

Psm. 11:3

Baptists For Liberty

Prov. 29:2

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Galatians 5:1

NEWS LETTER

Issue #19

April 2014

Monthly Verse: *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." - Acts 1:8*

"Like People, Like Preacher, Like Politician"

by Bro. Billy Holbrook

In the book of Hosea, God is telling the people of Israel about their judgment for turning away from Him and going after other gods. One of the things He tells them is that there shall be like people, like priest (Hosea 4:9). As I thought about this I considered our current state of Christianity and our Nation.

I look at how many preachers there are that seem to be only concerned about making money and telling people what they want to hear. I can get upset as I hear many preach a message that is all man centered and continually proclaim what God can do for him and not what man can do for God. There are many that proclaim to be men of God and yet they will never preach against sin. I see all the masses of people who are flocking to these men and I wonder why do they gather so many listeners? The main problem is not that there are so many false prophets. The main problem is that there are so many people that want to hear them.

Paul told Timothy that in the last days people will not endure sound doctrine but after their own lusts they shall heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears (II Timothy 4:3). God is allowing these false prophets to continue because this is what the people want, it is part of their judgment. I think also about our Nation and her leaders. We can complain about our leaders all we want but we need to understand that we have the leaders we have because we deserve them and have chosen them. Our main problem is not our national leaders. Our main problem is that the heart of American is against God. Our only hope for Christianity in America and for our Nation is that the gospel of Christ would go forth in power and change hearts. The more people there are that get right with God, the less demand there will be for bad preachers and bad politicians.



Picture by Bro. Aurel Miclea Jr. (April 2014)

Translation & meaning: "Money (*the coin*) is the devil's eye (*old Romanian proverb*); Nonsense, that's old superstition!"

{Bro. Aurel is featured in our Labor In Love column this month.}

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Sermon: "God Is Seeking Men To Stand In the Gap"
by Bro. Nathaniel Hille



"And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, say unto her, Thou art the land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation. There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof. Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they showed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them. Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain. And her prophets have daubed them with untempered mortar, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken. The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully. And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD." - Ezek.22:23-31

We take our lesson from Vv.30, and I want you to note this question: "Is God able to find men?" but "not just any man is He looking for, He is looking for a certain kind of man."! He is looking for a man to fill in the gap!

A "gap" is a hole, a breach, an opening". A "hedge" is a wall to separate and defend against." The phrase "standing in the gap" means to expose one's self to and for the protection of something; to make defense against any assailing danger."

Beloved, I declare that we are in want of men who will stand in the gap; men who will expose themselves for Christ's sake; men who will defend the truths of God's Word; men who will fill the breach against assailing men & doctrine. Recall what Christ said: "Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." (Matt.9:37,38). Yes, brothers and sisters in the Lord, we are in great need of men; but not just any kind of men, we need men who will stand in the gap. We need them very desperately or else we be destroyed as our text says, "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord God." (Ezek.22:30,31). We need men to stand in the gap now for our generation and the next to come else where will the next generation go? (Joel.1:1-3; Deut.6:4-13); Who will uphold and sure up those ancient landmarks? (Prov.22:28; 23:10); for we have an ample supply of men who are removing the ancient Bible landmarks through their doctrine and practice devouring the flocks of God (Job.24:2—"Some remove the landmarks; they violently take away flocks, and feed thereof.").

We have forgotten, and we have neglected to tell our children of the whole counsel of God and it is manifesting in our lack of men who are standing in the gap. Abraham taught Isaac about worshipping the Lord when he was but a 'lad' (Gen.22:5-8). We do NOT teach our children about the Lord any more; and I reiterate...it is showing in the lack of stand for sound doctrine, worshipping God, and morals in the generation that now is and that which is to come.

WHAT KIND OF MAN IS GOD SEEKING?

We know God is seeking men to stand in the gap because He said He was (Ezek.22:30).

Beloved, the ministry is not a mere profession; it is not a job. It is work, but it is not a job. I never would have called myself into the ministry. When God called me into the ministry there was not anything in me that He saw that influenced His call to the ministry, but God's ways are past finding out. Now, God is looking for a certain kind of man and God gives us a description of the certain kind of man God is seeking to stand in the gap:

First of all, the man that God is seeking to stand in the gap must be pardoned of his sin(s):

Gal.1:15,16—Paul wrote of his own conversion experience and we see Paul was first saved, pardoned and then he preached. Personally, I believe in a God-called ministry; and God has yet to call a man who was lost into the ministry without first saving him. A man in the ministry, in the pulpit who has not experienced the saving grace of God has nothing whereby he can preach...for "We preach Christ crucified." (1Cor.1:23). Every man who has been born has been born wrong. He needs a new birth and until that happens that man is not a man that God will use to stand in the gap.

Secondly, the man that God is seeking to stand in the gap is one whom God has called into the Ministry. Christ Jesus spoke unto some of His disciples in Matt.4:19 saying, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men". The Bible states that men are called by the Lord into the ministry. It is not the will of the mother's, nor of the father's, nor of the pastor's, nor of the grandparents', but the will of God. Neither are men made fit for the ministry through education.

One may have the grandest seminary, Bible College there ever was...but one will never be able to educate a man into the ministry. Man has produced well educated, very eloquent men; but unless the Holy Spirit of God is upon them as God has called and fitted them for the work of the ministry...they will never prosper their hearers, nor bring God honour and glory. For the Holy Spirit is He who will lead you into all things (Jn.14:26).

We need men who are called into the ministry who will "preach the word" (2Tim.4:1,2), not use puppets & fairy tells, joke telling, but a man who will stand in the gap and preach the Word of God which is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Heb.4:12). We need men who will stand in the gap and "preach the word" of God and not their own views and opinions. This is the kind of men we need.

Thirdly, God is seeking a man who is Submissive to the Will of God. Jesus spoke in exemplary fashion in Matt.26:39 saying, "...not my will but thine be done." This is the hardest thing in the world to do: submit to the will of God. This takes as much grace to do as it does to save a person. Pulpits are filled today with men who use it for their own personal agenda, but we are in want of men who will be submissive to the will of God. Many pastors wonder why the church members they have been set over are not under subjection to the will of God. Perhaps it is because many of us Pastors are not setting the example that should be followed. Paul wrote to the church at Corinth saying, "Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me." (1Cor.4:16). And in another place he wrote, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."

(1Cor.11:1). Paul understood the necessity of being submissive to the will of God.

Fourthly, God is seeking a man who is Living a Separated Life. Paul wrote unto Timothy saying, *“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his, And, Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work.”* (2Tim.2:19-21). Beloved, God has never used a “dirty vessel.” Those who wish to be used by God are those who must first separate themselves unto the Lord.

When God saves a person, He sanctifies them, or sets them apart for His service. We call this *Positional Sanctification* or *Instantaneous Sanctification*. This is shown in **Col.1:13,14** in that we have been delivered from the power of darkness and been translated into the kingdom of Jesus Christ at the time of our redemption and new birth. However, there is another sanctification that must take place; a daily sanctification, an hourly sanctification. Every child of God must grow in holiness. We use the term *Progressive Sanctification* or *Continuous Sanctification*. Throughout the life of the born-again child of God, he or she is to live a life of godliness for the honour and glory of Jesus Christ. Simon Peter wrote, *“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”* (1Pet.1:13-16). The word “*holy*” carries the meaning of being consecrated, separated, and sanctified for the Master’s use. And we are to be living a life that is fit or meet for our Lord and Savior’s use.

This is a great failure of modern-day Baptists. We are in too much agreement with the world. Where is that difference that God hath made? (1Cor.4:7). Too many children of God live like the world, dress like the world, talk like the world and have no spiritual fruit just like the world. It raises the question in our minds: are these individuals even regenerated in Christ Jesus?

Why is it that not even 50 years ago you could not find a Baptist in a liquor establishment and today Baptists are thought ill of for abstaining from this appearance of evil? Why is it that Baptists once did not participate in modern day apparel, but wore clothes pertaining to their gender and as well dressed modestly? Why is it that Baptists of old would not attend services of the *Mother of Harlots* but now view it “okay” if it is a funeral or a wedding? Why have we disregarded “*Thus saith the Lord*”? For God did say, *“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,”* (2Cor.6:17) as well as when God told His people to remove themselves from the *Great Whore and her harlot children* saying, *“And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”* (Rev.18:4). Baptists of old did not participate in reveling (dancing) whether it was at a school or a wedding, but now Baptists are encouraging their children to participate in such profligate behavior. Why is this happening? It is because we have too much friendship with the world; it is because living like the world is the norm!!!

There are so many examples of children of God who were not used until they were separated from worldliness and ungodliness unto the Lord: Samson and Jonah come to mind. But, we are lacking in men who are separated unto the Lord. Thus God is looking for men who will stand in the gap and he has found none.

Fifthly, God is seeking a man who will Endure Hardness. Paul wrote unto Timothy telling him to *“...endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”* (2Tim.2:1-3). We need men like Joshua whom the Lord told, *“Be strong and of a good courage, be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”* (Josh.1:9). Children of God endure very little today. Men like Joshua, Paul, John the apostle, John the Baptist were men who endured. Today, Baptists get a *spiritual hang-nail* and they are ready to throw in the towel as the saying goes. Paul stated, *“Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”* (2Tim.2:10).

Beloved, God is seeking a man to stand in the gap; a man who will sell out for the Lord; a man who will suffer reproach for His Name’s sake. Let us prayer fervently and earnestly that God will raise up these men and set over His churches and that churches will call these kind of men and follow them as they follow the Lord!

News

March In Review: News Blitz: Underlined texts are links to the stories. If reading this as a print out you can find the links to these stories on our home page.

Tuesday March 4th, [“U.S. Hypocrisy? Telling Russia To Stay Out of Ukraine”](#)
[“Oklahoma legislators vote to nullify Agenda 21”](#)

Friday March 7th, [“Crimea Votes To Leave Ukraine. Join Russia and U.S. Sending Warship To Black Sea”](#)

Wednesday March 12th The Wall Street Journal reported on [“ObamaCare’s Secret Mandate Exemption”](#)

And from BenSwann.com [“Rep. Massie on 9/11 Report’s 28 pages: Shocking, but won’t hurt national security if released”](#)

Thursday March 13th, [“Does Crimea Have A Right To Secession From Ukraine?”](#) a video report from Benswann.com
[“Washington’s Back-to-the-Future Military Policies in Africa: America’s New Model for Expeditionary Warfare”](#)

Monday March 17th from The Washington Examiner [“Three years after U.S. intervention, Libya’s an even bigger disaster”](#)

Sunday March 20th [“A Conservative Defense Budget Should be A Conservative Cause”](#)

Monday March 21st, Josh Tolley answered the question [“Is Vladimir Putin Scaring The Hell Out of The New World Order?!”](#) on his radio show, video on his you tube channel.

Offnow.org, a site created by the Tenth Amendment Center posted [“Bipartisan Michigan bill would ban resources to NSA”](#) announcing the introduction of a bill in the Michigan state legislature to turn off material support to the NSA.

