood out to our Indian brothers and sisters.

Several years ago my wife accompanied me on her first trip to India. It was an amazing time together and somewhat overwhelming for her. Some of that story has been reported in an earlier issue of this publication. For the purpose of this article, one little detail is interesting. Several of our friends in India remarked to my wife that she did not have pierced ears. Of course piercing in India is common. Actually, I'm not sure if I have ever seen an Indian woman without several piercings. So they readily noticed and even commented that my wife did not have her ears pierced. Of course as believers and students of the Word, we know where body piercing originated. From time to time it is needful to reprint material for those who may have never studied the issue. The following may be of interest.

Article by Steve Schlissel

Ever since our first mother, Eve facetly discovered multiple reasons to do what God had expressly commanded her through Adam not to do, we've proven to

4 • *Voice in the Wilderness* • May/June 2008

be in our fallen estate, a darkness-loving lot that excels in creatively justifying any sin-embracing choice we desire to make. This ability wreaks havoc in ethics. No sooner do we learn the right thing than we begin paralogizing in the pursuit of what we think of as "freedom."

But freedom from God's Law as a rule of faith and life is no freedom at all. Some think the opposite of Law is Grace. Rather, opposite of Law is chaos, meaninglessness and death. Thinking which leads to a justification for disobedience is, by definition, wrong thinking.

With the modern church having largely capitulated to some or another form of antinomianism, it should not surprise us that it seems ever to be engaged in lowing the flag before each new assault on the ethics of the Antithesis. Whether we are asked to adjust God's standards for marriage and divorce, or Lord's Day worship, or the tithe, or homosexuality, or love of the brethren, we find an ever-vigilant phalanx of theologians whose favorite color is gray and whose favorite work is dismantling the Antithesis, directing us, like the serpent did

www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org

Eve, to ignore what God says to seek life in death.

In every dispensation God has made it clear that his people are a people of life, a people distinct from “the world,” a people with a different way of living. God’s Word to Israel and the church is (of course) one: “Do not think as they think; do not do as they do” (Dt. 18:9, Eph. 4:17-20).

Keeping God’s law in Christ is a community affair. To comply with the demands of the Antithesis, it is necessary not only to have those commands, but to have a people committed to abiding by them. Though we are made up of individuals, the covenant community is an entity in its own right, an organism which confesses covenant truth and lives the covenant life. We are to be a people set apart both by what we believe and how we behave.

Included in the set-apartness required of us in both the Old and New administrations of the covenant is the sanctification of our bodies unto God. “I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world” (Rom. 12:1-2a). Only a Gnostic, a Platonist or a nut would interpret

the command to present our bodies to God as having nothing to do with our bodies. The human body is most definitely a concern of God’s and He has given us various laws designed to maintain its integrity and dignity, to keep it suitable for one in service to the living and true God. If anything, the New Testament heightens our concern with the body, for there it is oft-designated a temple of God. And we must not desecrate God’s Temple. The wicked say, “Our lips [and our bodies] are our own” (Ps. 12:4). The Christian answers with the great confession: “I am not my own, but belong body and soul to my faithful Saviour, Jesus Christ.”

But confessions without content remain mere words: pretty, maybe, but empty. When we confess that our bodies belong to God, do we actually believe that He may regulate what we do with them? At one time this was definitely what the Christian community believed. Lately, however, it seems to be standing with its hands in its pockets as it watches a new wave of defiance of this confession.

A phenomenon among us that is gaining notoriety and adherents, and sadly making inroads into Christian circles, is the deliberate

(Continued on page 6)

and systematic desecration of the human body. It is making progress among us for three reasons: the Christian community has 1) neglected the law of God; 2) largely lost its sense of being a community of grace and law; and 3) bought into the notion that fashion is, for all intents and purposes, a matter in which God is disinterested.

The diverse methods of self-desecration have been lumped together under the fitting initials BM, though here it stands for body modification. BM includes piercing, tattooing, scarring, branding, cutting, and mutilations. BM is becoming more than a trend: it is an identifiable subculture, impacting millions through a huge presence on the Internet. There are even international conventions. BM shops are proliferating at an astonishing rate....