Wednesday March 23rd, Business Insider posted [“The Most Popular Show In America Is Basically NSA Propaganda”](#)

Thursday March 24th the Tenth Amendment Center announced [“Oklahoma Senate Passes Bill to Ban State Insurance Exchanges”](#)
From the Western Journal [“U.S. Take Note: Venice Overwhelmingly Votes To Secede From Italy”](#)



April News Blitz & Press Releases of Interest:

Wednesday, April 2nd According to the Tenth Amendment Center
["Obamacare Delays Prove Nullification's Effectiveness"](#)

Monday, April 7th From The New American: ["Ryan Budget Numbers Belie Claims of Spending Cuts, Balanced Budget"](#)

Tuesday, April 8th From The New American ["The Dark Road: The Worst Tax Law You've Never Heard About"](#)

The Real News.com: ["Do the Afghan Presidential Elections Signify Progress?"](#)

Before Its News: ["Clark County Sheriff Douglas Gillespi Refuses To Stand For Constitutional Rights Of Nevada Rancher Cliven Bundy"](#)

Wednesday April 9th, ["Agenda 21 Strikes Again: County Uses Eminent Domain to Preserve "Open Space" as reported from Benswann.com](#)

Thursday April 10th, a little ray of hope and warm fuzzies from Viralnova.com ["Remember Michael Vick's Disgusting Dogfighting Ring? Well, 7 Years Later..."](#) Because a fluff piece is nice once in a while, see how these former dogs from fighting rings have adapted to family life. Also PLEASE do research if your city/town, County, or State government are talking about [breed-specific legislation](#)

Friday, April 11th Benswann.com: ["NATO Wants More Military Spending? More Than 990 Billion?"](#)

THE CASTLE REPORT: ["Rise of the American Empire - part 1"](#)The Real News.com: ["Off With His Head": Court Upholds Obama's Power to Kill"](#)

Saturday, April 12th The New American: ["BLM's Seizure of Nevada Rancher's Land Rights Unconstitutional"](#)

Native News Online: ["LeChee Electrification Project Brings Power to 63 Families on Navajo Nation"](#)

Sunday, April 13th The Real News.com: ["Quebecers Reject PQ and Elect a Liberal Government Representing Big Business"](#)

Native News Online: ["BIA Seeking Feedback on Indian Child Welfare Act Guidelines for State Courts"](#)

Monday, April 14th, BenSwann.com: ["Harry Reid's Attempted Land Grab thwarted by Bundy Supporters"](#)

Ben Swann.com Exclusive: ["Sources Inside The BLM and Las Vegas Metro Say Feds Are Planning A Raid On Bundy Home"](#)

Sheriff Mack, CSPOA speaking at Press Conference at Bundy Ranch post-BLM-standoff. Calls out sheriffs, bureaucrats and politicians [posted on youtube](#) by [Aaron Preciado](#)

Brad Mattes' opinion piece at Lifenews.com ["If Your Doctor Tells You to Abort Your Baby, Get a New Doctor"](#)

Tuesday, April 15th The New American: ["War on the West: Why More Bundy Standoffs Are Coming"](#)

Not a source we like to use here, but this was a good short clip from Fox News: ["Judge Nap: I Was Shocked to See That the BLM Has Armed Troops"](#)

Washington Examiner: ["EXography: State government dependence on federal funding growing at alarming rate"](#)

Wendsday, April 16th Benswnn.com: ["Campaign For Liberty Rejects IRS Demands For Donor List"](#)

Power Traiding Radio episode, Merlin Rothfeld and John O'Donnell interview Bob Murphy ["How the Government Wrecks the Economy"](#) Business Inside reports ["Major Study Finds The US Is An Oligarchy"](#)

Thursday, April 17th International Tribunal into Crimes of Church and State: ["Public Information Update from The Prosecutor's Office of The International Common Law Court of Justice"](#) on the Matter of the People v. Bergoglio, Pachon, Welby and others charged with global

child trafficking and ritual murder

The Real News.com: ["Investigation Finds Former Ukraine President Not Responsible For Sniper Attack on Protestors"](#)

BenSwann.com: ["Who Is Really Behind Jews Being Told to Register in Ukrainian Province?"](#)

Panam Post: ["Colombia: Santos Reelection Strategy Includes Destroying Property Rights"](#)

Ludwig von Mises Institute : ["The Sad State of the Economics Profession"](#)

Native News Online: ["Breastfeeding is Food Sovereignty for Native Communities"](#)

Friday, April 18th Benswann.com: ["Congressman Issa's Office "No Investigation Into Reid/BLM. At This Time""](#)

Monday, April 21st The New American: ["SPLC Launches Hysterical Attack on Critics of UN Agenda 21"](#)

Press Releases

April 9th, from **Rutherford Institute**

Rutherford Institute Asks U.S. Supreme Court to Prohibit Police Practice of Routinely Carrying Out Warrantless Searches of Americans' Cell Phones

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Challenging the practice by police of routinely searching cell phones of individuals who have been arrested, The Rutherford Institute has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to declare these warrantless cell phone searches an unconstitutional violation of the Fourth Amendment's prohibition on unreasonable searches and seizures. Insisting that cell phone digital data represents the equivalent of bookshelves of an individual's papers and record, and that police should not be allowed to rummage through this highly personal information without a warrant, Rutherford Institute attorneys have asked the Court to recognize that cell phones store an extraordinary amount of personal and private information that has historically been accorded a high degree of protection from government intrusion.

[The Rutherford Institute's amicus brief in United States v. Wurie is available at www.rutherford.org.](#)

"Cell phones hold a place of central importance in modern day life, in large part because they contain a variety of personal information that users can access on the go. While this may make life more convenient, it can also pose a serious threat to our individual privacy when our cell phones end up in the hands of government officials lacking the knowledge or scruples to abide by the Fourth Amendment's prohibition on unreasonable searches and seizures," said John W. Whitehead, president of The Rutherford Institute and author of *A Government of Wolves: The Emerging American Police State*. "The government has no business prying into Americans' private affairs, whether that prying is done by way of physical searches of our cell phones, remotely through surveillance of our phone calls and internet activities, or by tracking our cell phone signals to gauge our whereabouts."

The issue at the heart of *United States v. Wurie* arose out of an incident that took place in September 2007, when Boston police officers stopped Brima Wurie, a motorist they believed was engaging in a drug deal. Police arrested Wurie and transported him to a police station. At the police station, police took two cell phones and cash from Wurie's person. Police opened the cell phone and accessed the call log, and based on this information became suspicious that Wurie resided at a house on Silver Street in Boston. After conducting a warrantless entry of the residence to secure it, police obtained a warrant to search the residence and discovered cocaine, marijuana, a firearm and cash. Wurie was charged with possession of cocaine with intent to distribute and possession of a firearm, but moved to suppress the evidence obtained as a result of the warrantless search of his cell phone, including the evidence seized at the Silver Street residence. Although the trial court denied Wurie's request, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit reversed that decision and ruled that the warrantless search of the cell phone was not justified.

In January 2014, the Supreme Court granted the government's request to review the appeals court's decision. In asking the Supreme Court to affirm the appellate court's ruling, Rutherford Institute attorneys point out that while the Fourth Amendment allows police to search the person of an arrestee incident to the arrest, such searches must be strictly limited to the fundamental concerns of officer safety and preservation of evidence. Neither of these concerns warrant the routine search of an arrestee's cell phone by police, and the legality of a cell phone search incident to an arrest must be judged on a case-by-case basis. Moreover, Institute attorneys point out that allowing cell phone searches incident to an arrest would open up a vast amount of personal information to police. Affiliate attorneys Anand Agneshwar, Robert B. Sobelman, and Carl S. Nadler of Arnold & Porter, LLP, assisted The Rutherford Institute in advancing the arguments in the *amicus* brief before the Supreme Court.

April 16th from B'Tselem
"From oppression to freedom – a special message for the Passover holiday"

Dear Friends,

Next week, Jews around the world will sit down with family and friends for the Passover Seder. At the holiday meal, we will recite the story of the exodus from Egypt, a journey from slavery to freedom that resonates with oppressed groups all over the world.

For me, the Seder is much more than a history lesson. It is a call to action. It tells us that the journey from oppression to freedom is ongoing, and that each of us has the responsibility be a part of that journey. [This is why I am asking you now for your help.](#)

Passover is one of the holidays when Israelis and Jews from abroad make a pilgrimage to the city of Hebron, located in the southern West Bank. Over the past decade, downtown Hebron has become a ghost town due to restrictions imposed on Palestinians. In Hebron, Israeli settlers harass their Palestinian neighbors with impunity. Rather than protecting Palestinians from this violence, Israeli soldiers are often themselves part of the problem, harassing Palestinians and unlawfully detaining Palestinian children. To this we say: Dayenu! Enough!

But the thousands of Jews who come to Hebron for Passover will not see that reality, even though it is happening right in front of their eyes. They do not know, or chose to ignore, that the streets are empty of Palestinians because of the severe restrictions imposed by the Israeli military. They will not notice the hundreds of Palestinian shops that have been closed by military order. They will not see the Palestinians who live in fear of violence from their settler neighbors.

This is why B'Tselem's work is so important. During Passover and throughout the year, B'Tselem's camera volunteers will be there, documenting the reality on the ground. Our community of Palestinian volunteers film images that challenge Israelis' misperceptions, put a human face to Palestinians and generate important public conversations.

The video is only one piece of our strategy to make change. B'Tselem's research provides essential context for the images, and our press and new media strategies ensure that a more complete picture reaches those who need to see it. And our advocacy with Israeli policymakers and the international community advances tangible policy changes to make people's lives better.

We need your help. For twenty-five years, B'Tselem has defended the universal values of freedom and dignity inherent in the story of Passover. [Your donation to B'Tselem will make sure we can continue to do this work and build a future in which Palestinians and Israeli alike will live in freedom and dignity.](#)

I wish a very happy Passover to all who are celebrating. For our Christian friends, very best wishes for Easter. And to all - a bright and blooming spring.

Best regards, Jessica Montell Executive Director

April 28, 2014 – JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. From the Tenth Amendment Center:

"A bill that would protect property rights from Agenda 21 and other similar measures passed the Missouri state house today.

House Bill 1647 ([HB1647](#)) was introduced on Jan. 29 by Rep. Mike Moon (R-157). The vote in the state house was 99-47 and the bill now moves on to the state senate for further consideration.

HB1647 states that "neither the state of Missouri nor any political subdivision shall adopt or implement policy recommendations that deliberately or inadvertently infringe or restrict private property rights without due process, as may be required by policy recommendations originating in, or traceable to Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations in 1992 at its Conference on Environment and Development or any other international law or ancillary plan of action that contravenes the Constitution of the United States or the Missouri Constitution."

The bill goes on to declare that "state of Missouri and all political subdivisions are prohibited from entering into any agreement with, expending any sum of money for, receiving funds from, contracting services from, or giving financial aid to those nongovernmental and intergovernmental organizations as defined in Agenda 21."

If passed, HB1647 will be a big win for Constitutionalists and liberty supporters. Private property rights would be strengthened for Missourians, while their state's democratic political process would be protected from pernicious outside influences. Although Agenda 21 is marketed by its planners as benign and sensible, its effect on American sovereignty could be devastating.

Opponents of the bill used strong language in an attempt to paint supporters as wild conspiracy theorists, with one legislator going so far as to use the terms "hoodwinked" and "bamboozled."

AGENDA 21 OVERVIEW

The United States government officially endorsed Agenda 21 in 1992 when President George H. W. Bush signed on to a treaty with 177 other countries at a large U.N. meeting called the 'Earth Summit' in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. He triumphed this accomplishment as emblematic of a world coming together to maintain a safe, living environment for present and future generations. However, there is more to Agenda 21 than what these world leaders are willing to let on to the general public.

"In a nutshell, the [Agenda 21] plan calls for governments to take control of all land use and not leave any of the decision making in the hands of private property owners," The Post-Sustainability Institute, a think-tank designed to rally awareness and action regarding Agenda 21, said on [its website](#).

"[Agenda 21] is a whole life plan. It involves the educational system, the energy market, the transportation system, the governmental system, the health care system, food production, and more. The plan is to restrict your choices, limit your funds, narrow your freedoms, and take away your voice."

To learn more about Agenda 21, please watch the following informative video from the John Birch Society:

ACTION ITEMS

HB1647 has been transmitted to the state senate, where it will first be assigned to a committee for further consideration. Should the committee pass it, the full senate will have an opportunity to debate and vote on the

bill. A similar bill is already moving through the process on the senate side.

For Missouri Residents: Call your state senator and urge them to vote YES on HB1647. Call your state senator and urge them to support HB1647 and its companion legislation in the senate, SB618. You can find their contact information [HERE](#).

For Other States: Call your state legislators and demand that they take a stand for private property rights and against foreign entanglements by introducing similar legislation to HB1647. You can find their contact information [HERE](#)."

The week of this publication tornadoes and other storms has been hitting several southern and Midwestern states, we'd like to request prayer for those affected by these storms, also if you are able to here are just a few ways you can help: You can go to Redcross.org to donate, Also The Red Cross is accepting donations at its website

Donations can be made to the Salvation Army at their website or at (800) 725-2769. You can also text "STORM" to 80888 for a \$10 donation.

The Arkansas Community Foundation has created an Emergency and Disaster Relief Fund to help victims of the disaster. Gifts made through the Disaster Relief Fund will be used to support organizations working on the ground in the affected communities during the relief and recovery efforts. There are two ways to contribute to the Emergency and Disaster Relief Fund.

- 1. If you have a personal fund or endowment at the Community Foundation, you can recommend a grant from your fund to the Disaster Relief Fund. [Use this form.](#)*
- 2. If you do not have a personal fund at the Community Foundation, you can still support the Disaster Relief Fund with an online credit card gift. [Click here to give online.](#)*

For blood donations in Mississippi visit www.msblood.com.

News & Views From Canada

by Sis. Grace Brooks

Our Prime Minister will make history. He made history by being the first Prime Minister of Canada to address the government of Israel. Prime Minister Steven Harper and his sizable entourage started off the year 2014 by visiting Israel in January for six days. This would be his first official state visit to Israel. Harper and his wife, Laureen, were greeted by Israel's Foreign affairs minister, Avigdor Lieberman, and Vivian Bercovci, Canada's ambassador to the Jews. The Israel prime minister, in his official speech, called the prime minister "A great friend of Israel and the Jewish people." He praised Harper for standing behind Israel on such issues as the nuclear program, free trade with Israel and terrorism.

Terriosim This documentation allows Canada and Israel to work together better in the areas of organized crime, emergency management, crime prevention, and other related public safety concerns. The declaration seeks to establish a more structured framework for the continued cooperation on public safety issues between Canada and Israel. "The Declaration of Intent is an opportunity for Canada and Israel to strengthen their commitment to safeguarding their citizens and respective national interests from common threats," the Prime minister says.

Free Trade Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, stated that the revised free trade agreement between the two nations would be the cornerstone of commercial relationships... A MODERNIZED TRADE AGREEMENT WOULD... enhance bilateral commercial flows by reducing removing technical barriers, enhancing cooperation, increasing regulatory matters and reducing transactions costs for businesses.

The Nuclear Program In 1948 a nuclear field was built. Israel starting looking into this almost immediately, and with the support of the country of France, in the late fifties, without the knowledge of the rest of the world, began building a nuclear reactor and processing plant, and was accused of developing a nuclear weapon in the late 1960. This has not been confirmed. The size of ISRAEL'S nuclear arsenal is between 75 nuclear warheads. The Israeli forces can launch these missiles by intermediate-range ballistic missile, intercontinental ballistic missile, aircraft, as well as by submarine. When members of parliament from other countries asked why Harper was doing this his reply was "It's the thing to do, support Israel." Prime Minister Harper's spokesman, Jason Mac Donald says Harper vows to promote relations as well as peace and security in the region. Canada will suffer because of Harper's, and the rest of Canada's, so says our prime minister, support of Israel. At least two EGYPTIAN parliament members walked out. One member called Harper 'unbalanced' for supporting Israel. Canada will lose trade with these nations. Harper's trip did succeed in strengthening international relations and diplomacy. It elevated Canada's image to the world. This is all well and good. It is good that the prime minister supports the nation of Israel.

According to Genesis 12: 3- God is saying, "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee all families of the earth shall be blessed." I agreed, at one time, with Harper's statement that he, and all Canadians were to stand behind Israel. I base my stand on God's ancient promise. Christian's do support Israel. Israel was created by God, all other nations on this earth were created by man, under worldly laws and terms. But to support Palestine? Palestine does not love Israel. The Palestines tell the world the land God gave Israel in really theirs. God told Abraham to get out of the country where he presently lived and go to another land that God would show him and God would make a mighty nation out of Abraham's seed. (YOU CAN READ THIS IN GENESIS 12:1-3) Genesis:13: 14-15- "And the Lord said unto ARAHAM, AFTER THAT IOT WAS SEPERATED FROM HIM, LIFT UP NOW THINE EYES, AND LOOK UPON THE PLACE WHERE THOU ART NORTHWARD, AND SOUTHWARD, AND EASTWARD, AND WESTWARD.15/FOR ALL THE LAND WHICH THOU SEEEST, TO THEE WILL I GIVE IT, AND THY SEED FOR EVER" The Palestienes have not given Israel any peace down through the centuries. This is what the fighting is all about. Palestine wants to take the land God gave Israel away from them. Israel is merely fighting to hang onto this land, and with God's help, they are doing so. The only peace Palestine wants for Israel is to run them into the sea and exterminate them. Our prime minister handed out millions of dollars in support of Palestine. Why? Doesn't he know about the feud between the two countries? Is he really supporting helping Palestine get the land away from Israel? He's said he is for peace and security in the area. What is going on?

2014 Elections Coverage

by Sis. Joanna Works

This year is the midterm elections, incase you haven't already been informed through media and campaign ads.

Primaries will be held between Tuesday, May 6th – Tuesday, September 9th depending on your state. Also some areas have "special elections," for example here in Burton, MI we're having special election on May 6th regarding our school district but our primary is later in the summer. General elections are on Tuesday, November 6th for all fifty of the States, however Guam & Porte Rico's elections come in early 2015.

To look up your local elections I recommend stateandlocalgov.net there you can select your state, then your town/city and they'll provide the link to the website of your local government which should have pertinent information of events such as elections & candidates. You may also try the website "Green Papers."

Some candidates: Just to give a sample of some of the many races taking place this year & candidates you're not likely to hear about from the main stream media here's a list of candidates from the Constitution Party, keep in mind this is their list and isn't an endorsement for all of these candidates. Hopefully next month we'll look at early primary results and compare candidates from the Republican & Libertarian parties.

AL

Derrick Doug - HD 91

AK

J.R. Myers – Governor

Maria Rensel – Lieutenant Governor

CA

David Christensen – US House, District 10

CO

James R. Fariello - Adams County Sheriff

Steve Henderson - Mesa County Assessor

ID

Steven D. Pankey - Governor

David Hartigan – Lieutenant Governor

Christian Fioravanti - State Senate, District 1

Raymond J. Writz - State Senate, District 4

David Hay - State Representative A, District 30

Robert Gorgoglione - State Representative B, District 30

IL

Michael Oberline - Governor

Randy Stufflebeam – Lieutenant Governor

Joe Bell – Attorney General

Stacy Moss – Secretary of State

Timothy Goodecase - Comptroller

Chad Koppie – US Senate

LA

Randy Fontenot - Chief of Police, City of Eunice

MN

Dean Barton – Secretary of State

Tim Utz – State Representative, District 41-B

MO

Doug Enyart - US House, District 8

Rodney Farthing - State Auditor

Jerry Dollar – State Representative, District 115

Michael Eberle - State Representative, District 59

Bill Gillmore - State Representative, District 126

Donna Ivanovich - State Representative, District 113

Butch Page - State Representative, District 57

Dan Plemons - State Representative, District 54

Cindy Redburn - State Representative, District 96

Joe Passanise - St. Louis County Executive

Doug Enyart - US House, District 8

James Bennett - Jefferson Co. Executive

Terence McCarthy – Jefferson Co. Clerk

Lawrence Lott – Jefferson Co. Collector of Revenue

Richard McKie – Jackson Co. Legislator

Michael Jared Plemons – Johnson Co. Presiding Commissioner

Angelina Reese Burch - Committeewoman, Benton, Wayne Co.

Linda Cravens - Committeewoman, Cowan, Wayne Co.

Gerald Dietz - Committeeman, Poplar Bluff, Butler Co.

Jan Farthing - Committeewoman, Franklin, Dent Co.

Rod Farthing - Committeeman, Franklin, Dent Co.

B.J. Jordan - Committeewoman, Couch, Oregon Co.

Connie Plemons - Committeewoman, Warrensburg, Johnson Co.

Dan Plemons - Committeeman, Warrensburg, Johnson Co.

Bruce Purdom - Committeeman, Logan, Wayne Co.

Linda Rutherford – Committeewoman, St. Michael, Madison Co.

Tim Rutherford – Committeeman, St. Michael, Madison Co.

NC

David Waddell - US Senate

NY

Joe Gilbert - US House, District 21

NV

David VanDerBeek - Governor

Mike Little – Lieutenant Governor

Jonathan Hansen – Attorney General

Kress K. Cave – State Treasurer

Tom Jones – State Controller

Kamau Akil Bakari – US House, District 1

Janine Hansen – US House, District 2

Russell Best – US House, District 3

Roger Baum – US House, District 4

John Everhart – State Senate, District 16

Jon Kamerath – State Senate, District 8

Joel Lewis – State Senate, District 9

Timothy Fasano – State Assembly 38

Pat Little – State Assembly, District 17

John Wagner – State Assembly, District 40

Brad Lee Barhill – Clark County Assessor

Shannon MacLean – Clark County Recorder

Raye Jones – Clark County Treasurer

Cheryl Smith – Elko County Recorder

Michael Smith – Elko County Public Administrator

Kay Dawn Jenkins – Elko County Treasurer

John Roemer – Lyon County Commissioner District #5

Don Cochran – Washoe County Recorder

John Lampros – White Pine County Comm. District #1

PA

Don John – US House, District 9

Bob Pyle - Governor

Bob Goodrich – Lieutenant Governor

SD

Wayne Schmidt - Public Utilities Commissioner

Curtis Strong – Governor

TN

Mark J. Rawles – US House, District 8

Shaun Crowell - Governor

Tim York – Tennessee State Senate, District 27

Mike Warner – Tennessee State Senate, District 67

Steve Hilton – Mayor, Gibson County

TX

Michael Bishop - Governor

Gregg Woodcock – State Rep., District 112

UT

Shawn McCausland - US House, District 2

Collin Robert Simonsen - US House, District

Kirk Pearson - Utah State Senate, District 17

Gregory G. Hansen - Attorney General

Lee Phipps - Utah State House, District 1
Robert Moultrie - Utah State House, District 20
Brady Tracy - Utah State House, District 20
Marilee Roose - Utah State House, District 22
Jonathan Garrard – Tooele County Commissioner
Ryan MacFarlane – Davis County Commissioner, Seat B

WI

Randi Molini – Mayor, Black River Falls

WVA

Phil Hudok – US Senate

Jeff Becker – US House, District 2

Mike Fisher - State Senate, District 8

Lou Manley - House of Delegates, District 52

Ken Mosetti - House of Delegates, District 56

Jeff Werner - House of Delegates, District 62

WY

Jennifer Young - Secretary of State

MAY 2014 PRIMARY SCHEDULE

If you are in the following states,
DON'T FORGET to go VOTE IN YOUR PRIMARY!
Get your ID's, paperwork in order....NOW!

May 6, 2014: INDIANA • NORTH CAROLINA • OHIO

May 13, 2014: NEBRASKA • WEST VIRGINIA

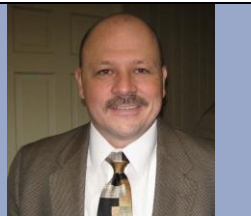
**May 20, 2014: ARKANSAS • GEORGIA • IDAHO
KENTUCKY • OREGON • PENNSYLVANIA**

May 27, 2014: TEXAS House Primaries Run-Off

(Graphic from someone on twitter)

“Ad Hominem”

by Bro. Jeff Short



This is an argumentative device in debate, and, I should add, an improper device at that. *Ad Hominem* is a Latin phrase that literally means, to the person. It refers to two different fallacies in argument:

Making an appeal to emotion or prejudice rather than to logic or rational thought

Attacking a person's character rather than the substance of their argument

This is a favorite device of many politicians who play to emotions when pitching their plans rather than expounding the merits of their proposals. They also use *ad hominem* to discredit their opponents rather than rationally debate the merits of their opponents' plans.

I will forego giving examples of *ad hominem* arguments in order to give time and space to our purpose in considering it: What concern should Christians have for *ad hominem* arguments, besides being careful not to use such a device? Note also that in this post I want to restrict the consideration to the second definition given above, though many good applications could also be made from the first.

Though personal attacks are technically out of bounds in good debate, evil men break rules (the law) because they are evil. It should not

surprise us when the world does precisely that rather than answer the arguments we make for the truth of God's Word. This is what Jesus faced when the people asked, **“Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?”** (Matthew 13:55-56). The disciples were likewise despised because they were fishermen from Galilee. We can be sure to be despised and attacked personally over something in our life, e.g. birthplace, nationality, education, lack of education, physical impediments, etc.

We can do nothing about many of our physical attributes for which we may be despised. Though it is bad form to attack one's person and it may be inconsequential to the subject at hand, it may also be perfectly true that we are short, fat, bald, or whatever and we will have to bear all such reproaches patiently.

Additionally, the *ad hominem* response may take the form of accusations against us of wrongdoing. Say that a certain man is ably and eloquently setting forth the doctrines of grace to a group of people. And then, someone in the corner yells, “Yeah, God may be sovereign but you're an adulterer.” You know as well as I do, if that accusation is true, everything the man has said is lost and the party is over. I realize that if he was speaking the truth, the fact he was an adulterer does not alter the truth he spoke and I will try to deal with that aspect in another post where I consider *ad hominem* in evaluation of an argument and its impact on a Christian.

What is our response to be to this sort of *ad hominem*? There are two things primarily that we must consider in this regard. First, we must ensure that the accusation is not true. In other words, we must ever seek to have a conscience void of offense toward God and man (Acts 24:16). Actually, through a godly life we will give weight to our words and put to silence our detractors (1 Peter 2:12, 15; Titus 2:7-8). Secondly, we should rejoice. That's right, when we are falsely accused, we should rejoice, **“Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you”** (Matthew 5:11-12).

Historical Marker:

“Baptists And The Argument From Silence”

by Bro. Curtis Pugh

Today some people seem to regard the Bible as a book of “thou shalt nots.” Taking this attitude can result in the idea that if the Bible does not forbid a thing, it is OK to do it. Thus some Baptist preachers will “dedicate babies” because the Bible does not forbid it. Others will perform marriages because the Bible does not forbid it. Others will allow rock bands, theatricals and even “choreographic performances” (dancing) in their church meetings because the Bible does not forbid these things.