Body piercing, like marijuana to heroin, is often but the first step into a world of multiple self-inflicted indignities. And like marijuana, proponents think it is the easiest to justify. After all, who hasn't seen the male athletes and movie stars with their earrings? And haven't you seen the picture of Shakespeare wearing one in his left ear?

And thus the reasoning begins

with an assumption that what is right for women must also be right for men, and what is right in popular culture must be right for the Christian. But our standard is the Word of God. And that Word gives us warrant to regard piercing as possibly appropriate for some, but not necessarily for others. (The other forms of BM are fit for none but pagans, as we'll see.)

Put plainly, piercing is normally an act appropriate only for women and, in some cases, male slaves.

Delicacy is difficult here – and I want to avoid a charge of misogyny – but the fact is that woman, by her from-the-creation role in the marriage act, is a piercee. Within marriage, of course, no stigma at all attaches to this, but outside of marriage, Scripture often refers to it as a “humbling” (Dt. 21:14, 22:24; 22:29). (In this regard, too, childbirth is woman's triumphant vindication – consider this when exegeting I Tim. 2:15.)

Obviously, piercing for a woman need not involve sodomy or “lowering.” She was made a woman, for man, a fact to which her body itself testifies.

Man, however, was not made a woman nor was he made to abide piercing. It is still a universal that he is not expected to. The recent

attack on a Brooklyn prisoner provides a tragic case in point. *The Associated Press* reported: One of the police officers charged with torturing a man by sodomizing him with a stick bragged about the attack, saying he had to “break a man” who took a swing at him. Officer Justin Volpe also told fellow officers “I had to bring a man down tonight.”

Piercing may or may not bring a woman down, depending on many factors. But piercing always brings a man down. That piercing bespeaks a relational subordination is implicitly recognized even in our American culture, yet often below the surface. To the astute it appears dramatically when considering the vocabulary of popular “curses” (as in humiliating phrases, not maledictions). The most common two-word curse in English, the one we want our children never to use, is simply a wish for someone to be humiliated through being pierced. To be pierced, for a man is necessarily to be lowered.

For in the view of Scripture, piercing is a token of being under dominion of another. (Even the unique piercing of Christ was a testimony of his total submission to the Father: Isaiah 53:5, 10; Phil. 2:8, see also Ps. 40:6-8) Since woman was created to be

under the loving headship of her husband, piercing can be seen as consistent with that calling. Hebrew men, however, were called to be directly under the authority of God (see I Cor. 11:3).

Consequently, limitations of Hebrew servitude were codified in the law. But if a Hebrew servant, at the time of his manumission, desired to be permanently under the dominion of his master, this was to be indicated in a rite in which his ear was bored with an awl (Ex. 21:6; Dt. 15:17). The fact that a pierced ear served as a sign of permanent subordination suggests that it was not practiced by males in general, else it would hardly serve as a distinguishing mark.

Some have called attention to the fact that Israelite males took off their golden earrings and contributed them to Aaron for the making of the golden calf. This seems to be the case (Ex. 32:1-4). But out of what estate had they just escaped? That’s right: slavery. So this proves nothing other than that slaves had earrings. Similarly those who cite the Ishmaelite practice of wearing gold earrings (Judges 8:24) must not miss the point: the Ishmaelites had this custom, not the Israelites. Newly-delivered Hebrew slaves and Ishmaelites don’t constitute

(Continued on page 14)

CLUB MIT

(MISSIONARY-IN-TRAINING)

For All Boys & Girls

Engaging children in being a steadfast worker for Christ, Encouraging them to be a boy or girl pleasing to the Lord, and Equipping them to be a missionary every day . . . through lessons from the Apostle Paul's missionary helpers, Aquila & Priscilla.



Lessons From Aquila & Priscilla

Do you have faith in God? The Bible tells us in Hebrews 11:8 about a man who left all that he knew and followed God. He had faith that God would do what He promised to do. Here is an easy way to remember what faith means. **Forsaking All, I Trust Him!**

Forsaking - This means that you don't want to do something anymore.

All - What don't we want to do anymore? - Sin (the bad things that we do) The Bible says that all have sinned (Romans 3:23).

I - This means that you don't want to sin anymore. Not just because your mom, dad or preacher don't want you to sin anymore, but because you don't want to do it.

Trust - You really believe in something.