This method of Bible interpretation is based upon the silence of the Scriptures. The argument from silence, as all competent theologians agree, proves nothing. About some things the Scriptures are silent because they did not exist in Bible days or were not problems among the New Testament congregations. Such modern problems as the abuse of prescription drugs, Internet and television pornography, Baptists believing in the spontaneous combustion theory of church organization, couples dating, etc., did not exist in either the Old or New Testament eras. Does the fact that the Bible does not specifically forbid these things mean it is OK to participate in such things?

Back in the days of the Protestant Reformation the Reformers had to contend with arguments against them from both the Roman Catholics and our old Anabaptist forefathers. The Catholics accused the Protestants of schism and heresy. The big boast of the Protestants was

“sola Scriptura.” We follow “only the Scriptures” was the claim of the Protestants. And they did use the Scriptures to refute the Roman Catholics. But when it came to dealing with our Anabaptist forefathers, they had to resort to other methods – to Tradition! Why? Because the Anabaptists were on the side of the Scriptures while they, the Protestants, were holding on to “baggage” they brought with them out of the Catholic church.

The Anabaptists accused the Protestants of not following the Scriptures because they “baptized” babies and young children. Huldrych Zwingli (1 January 1484 – 11 October 1531) was a leader of the Protestant Reformation in Switzerland. This fellow Zwingli, like Calvin, Luther, and others, while claiming to believe in salvation by faith, actually taught salvation by works. They taught that infant baptism brought grace to or saved little babies. That this is still the belief and teaching of the Protestants is illustrated by the following quotation from the United Methodist Church’s Articles of Religion. Their Article of Religion XVII says, “Baptism is not only a sign of profession and mark of difference whereby Christians are distinguished from others that are not baptized; but it is also a sign of regeneration or the new birth. The Baptism of young children is to be retained in the Church.”

Our Anabaptist forefathers accused the Protestants of not following the Scriptures. It was obvious to them that although Protestants make a lot of noise about “sola Scriptura,” it is just that: a lot of noise. Since Zwingli could find no Scripture supporting infant baptism, he tried to use the argument from silence in defending it. He said that since the Scriptures do not clearly forbid infant baptism, it is OK to baptize babies. (This is the same argument that some modern day Baptists resort to trying to defend certain unscriptural practices today).

Balthasar Hubmaier, was an important theologian among the Anabaptists. We do not know for sure when he was born: we think about 1480. But we know of a certainty when he died. He was one of those who overcame the devil, “...by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death,” (Revelation 12:11). He was tortured on the rack, and tried for heresy and convicted of course, at the instigation of the Protestant Reformer Zwingli. (What? “Godly Protestants” persecuting and killing Anabaptists?) On 10 March 1528, he was taken to the public square in Vienna, Austria and burned at the stake: his wife encouraging him to remain steadfast in the faith. Three days after he was burned, his wife, with a stone tied around her neck, was drowned in the River Danube. Thus were the “dippers dipt.”

No doubt one of the reasons the Protestant Zwingli hated the faithful Anabaptist Hubmaier was Hubmaier’s stand for the Scriptures. For Hubmaier had staunchly opposed infant baptism. He had answered Zwingli’s contention that since the Bible does not specifically forbid infant baptism is it proper to do it. He answered Zwingli and all the Protestants thus, “It is clear enough for him who has eyes to see it, but it is not expressed in so many words, literally: ‘do not baptize infants.’ May one baptize them? To that I answer: ‘if so I may baptize my dog or my donkey... I may make idols out of St. Paul and St. Peter, I may bring infants to the Lord’s Supper, bless palm branches, vegetables, salt, land and water, sell the Mass for an offering. For it is nowhere said in express words that we must not do these things.’”

Roman Catholics openly teach that the Bible is neither sufficient nor perspicuous: that is, it is not enough and it is not clear. The Bible, to the Catholic, must be supplemented by their tradition and the occasional “ex cathedra” (from the throne) infallible words uttered by their papa – their Pope. Tradition completes God’s revelation for a Catholic and the priesthood alone can tell the Catholic laity what the Bible means. Protestants, while claiming to follow the Bible, often must make their arguments for their unscriptural traditions from the silence of the Scriptures. They cannot make them on the basis of what the Bible says because the Bible does not teach many things the Protestants believe.

We say, like old Brother Hubmaier, if I may baptize infants and please God, I may baptize my dog or my donkey and please Him as well. Why? Because the Bible does not specifically forbid these things.

If I may baptize infants, dogs and donkeys and please God, I may dedicate babies, take “communion” to sick people at home, bring musical and theatrical entertainments into the meetings of a New Testament Baptist church, engage in bake sales, church yard sales, Brunswick stew sales, Indian taco sales, raffling off rifles, shotguns and handguns, hosting church weddings, and blessing breweries. (All these things and others are the practices of Baptists in various locations).

But there are Bible principles involved in these matters as well as specific instructions left to the Lord’s churches as to just what exactly it is they are to be doing. These specific instructions are often called the “Great Commission.” That commission states: **“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen,”** (Matthew 28:19-20). Those three duties are specified: they are precise: they are clear.

In connection with the Great Commission, remember this logical and legal principle: the specification of one thing excludes all others. Let me illustrate: if your mortgage specifies that you pay \$650 a month and you have met all contractual obligations to your lender, then your lender may not rightfully demand that you pay \$1,000 a month. Why? Your mortgage agreement does not specifically forbid your lender from demanding a thousand dollars a month, now does it? Does your lender cite the argument from silence, saying that because your mortgage agreement does not specifically forbid such a thousand dollar a month payment, they are right in demanding it? Of course not! They have not right to do such a thing because your mortgage agreement specifies six-hundred-and-fifty dollar a month payments. The specification of one thing excludes all others.

Christ told His congregations what they are to be busy doing in the commission quoted above. In the parable, He is understood to have meant, “...**Occupy till I come,**” (Luke 19:12). Those ten servants in this parable were to be busy about their master’s business until he returned. Is that not the message to the Lord’s churches today? Contests, raffles, Superbowl Sundays, concealed carry classes, Sadie Hawkins Day Dances, jamborees, rock concerts, movie nights out – all such like things are not specifically forbidden in the Scriptures, now are they? But if Baptists can properly bring such things into “worship” and “church” then we may baptize dogs and donkeys – and babies. May God be gracious towards us and preserve a remnant upon the earth until Christ comes for His bride and her maidens.

“Encouragement in Missions”

by Bro. Todd Bryant



I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek” - Romans 1:16

This verse has often been the source of encouragement in witnessing to many children of God. The Gospel is God’s ordained means in reaching His elect children (**1 Corinthians 1:21**). Our responsibility is to merely

share the Gospel. This is what the Great Commission is all about (**Matthew 28:18-20**). We do not have to be concerned that we use “scholarly” speech when we talk to people about Christ. In fact, Paul said he tried to speak in the common language of the people when he shared the message of Jesus with them (**1 Corinthians 2:1**). Oftentimes, we get the idea that we have to frame the sentences just right (grammatically) for people to respond. However, this is not so. The Gospel isn’t effective because of our ability to speak proper English or not. Even the greatest Alabama redneck alive (which this writer may indeed qualify to be) can share the testimony of Jesus Christ. Some will respond; some will not. However, this has nothing to do with the speaker. The Gospel is only effective when it is empowered by the Holy Spirit of God (**1 Thessalonians 1:4-5**). We can indeed plant and water. However, only God can give an increase (**1 Corinthians 3:6**). So, if you have been fearful in speaking to some about Christ, this should give you some confidence to boldly proclaim the message of Jesus with your friends and family.

This verse gives us a bit of direction as well as confidence. It seems that many today believe the Gospel has to be dressed up in order for people to receive it. In modern day America, we tend to have the idea that we need to “market” the Gospel. However, this is not true. As we have already said, the Gospel will only accomplish God’s intended purpose (**Isaiah 55:11**). It will never reach further than God intended. It will never fall short of God’s intentions. When God is pleased, He will empower His Word and it will soften the hardest of hearts. The addition of worldly methodology to the Great Commission has done nothing but corrupt the truth. Indeed, God gave us a sufficient message to carry forth. He doesn’t need our help to improve it.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if the churches of our day returned to preaching God’s Word alone without mixing worldly “theology” into it? Without doubt, God would bless the efforts of truth as He has done in times past. Today, we have lulled many to spiritual sleep by creating an environment in which even the vilest sinner can be comfortable. A wicked person should never be comfortable when listening to the Word of God preached!

Children of God, let us seek the old paths which God has established in His Word rather than these new ways that have been recently established (**Jeremiah 18:15**). Let us preach the Gospel with passion in hopes that God would bless it and draw men unto Himself (**John 6:37, 44**). This is our duty.

Point Of View: American Girl in India



(Sis. Katie Lall and Bro. Abhijeet Lall with a crowd gathered for a special meeting)

About Sis. Katie Lall

“I am originally from a small town about 20 miles outside of Sacramento, California. I attended William Jessup University, a private

Christian university in Northern California. While attending, I met Abhijeet Lall. He was originally from India, and would be returning back after graduation. His parents started Central India Christian Mission thirty years ago, and Abhijeet had a desire to serve the youth in India as a part of CICM. We became very close friends while in college, and before he graduated, we were dating. I went to visit him in India right after Christmas in 2011. While there, I toured the mission and fell in love with the orphanage there. Seeing the children, I felt God calling me to move to India and serve those precious children. Shortly after that, we became engaged, and the following year we got married. After the honeymoon, I moved to India to be there with him and serve God.

“I was saved April 29, 2001 when I was 11 years old. I had been under conviction for a few years, and was very scared about dying. I knew that I needed to be saved, and I prayed for it all the time. The night I was saved, Bro. Chris Silvey was preaching. I remember being terrified of dying and going to hell. I was crying, and it was very evident to those around me that the Holy Spirit was at work. After the service, I talked with my pastor at the time, Bro. Rick Perdue. Bro. Silvey, my mom, and my dad were also there. Bro. Perdue read some verses to me. Philippians 1:6 was the one verse that really stood out to me. It gave me peace knowing God had started a work in me, and He would finish it. We all began to pray together, and as I prayed for Jesus to save me, I felt a great peace come over me. I knew at that very moment I was saved, and I fully believed in Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior.

“I was born and raised in Landmark Missionary Baptist Church. My great-grandmother was one of the founding members of LMBC.”

Religion in India

What is the religious atmosphere like where you live in India, how does it compare to where you're from?

“First of all, there are less than 3% percent Christians in India. That is a huge difference. In the area I grew up, you can drive ten minutes down the road and drive by at least five churches. In the town I live in now, there is only one church. Every Sunday that church is completely packed. What I have observed is that the Christians in India are more grateful and appreciative of their church they attend. I have seen many people in America take church for granted. They attend when it is convenient for them, and they aren’t “fully” there when they do attend. Many of the Christians in India are so thankful for the fact that they even have a church to attend. There is a lot of persecution happening over there. The government does what it can to shut down churches. The people in India attend church with great enthusiasm and spirit because they know that the church may not be there next Sunday. I don’t see many Americans with the same look. For example, my husband and I attended a church service in India where we were an hour late due to traffic. When we finally arrived to the church, the members were all standing and praising the Lord through singing. They had been doing that for the past hour. They then continued to stay for more singing and preaching. The whole service was around three hours. It made me think. If we were in America and the preacher was over an hour late, how many people would stay and wait?”

Are there any dangers to being a genuine Christian in India?

“Yes. There are Hindi and Islamic extremists in India who hate anyone who believes differently than their own beliefs. They will even go to extremes to do what they can to stop Christians. I have met with a handful of Christians who have been beaten and imprisoned. I met a man whose wife was raped and killed in front of his very own eyes. I met a woman who watched her husband be murdered and then the same men raped her and set her on fire. I have held little children whose parents have been murdered and attacked for being Christian. My father-in-law has preached at gunpoint. My husband and his family had extremists attack their house by shooting guns and breaking in. Some areas are much more dangerous than others, but overall, it isn’t a very safe place to be a Christian.”

About India

What kind of political system does India have? What are some of the differences with the USA?

“India is a republic and they follow the parliamentary system. I am not too familiar with all of the details, but there are many similarities to the US government. They have different parties, just like in the US government. The Congress party is the party that is democratic in the sense of democracy, not in the sense of Democrats and Republicans. Other parties are religiously based, militant, extremist, etc.”

What does the general opinion in India seem to be toward America & Americans?

“Fascination would be a good word to use. America is very diverse. It is very different in India. In other words, being a white and blonde female, I really stand out to say the least. It is interesting how much of an influence America and western culture has on India. On the other hand, some people in India see a white person and link them to the British or to Christianity. This can cause some Indians to look negatively upon Americans.”

How are relations between India and her neighbors?

“For the majority of the neighboring countries of India relations are good. Pakistan is the country that does not have a good relationship with India. There is fighting between the Islamic Nation (Pakistan) and Hindu Nation (India). Fighting between Hindus and Muslims is nothing new in India. There was so much fighting at one point that the Muslim party broke off to form their own nation of Pakistan in 1947. To this day, there are still hard feelings between the two religious groups.”

What are the ethnic groups in your area? Are there a lot of different people groups?

“India is not diverse like America. To give you an example, in the district I live in, it is safe to say that I am the only American female living there. My two brothers-in-law are also American, and they also live there. Other than that everyone else is Indian. In the bigger industrialized areas there will be other ethnic groups, but it is still uncommon.”

How many languages or dialects are spoken there?

“There are over 1,000 dialects in India. Hindi is the main language that is spoken. In the area I live the Bundeli language is the regional language spoken by the village people. The people who I interact with daily all speak Hindi.”

What are the general feelings toward immigrants & immigration policy there? As an immigrant yourself, what are your thoughts and feelings about the immigration process? What is your status, are you on a student visa or trying to become a citizen?

“India isn’t a very diverse nation, as mentioned before, so immigrants and immigration policies aren’t as big of a controversy as it is in America. India does not offer dual-citizenship. This is something that I wish they did, but it hasn’t been passed yet. As far as my status, I am currently staying in India with an X Visa and a residential permit. The X Visa allows me to come and go from India as frequently as I wish, and the residential permit allows me to live there. I haven’t had any troubles with my passport, visa, and permit because I am married to an Indian.”

Is India very nationalistic?

“From my observations, I would say that India is very nationalistic. At the school I work at, they sing their National Anthem everyday. They are much more respectful than Americans when they sing their National Anthem. Everyone stands at attention with their hands at their side. Even if you hear the National Anthem being sung or played, people will stop and stand at attention in respect. I get the general feeling that Indians are proud to be Indian.”

What role does India have in the "war on terror"? What kind of affect does it have on the lives of people in India?

“India has its own conflicts and problems that they deal within the country itself. There are terrorist attacks happening frequently enough in India to cause enough problems within the country. I don’t really hear anything on the news of India having problems with other countries, besides Pakistan. It really boils down to fighting between Hindus and Muslims.”

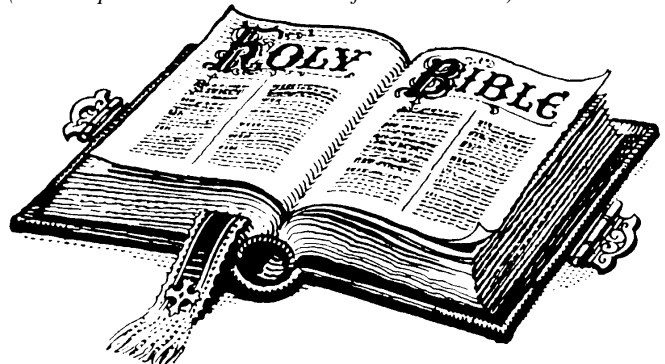


Sis. Katie's Blog

Sis. Katie Lall also writes her own blog, “[Katie's Indian Adventure An American girl Living In India](http://kjbinindia.blogspot.com/)” (<http://kjbinindia.blogspot.com/>) where she shares stories about the school she works in, the mission work, and other interesting exciting things about her life in India. For example on March 1st she posted a blog titled “Everyone Smiles in the Same Language” in which she describes the work of a charitable organization (LEAP) came to their village and did dentile surgery for severle children, her own words; “In Indian culture, a child born with a cleft lip is considered cursed. They aren’t allowed to drink from the wells, they don’t go to school, they are shunned from society. The simple surgery done to correct a cleft lip truly changes the life of the child. It is so amazing to see lives transformed and changed right before your eyes.”

It is a great way to reach out to the community and to share the love of Jesus with all those who come in seeking surgeries. It was a great week, and all glory goes to God! At the end of the week, a public program was held to praise the Lord for a wonderful week. Testimonies of patients were shared, songs of praise were sung, and my husband, father-in-law, and sister-in-law all got to share. It was a great event that honored God and wrapped up the week so perfectly. There were over 1,000 people present from the community, so it was a great opportunity to witness and share the love of Jesus with many. Abhijeet and I also got to visit with some of the patients and pray with them.”

(The two pictures in this article are from that event.)



Forum: "Some Whose & Hows of the Commission"

This month we asked three questions related to our subject of the commission and received replies from four of the preachers on our panel.

1. *Are there any groups of people that we shouldn't bring the gospel to? (Ethnic groups, religious sets, homosexuals or other particular kind of sinners?) Why or why not?*

Bro. Todd Bryant (Pastor Sovereign Grace Baptist church Northport, Alabama): There is no group whatsoever that we are not to take the Gospel to. We are plainly told to take it to "every creature" (Mark 16:15)

Bro. Hansel Villazor (Pastor Providence Baptist Church San Carlos City, San Carlos, Philippines): NONE. The gospel is for all. Matthew 28:19 "Go ye therefore, and teach ALL NATIONS, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Mark 16:15 "And he said unto them, Go ye into ALL THE WORLD, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

Mark 2:27 "When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Bro. Donnie Burford (Pastor at South Irvine Baptists church, Kentucky): The Preaching or sharing of the Gospel is not to be selective or restricted in any sense. It is simply the message to be proclaimed in all place, and that to 'every creature'

Mark 16:15; 'And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.'

'All' is not selective but inclusive and places no exception, qualifying limitations or suggestive restriction, it does not say 'all, but...' It says 'all' and means all.

This is true not only of the purposed destination of 'all the World', which I might add, eliminates any possible National prejudice to be allowed, but as well, this is true for the purposed and intended audience, that there are no restriction in the, 'All' the World, and 'Every Creature' in it. Again, 'Every' is all inclusive and suggests no idea of limits or qualification. (i.e. Ethnic, religious, personal practices, whether in type or degree of sin involved.)

Simply, 'All' means all, and 'Every' means every. Everybody in the All the World, needs the Gospel and God has given us, His people and particularly His Churches the great and blessed privilege of going to the whole World and to every person in it with the Glorious Gospel of His Son. This then is our goal and purpose as given by our Lord, and any qualifying limitations suggested, imposed or believed, we can be sure, are not of God, but of our own wrong invention.

Bro. Curtis A. Pugh (Missionary to Poteau, Oklahoma): Are there any groups of people to whom we should not be bringing the gospel? I believe Jude answered our first question for this month. He wrote, "And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh" (Jude verses 22 & 23). God does not see Hispanic sinners, Black sinners, Native American sinners, Jewish sinners, etc. Whether Jews or gentiles all sinners fall into one or the other of two classes. Jude wrote about those two kinds. One kind, decent or respectable sinners can be dealt with – i.e. witnessed to – with relative

comfort on the part of most Christians. Others are what we may call ruined sinners in contrast to the respectable ones. These ruined sinners are those whose garments are "spotted by the flesh" and their ruin and degradation cause us to hate their sins and the awful consequences of them that are evident in the lives of such persons. Every ethnic group, every religious sect, homosexuals of all sorts, prostitutes, drunkards, dope fiends – it matters not: we are obligated and should be witnessing the gospel to them.

We do not work in a nice well kept garden where carefully planted beautiful flowers are planted. Our field is the world – Jesus said so – and the gospel is to be sown "broadcast" - for we know not what ground is "good ground" - that is prepared ground. God can and does regenerate and save whom He will when He will. God does prepare the ground making it "good ground" which is His elect. At the proper, God ordained time, the gospel which we are to sow will produce in such ground as God has prepared for His glory. Until such a time as God reveals to us ahead of time just whom His elect are, we must and should evangelize all. The Preacher wrote: "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good" (Ecclesiastes 11:6). This is a principle we can apply and ought to apply to witnessing.

2. *How does a Christian witness to people in the world and not keep company with sinners?*

Bro. Todd Bryant: The key to this is seen in the life of Jesus. He lived among the people and yet didn't partake in their sins. We are in the world and are go to the world. We are to witness to those we contact and reach out to them with the Gospel. However, when tempted to sin in worldly ways, we are to withdraw and walk away. Paul did the same. He wasn't afraid to meet people on their terms. But, he stopped short of taking part in their sins.

Bro. Hansel Villazor: The Bible teaches all believers to not be a companion with sinners. Consider these verses: Psalms 1:1 "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."

1 Corinthians 5: 11 "But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one know not to eat."

2 Corinthians 6:14 "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"

If we try to look at these verses, the sin arises when a believer becomes a partaker of the misdeeds of the unbelievers. To be in the presence of the sinners for the purpose of sharing the gospel is noteworthy. In fact Jesus Christ has been seen eating with the sinners. "And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Matthew 9:10-13

Sinners can only be saved if they can hear the gospel and the gospel is heard through preaching. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17

Bro. Donnie Burford: The question is what is meant by 'Company?'

There are various words translated in the Scriptures as ‘company’ The General or most common meaning is simply of a group or multitude of people gathered together. We can and do company with people in a variety of different contextual settings all the time, and as long as we are in the World, we will and must. Work, going to the grocery store, and in many other such activities we company with people in the general sense. We also are often found gather in companies of family (in my case, which means a multitude) or of friends and acquaintances, of which many, if not most, do not know the Lord. The Lord Himself was often seen in the midst of great groups, companies and multitudes of people, even of the base sort. This is the natural expectation and necessity that is often involved of being in the World!

Yet, we are told we are not of the World, and indeed we do not and can not company with them in a most intimate sense or meaning of the word, which is a Divine and Spiritual sense of which involves the Heart, its thinking, intent and sympathies or actions it leads to. Just as with Christ, we can be seen to company or gather generally with a group of the unbelieving and lost, (The marriage at Cana of Galilee, John 2; Levi’s feast Luke 5, etc.) But yet we are not to company with them, in the most intimate sense of sharing in their sinful worldly purposes or desires, (1 John 2:15) and that being because we have been given a New Nature, one that has separated us from the General company, multitudes, and masses of the World of which we were held captive to when we were held in captivity with them, (1 Corinthians 6:11). So as we may be found to company among them at oft times, let us always remember we are of another company. One we pray that God may be pleased to give them part in as He has us, and that only through the Glorious and Gracious Gospel of His Son and Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, of whom we preach as we live, company among the lost of this World! (There are other areas of application to consider but this in part I believe address the context of the question ask.)

Bro. Curtis A. Pugh: How does a Christian witness to people in the world and not keep company with sinners?
I think Jude also gives us a hint about the second question too. He wrote, **“hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.”** If we hate sin – the sins of those to whom we minister – but care about the person, we will not be enticed into sin, nor will we “keep company” with them in the sense of participating in their sins. Actually the exhortation in the Bible not to **“keep company”** has to do with **“any man that is called a brother [that is, a professing Christian] be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat”** (1 Corinthians 5:11).
The only truthful charge they brought against our Savior was this: **“This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them,”** (Luke 15:2). And yet Christ was, **“... holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners,”** (Hebrews 7:26). Someone said something like this: “If a man goes into the world and sees it as his cross, the world will not hurt him.” Paul and the other apostles often preached to sailors, soldiers, publicans and others regarded as degenerates in those days – as well as to refined and well educated persons. And of course, so did our Lord. It is the participation in the sins of the world that are wrong – not associating, being friendly, or visiting with sinners that is sin.

3. Is the phrase “God hates the sin not the sinner” or “God hates the sin, but loves the sinner” Biblical?

Bro. Todd Bryant: As long as you are talking about His elect, that phrase certainly is correct. It is possible, perhaps, to distinguish between God’s general love for mankind (as a race) and God’s specific covenant love for each of His own sheep. If one is speaking of some general love for man as a creature (not each individual specifically), I suppose the language could be deemed OK. I though am not personally comfortable using it in such a way.

Bro. Hansel Villasor: It is not found anywhere in the bible, but many believers use the phrase.


If we have the right motives to why we use the phrase then it is correct. On the otherhand, when we used that just to justifies our misdeeds then that is a problem. There are cases when one continue to do sins because he/she thinks God loves the sinner.

Bro. Curtis A. Pugh: Regarding the statement: "God hates the sin not the sinner" or "God hates the sin, but loves the sinner" as is sometimes stated.

I believe such statements as these are absolutely contrary to the Word of God! Several verses could be cited, but here is one very clear passage: **“The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity. Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man.”** (Psalm 5:5-6). In the New Testament such passages as Hebrews 12:6, **“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth...”** and Revelation 3:19, **“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten...”** can only mean that God loves some people and some people He does not.