Him - This is talking about Jesus. Remember that He died on the cross, was buried and rose from the grave just for you. He took all of your sin when He died on the cross, and He defeated Satan when He rose from the grave. (John 3:16-18)

Have you prayed and asked Jesus to come into your heart? Why don't you ask Jesus to forgive you right now? Then write us and let us know that you have Jesus in your heart.

Attention all Boys & Girls:

To receive a personal letter from Aquila & Priscilla, join Club MIT today!

Boy's CORNER

BITS AND PIECES

GIRL'S CORNER

Use sidewalk chalk to draw a large box with "x" lines drawn from the four corners. Designate someone to be the fox. All other players will be the geese. The fox must only run on the "x" lines, while the geese may run anywhere inside the box. The fox must tag the geese from his position to "capture" the geese. Last goose standing becomes the next fox. You may draw different lines inside the box and the rules for where the fox and geese run can change each time the game starts over.

PRISCILLA'S PIECES
 With Spring, come little beauties that push their way through the dirt and into the sun for all to see. Just like the flowers that we girls enjoy so much, there is a time in our life that we are covered in the "dirt" of sin, but when we asked Jesus to be our Saviour, we grow and bloom into a beautiful child of God. Let's work hard everyday to not let sin come in and dirty our lives, but to do what God says is right and be a lovely flower in His garden. (Activity: Grow some sunflowers this spring to remind you to look like the Son.)

Take the Bible Scholar Challenge!

Who had faith in God? Find the letter in the alphabet that goes with the number (Ex: A=1, B=2, C=3,... Z=26). Write the letter in the space above the number. Finish the puzzle. Read Hebrews 11:8 to find out if your answer is correct.

1	2	18	1	8	1	13
---	---	----	---	---	---	----

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome new Club MIT members from Florida and New York!
 Have you joined Club MIT? Write Aquila and Priscilla and become a member today!
 Attention Club MIT members! Have you finished MTA #1?
 Write Aquila and Priscilla for your next MTA!

JOIN CLUB MIT, AND RECEIVE:

1. Membership Card
2. A personal letter from Aquila & Priscilla
3. MTA's (Missions Task Assignment)*
**Members will receive a new MTA task every time they write to Aquila & Priscilla.*

TO JOIN CLUB MIT, PLEASE MAIL,

1. Your first and last name;
 2. Mailing address;
 3. Your age, grade & church that you attend;
- To: Club MIT
 PO Box 7037
 Asheville, NC 28802

NEWS BITS

FROM HERE AND THERE

† **TED TURNER** called Christianity “a religion for losers”, but now at age 69, the CNN founder has regrets. “As I get older, you know, I get more, you know, more tolerant.” Turner now joins forces with protestant denominations to fight malaria in Africa which claims the lives of more than 1 million people a year. † **PLANS** for a federal bailout of lenders and homeowners in bad mortgages will help 100,000 more borrowers. Leading democrats want to insure 1.5 million more borrowers, potentially putting taxpayers on the hook for tens of billions of dollars. † **HAITI** continues to be a troubled place. Residents huddled indoors due to riots over soaring food prices which have increased by 40% in the last year. † **DARFUR’S** humanitarian crisis “has cost the lives of at least 200,000 Muslims.” † **ECONOMIC** and environmental realists increasingly recognize that campaigns to lower greenhouse gases offer no hope of halting the earth’s warming trend. China and India refuse to sabotage their respective industrial revolutions with carbon restrictions. And even proponents of an emissions cap in the U.S. admit that any significant impact on climate change would require reductions to the tune of 80%, an abject impossibility. † **A CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE** in Fairfax