God is benevolent towards all of His creation. He makes the rain to fall and the sun to shine upon the just (saved) and the unjust (lost). He is kind, patient, longsuffering and merciful to all. But He operates in grace toward those whom He has chosen to save. God’s love is the cause of His drawing lost people to Christ. **“The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee,”** (Jeremiah 31:3).

How can God love what He hates? This is a valid question since all of us are "workers of iniquity" or sinners. How can God love His elect when they are sinners? The answer, I believe is this: we were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world and God sees us in Christ, His beloved Son. Therefore He loves us in Christ. **“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love,”** (Ephesians 1:4).

<p><i>“Remember Whose Name We Have Come In” by Bro. Stephen McCool Sr.</i></p>	
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“I am come in my Father’s name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.” John 5:43

It is very disturbing to me to see men put their name on a ministry. I know this mostly concerns those out there that are not Landmark Sovereign Grace Baptist(LSGB). Hopefully this will give you some answers to give to others when they ask “What’s wrong with that ministry/church? They preach the gospel and you do.”

First I will say it troubles me greatly that men who claim to be ministers of Jesus Christ will be so bold as to place their name as the name of their church or of their ministry. Jesus said *“I come in my Father’s name,”*. What makes men think they are so much better than the Son of God that they have the right to place their name on a ministry? I keep going back to John 12:43 for the answer to this question: *“For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”*

Men are so consumed with self-worship these days they think nothing of putting their name on a ministry that should be reserved for God. We see this mostly in the big name TV preachers. The folks seem to want all the prestige and fame and money in their name instead of giving God the praise and glory of what He has done. Yes many of them will talk sweet words and quote lots of scripture. However, I warn you, be as the Bereans in the book of Acts and study everything they say.

Paul warned us that these false teachers would come and try to lead the elect away from the truth. And he was right. Because that is what is happening. God's people have been fooled by these "snake oil salesmen". For the sake of hearing pretty words, encouraging words, and a health and wealth gospel God's people have brought into their churches and homes what tickles their ears and not what God has in His Word.

While so many of God's true churches are struggling to keep their doors open the worldly churches are raking in the dollars and the numbers of members. So many of God's people have turned their backs on the truth and are following after a man.

So what is the response of the true churches? Well some have given in to the worldly. Slowly at first, but little by little so many of God's true churches are giving into the ways of the world. Just like the false churches have since their beginnings. Some of God's true churches have fallen victim to the world. Is this something new? No. We see churches in the New Testament who had similar issues. Paul addressed this worldliness in churches. The churches at Jerusalem, Antioch, Corinth, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippi, Colosse, Thessalonica, and others. Jesus had John write of the seven churches in Revelation chapters 2 and 3. So from the very beginning of the Lord's churches we see the old devil was stirring up God's people in the churches.

Now I don't remember seeing a LSGB preacher with his name on his ministry, but I don't think we're far from it. I have met some preachers out there that I believe if they thought they would not lose fellowship and finances they would go so far as to put their name on a their ministry.

Please remember in prayer those who would lead the sheep astray and remember those sheep also.

Remember whose name we have come in.

Praise ye the Lord!!!

"Binding the Word of God"

by Bro. David M. Green



"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully. The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits. Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things. Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel: Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound." (II Timothy 2:1-9)

We'll take our text from verse 9, where the Bible says *"the word of God is not bound."* Nor should it be bound! After all, the Lord has not placed any boundaries upon it. That means that we should not either. As we will see, many churches and people who name the name of Christ have done this very thing.

"Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye

therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:16-20)

Here is the Great Commission that was given to the Lord's church. We are to do a lot of preaching and teaching. And, if we are going to present the truth, it must come from the Word of God! There are no limitations to the ways we can do this....we can and should be teaching and preaching His word anywhere and everywhere we can.

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15)

Our audience is very broad...We are to go into ALL the world and preach to EVERY creature! Nobody is to be left out. Rich, poor, black, white...all need to hear the gospel.

"So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed." (Acts 19:20)

The results of the work of the early church was that the Word of God grew mightily and prevailed. How is it in our day and time? We need to examine ourselves...how is the Word of God in our community? Has it spread to our neighbors? What about beyond our community? What efforts do we put forth into the work? Being a missionary Baptist Church is more than just sending a love offering to the missionary. It's about personal evangelism...it's about spreading the word of God beyond the four walls of the church. The minute you walk out the front doors to leave the church service, you are entering the mission field.

"And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us." (Acts 5:27-28)

These men of God filled the city of Jerusalem with doctrine. Far too often, we fill the church-house with doctrine but that's as far as we go with it. Why not venture out into the world? What's wrong with a radio ministry? Why not go door-knocking? How about a nursing home ministry or even a prison ministry?

"What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops." (Matthew 10:27)

We live in an exciting age! New technologies are all around us. This is the digital age. The Word of God can be communicated all around the world in ways we never thought possible. Think about it. I can preach a message here, and within a very short time it can be listened to by someone thousands of miles away on the other side of the world. We can now send CDs or even DVDs with sermons on them to people so that they may hear the word being preached.

Unfortunately, there are some in our churches that are afraid of new technology. This is a shame. Imagine a few years ago, the printing press was a new technology, but the true followers of Christ saw it as a new opportunity to spread the Word of God to the people. We need to also be like that with each new opportunity that comes our way!

"But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they

preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” (Romans 10:8-15)

Of course these new technologies do not replace personal evangelism, but they are another tool that we can use to further the gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord. A radio program or a webpage with sermons on it can reach into places we may not be able to physically get to.

“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost.” (II Corinthians 4:3)

Are we putting bounds on the Bible? Do we set limitations on when and where the gospel can be preached? Are we bold and loud in the church house, but then silent when we are in the world? Are we truly using every avenue that we can use to spread the word of God to the regions beyond? Why fear new technologies? If they be used for the spreading of the truth, why not use them?

“The Harvest Is Plenteous” part I *by Sis. Joanna Works*

Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.” Matthew 9:37-38

Since the beginning of this newsletter we have strived to encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ, the Point Of View and Labor In Love columns has been two ways we’ve sought out to find how God is working through His children and use specific testimonies to encourage others. While I personally enjoy hearing about other cultures and life in other countries we’d be remiss if we didn’t talk about our local fields.

There are quite a few mission works here in the USA, two preachers who we frequently publish are missionaries here. Bro. Jeff Short in West Virginia, and Bro. Curtis Pugh in Poteau, Oklahoma to the Choctaw people (Bro. Pugh is sent Out of Denham Springs, LA pastor Jerry Dodson, Sr.) Other brethren are: Bro. Troy McGahan in Nancy, KY [Rolling Hills Baptist Church](#) (Out of Grace Baptist Church, Montecello, KY pastor Clint Keith.) Bro. Isaac Heil formerly a missionary to Turkey has returned state side with his family and they are now working in Cincinnati, Ohio missionaries to the Muslim people there. (Out of Winton Place Baptist Church, Cincinnati, OH) [“Children of Our Lord Ministries”](#) is a work that will be ministering to orphan children in the Cincinnati area, the missionary is Bro. Nathan Long, who will be sent under the authority of New Testament Baptist Church of Claridon, Ohio pastor Billy Holbrook. Bro. Ted Tweet who spent years as a missionary to Honduras has been authorized by South Park Missionary Baptist Church (Pastor Jim Tweet) to begin a work ministering to Spanish speaking people in the Seattle area. Just to name a few who I know of and the church I’m a member of receive newsletters from and we’re praying for. I hope there are many more that I’ve yet to learn of.

LORD willing in our June issue we’ll share the work to the Spanish speaking people in Seattle and perhaps some of these other mentioned above, or others, however right now we’d like to introduce our readers to two particular missionaries and their labor for the LORD who I was able to interview back in October, Bro. Brandon White and Bro. Cecil Fayard.

Bro. Fayard who is a missionary in Mississippi, the “Ship to Shore Regions Beyond Mission” shared a brief bio;

Dr. Cecil Fayard is a native Mississippian. He was born in Biloxi, two miles from Beauvoir. Bro. Cecil Fayard is a 1971 graduate of Ocean Springs High School, Ocean Springs, Mississippi. He is an ordained Baptist minister. Fayard served in the United States Air Force from

1971-1975 with expeditionary service in Korea and service with the 7602 Air Intelligence Group in Saigon, Viet Nam. While in Korea, Dr. Fayard received special recognition for his work with the Korean people. While serving with the 49th tactical fighter squadron in Alamogordo, New Mexico, Fayard founded the James Canyon Baptist Mission, Cloudcroft, New Mexico. He has served churches in Mississippi, New Mexico, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Kentucky, having served in the Pastorate for thirty-five years. He is currently a Missionary Chaplain to the Seafarers of the world.

Dr. Fayard attended Mid-Continent University, Mayfield, KY where he received the Certificate of Bible Diploma. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Theology from Beth Haven College, Louisville, KY. He received his Master of Arts in Bible and Doctor of Ministry Degrees from Patriot University, Colorado Springs, CO. Other studies include New Mexico State University and Moody Bible Institute. Dr. Fayard received Chaplaincy training at Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah, KY and at Union University, Jackson, TN. Fayard also graduated from the Houston Maritime Ministry Training Program in 2013.

In 1983, Dr. Fayard received the Arkansas Certificate of Merit for his work in education.

Dr. Cecil Fayard has been a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans since 1989, He belongs to the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans. He has served as First Brigade Councilman for the Mississippi Division SCV. He served three terms as Division Chaplain for the Mississippi Division SCV. Dr. Fayard is currently Chaplain for the Army of Tennessee and is serving his fourth term as Chaplain for the Mississippi Division Sons of Confederate Veterans. Cecil Fayard serves on the Board of Trustees for Beauvoir, last earthly home of Jefferson Davis President of the Confederacy.

Dr. Fayard has been pastor of Elliott Baptist Church, Elliott, Mississippi since 1998. He is married to Denise (Bowen) Fayard, of Ocean Springs. They have five grown children and twelve grandchildren.

How and when did the Lord save you?

“I was raised in a Josephite Mormon family. I was a seeker in my late teens and found that it was not so much me seeking the Lord but him seeking me. A preacher named Larry Tapp was sent by the Lord to witness to me. I resisted but God won the battle on a Wednesday night at the East Howard Baptist Church in Biloxi, MS. God called me to preach a year later and I have been at it ever since.”

How and when did the Lord bring you to a Baptist church and church truth?

“The church that I was saved in was at that time a church believing in the local visible church, closed communion, Baptist Perpetuity (Trail of Blood) etc.”

Why did the LORD lead you to work as a missionary in the US?

“As to why God let me to be a Missionary in the U.S., is in His Sovereign Plan. I do know that I have always loved Missions and Missionaries. I see myself as a Missionary in the U.S. to the World. Just last night I was on a ship with men from Korea, Britain, Scotland, Philippines, US and Wales.”

What are some of the challenges to working in the US?

“Our biggest challenge is getting faithfully translated Bibles in the languages of the many peoples we meet and minister to. Right now I am patiently waiting for Hindi Bibles that will be coming out of Kuwait.”

Bro. Brandon White missionary to the Native American People in Oklahoma

Here is my conversion testimony:

“The Lord saved me when I was 13 years old in a meeting for revival that ended up going for six weeks. In the meeting the Lord began dealing with my heart in conviction. The preacher was preaching out of John 3:14-15, “ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in

him should not perish, but have eternal life.” The more he preached the more I felt God convicting me of my sin. While he was preaching I remember leaving my seat and going down front to call on God for mercy. When I got there a preacher met me, pointed out Scripture to me, and told me to pray. When I went back to my seat of felt the same, no different, no deliverance, and no peace. So I went down again, with the preacher still preaching. Once again I was met by another preacher with a confused look as to why I had come back. A similar situation occurred as before and I walked back to my seat without the hope of salvation. At the end of the service I went down again having been brought to the realization that I needed Christ. When I knelt down the Pastor told me that he didn’t know what to say or how to help me, and that I just needed to call out to God to be merciful to me a sinner. As I called out to the Lord, He convinced me that it was how much I believed or repented or did that would save me it was the finished work of Christ. There the Spirit of God birthed me into the family of God by the grace of God. Though I didn’t understand as much as I do now, I can look back and see the sovereignty of God at work that night in bringing me to an end of myself and drawing me unto Christ. I thank the Lord for his grace and mercy to save a wretched hell deserving sinner such as me.”

How did the Lord bring you to this mission field?

“May of 2009 I met Bro. Raymond Johnson and agreed to come out to Oklahoma and work with him in the Choctaw Nation for the summer. During those three summer months God really placed Native American missions heavily upon my heart. It was during this time God gave me a vision to be a missionary to the Native Americans. I asked brother Raymond his thoughts concerning the matter and he had already been praying that God would put it on my heart. So really I didn’t know God was calling me to the Native American mission field until I was already here at which point he made it very clear to my heart.”

Which tribes do you work with?

“We work with many different tribes. The majority of my ministry has been among the Five Civilized Tribes of eastern Oklahoma, which include the Choctaw, the Chickasaw, the Cherokee, the Creek and the Seminole. We have also labored on Choctaw reservations in Louisiana and Mississippi. My hope, the Lord willing, is to go further west and work among tribes and on reservations that have no gospel preaching and no Baptist churches.”

Do you have any native American ancestors?

“To my knowledge I have no Native American ancestors. I have been told that I had a great, great grandmother who was full blooded Cherokee in North Carolina where I grew up. However there is no documentation that proves this.

How is this mission field different or the same from working in a foreign land?

“This mission field is similar to working in a foreign land in that many of the tribes in America still sit in darkness. Many tribes hold to the traditions of their fathers and the religion of their ancestors. Much of their religion consists of witchcraft and the worship of spirits. It is also similar and the fact that each tribe has their own culture. Me being a white man I am viewed as an outsider by many. So there is the task of breaking down that cultural barrier and gaining the trust and love of the people you minister to. The Native Americans have been lied to so many times by the quote on quote white man that one must gain their trust before they’ll ever gain their ear. The difference of working in this mission field as opposed to a foreign land is that we are still in America.

“Therefore I do not have to acclimate to their climate, living conditions, learn their language, or change my diet. Most all Native Americans we would have worked with up to this point speak very little of their own language. Therefore we are able to easily minister to them in English. However I have learned some Choctaw out of respect and show them I truly am interested in there culture and language. Hey man said to me once, people don’t care how much you know until they know how much

you care. I believe one way I can show that I care is by learning some of their language. This is proven to open doors for me and help me gain the respect in the eyes and hearts of the people I minister to.”

Have you faced any discrimination/prejudice?

“I have not faced any discrimination or prejudice personally, largely in part to the fact I have work in close relation to brother Raymond Johnson who is full blood Choctaw, I have went out of my way to embrace the culture, & I have learned some of the language and how to sing the Choctaw hymns. Due to this I have been warmly received by most.”

Are there any aspects of native cultures that you’ve come to respect and appreciate?

“I appreciate the clannish mentality among Natives and there is a unique devotion to heritage.”

“Quickening for Dry Bones”

by Bro. Dr. Manuel J. Seymour, Sr.

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“The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.” (Ez. 37:1-6)

Brethren, there are two great temptations that the saints of God become easy prey for entrapment. One is walking through this life with rose colored glasses - everything is just roses, peaches and ice cream as we tip toe through the tulips; the other is that everyone is going to hell but us four and no more. As a result the lukewarmness of the Laodiceans has become an every day "normal" way of life. I fear that far too many of the saints have become entrapped and have forsaken their ambassadorships and discarded their robes of sojourners. They are content in Babylon!

What would we honestly see if the Spirit of the living God opened our hearts and eyes? I believe that we would all be shocked at the multitude of dead people we would see all around us - dead in trespasses and sin. The valley of very very dry bones is not just across the seas in foreign lands!!! We are in the very midst of mountains of dry bones. Our beloved land of America has become a grave yard, yea, even a dumping ground of the dead.

Our beloved America began with the hope of freedom of religion, now religion is being shackled day-by-day back into brutal slavery and censorship. We used to have Statesmen who stood firmly for the forefathers’ purpose of one nation under God, and stood in the capital to secure a representation for the people that this would ever hold true. In my opinion, sadly, all the Statesmen have died and we find ourselves under the sovereignty of Politicians whose only ambitions seems to be self-aggrandizement and self-enrichment. I personally no longer believe they are for the people, but for how much they can abuse and deceive the people. One nation under God and answerable to God is no longer in my opinion in any Congressional considerations. Politically, morally, and spiritually we are in the deeps of valleys with mountains of very very dry bones. Brethren, the alarm desperately needs to go out that we might redeem the times for the evil days are upon us. Shall we continue to slumber while the battle rages?

There have been times through the ages when our forefathers of the faith have witnessed the mighty moving Spirit of the living God upon the people. They felt and experienced the heavenly breath of God blowing into them and sweeping the countryside with life giving breath - eternal life. They witnessed what the power of God could do when He set forth to breathe quickening life into very very dry bones of the land. The inhabitants were no more desirous of God given life than they are in our days; but it is written: *"Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power,"* (Ps. 110:3)

God is still the Eternal Sovereign God of the heavens and the earth!!!!!!! Who can stay His power or shield themselves from His breath? "Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live." It was not a question; it was not would you like to; it was not I will meet you half way; it was not I will hold it out and all you have to do is take it; NO, NO, NO, a thousand times NO!!!!!! God said *"I WILL CAUSE BREATH TO ENTER INTO YOU, AND YE SHALL LIVE."*!!!! Can that which is dead defy the living God? This same God that the prophet Ezekiel believed and Whom our forefathers believed is still upon His sovereign throne and is just as powerful today as He was before the creation of the world!!!!!! I believe in this same God of the Bible!!!!!! Don't you????

Brethren, my heart breaks for America! There are plagues after plagues upon the land, the righteous are dying and few are taking it to heart. It is way beyond time for the saints to cry out unto our God for the breath of His quickening power to come upon these very very dry bones through out the land. He has said you have not because you ask not or because you wish to consume it upon your own lust. This is not a time for self-centeredness; this is a time for a coming together for a common purpose in the cause of Christ and for His name sake. We can be scattered by individual pet-peeves, or we can join our spirits upon the Rock of the Ages and to the Holy Scriptures - the Word of Truth once delivered to the saints of old. Did He not say, "Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, **hear the word of the LORD.**"? Is there not still power in the Word of the Lord?

But, Brethren, this quickening does not come by accident. Only the Sovereign Eternal God of the heavens and the earth decides when He shall breathe out His quickening power in the valley of the very very dry bones. But, it shall only be to secure the knowledge of the fact that **"ye shall know that I am the LORD."** It shall not be for our glory but for the eternal glory of God and the Lord Jesus Christ. We are no more than mere instruments in the Master's hands. All glory rightfully belongs to Him!! Yet, what shall we do, Brethren? The valley we are in is swallowed up in very very dry bones! Brethren, we must begin at once to bend our knees and bow our head ever so humbly in honest sincere prayers and pleadings for the blessing of the power of His breath to breathe life into the land, to quake the land by the might of His presence, that He would call out His dry bones, set them upon their feet, breathe His Spirit into them, and grow an army of saints that will occupy the land until He gathers us at our journey's end.

Brethren, I believe in the eternal power of God and the strength of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. I realize some will say, "Well, we are in the last days and few are going to hear and come." Brethren, that is fatalism, a blessing for Satan, and the spirit of Laodicea. Let us not be guilty of such nonsense! May the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ set our souls on fire with a heavenly zeal !!!

When Charles H. Spurgeon went to London and found such deadness there, he told them: "...we will cry to the Lord until He reveals His face again. ... All we want is the Spirit of God. Dear Christian friends, go home and pray for it; give yourselves no rest till God reveals Himself; do not tarry where you are, do not be content to go on in your everlasting jog-trot as you have done; do not be content with the mere round of formalities. Awake, O Zion, awake, awake, awake! ... The Lord send a blessing. He must send it, our hearts will break if He does not." (The Forgotten Spurgeon by Iain Murray pgs. 34,35)

Brethren, should we do any less? May the sweet God of the heavens and the earth grant such a quickening upon our beloved America!!!!!!!!!!!!!! To your knees Brethren, to your knees, and cry out as you have never cried before that the Father may be pleased to send forth His breath upon these very very dry bones which compass us all!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Labor In Love, Part VII



(Self portrait of Bro. Aurel)

Bro. Aurel Miclea Jr is a minister of the Lord living in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, originally from Basca, Romania. Bro. Aurel studied painting and design in the Art School of Resita, where he graduated in 2002 (painting) and 2011 (design). He participated in numerous group exhibitions in Resita, Targu Mures and Caransebes, (Romania) from 2000-2003, and again in 2009 & 2011. Since 2004 he has his own permanent exhibition in the tourist resort Poiana Marului. He has also

had exhibitions in Sweden.

All this on top of the full time work he does for the printing ministry for Adunarea baptista "Harul suveran" [Sovereign Grace Baptist Assembly], Bocs, Romania and preach in Cluj he also draws cartoons for Romanian papers. It is his work as an artists, specifically cartoons for the paper, that we talked to him about this month.

What Romanian paper do you draw cartoons for?

Kamikaze. But cartoons are published also in some local newspapers.

What kind of topics do you poke fun at with your cartoons?

It depends. Social and political. The drawings are based on the events of the week.

Do you ever bring up religious issues?

Sometimes. Caricatured especially false religion and pagan holidays.

How did you get started drawing cartoons for the paper? How long have you been doing it?

For almost a year. I was invited by management of the newspaper after I put a few caricature pieces on facebook. I am a painter first. Cartoonist I'm just for a little time, but this gives me an opportunity to be widely known.

Expressing graphically plays on words

Has it become your main source of income or is it just something extra you do on the side?

Just something extra. There is no good money in Romanian independent media! Newspapers survive.

How had the LORD used this to bless you?

Knowing important people and talk about Baptists and Anabaptists.

Do you think your cartoons has had positive impacts on people?

Yes, the humor makes people forget about the daily difficulties.

What are some of your favorite cartoons that you've drawn?

About Christmas & against exploitation at Rosia Montana (Romania gold)

Do you get fan mail or comments from strangers?

DA (Yes)

Has it been mostly good comments?

Surprisingly, yes!

Any advice you'd like to give to younger artists?

At advices we are all good! To be persistent, to work hard, to be original and to stay away from representations of Christ or God.

Bro. Mark Campbell is the pastor of Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church in Salyersville, Kentucky and a volunteer Chaplin at a local hospital, and Bro. Mark volunteers at a drug rehab program also located in Salyersville. This month we talked to him about the drug rehab program and we hope to talk to him about Chaplaincy at a later time.

What is the name of the program and where is it at?

The name of the program is Mission Teens, Inc. The specific programs I work with is Kentucky Mission Bible Training Center.

What is it exactly that you do for people in rehab?

I teach Bible at the Rehab center. This program teaches the answer to the drug problem is Christ.

How did you get involved?

I became involved with this ministry when they moved to our community. They advertised for teachers in the local paper. I considered applying. However, I assumed they wanted seasoned, seminary trained teachers, so I wasn't going to apply. As I drove by the facility one day, I saw a teachers wanted sign. The Holy Spirit urged me to go in and talk to them. I applied and started my involvement with Mission Teens.

What kind of training or skills does a person need to help at a rehab ministry?

This rehab center is run by graduates of the program. The only outside assistance are teachers, and folks to handle evening services. These would include teachers, singers, etc. the only requirements are to be willing to teach, etc. they have guidelines to follow, such as focusing on the NT to begin. They feel as if focusing on the forgiveness one can find in Christ is important. They want to stress this, not focusing in the judgment aspect. This program is free. It is totally operated on gifts and donations. Those who work as resident trainers work for free as well. They are given a room in the residence and their meals.

Do you know how large an organization Mission Teens, Inc is?

I believe they have 13 centers around the country.

Who this program for; teens, young adults, men, women?

This program is for those 18 and above, men and women

Is substance abuse a large problem in your area? Is Salyersville in the country, suburb, or a city?

Substance abuse is a large problem, country.

How long does it take to graduate the program? What is the yard stick for success?

The first phase is 8 months, you can sign up for additional training and become a resident counselor. As far as success, the center contacts the graduates.

How has the LORD used this to bless you?

The Lord has blessed me by allowing me to see the people who struggle with drugs are real people who have fallen into difficult situations. It has allowed me to have compassion for those ensnared by drugs. I have also been blessed by establishing relationships with those who are hurting.

Has anyone you've met through this program visited the church you pastor?

Many have visited. The entire center has visited at times.

The program design requires the residents of the center be from a different community. So, when they leave the center, they return home and are not likely to attend our church.

If someone would like to help how may they donate or get involved?

The centers in Ky are located in Salyersville and Greenville. ... they can be found on the web. For donation and volunteer opportunities.

The website is <http://www.missionteens.com/>

"God Is Not Helping Us"

by Bro. Curtis Pugh



A long-time friend recently said to me, "God is not helping us. We go to church and try to do right by everybody. My husband applies for jobs, but cannot get work. We just aren't getting by. We can't pay our bills. People tell us that God is just testing us, but what is the use of trying to serve God and do right?" This lady has attended Baptist churches from her youth. She went on to say that her husband does not any longer want to attend church services. Several thoughts and feelings immediately surfaced in this preacher's mind at hearing these words. Some of us have been sharing food with this couple and others have helped them financially. We feel their pain. But sympathy was only one of the feelings that arose in this preacher's heart and mind: something else – a more serious concern – came to mind. That concern is that these two friends just do not know the Lord. Not that God is not prospering them – no, that is not the concern: rather my concern is that they are trying to live right because of what they think they can get from God. They are of the mistaken notion that they have something to trade with God in order to get things they desire.