County, Virginia, has ruled in favor of a group of 11 churches all members of the Anglican District of Virginia, who want to keep their properties after severing ties last year with the Episcopal Church over the issues of gay clergy and orthodoxy. The Episcopal Church is expected to challenge the court’s decision. † **REV. ANN GORDON** from northern Virginia changed her name to Drew Phoenix and underwent a sex change operation to remain in the pulpit. Now delegates at the United Methodist Church general conference in Fort Worth, Texas, will decide whether to allow her/him to remain. † **AMERICAN** consumers began boycotting Venezuelan/owned Citgo gas after Hugo Chavez’s tirade at the United Nations in 2006. Some dealers in Tennessee saw sales drop 30% last year and those dealers are now switching to other suppliers. As long as Hugo Chavez keeps sticking his finger in America’s eye, it’s unlikely that consumers will consider the company a neighbor. † **EXPELLED** – a documentary opening nationwide makes a compelling case against Darwinism and for academic freedom. But is that a case for the church to go out and buy up theater seats? Just as the rush to the movie house for Gibson’s *Passion* movie, now so-called *Christian ministry leaders* are telling churches to

encourage the congregations to go see *Expelled*. Supposedly the ill-equipped, shallow-thinking, church member will become an informed apologist at Hollywood's movie house. (*Worldmag.com*) † **THERE IS NO REASON** we should allow people to cast a ballot without first proving their identity. After all, you can't even board planes or cash checks without proving your identify. Yet some self-proclaimed "voter rights" groups have brought lawsuits aimed at overturning ID laws in several states. Political experts describe the U.S. as a 50-50 nation, evenly split between political parties. We need to ensure that every vote, and voter, is legitimate. † **17,000** – number of pages in the current U.S. tax code. † **0.82%** - the percentage of taxes paid that a current 25-year-old will get back from Social Security when he reaches the age of 65. (*Heritage Foundation*) † **DO TWO WRONGS** make a right? Big brother states have already violated parental rights in the area of condoms and abortion, as well as home invasion and child abduction. The government obviously wants control more and more. From Waco we now have the fundamentalists Mormon fiasco. Yes, polygamy and cultism is wrong, but terrorizing children by the all-knowing state is not much better. † **DID YOU KNOW?** 25% of the 600,000 registered sex offenders attend church to worship – Although 1 in 5 children are now approached by online predators, only approximately 25% of children who encountered a sexual approach or solicitation on the internet told their parents – Nearly www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org

3 million reports of child abuse are made each year, but some experts suggest that there are three times more offenses than are reported. How can you protect your church from sexual predators? The physical safety and well-being of your church body is of utmost importance. But don't you also have a Biblical responsibility to disciple and help those who are coming back to God from a difficult past? Balancing these competing concerns can be extremely difficult. WWW.CHRISTIANLAW.ORG has developed three sample policies designed to help churches – *Policies for Known Sex Offenders Attending Church Services When Children Are Present*. † **DANGER** in America's Schools – *Legal Alert* reports that public schools are being besieged with pro homosexual propaganda. A new joint project by the National Education Association (NEA) and the American Psychological Association (APA) plans to provide superintendents of our nation's 16,000 public schools with booklets advocating homosexuality as a "normal expression of human sexuality." The booklet also tells teachers not to discuss ministries that help homosexuals escape from this lifestyle and to regard religion-based views on homosexuality as dangerous and harmful. These professional groups are using their influence to transform America's public schools into champions for a radical homosexual agenda. † **ARE THEY ALL THE SAME?** Hannah Montana and her *Vanity Fair*, and Britney Spears, Ashley Simpson, and Madonna. Surely parents don't have to be warned.



MID-YEAR REPORT AND MINISTRY OVERVIEW

May 2008

Dear Friends in Christ and Partners in Missions:

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.” Ecclesiastes 12:13. It may seem peculiar to start this letter with “the conclusion” but we must immediately grasp the bottom line. There is both the joy of abundant living and the awesome responsibility to obey God’s commands.

With that said, The Voice in the Wilderness continues to boldly “contend for the faith” (Jude 1:3) while many turn away from the very anchor their soul so desperately needs. May God help us: will you stand with us to continue this bold work of faith?

In a few weeks, as finances are available, another edition of *The Voice in the Wilderness* will be mailed to thousands of subscribers across the United States and around the world. This letter is sent to you and other partners that we pray will take the opportunity the Lord has placed before us as an open door of ministry. Below are *urgent needs* that you can pray for and support financially. Over the years my wife and I have sacrificed, and continue to do so even now, personally, to carry on the ministry of The Voice in the Wilderness. Will you join us in this eternal endeavor? Please carefully consider the following open doors of opportunity and the part our precious Saviour may lead you to participate in partnership with us:

1. Please read *The Voice in the Wilderness* publication, view our website www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org, subscribe to The Weekly Voice by sending an e-mail to membersnp@thevoiceinthewilderness.org, and check out the link to The Voice in the Wilderness blog site found on The Weekly Voice e-mail. These sources will keep you informed and up to date on ministry opportunities and needs. Signatures for

the “Re-Dress” have been delivered to Washington, D.C. Testimonies and prayer partners for the “Capital Campaign” continue to come into our office. Some have committed to “55 for 55”, but we still need others to respond. From CrossVue School of Missions to APM there is much work to do. With God’s provision and God’s people, the miraculous is possible and you can testify to that. Time and again we all have seen the hand of God move in mysterious ways. Praise His Holy Name!

2. Missionaries and Pastors looking to The Voice in the Wilderness for support desperately need your help. Church buildings in Venezuela and India need funds to finish out construction. \$5,000 would complete these projects.

3. A container of tracts and Bible material is ready to ship to Venezuela. \$4,000 is needed to send the container to waiting soul-winners and preachers.

4. In the past 12 months, The Voice in the Wilderness has printed and disseminated over 2 million pages of literature to teach, preach, and reach hearts around the world. We need over \$4,400 per month to resume printing schedules. Currently less than ½ of that need is being met. Can you help with one of the greatest gospel tools available to the church today – PRINTING! Again the short fall is presently over \$2,200 per month. Pray with us about this urgent need.

5. This October 2008, Bro. Williamson has been invited to preach in Venezuela at the conference of fundamental churches. This is a great honour and privilege. Pray for anointed and fruitful meetings. Listen to this testimony of the great things God is doing in Venezuela: *We were praying, fasting, and working ... We asked God for 800 people in attendance and many salvations ... 910 people came (not counting the nursery) and more than 40 adults and young people accepted Christ – Amen! Some men brought 60 people with them and spent their own money to provide transportation ... Others,*

huff, huff, finished very tired (Ha, Ha!) but happy to serve the Lord ... God was glorifying Himself and raising many brothers and sisters as leaders ... many surrendered their lives to serve the Lord. Thank you for your prayers. God has allowed The Voice in the Wilderness, along with your support, prayers, and partnership, to see the mighty hand of God do the miraculous. The churches for the conference are paying for Bro. Williamson's travel expenses to Venezuela, but he would like to take a generous offering to help our brothers and sisters in Venezuela reach their people for Christ. Can you help with this opportunity? Please pray about this.

6. The Aquila/Priscilla Ministry (APM) has three opportunities presently before them. One in the states and two over seas. Steve and Rebekah Lilly are busy working in The Voice office and around the property daily, continue to travel weekends with teaching and training, handbells, and representing The Voice ministry. In addition to all of that they have taken on two outside jobs to raise support for these projects. They have a burden and are personally investing their time and finances to "contend for the faith" through the ministry of The Voice in the Wilderness. We continue to pray that full support for APM will come in over the next 12-18 months so the Lilly's can be full-time on the mission field. Ask for the Lord's provision in this matter. The annual budget for APM is approximately \$24,000. That is very modest for any missionary couple in today's economy. They have a servant's heart, we are honoured to have them, and their ministry is certainly worthy of your support.

7. As of May 2008, The Voice in the Wilderness ministry has been privileged to be in 18 different churches and conferences in 5 states. It has been a joy to see local churches, with a vision, altars active, and souls saved. With the enormous increase in gasoline cost and travel expense, it has been difficult to meet the demands. Preaching engagements rarely yield the kind of offerings needed to finance The Voice in the Wilderness ministry. We have never asked for a certain amount of money in order to come to a church over

the years, but have operated solely on the generous gifts of friends across America led by our Lord's prompting to underwrite this faith mission. Pray with us about these special opportunities. We must not neglect or miss out on the eternal while looking at temporary obstacles and challenges. Thank you for stepping up with faith and believing with us for that which only God can do. Amen!

Our pastor is currently preaching through the Book of Revelation. As we listen to those powerful words, there is literally the potential to bind and loose and change lives from Jerusalem, to Judaea, to Samaria and even unto the uttermost part of the earth. Wake up church! What great opportunities are before us all. HIS church triumphant is full of folk who have been to the cross and from HIS cross marches a Holy Spirit anointed church that even the gates of hell cannot prevail. What a day that will be when His faithful gather to cast crowns of reward before Him who is worthy. Hallelujah!

THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS continues to stay the Old Path. Salvation, separation, sanctification, holiness and godly living is preached from the King James Bible knowing our Lord has blessed, is blessing and will continue to bless those who stand. Modernistic music, worldly dress and unbiblical church movements are denounced. This is not popular but if you desire to support a ministry holding to the old time religion The Voice in the Wilderness is just what the Great Physician ordered.

I am fully persuaded that our Lord is able, He has called and we must hasten in obedience to carry the glorious light of the gospel to a world of darkness. It is indeed a "wilderness" out there, full of perils. Thank you for holding us up in prayer as HIS VOICE is faithfully declared through this humble work. May we together soon hear "well done thou good and faithful servant." Amen!

For Christ and Souls,
Ronnie L. Williamson



(Sermon of the Month - Continued from page 7)

a powerful precedent for free males to engage in piercing themselves!

It is interesting that as men in our culture began to pierce their ears, women began piercing multiple holes in their ears. But it didn't stop there. Piercing parlors now routinely pierce ears, lips, eyebrows, tongues, noses, nipples, not to mention male and female genitals. For those who cringe, not only at the ghastliness of the piercings, but at the thought of the pain involved, you need to understand that the pain is central to the experience. This is freely admitted, even boasted of, in this new "subculture."

One woman describes the piercing of her clitoris as "a rite of sexual reclamation." The piercer explained after a pre-piercing examination, that hers was going to be a particularly painful experience. She insisted that he proceed, and described the procedure: "My body tensed. I heard Jim say, 'Ready?' [It was as if] one hundred thousand volts of electricity jolted me out of my body. My scream never passed my throat.... I couldn't see. After Jim inserted the ring in my clitoris and handed me a hand mirror, I stood up and paced the small room. I never had an experience of such intensity. My body tingled. I felt

powerful, charged, triumphant.... I was alive! For the first time in my life I felt whole, complete and perfect." She then tells that years later, she returned to school "to broaden [her] understanding of pain, ecstasy and body modification."

Anyone who believes that this current obsession with body modification is simply a fashion statement is not merely naive, but ignorant of the literature of BM devotees. For them, the more radical piercings are self-consciously religious experiences. This association with paganism is known, understood and cherished. The piercings, etc., are regarded as rituals. "Rituals take place in urban settings: libraries, public parks, warehouses, abandoned city sites. Rituals take many forms: piercing, tattooing, branding and scarification in private and public ceremonies, S/M [sodomasochistic] psychodramas in private dungeons, technoshamanic trance dances at underground Rave parties, psychedelic shamanism, in living rooms – and activity capable of producing the direct experience of spiritual truth and healing in the participant." Consider the mindset of someone who regards mutilation as healing! "

(End of Part One - Part Two in next issue)

Chalcedon Report" December

Dear MOMS and DADS:



May your day and every day be special for you. From our heart to your heart and with LOVE, THANK YOU! Thank you for your sacrifice, example, teaching and training. The devotion and dedication as “MOM” and “DAD” given to us is a treasure in this life and beyond. To you our prayer today is for our Lord’s richest blessing.

Happy Mother’s Day
Happy Father’s Day



Nuggets of Gold

- Man’s way leads to a hopeless end – God’s way leads to an endless hope.
- Worry is the dark room in which negatives can develop.
- A person who says it cannot be done, should not interrupt the person who is doing.
- God takes life’s pieces and gives us unbroken peace.
- After I became old enough to sensibly use energy; I didn’t have any.
- The past has no future so don’t live in it.



MEMORIAL GIFTS

Received by The Voice in the Wilderness

Given in Memory of: MR. AND MRS. ROY WOOD

By: An Anonymous Donor

Given in Memory of: DR. J. ROYCE THOMASON

By: Sister Powers

We would like to express our thanks to those who have given a memorial gift to The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc. Ministry. These names will be added to a plaque and displayed in our office. If you would like to honor a loved one, please send a Remembrance Memorial Gift or a Living Memorial Gift with the person’s name (legibly printed). Your gift will be listed in an upcoming issue of this publication.

THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS • PO Box 7037 • Asheville, NC 28802

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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