One of the predominant ideas that fill the minds of natural, unregenerate men and women is this: if I serve God I will prosper. At least I will not suffer serious financial problems. Churches and other religious organizations are built upon this very idea. TV preachers fund themselves quite well off this idea, scamming money from credulous people. Credulous people – people ready to believe something without good evidence – believe this false idea probably because they want to believe it. They think it is possible to serve God motivated by a desire for the things they can get in this life plus heaven in the next life. The question is this: is this desire for things and prosperity a proper motive for living right? By that we mean is this a motive that God accepts? Is God pleased with religious actions based upon this motive? Or, is this nothing more than a false religion based upon selfishness? Is it devotion to God, really? Or is it just bartering with God? Does God operate such a flea market as some people seem to think? This fleshly idea sometimes results in exactly the feelings expressed by my friends words: We are not getting along well in our lives, so what is the use in serving God? Actually such people have not served God at all: they have served their own bellies for selfish reasons. They are like some who attend church as long as the church gives them food, pays their bills, etc., but when the church stops doing those things, they stop attending and look for another generous benefactor. They do not want God: they want a sugar daddy and would settle for a fairy godmother if such creatures existed.

It seems that the devil may be the originator of this idea. At least he is the propagator of it. For this reason, God initiated a confrontation with the devil that involved a man named Job. God held Job up to the devil as an example of a righteous man – not a sinless man, but a just one. **"And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about**

all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face” (Job 1:8-11). It is a fact: God had blessed Job in every way. He was prosperous – so much so that he was styled **“the greatest of all the men of the east”** (Job 1:3). Satan’s reasoning was that of the natural (unsaved) man. He thought that Job was serving God for what he could get from Him. He raised the question we wish to deal with in this article, namely: will a man serve God for nothing? That is another way of asking what Satan asked: **“Doth Job fear God for nought?”** Will a man serve God whether God prospers him or not? Will a man serve God because it is right and proper to do so? Will a man worship and serve God because God is worthy of our worship and service? Do you serve God for nothing? It is important to understand that this confrontation with the devil was started by God. We think God had several things in mind to accomplish by this confrontation with the devil. He accomplished some things in Job’s life and no doubt in the lives of his wife and perhaps others who observed Job’s experience. One thing God did: He proved to the devil and his demons as well as angels and men for all time that there are some people who really do serve God for the right reason.

Living before the law was given and thus before there was a Levitical priesthood, Job was faithful in continually sacrificing on behalf of his children as a father-priest. He **“...was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil”** (Job 1:1). By this description of him, we know that Job was a true child of God for nothing like this can be ascribed to a natural or unregenerate man. We can be assured that Job knew God. More importantly, God knew Job and described him as **“my servant Job”** (Job 1:1). His outward righteous life was an outworking of what God had done within him. We know that God regarded Job equally as righteous as Noah and Daniel. In speaking of the sinfulness of Israel, God said, **“Though Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness”** (Ezek. 14:20). Now then, we are expressly told that **“...Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD”** (Gen. 6:8). Of the servants of the Lord we read, **“...their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD”** (Isa. 54:17). God is righteous. Righteousness is what He demands and righteousness is what He provides for His children by imputation. But imputed righteousness can never be divorced from actual righteousness. By that we mean that while God imputes righteousness to all who believe, He also begins the work of sanctification in them. He declares His children righteous and sets about the process that will eventually conform them to the image of His dear Son. So it was that God justified Noah, Daniel and Job and continued His work in bringing them into a holy walk before him. Job said, **“The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger”** (Job 17:9). God’s children are preserved, and because they are preserved, they persevere in holiness. God does not begin a work in a person without completing it (see Philippians 1:6). So we conclude that Job found grace in the eyes of the LORD. In other words, God had saved him and was in him.

And so it was that Job served God for the right reason. His old stony heart had been replaced by a new heart - a tender one that sought to please his Savior. We too, by grace, are enabled to serve God for the right and acceptable reason. Hebrews 12:28-29 makes this clear. There we read, **“Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.”** It does matter why you do what you do! It does matter why you serve God! In spite of the fact that the religious world is filled with people who have no concern as to the proper motive for worship and service to God, there are some people who do have such a concern. And there are people who serve God **“acceptably with reverence and godly fear”**. They are not your foot-stomping, hand-clapping, get-me-all-I-can-get-from-God crowd. They are not the ones who brag on being a part of “the flock on the block that rocks”. They are the ones who say, like Mary to the angel, **“Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me**

according to thy word” (Luke 1:38). She expected stares, comments and questions regarding her supernatural pregnancy. She had not yet been taken in marriage by her husband. She knew of the possibility – nay, probability – that Joseph would put her away. And if put away she would have nothing. And yet, she was willing to experience the will of God in her life. She would worship and serve God whether He prospered her or not! And there are remnant of people today – God’s true children – who say Lord, whatever you will for me to have or not to have, it is right for me to worship and serve you. If you will give me grace to do it, I will do it. Such people as these do not boast of themselves. Nor do they think themselves entitled to receive good things from God because of their obedience. They serve God with a reverential fear and heart-felt love for Him and His truth.

Sorrowfully, we make this observation: those who are out for what they can get from God do not know Him. They have not experienced His grace – and rest assured, there is an experience of grace. **“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people”** (Titus 2:11-14). Regarding this last quoted text we note these things: first of all we doubt that the grace of God has appeared to all men – that is all men without exception, but it has appeared to all kinds of men and we think this is the meaning. Second: we point out that it is grace that brings salvation to individuals. Grace is not an offer to be spurned or received according to man’s whim. Grace brings salvation! Grace does not offer salvation, it actually brings it. Since salvation is by grace, it does not come to those who seek to be right in God’s eyes by their works or law-keeping. Third: the same grace that brings salvation teaches us to deny ungodly lusts, to live seriously, righteously and godly right in the middle of this wicked world. Further, it teaches us to live expecting the return of our Lord Jesus Christ who redeemed us and made us what we are. And what we are is a people of God’s own particular possession – a people who serve God for nought! There is a way that seems right to man but which ends in disaster (see Proverbs 16:25). Man thinks he has things figured out. He thinks God is like he is (Psalm 50:21) and concludes that he can bargain with God. God wants man to do right, he reasons, so if I do right, God will give me what I want. This kind of swap is completely reasonable to the natural man’s mind. It is the same reasoning that caused the three-year-old preacher-boy to say, “People, if you’re good, God loves you. If you’re not good, God doesn’t love you. People be good.” It is works for salvation! But that is all it is: it is the natural reasoning of one who has not experienced God’s grace and has not been taught the Word of God. Peter spoke of some people **“that are unlearned and unstable”**. These, he wrote, **“wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction”** (II Pet. 3:16). So it is that some who think to follow the Bible are actually torturing the Scriptures by making them say that people can obtain things by serving God for them. Their wrestling is finding proof for their fleshly ideas in the Bible. They make the Bible say what they want it to say instead of letting it say what it says!

This all-important question must be asked: do you serve God for nought? Or are you serving Him for selfish reasons? If yours is only a thinly disguised seeking after things rather than Him whom to know aright is life everlasting, you are yet in your sins. If your so-called faith in Christ is in reality an attempt to get good things from Him, you have not the faith of God’s elect. The Lord Jesus said: **“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent”** (John 17:3). Has God made Himself known to you? Has the grace of God which brings salvation taught you? Paul, writing about Israel as a nation said, **“...they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge”** (Rom. 10:2). That last statement may be applied to many people today – even we fear, many who are called Baptists – whose zeal of God is actually a selfish desire for His temporal blessings. They have a zeal of God, but it is ignorance of the truth. Thus

they miss God and their religion is fleshly in every way and springs from a fleshly motive. Is it any wonder that this crowd of “unbelieving Christians” ends up seeking to entertain the flesh in their so-called worship services. They tickle the flesh with their music, dramatics, media presentations, and all that makes religion popular and pleasant to the flesh. Their aim is not edification of saints, but entertainment of sinners. Oh sir: Oh madam: seek to worship and serve God in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. (See John 4:23-24). True believer, serve God for nought – leaving the consequences in His capable hands. Serve Him in prosperity and in adversity. Serve Him! Serve Him for nought! He is worthy of our adoration, our service and our worship.

“The Shepherd Brings Bread” by Bro. Jeff Short

“I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.” ~ Job 23:12

I recently sat down to read Psalm 7 through 23 straight through. I had no particular design in mind, but felt a soul hunger that I needed bread from Heaven. The effect was humbling and refreshing.

The earlier part of the reading seemed full of the fierceness of God’s wrath, His extreme displeasure with wickedness. I don’t like to dwell on God’s severity in wrath. It is heavy. It is humbling.

This all led up to the last two Psalms of the reading, twenty-two and twenty-three. I did not pick these particular Psalms to suit any purpose of my own, but they came together to form quite a picture. God’s wrath built to crescendo in the twenty-second Psalm. This is the great prophecy of Messiah’s crucifixion. The fierceness of God’s wrath with wickedness put weight upon weight on my head. Then, just as I was to be crushed beneath an unbearable weight, all was taken and violently put upon Christ.

The substitution was made. The Savior hang in darkness with the crushing weight on His shoulders. He cried, *“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”* (Psalm 22:1). There He, the spotless Lamb of God, was made *“a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people”* (Psalm 22:6). He was scorned and mocked by the people because He was cursed of God.

The suffering is incomprehensible. His hands and feet are pierced. The people are like ravening lions tearing at Him with their mouths. Men mindlessly gamble for His only earthly possessions, His clothes. His bones are out of joint and He thirsts. Somehow, there is a calm surrender and His spirit is given leave. His body hangs lifeless.

He is given a good burial by two disciples who no longer follow in secret. The tomb is sealed and eery silence grips the earth. I am yet alive. How can this be? I was being buried beneath the load of my own sins feeling the heat of the burning anger of God coming for me. I look back to the tomb and the stone is rolled away. He is not there. He has risen. He is dazzlingly radiant in white and brings me to Psalm 23. Little sheep, here is your Shepherd. He loves you. He laid down His life for you. He leads you all your days and you will dwell in His house for eternity.

This was a powerful reading and true bread from Heaven. Thank you Father. *“But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me: thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.”* – Psalm 40:17

“Sheeple?”

by Sis. Joanna Works

“And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.” Mark 6:34

“Flocking behavior Sheep are best known for their strong flocking (herding) and following instinct. They will run from what frightens them and band together in large groups for protection. This is the only protection they have from predators... -

“Follow the leader When one sheep moves, the rest will follow, even if it is not a good idea. The flocking and following instinct of sheep is so strong that it caused the death of 400 sheep in 2006 in eastern Turkey. The sheep plunged to their death after one of the sheep tried to cross a 15-meter deep ravine, and the rest of the flock followed.” (From <http://www.sheep101.info/201/behavior.html>)

It is no wonder being called “sheep” in our society is not considered complementary. The word “sheeple” is a contraction of the words sheep & people, meaning people who don’t think for themselves. As a teenage I latched onto this word, when it came to social skills, interests, and personal standards of proper behavior I was most adamantly not a sheep, I was proud to be nonconformist. One of my favorite verses is Romans 1:2 *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”* None conformity right there in the scriptures, yes!

BUT then came Sunday sermons and God’s Word was most adamantly clear; as one of His people I am identified as a sheep! Psalm 78:52, Psalm 79:13, Psalm 95:7, Psalm 100:3, & *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”* Isaiah 53:6 to give just a few verses.

Also God’s people do tend to behave like sheep; we’re stubborn, timid, fearful, easily panicked, dumb stupid, gullible, and completely dependent on the shepherd for our needs. (More sheep characteristics: http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What_are_some_characteristics_of_sheep) *“I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.”* Psalm 119:176

There’s a lot that could be said on this, but for brevities sake here’s a few points to keep in mind:

1. The first verse I shared says Jesus *“was moved with compassion”* we have a compassionate LORD!
2. While we’re not to mimic the behavior or thoughts of the world, God’s people are ALL to be like Christ, *“but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”* Also read I John chapters 1&2!
3. What does this matter in a political arena? Jesus says in John 10:27 *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:”* When politicians & political pundits are making noise, as the sheep of His pasture we’re to follow what God told us in His Word instead. We’ll know if men are truly of God by how their words and deeds line up with scriptures, and we can trust in God because,
4. He’s the good shepherd and we are dependent on Him for all our needs, *“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.”* John 10:11

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